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FUTURE WORKPROGRAMME OF THE IPCC TASK FORCE ON NATIONAL GREENHOUSE GAS INVENTORIES (TFI)

(Submitted by the Co-Chairs of the
Task Force Bureau on National Greenhouse Gas Inventories)

Proposed Scoping Meeting Support for IPCC 2006 Guidelines

Background

1. The 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories will be adopted and accepted by IPCC-25. It is therefore opportune to start consideration of the future tasks of the IPCC National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme.
2. The mandate of the NGGIP was approved by IPCC-16 (Montreal, May 2000), excerpts of which are shown below. IPCC-19 (Geneva, April 2002) decided to maintain its Task Force on Inventories, co-chaired by two members of the IPCC Bureau (one from an industrialized country and one from a developing country) with twelve additional members on the Task Force Bureau (two per IPCC/WMO region). The Task force is mandated to carry out the work, as approved by the Panel, on inventory-related methodologies and practices.
- 3.

NGGIP Mandate – Excerpts

2. That the IPCC is responsible for assessing and developing inventory methods and practices which are scientifically sound and relevant to all countries, noting particularly the lack of information in developing countries. This includes (a) developing methods for estimating emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) by sources and removals by sinks, (b) assessing and developing methods to quantify and to manage uncertainties in the estimates of GHGs, (c) assessing the scientific literature related to the development of GHG emission factors and management of inventories, (d) disseminating information related to inventory methods and practices, (e) identifying the implications of the different options in relation to inventory methods and practices and (f) assessing scientific issues related to independent verification,
3. That the IPCC accepts the responsibility to provide scientific and technical advice on specific questions related to inventory methods and practices at the request of the UNFCCC in accordance with established IPCC procedures, ...

4. In view of the responsibilities shown above, the most fundamental objectives of the NGGIP, after the adoption of the 2006 Guidelines are; i) to encourage the widespread use of IPCC inventory methodologies by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), ii) to provide relevant query-response services, iii) to assess the scientific literature on inventory development in relationship to existing Guidelines iv) to assess the relationship between inventories and independent verification techniques, and v) to ensure expertise within IPCC to respond to requests from UNFCCC.

Core Activities

5. Consistent with its mandate NGGIP is operating since 2003 the IPCC Emission Factor Database (EFDB). The Database is an innovative mechanism containing emission factors and other parameters based on peer reviewed information for use in conjunction with the agreed inventory Guidelines. It provides an essential link between the Guidelines and the scientific literature as it develops and is particularly useful so that developing countries have efficient access to scientific work relevant to their national circumstances. In addition the NGGIP currently plans to develop computer software implementing the Tier 1 methods of the 2006 Guidelines. These activities need to continue.
6. The NGGIP also plans, for outreach purposes, to produce a **brochure** about the 2006 Guidelines, to compile a set of **frequently asked questions and answers**, and maintain this on the Internet,

and to develop training courses. While the mandate of the TFI includes promoting the use of the guidelines the TSU has not run training courses. However TSU staff do contribute to such courses run by other organisations (e.g. UNDP) by providing lectures and materials. The role would therefore be to **contribute to course development and implementation**, rather than run the courses.

7. In the longer term there are topics, which need some further additional expert consideration. These include:
 - a. Consideration of areas where inventory science is in a relatively early stage of development, e.g., wetlands, savannahs, and settlements. The TFB may wish to assess when, and if, to initiate work on these or other topics. Also, the IPCC needs to be responsive to any eventual UNFCCC requests for work on these, or other topics. This may require some form of periodic review of the guidelines.
 - b. Use of data from other emission accounting, e.g., from projects of emission trading mechanisms. Pollution Release and Transfer Registers can also contain useful information but again care needs to be taken in their use, particularly on the statistical relationship between sub-totals and the whole national inventory. Guidance on how to use this information is needed.
 - c. Development of additional methodological guidance on the development of inventory-relevant information, particularly for use by developing countries, on topics such as the interface between inventories and projections of GHG emissions and removals¹, or the estimation of emission data with geographical distribution or chemical/physical speciation.
 - d. Satellite and other remote sensing measurements are now available that enable concentrations and fluxes to be estimated. These new technologies already contribute to inventory development to some extent (e.g., for land use identification and comprehensive carbon accounting) and can also be relevant to independent verification. However, how these measurements in general relate to national emission inventories is yet unclear, and a review of this information and how it can contribute to national inventories, either as an emission measurement or as a verification technique would be very useful. Other techniques such as inverse modelling can also estimate fluxes and again guidance on their use by inventory compilers would assist inventory developments.

Proposed Actions (Inventory Experts Meeting)

8. To consider these proposals and the NGGIP programme as a whole, it is proposed to hold a **meeting of inventory experts** in the second half of 2006. This meeting would take the form of an extended TFB meeting attended by invited experts (nominated by governments and selected by the TFB). This meeting would identify suitable activities to support the use of the 2006 guidelines, including the preliminary ideas above. It would then develop a draft future work plan.
9. The TFB would invite 60 experts (including 20 supported by the IPCC Trust Fund) in addition to the TFB members.
10. The output will be a draft workplan, agreed by the TFB, for consideration by the Panel.

¹ The IPCC Working Group III recently inquired if the NGGIP might be willing to consider the idea if IPCC could provide templates, tools, methodologies or a multi-tier Good/Best practice guidance, helping developing countries to make their own GHG emission scenarios. Such methodologies could build upon experiences gained in the National Communications for non-Annex I countries.