

To: wetlands_review@iges.or.jp

Attached is my review of the Draft 2013 Wetlands Supplement. My apologies as the comments are out of order and I am sure there are plenty of spelling errors. I am not familiar enough with the Excel software to sort the data and run a spelling and grammar check.

The draft overall it is straight forward and easy to follow. From my limited technical background on Wetlands, the direction looks sound so most of my comments are editorial in nature.

While this is a Wetlands Supplement, parts of it apply to all of the land use categories. An organization chart at beginning of the draft illustrating where this supplement falls in with other IPCC documents would be extremely useful. Consider doing this for all IPCC guidance.

Here is the way I understand the process. A country divides its total land area (including rivers and lakes) into the IPCC Land Use parcels of Forest, Cropland, Grassland, Wetland, Settlements, or Other. Each parcel has to be at least (area threshold chosen for the nation's forest land) ha in size and all land must be accounted for. There can be no overlap in the classification. For example a parcel may contain trees and crops but it has to be classed as either Forest or Cropland, but not both. Lands are also identified by zones in which they fall (Boreal, Temperate, Subtropical, and Tropical).

Once the lands are classified into one of the Land Use categories, they are further divided as being either managed or not. If managed, then the amount of biomass and dead material, both above and below ground, is to be determined. The various IPCC Guides and Supplements provide direction on how to carry out the classification and measurements. *(Apparently there is no requirement for measuring, monitoring and reporting biomass and dead material on unmanaged land. That seems short-sighted to me as what happens on unmanaged lands can supplement or negate what is accomplished in managed lands. Perhaps the unmanaged lands are covered in other IPCC direction.)*

According to the Wetlands Supplement soils on all managed lands are identified as either 'wet' or 'dry'. They are further categorized as being either organic or mineral, nutrient rich or poor, and drained or not drained (draft Wetlands Supplement Chapter 1.2 lines 88-89 and Chapter 2.1 lines 81-85).

Using Forest land as an example – First it is identified by zone (see attached flow chart). Then the land is classed as managed or unmanaged. The managed lands, according to the Wetlands Supplement, are separated into dry or wet land. They are also tracked by whether they are drained or not and if the soil is nutrient rich or nutrient poor. Biomass and dead matter, both above and below ground on all managed lands, are measured and I assume reported by divisions. If this is the case, then Chapter 4 of the 2006 Guidelines should make reference to the Wetlands Supplement.

One aspect that hasn't been covered by the Guidelines and supplements is who is responsible for inventorying and monitoring these lands? Institutively a Forestry Dept. may be responsible for the forest, Agriculture Dept. for the cropland, possibly Wildlife Dept. for wetlands, and Census Bureau for settlements – possibly leaving grasslands and other lands unaccounted for. Based on my experiences with the US Federal Government, every Department has its own agenda, schedule and way of doing things. So when it is time to total biomass and dead matter for a nation, the sums of the parts may not add up to the total.

To be most effective, the data collection and reporting have to be coordinated so that there is no overlap of responsibilities and so that funds are spent most effectively. Given that all are collecting the same kinds of data for GHG reporting (the amount of live and dead material above and below ground it would be a *good practice* to develop a coordinated, wall-to-wall survey system with common field survey processes and data collection. Current IPCC Guidance on how to organize and coordinate such a system is lacking. I would be happy to help with this effort should you decide to pursue it.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the Wetlands Supplement. If you need anything further, please feel free to contact me.

