

Land-Use, Land-Use Change, and Forestry

The Special Report has already undergone an expert review and is currently undergoing an expert/government review. The plenary to approve/accept this Report is scheduled for April/May 2000.

It is well recognized that the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will need to make a number of key decisions with respect to definitions, the accounting system, a monitoring and reporting system, and inventory guidelines before the relevant Articles of the Protocol can be implemented. Therefore, this Special Report, from which I will present some of the provisional findings later today, provides scientific and technical information that will be useful to the Parties in making these decisions by addressing a series of questions in each of these critical areas. In addition, the Report provides an assessment of the experience to date of land use, land use change and forestry projects (largely AIJ projects), the future potential to reduce the net emissions of greenhouse gases through Articles 3.3, 3.4, 6 and 12, and a framework for assessing sustainable development issues.

Budget

When I last addressed you in June I noted that the IPCC was facing a significant budget problem because of: (i) the large number of special reports, coincident with the preparation of the TAR; (ii) the enhanced regional emphasis, and (iii) the increased participation of experts from developing countries and countries with economies in transition. Unfortunately I cannot report any significant response from the majority of governments. There are numerous OECD countries represented here today that actively request IPCC to undertake Special Reports and play a central role in defining the overall work program, who are contributing little to nothing towards financing the IPCC. Its even more remarkable given that a number of developing countries and countries with economies in transition have already made contributions, including Peru, Mauritius, and Slovenia. This lack of financial commitment from a number of countries is rather disturbing given the incredible effort of the scientific, technical and economic experts who give so freely of their time to assist the Parties to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.

If the IPCC is to continue to serve the needs of the Parties additional governments will have to contribute to the IPCC Trust Fund, and some of those who routinely contribute will have to increase their contributions. I have discussed funding with the GEF Secretariat but been told that IPCC assessments are not consistent with the work program defined by the GEF Council and do not represent capacity building in developing countries and hence, the GEF cannot be viewed as a source of potential funding. Again I find this quite remarkable given that the inclusion of developing country experts is an essential feature of the IPCC and that so many of you argue that the work of the IPCC provides much of the scientific and technical basis for your decisions, hence the implementation of the Convention and, if ratified, the Kyoto Protocol. I sincerely hope that the IPCC can deliver the information you need in a timely manner, but if it fails it will not be the fault of the scientific community but many of the governments in this room who are taking a free ride at the expense of others. I appeal to each government representative at this meeting to discuss this serious situation with the relevant agency in your government to help resolve this situation.