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# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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The *Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories (Revised Guidelines)* were accepted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) at its Twelfth Session (Mexico City, 11-13 September 1996). Earlier, Working Group 1 of the IPCC at its Sixth Session (Mexico City, 10 September 1996) had accepted and then forwarded the *Revised Guidelines* to the IPCC. The IPCC-XII recommended that the *Revised Guidelines* "are ready for use by Parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in the preparation of their National Communications with regard to inventories, at a time to be agreed by the Parties of the Convention." It is, therefore, extremely gratifying that the consensus effort of nearly one hundred and forty scientists and national experts from more than thirty countries has resulted in the publication of the *Revised Guidelines*.

At the Fourth Session of the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA-4, Geneva, 16-18 December 1996), Parties to the Convention decided how, and when, the *Revised Guidelines* are to be applied. To assist Parties in meeting their commitments and targets, and to monitor progress, it is essential that national GHG emission inventories contain the best possible information for all major GHG sources and sinks. As such, inventories must be consistent, comparable, complete, and transparent. The *Revised Guidelines* provide such a methodology for the estimation and periodic update of national greenhouse gas (GHG) inventories, and thus comply with the requirements of Articles 4 and 12 of the UNFCCC.

The *Revised Guidelines* were developed over a two-year period and draw extensively upon the previous *Guidelines*. Where possible, the *Revised Guidelines* improved upon the early 1995 *Guidelines* by the synthesis and assessment of relevant new data. These improved data are critical for regions of the world where baseline information is still sparse. In areas of scientific advancement, existing methodologies were revised, and additional methodologies were developed and assessed. A *Summary of the Revised 1996 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* can be found in Annex 3 of the *Reporting Instructions*.

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