

Title: Monitoring carbon emissions from forests and wood products

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Session IIIb: Standards for GHG Emission Inventories

Abstract:

The measurement of forest carbon stock is most commonly derived from forest inventory data, but not all countries have established regular plot based inventory systems. Remote sensing products are also becoming more commonly available and these are increasingly used in combination with ground based sampling. They are especially useful for monitoring, reporting and verification of efforts to reduce deforestation, and forest degradation (REDD). Both forest inventories and remote sensing are supported by well-established research communities and GHG emission inventories from forests have steadily improved in coverage and quality over recent years. A new challenge is arising with new obligations for countries to inventory carbon in harvested wood products. Storing carbon in harvested wood products is one of several strategies of using forests and their products for climate change mitigation. The IPCC Good Practice Guidance presents three alternative accounting practices for carbon in Harvested Wood Products with increasing information demands. In order to report carbon pool changes with proper consideration of trade flows, substantial information is needed that goes far beyond the data on wood removals from forests that are available from statistics. This presentation summarizes some established inventory practices and outlines perspectives on how to improve forest sector carbon balances including the carbon pool changes in harvested wood products and the quantification of fossil fuel substitution effects.