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IPCC-NGGIP Technical Support Unit (TSU)



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Recognizing the problem of potential global climate change, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) established the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in 1988. It is open to all members of UNEP and WMO.

The role of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is to assess on a comprehensive, objective, open and transparent basis the scientific, technical and socio-economic information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of risk of human-induced climate change, its potential impacts and options for adaptation and mitigation. The IPCC does not carry out research nor does it monitor climate related data or other relevant parameters. It bases its assessment mainly on peer reviewed and published scientific/technical literature.

The National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme (NGGIP) is one of the four pillars of the IPCC. Its objectives are: 1) To develop and refine internationally-agreed methodology and software including good practice guidance for the calculation and reporting of national greenhouse gas emissions and removals; 2) To encourage the widespread use of this methodology and guidance by countries participating in the IPCC and by signatories of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Technical Support Unit (TSU) for IPCC-NGGIP is based at the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) in Japan. The Unit is funded by the Government of Japan. The TSU is responsible to the Task Force Bureau (TFB) which shall provide guidance to the IPCC-NGGIP and develop it as required. The TSU assists the Co-chairs of the TFB and serves the needs of the IPCC-NGGIP.

The establishment of TSU at IGES was completed in September 1999 with very substantive co-operation from the IPCC, OECD, IEA, Government of Japan and other related institutions.

In 2003, nine staff members were working in the TSU at IGES. An intern was conducting research under the TSU Inventory Internship programme which was launched in 2003 to provide opportunity to young

researchers/scientists to familiarise themselves with the IPCC methodologies for national GHG inventories through applied studies on the science relevant to specific sector(s)

Major achievements of the TSU during the IGES Second Phase were the publication of the IPCC reports on *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry, and on Definitions and Methodological Options to Inventory Emissions from Direct Human-induced Degradation of Forests and Devegetation of Other Vegetation Types*. Both reports were formally accepted by the IPCC and welcomed by the SBSTA of the UNFCCC in 2003 and appeared in print in April 2004.

The Good Practice Guidance report gives detailed instructions and guidance on how to estimate emissions and removals from the Land Use and Forestry sectors. It also provides detailed guidance on how to make these estimates in a way that neither over nor under estimates emissions and removals with the best accuracy practical, i.e. according to "good practice". This provides major updates to the existing methodologies for estimating emissions and removals from these sectors. It has introduced a consistency in approach and definitions that was needed by parties to the UNFCCC. It will make future reporting of emissions and removals from Land Use, Land Use Change and Forestry more accurate and consistent between countries.

The TSU prepared these reports by asking for nominations of authors by national governments. From these nominations a list of authors was selected whose experience covers the technical areas of the proposed report as well as giving the authorship the widest possible geographic representation. For the report as a whole a steering committee was formed to guide the process while contributing lead authors are nominated for each chapter who are responsible for that chapter's completion. In total over 200 authors contributed to the *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*. This wide authorship ensures that the reports cover most parts of the world and gives these reports a wide acceptability.



all authors

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During 2003 the process of writing these reports were finished with a review periods for experts and governments. Following a meeting to finalise responses to the comments and any changes need to the draft there was a period of government consideration before the final approval by the IPCC plenary meeting.

The IPCC Emission Factor Database (EFDB), a dynamically evolving software tool vetted by its Editorial Board together with the TSU, was launched in 2002, and the CD-ROM version was made available in 2003. This database will contain emission factors and other data needed by expert to estimate national greenhouse gas emissions. The database has been made available to assist national experts by sharing knowledge and experience in estimating emissions. The EFDB does not guarantee that each factor is suitable for a particular use but it does provide the background data needed by

experts to judge the applicability of the information themselves.

In addition to the continued management of the EFDB, the NGGIP is now embarking on a new project to prepare a 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Inventories, a revision of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines, to be completed by May 2006. IN 2003 the initial scoping meetings were carried out. The terms of reference and contents of the 2006 guidelines were discussed and then agreed by the IPCC.

In addition TSU staff have represented the IPCC on inventory matters at a number of meetings on topics such as non-CO2 mitigation, CO2 capture and disposal and non-Annex 1 national communications as well as scoping meetings for the IPCC fourth Assessment Report.

