



LULUCF principles for **ensuring environmental integrity** of the Kyoto Protocol in Annex 1 accounting rules and modalities

General

- Continuity of responsibility must be ensured, e.g. by maintaining consistent base years.
- Political accountability and the ability to respond to changing science and technology must be ensured, e.g. through maintaining a five-year accounting period.
- The implication of the scale of credits to country emission reduction commitments resulting from LULUCF rules and modalities must be clear, e.g. through independent quantitative assessment of the consequences of proposed rules and modalities, including country-specific data.
- LULUCF negotiations must be informed by a clear understanding of the implications of different options for the stability and effectiveness of the international post-2012 regime, e.g. through the production of country-specific data on the implications of suggested proposals and a scientific assessment of the implications of a holistic accounting approach.
- LULUCF accounting requires high-quality inventories, e.g. through developing the capacity for all Annex 1 Parties to adopt tier 3 methodologies.
- LULUCF emissions and removals should continue to be reported and accounted when they occur,
 - e.g. by not allowing 'swapping' of sinks.
- Asymmetries in accounting should be removed, e.g.. by requiring accounting of devegetation if revegetation is accounted.
- LULUCF rules and modalities must protect the integrity of emission reduction commitments against the uncertainty associated with forest carbon fluxes and inventories.

This guide has been developed for LULUCF accounting rules and modalities for developed countries. Additional/other guidance would be required for the goal of achieving a successful REDD framework.

- LULUCF rules should not allow countries to pick and choose what to account because this encourages countries to only account for credit-generating activities,
 - e.g. by electing to account for sinks and not emissions.
- Annex 1 countries must account for emissions resulting from forest and peatland degradation.

Biodiversity

- LULUCF should contribute to the conservation of biodiversity
 - e.g. by explicitly considering the biodiversity impacts of the various approaches in the development of rules and modalities
 - e.g. by discouraging the conversion of natural forests to commercial forests or to plantations.
 - e.g. by encouraging retention of carbon in natural forests rather than in harvested wood products and by protecting and restoring natural forests in preference to plantation establishment.

Forest protection and degradation

- Protecting and restoring natural ecosystems should be promoted as the most effective mitigation strategy for forests and peatlands, e.g. through avoiding degradation of these systems, rather than establishing plantations or using enhanced forest management activities. Degradation should be defined as any reduction in the natural carbon carrying-capacity and/or long-term carbon stocks of natural ecosystems.
- The same high level of forest protection as a mitigation measure should be applied in Annex 1 and Non-Annex 1, e.g. if avoiding degradation is encouraged in Non-Annex 1 countries it should be encouraged in Annex 1 countries as well.

Forest Management

- LULUCF rules should not provide credit for Business As Usual activities and should result in incentives to implement genuine and additional changes to forest management that maintain or enhance carbon storage while contributing to the conservation of biodiversity.

Indigenous Peoples and communities

- LULUCF rules and modalities should respect the rights and interests of Indigenous people in Annex I countries, e.g. through the full participation in negotiations by Indigenous Peoples and communities.
- LULUCF rules and modalities should encourage National policies that contribute to the development aspirations of Indigenous Peoples, e.g. partnership in forest stewardship and sustainable resource use.

Marrakech Principles

Parties should continue to use the principles (Dec 16/CMP.1) to guide the treatment of LULUCF activities.

- That the treatment of these activities be based on sound science;
- That consistent methodologies be used over time for the estimation and reporting of these activities;
- That the aim stated in Article 3, paragraph 1 of the Kyoto Protocol not be changed by accounting for land use, land-use change and forestry activities;
- That the mere presence of carbon stocks be excluded from accounting;
- That the implementation of land use, land-use change and forestry activities contributes to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources;
- That accounting for land use, land-use change and forestry does not imply a transfer of commitments to a future commitment period;
- That reversal of any removal due to land use, land-use change and forestry activities be accounted for at the appropriate point in time;
- That accounting excludes removals resulting from: (i) elevated carbon dioxide concentrations above their pre-industrial level; (ii) indirect nitrogen deposition; (iii) the dynamic effects of age structure resulting from activities and practices before the reference year.