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Farms and Forests have strong role to play in reducing Global Warming

America's farms and forestlands have a major role to play in reducing the threat of climate change, according to two reports released by the Pew Center. Changes in agricultural practices coupled with foresting marginal agricultural lands could offset up to one-fifth of current U.S. greenhouse gas emissions, while at the same time creating potential new sources of farming income. In addition, the nation could reduce emissions by 10 to 25 percent by replacing fossil fuels with biofuels made from agricultural crops.

The two reports, Agricultural and Forestlands: U.S. Carbon Policy Strategies by Kenneth R. Richards, R. Neil Sampson, and Sandra Brown and Agriculture's Role in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation by Keith Paustian, John M. Antle, John Sheehan, and Eldor A. Paul, were released September 21.

While the first paper focuses on policy options, the companion report reviews the economic and technological opportunities available to farmers. Together these reports provide a comprehensive review of the role of U.S. forest and agricultural lands in a domestic climate change program.

Read the reports:
Agricultural and Forest Lands: Carbon Policy Strategies for the United States
http://ealert.pewclimate.org/ctt.asp?u=440163&l=130921

The Role of Agriculture in Greenhouse Gas Mitigation
http://ealert.pewclimate.org/ctt.asp?u=440163&l=130922

How-To Guide on Implementing Projects in Eastern Europe and CIS

UNDP Regional Center for Europe and CIS is pleased to announce the release of the How-to Guide on National Institutional Frameworks for the Kyoto Protocol Flexible Mechanism in Eastern Europe and the CIS.

The goal of this guide is to help national climate change policy-makers understand the requirements and processes for establishing institutional frameworks for the project-based mechanisms of the Protocol. As noted throughout the report, a prerequisite for effective CDM and JI project development is the creation of host country capability to identify, develop, screen, and approve CDM and JI projects. However, many countries in Eastern Europe and the CIS are still in the early stages of developing the required capacity and institutions, particularly non-Annex I countries and, as a result, only a few CDM projects from this part of the world have been registered with the CDM Executive Board. Meanwhile, an increasing number of exciting project opportunities have entered the pipeline and are waiting for the establishment of the requisite procedures to obtain host country approval.

The guidebook provides a comprehensive overview of the requirements for setting up national institutional frameworks for CDM and JI, reviews the progress to date and offers a range of practical examples, drawn from past experience in other countries and regions. In Chapter 2, an overview of JI and CDM is provided along with a discussion of the key functions expected of DNAs. Chapter 3 describes the steps involved in establishing a DNA, including institutional design, project review process, sustainable development criteria, outreach strategy and legalization. Chapter 4 presents options for making the DNA work over time and the appendices provide additional reference materials, including sample legal documents.

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) considers that the market instruments of the Kyoto Protocol, JI and CDM, can play a significant role in promoting sustainable development and increasing the flow of finances and sustainable technologies to the countries in transition. We believe that this Guide will help East European and the CIS countries make this happen.

The How-to Guide is attached or can be download from
http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_publications
or
http://europeandcis.undp.org/?menu=p_cms/show&content_id=D4C7F262-F203-1EE9-BCBF9B04A046D1B3.

Will EU-15 miss Kyoto Targets?

Greenhouse gas emissions in the pre-2004 EU Member *States* (EU-15) in 2003 were 1.7 % below base-year level. This means the EU-15 was little more than a fifth of the way towards achieving the 8 % emissions reduction from base-year levels required by 2008—2012 under the Kyoto Protocol. Latest projections for 2010 show that existing domestic policies and measures by Member States to reduce emissions are not sufficient for the EU-15 to reach its Kyoto target. Even with planned additional domestic policies and measures, the target will not be reached. The target will only be attained when Kyoto mechanisms, JI and CDM are taken into account.

Existing domestic policies and measures will reduce total EU-15 greenhouse gas emissions by only 1.6 % from base-year levels by 2010. When the additional domestic policies and measures being planned by Member States are taken into account, an EU-15 emissions reduction of 6.8 % is projected. However, this relies on several Member States cutting emissions by more than is required to meet their national targets, which cannot be taken for granted. The projected use of Kyoto mechanisms by nine Member States (4) will reduce emissions by 2010 by a further 2.5 %. This would bring emissions down to 9.3 % below the EU-15 base-year level and allow the EU-Kyoto target to be reached.

Sweden and the United Kingdom project that existing domestic policies and measures will be sufficient to meet their burden-sharing targets and they may even over-deliver. Luxembourg projects that it will meet its target with a combination of domestic policies, and measures, and emission allowances from the use of Kyoto mechanisms.

France, Germany and Greece project that they will reach their targets if currently planned additional policies and measures are implemented. With additional domestic policies and measures, and the use of Kyoto mechanisms Austria, Belgium, Finland and the Netherlands project that they will reach their Kyoto targets.

The other five EU-15 Member States (Denmark, Ireland, Italy, Portugal, Spain), do not project that they will meet their targets, even with additional domestic policies and measures or the use of Kyoto mechanisms.

Nine countries have allocated financial resources for using the Kyoto mechanisms with a total amount of about EUR 2730 million for the whole 5-year Kyoto Protocol commitment period. The same countries and France have started to prepare legal and operational frameworks and bilateral agreements for using the Kyoto mechanisms.

From 1990 to 2003 EU-15 greenhouse gas emissions decreased from most sectors (energy supply, industry, agriculture and waste management). However, emissions from transport increased by nearly 24 % during the same period.

http://reports.eea.europa.eu/eea_report_2005_8/en/GHG2005.pdf

EU Prices Fall as Summer Ends

Recent trading has seen significant softening of the price after a sustained decrease in prices over the last month.

This follows a sustained period of reduced demand with the recent uptick from the increase in EU power prices.

www.pointcarbon.com

Contact Details

Terry Quilty ph 64 21 250 6789
fax 64 9 920 1093
skype terryquilty
email terry.quilty@eitg.co.nz

Richard Hayes ph 64 21 310 301
fax 64 9 920 1093
skype richardshayes
email richard.hayes@eitg.co.nz

Simon Baillieu ph 27 82 558 9616
skype sbaillieu
email simon.baillieu@eitg.co.nz

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