

Land use in the UNFCCC Durban Platform: Options for addressing legality and governance

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State of “Durban Platform” Negotiations

- Workstream I: Develop protocol/legal instrument by 2015, come in to effect by 2020.
 - Contributions that reflect its historical responsibility and capability (ie., fair shares)
- versus*
- Removal of “firewall” and shift obligations on to developing countries
- Workstream II: Enhance mitigation ambition pre-2020 period.
 - Reduced, instead of enhanced mitigation pledges

History of land use in the UNFCCC

- Mitigation
 - LULUCF: Developed countries
 - REDD: Developing countries
 - CDM: Limited role for afforestation/reforestation
 - Agriculture: Limited discussion, with food security concerns prominent.
- Land sector is unique as *both emissions and removals occur.*

Status of land use in ADP

- Recognition of the contribution of the land sector (forests & ag) to global emissions and need to incentive range of approaches...

versus

- ...attempt to force new obligations on developing countries thru complex accounting procedures for purposes of global carbon market.
- “Draft text” released June 2014; no mention of land use
except for accounting.
- In the absence of negotiating text, much of the debate is being shaped by research institutions and consultants

History of land use in the UNFCCC: Reporting *versus* accounting

- Reporting = accumulating data and providing information
 - Currently, all countries report on emissions from the land-use sector
- Accounting = comparing reported quantities against a target
 - Developed countries are additionally required to account for selected land-use emissions and removals under the Kyoto Protocol.

Accounting Issues: Transparency...

- Transparency is essential to build trust in the integrity and fairness of the reporting system.
- Using business-as-usual (BAU) baselines increases complexity and does not deliver reliable mitigation numbers. Other reporting and accounting methods should be considered instead of BAU baselines.
- LULUCF rules under the Kyoto Protocol are complex and can reduce mitigation ambition. They should not be continued under a new climate agreement in their current format.
- Current reporting for land sector emissions under the Convention should be improved and maintained in a new climate agreement.

Accounting Issues: ...& Comparability

- Fossil and terrestrial carbon pools are fundamentally different and hence non-comparable (i.e., fungible for accounting purposes) with emissions from other sectors.
- The land sector is the most difficult sector in which to estimate emissions - *uncertainties of 50% are not uncommon* when measuring changes in emissions from reduced deforestation. Using more direct indicators than emission reductions avoids many such challenges.

Way forward: Principle based approach

- **Ambition:** mitigation in the land use sector should not be used to displace or reduce mitigation in other sectors.
- **Food security and equity:** Developing countries must prioritize food security and sovereignty, and the security and sustainability of smallholder livelihoods, which support up to 80% of people in developing countries.
- **Rights:** tenure, usage and access rights of indigenous peoples, local communities, forest-dependent peoples, smallholder farmers and landless farmers must be legally enforced in all actions taken at local and national level to implement mitigation and adaptation policies in the land sector.

Specific Recommendations

- Incentives for policies and measures that reliably deliver mitigation and adaptation benefits, *including comprehensive land use planning*, and separate targets for land use sectors
- Forests:
 - Good forest governance and addressing tenure rights are the first steps to tackling deforestation and forest degradation.
 - The drivers to deforestation emanate from global commodity chains in forest products, as well as land clearing for agriculture. Reporting on international as well as national drivers to deforestation is required to increase understanding and effective intervention.
 - Comprehensive land-use planning should include indicators for improvements in forest governance and recognizing tenure rights.
- Agriculture:
 - Ensuring food security and sovereignty is a fundamental responsibility of all countries.
 - Mitigation efforts in agriculture should focus on the main emissions from the sector (methane and nitrous oxide). Mitigation options in the agriculture sector should, as a priority, include addressing high national per capita meat consumption and the production and use of synthetic nitrogen fertilizers in developed countries and industrial agriculture systems.
 - Range of agricultural practices that enhance soil health, in particular agro-ecological practices, can reverse soil degradation, increase water-holding capacity, and increase carbon sequestered in soil.