



Wood Products in the Context of Climate Change Policies - Outputs and Summary of the UNECE/FAO Workshop

Policy Dialogue on
"The Role of Wood Products in Climate Change Mitigation"
21 October, 2008, Rome, Italy

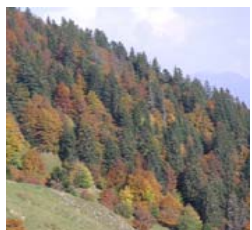
by Sebastian Hetsch UNECE/FAO Timber Section



Overview



1. Brief History



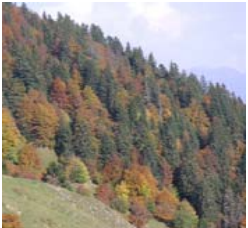
2. Summary of the Geneva Workshop on
HWP



3. Next steps?

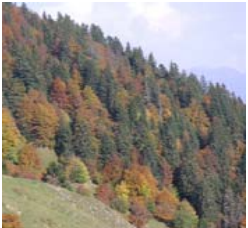


1. Brief History



- **IPCC Expert Meeting in Dakar (1998)** identified the four approaches for HWP reporting/accounting
- **2001 (SBTA 14)** countries submitted their view on HWP accounting
- **2003: Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)** presented practical tools (methodologies) for reporting accounting
- **2004: Workshop in Lillehammer**, Norway: Assessment each approach was needed to support any future decision
- **2004-2007**: further discussion, countries reported on their reporting experiences on HWP
- **2008**: AWG-KP is considering including accounting for HWP for post-Kyoto Protocol

2. Geneva HWP Workshop



- 9-10 Sep 2008, Geneva
 - Organized by UNECE, FAO, Switzerland, MCPFE
- 100 participants: scientists, forest and climate policy-makers, eNGOs and industry
- Lively discussion, leading to the Chair's Conclusions & Recommendations

2. HWP Workshop – Conclusions I



1. Substitution effect of HWP is key impact

2. Carbon stock in HWP has been (and is) increasing significantly



3. Existing data can be used to calculate HWP

- Reporting on HWP will eventually lead to improved data on HWP



4. HWP accounting methods improve the accuracy of GHG balances compared to the IPCC default approach.

- difference between approaches is to whom the responsibility for the carbon emissions from HWP is assigned (trade)



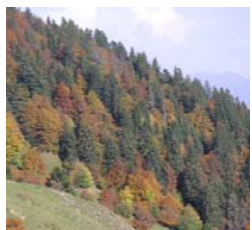
2. HWP Workshop – Conclusions II



5. Time schedule: proposal needed by mid 2009 (for a potential agreement in Copenhagen in December 2009)

6. Accounting for HWP can be an incentive for harvesting (and silvicultural measures)

- which could lower this risk from natural disturbance in certain areas



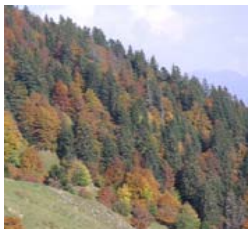
7. Accounting for HWP can be an incentive to use wood as material before using it for energy generation ("cascade" principles)



8. Consumers and the general public are often not aware of the role of HWP in GHG balance

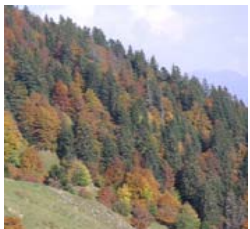


2. HWP Workshop – Recommendations I



1. Different strategies for carbon sequestration by forests, storage in wood products, and substitution of fossil fuels and energy-intensive materials should be considered and combined
2. Coordination between climate change and forest sector (and within forest sector)
3. International organizations should work together to improve and harmonize reporting on forests and forest products
4. Simple, but feasible (data & methodology) accounting approaches for HWP should be preferred to sophisticated solutions, which are difficult to implement
5. Accounting for HWP or incentives to increase the use of wood must not compromise sustainable forest management domestically or in other countries.

2. HWP Workshop – Recommendations II

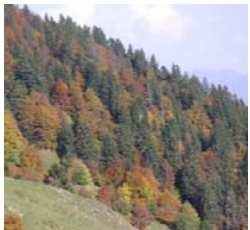


6. Some participants advocated that the following principles would be appropriate to apply:
- a) HWP reporting to be consistent with LULUCF reporting
 - b) If countries elect forest management they should also be able to account for HWP in order not to penalize forest management in the future.
 - c) Countries choosing to account for HWP should also account for forest management in order not to compromise sustainable forest management.
 - d) If HWP is accounted for in the future, countries have to ensure that the imports that they account for come from sustainable sources to avoid perverse incentives.

2. HWP Workshop – Recommendations III



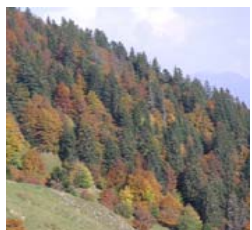
7. Governments should consider whether the HWP contribution to GHG emissions / removals outweigh the accounting and negotiation costs.
8. Governments, with the participation of all stakeholders, should take the lead to develop policies and strategies to strengthen the “cascaded” use of wood.
9. Governments and sectoral associations should cooperate to communicate the benefits of wood use to consumers and the general public.



3. Next steps?



- Little time for negotiation (mid 2009 for Copenhagen agreement)
- Further negotiation in Poznan





Thank you for your attention!

Contact

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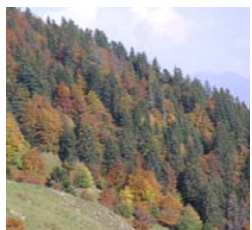
internet: www.unece.org/timber



Further information



Workshop on “Harvested Wood Products in the context of Climate Change Policies ” (9-10 Sep 2008):
www.unece.org/timber/workshops/2008/hwp/documents.htm



Policy Dialogue on “The Role of Wood Products in Climate Change Mitigation” (21 Oct 2008):
www.unece.org/timber/docs/tc-sessions/tc-66/hwp.htm

