

- What does the 'Informal expert group under the European Climate Change Programme "Climate policy for land use, land use change and forestry"' do?
- * What is its relation with the UN climate talks?
- * What is relevance for NGO campaigning?

* the working group is advisory to the Commission; mandate from provisions in the EU *Climate Change and Energy Package (main EU climate legislation)* which “*require the Commission to assess possible modalities for including land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) in the EU's greenhouse gas reduction commitment and, as appropriate, make a legislative proposal.*”

* “The overall objective of the group is to assist the Commission in its work to develop and assess options for the possible inclusion of the land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) sector in the EU's greenhouse gas reduction commitment. There are three key questions to be answered in the ECCP work.”

- 6 meetings, one per month from April – October
- 2 NGO, 6 industry (forestry and biomass energy), ca. 15 Member State forest administrations (individual capacity)
- Expert presentations at first 4 sessions, then discussion in the group about recommendations on what EU should do to address emissions in land use sector
- Final report with recommendation; report will be advise to the Commission who will present proposal in 2011
- All documents from the group meetings are here:
http://circa.europa.eu/Public/irc/env/clim_lulucf/home

Four options the group will discuss:

- * **Not to consider** emissions from the land use sector in EU emission reduction activities

- * Include the land use sector in the **EU Emissions Trading Scheme**

- * Include the land use sector under the **EU Effort Sharing Decision** (legislation that outlines how much and how to cut emissions in non-EUETS sectors in the EU)

- * Develop a **separate, stand-alone agreement** to reduce emissions from the land use sector (two options: (1) stand alone with numerical reduction target (2) stand alone without numerical reduction target)

What is its relation with the UN climate talks?

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Rich nations accused over 'logging loophole' at Bonn climate talks

Bid by rich countries to change forestry rules would create accounting loopholes that would hide true emissions, developing nations say

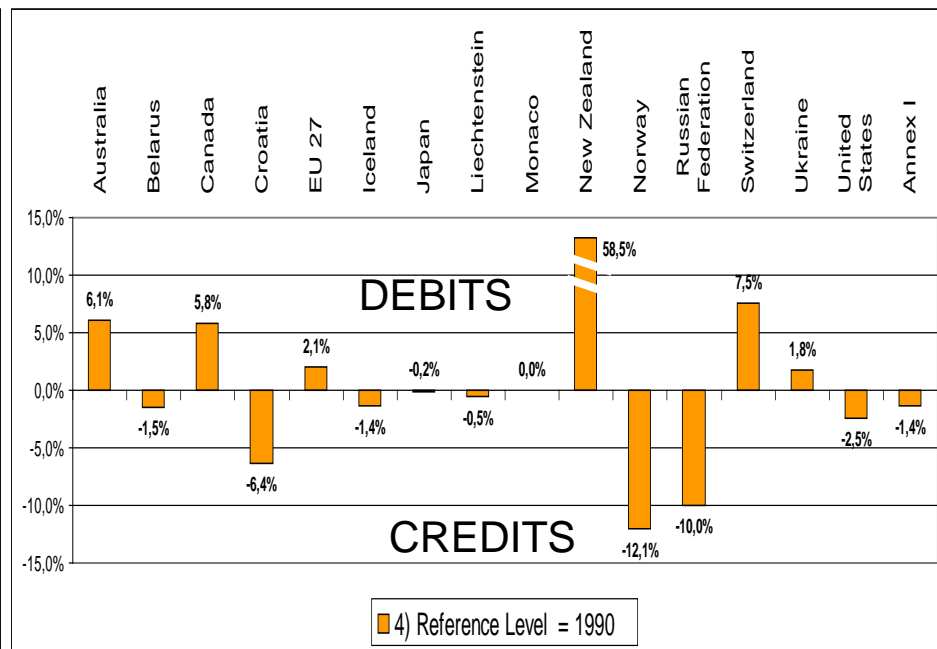
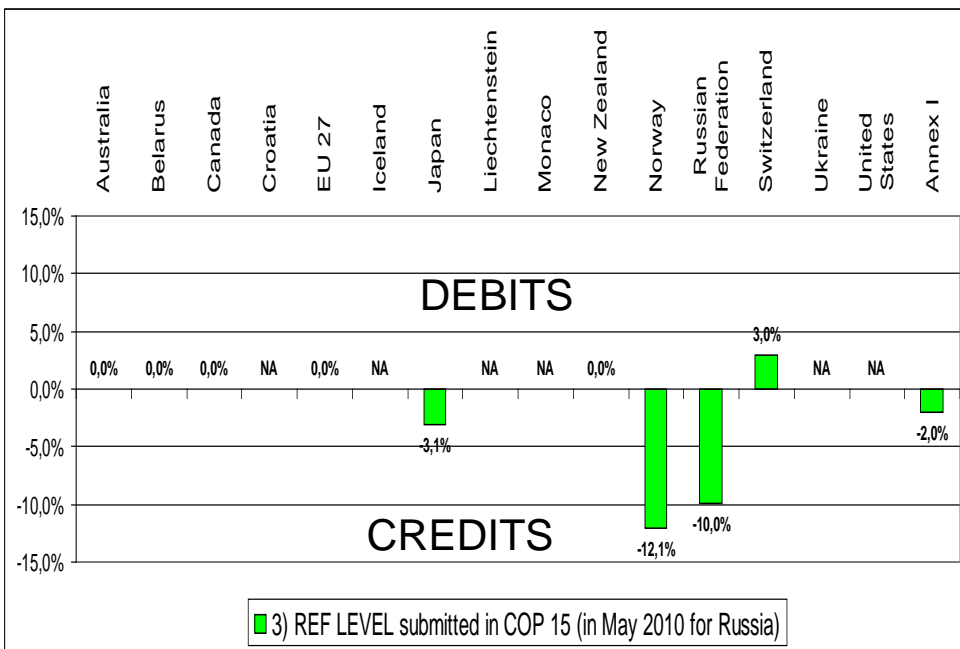
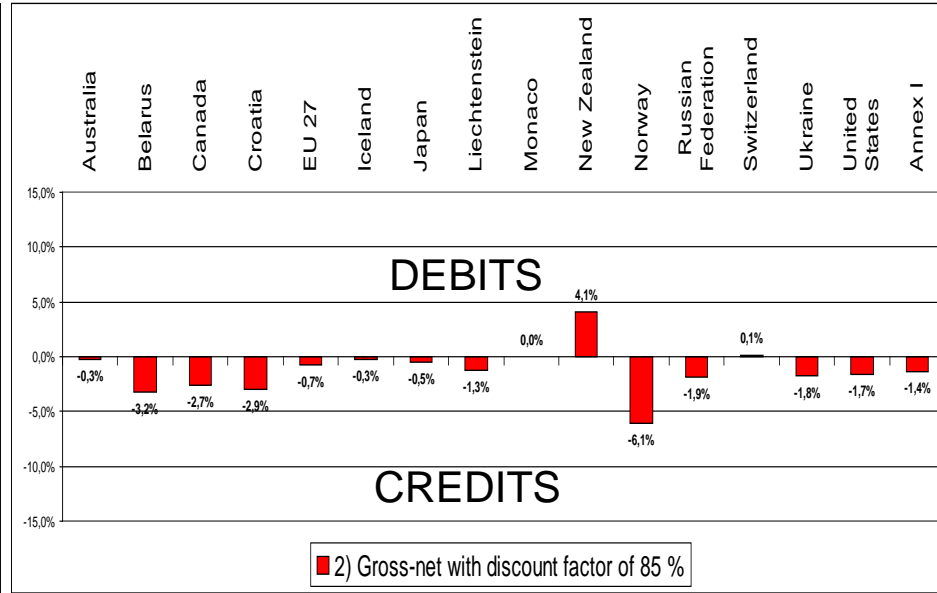
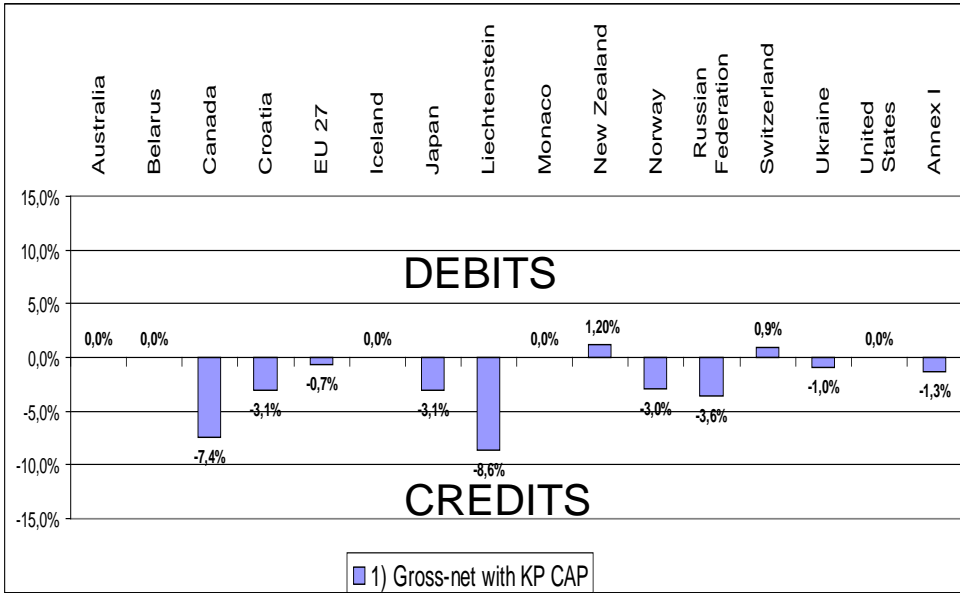
Solve Climate:

Surprise Call to Close Forest Loophole Shakes Up Climate Talks in Bonn

Rich nations insist on allowing accounting trick that would hide true emissions

by Stacy Feldman - Jun 7th, 2010

Accounted net emissions and removals by the forest management sector based on 4 options, in % of KP base year



What is its relation with the UN climate talks?

Discussion about:

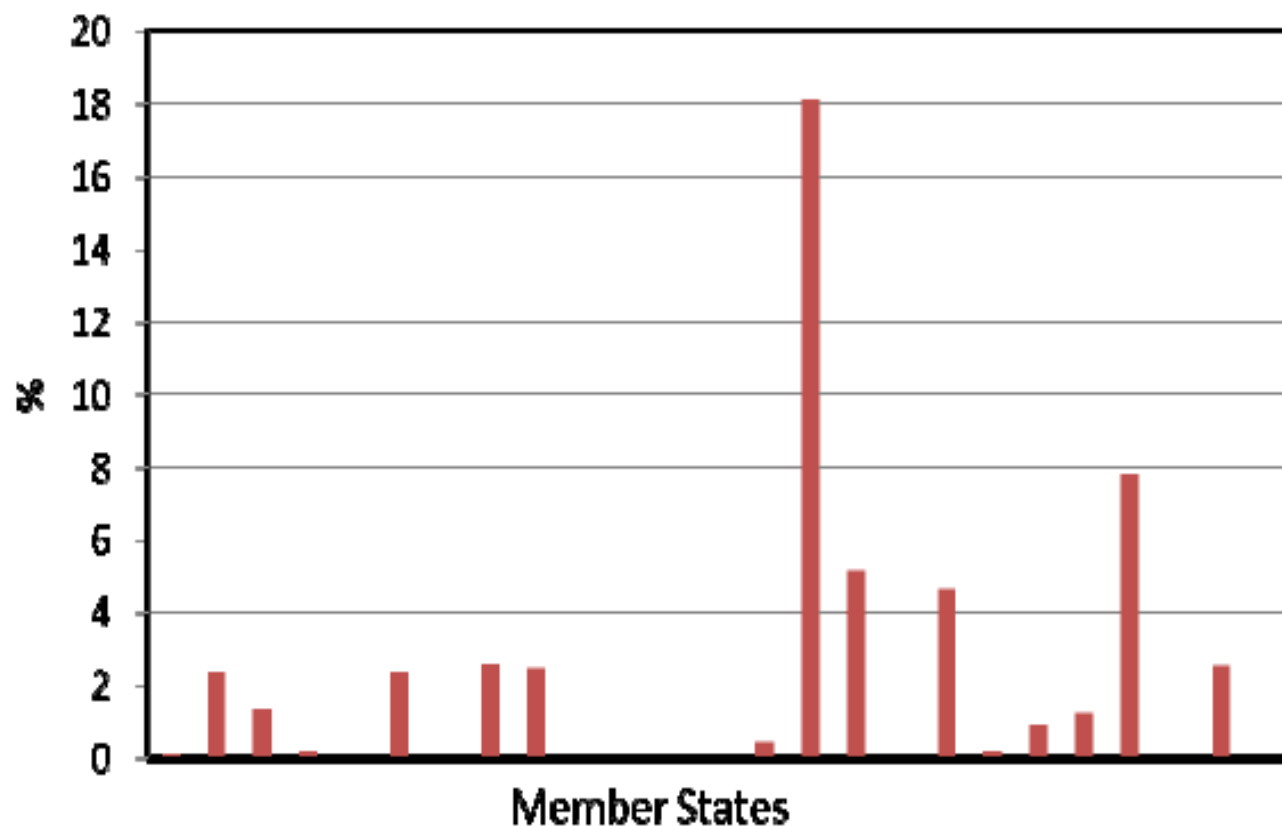
- how to measure emissions from land use change in the EU
- whether to account for them and how
- how to link measuring of emissions to payments
- EU decision on how to address emissions from land use inside the EU will influence position the EU will take in UN climate talks on land use

What is relevance for NGO campaigning?

- Platform to challenge industry statements that 'forests in Europe are expanding and 'underharvested'
- Technical capacity provided to the group which helped **expose how poor quality the EU data on land use emissions is that they report** to UN climate convention is about emissions from land use sector and expose motivations to hide emissions from land use sector

Many MS still report inconsistently land areas:

Apparent variation % in total reported land area between 1990 and 2008

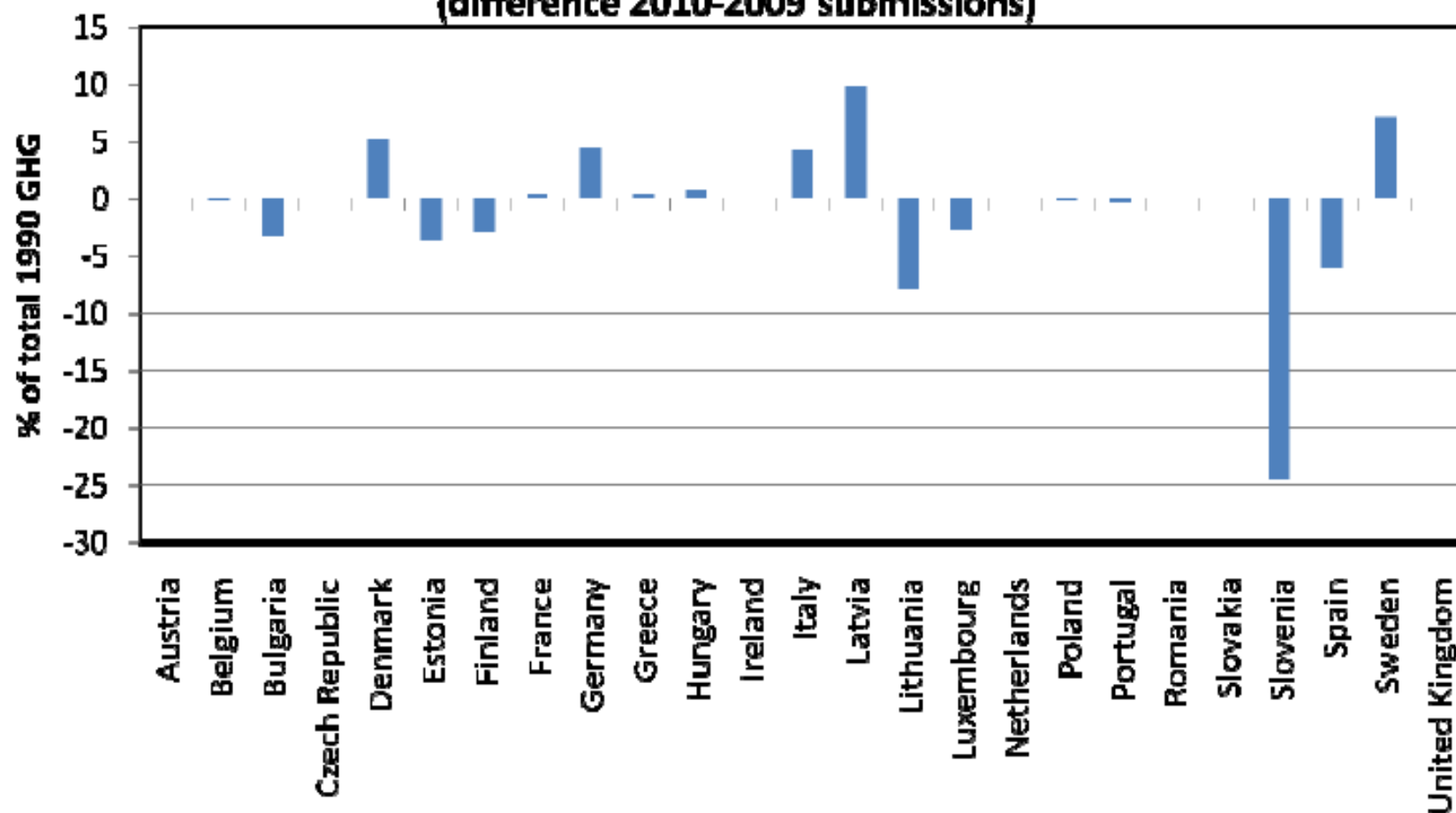


Under Convention reporting, to be consistent and complete, the total area should remain constant and match the official statistics of total national area:

This "LAND BALANCE PRINCIPLE" is an important requirement to demonstrate that no omission/double counting of lands occurred.

Recalculations

Recalculation for the year 2007 in "forest remaining forest"
(difference 2010-2009 submissions)



What is relevance for NGO campaigning?

- * Possibility to try and include recommendation into the Expert Group report to **separate** 'contribution' of energy sector and land use sector to EU emission reduction targets and track progress towards contribution of the sectors in separate (accounting) systems