

Presentation on UNFCCC negotiations with focus on REDD+

Peter Aarup Iversen,

Overall structure

- UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) – agreed in 1992 in Rio
- Two groups of countries
 - Annex 1-developed countries
 - Non-annex 1 developing countries
- Common but differentiated responsibilities (CBDR) and capabilities
- Reporting obligation for Annex 1 Parties since 1990 – includes an UNFCCC review process

Two subsidiary bodies

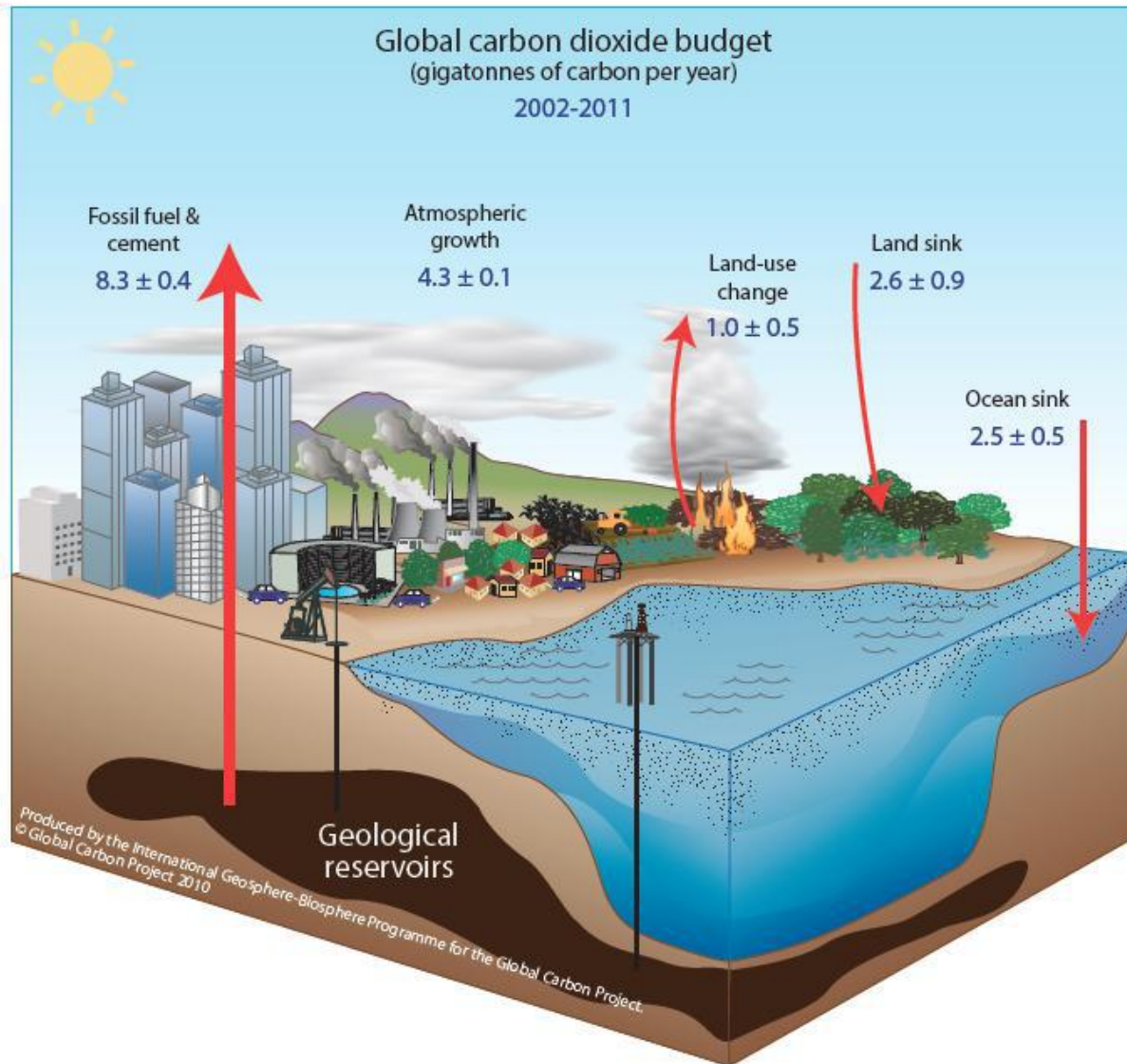
- SBI – Subsidiary Body for Implementation
- SBSTA – Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice

- Kyoto Protocol – agreed in 1997 in Kyoto
- Sets reduction targets for the five years 2008-2012 (first commitment period) for Annex 1 Parties

Kyoto Protocol

- National reduction target involves all anthropogenic emissions from five sectors: Energy, Industry, Transport, Agriculture, Waste compared to emissions in 1990 (with a few exceptions)
- Land Use, land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF) is treated different. Some activities are voluntary and forest activities are not compared to 1990 emissions and removals

The land use sector is significant



Kyoto Protocol

- Flexible mechanisms
 - Trading
 - Joint Implementation
 - Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)
- CDM also include afforestation and reforestation

LULUCF

- Only sector with both emissions and removals
- Very difficult to separate anthropogenic and non-anthropogenic emissions and removals
- Ecosystems can be carbon saturated
- Very difficult negotiations at Kyoto and after
- Closely related to REDD+

COP11 2005 Montreal

- Papua New Guinea and Costa Rica raises RED to the COP agenda – later the Coalition of Rainforest Nations was established (including Cambodia)
- The Ad Hoc Working Group on the Kyoto Protocol (AWG-KP) was established – after a long night of negotiations with Russia

COP12 2006 Nairobi

- The Congo Basin countries worked hard to include degradation into the RED. Brazil and others were skeptical due to the added complexity

COP13 2007 Bali

- First REDD decision – calls for demonstration activities and provides indicative guidance, mention IPCC Good Practice Guidance (GPG). Include the second D. India supported by China worked hard to add the (+). The Bali decision separate the activities with a semicolon.
- Bali Action Plan includes NAMA and REDD(+) as separate agenda items
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action was established (AHW-LCA)

COP13 2007 Bali

- REDD received a lot of attention in Bali, Norway pledged significant financial support, the FCPF was launched, NGOs and IPs were starting to become very active

After COP13 2008

- UN-REDD was launched
- A number of important studies high-lighted the importance of mitigation by reducing emissions from deforestation
 - Stern Review Report
 - The Eliasch Review
- Heads of State meet to discuss REDD



COP15 2009 Copenhagen

- Very large meeting +40.000 participants
- Copenhagen Accords – REDD and forest plays a prominent role in this text, two appendixes on voluntary actions, blame game in the end – impossible to get to a binding agreement.
- Fast start finance pledge 30 billion 2010-2012, 100 billion in 2020
- ALBA countries were very strong in their position
- Important methodological decision on REDD(+)

After COP15

- The Interim REDD+ Partnership was established after initiative from France and Norway



COP16 2010 Cancun

- Important REDD+ agreement, five activities all equal, framework for implementation, principles and safeguards.
 - finance still missing (fund or carbon market)
- Confirmed many of the compromises reached in Copenhagen – Green Climate Fund
- LULUCF decision on a review process for proposed reference levels for forest management

COP17 2011 Durban

- Durban Platform – by 2015 agree a binding agreement applicable to all from 2020 – equity – a spectrum of commitments – key terms
- Ad Hoc Working Group on Durban Platform (ADP) was established
- REDD+ decision on
 - guidance on systems for providing information on how safeguards are addressed and respected and
 - modalities for forest reference emission levels and forest reference levels
- LULUCF agreement

REDD+ decision

- *Agrees also that developing country Parties undertaking the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70, should provide a summary of information on how all of the safeguards referred to in decision 1/CP.16, appendix I, are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of the activities;*
- *Decides that the summary of information referred to in paragraph 3 above should be provided periodically and be included in national communications....*

REDD+ decision

- *forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year are benchmarks for assessing each country's performance in implementing the activities referred to in decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 70;*

REDD+ decision

- *Invites developing country Parties, on a voluntary basis and when deemed appropriate, to submit proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels, in accordance with decision 1/CP.16, paragraph 71(b),...*
 - *Guidance in annex to the decision*
- *Agrees to establish a process that enables technical assessment of the proposed forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels when submitted or updated by Parties*

REDD+ decision

- Acknowledges that sub-national forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels may be elaborated as an interim measure, while transitioning to a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, and that interim forest reference emission levels and/or forest reference levels of a Party may cover less than its entire national territory of forest area

LULUCF agreement

- Still divided into article 3.3 and 3.4
- Mandatory accounting for forest management compared to an agreed reference level (like REDD+) – some flexibility in setting the reference level
- Accounting for agriculture soils are still voluntary
- Provisions to deal with natural disturbance – could also be relevant for REDD+

LULUCF agreement

- Harvested Wood Products (HWP) introduced as a carbon pool
- Flexible land use provision
- No debit compensation rule
- No fast forest fix rule

After COP17

- The Green Climate Fund is placed in South Korea
- Canada decides to step out of the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
- Canada, Russia, Japan and New Zealand in addition to US will not take reduction commitments under the second commitment period of the KP

COP18 2012 Doha

- Closure of AWG LCA and AWG KP with some drama
- Eight year commitment period
- No access to CDM for Annex 1 Parties without KP commitments.
- Financing not solved – will remain at 2010-1012 level
- REDD+ honeymoon is over

REDD+ difficulties

- REDD+ financing is not likely to be solved before the overall financing is solved and this is most likely to happen when an international climate agreement will be agreed in 2015.
- It will be very difficult to agree on establishing a REDD+ Committee (PNG proposal)(Brazil, US, EU and others are against)
- Unclear how the GCF Board will treat REDD+

REDD+ difficulties

- Agreement on National Forest Monitoring systems and MRV fell due to disagreement about independent verification of results proposed by Norway. Brazil and a number of other developing countries were against. Linked to the overall 2015 negotiations.

COP18 2012 Doha

- The Interim REDD+ Partnership will continue – probably until we have a global agreement

REDD+ in 2013-2014

- National Forest Monitoring
- MRV
- Process for review of reference levels
- Frequency of submission with summary information on safeguards
- Something on drivers – difficult because SBSTA is not about policy

Financing REDD+

- Very difficult in the UNFCCC process
- Green Climate Fund will take time
- Perhaps small steps forward with carbon markets outside the UNFCCC (California)
- What will countries that have no access to CDM do to meet their reduction targets under the Convention? Japan, USA, Canada, New Zealand – REDD+ is a possibility
- Decision on increasing the level of ambition in 2014 could deliver something on REDD+

Unclear

- Early action? – not defined
- Degree of flexibility in setting reference level
 - e.g. all activities or only some
- Non-carbon benefits
- Will sub-national implementation be recognized as phase two only
 - possible issues regarding to permanence and leakage

LULUCF, REDD+ and agriculture

- How will a global agreement applicable from 2020 to all Parties look like for LULUCF, REDD+ and agriculture?
- Can we have one common frame with different type of commitments?