



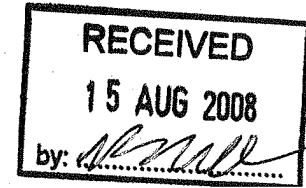
THE WILDERNESS SOCIETY

14 August 2008

Committee Secretary
Joint Standing Committee on Treaties
Department of House of Representatives
PO Box 6021, Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Protecting, promoting & restoring Australia's WildCountry

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Submission 8
TT 25 June 2008

Dear Committee Secretary,

Submission to the Treaties Committee on the Kyoto Protocol Review Terms of Reference

Please find the following submission regarding the Terms of Reference on the Treaties Committee Review of the Kyoto Protocol.

The submission includes six important papers relevant to the Review;

'Principles for REDD Methodologies – Prepared by the CAN-LULUCFREDD sub-working group as a CAN position statement', CAN 2008. CAN (Climate Action Network) is the author of the document for The Wilderness Society made the principal contribution to the document and can be considered our position on the issue.

'Defining forests under the Kyoto Protocol: A Way Forward, Draft CAN Briefing Document', CAN 2008. While this is still a draft, it has been included as part of the submission to meet your August 15 deadline and raises significant issues relating to the Kyoto Protocol which should be considered. It is a late draft agreed by CAN member groups and can be considered to be The Wilderness Society's position on the issue.

'LULUCF principles for ensuring environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol Annex 1 accounting rules and modalities', CAN International, 2008.

'Draft issues and principles that must be included in any Australian Government position for future LULUCF discussion and negotiations under the UNFCCC', The Wilderness Society, 2008.

'Green Carbon – The role of natural forests in carbon storage', The Wilderness Society, 2008. Synopsis prepared by The Wilderness Society of: *'Green carbon – The role of natural forests in carbon storage'*, Brendan G Mackey, Heather Keith, Sandra L Berry and David Lindenmeyer (2008) ANU E Press.

'Green carbon – The role of natural forests in carbon storage', Brendan G Mackey, Heather Keith, Sandra L Berry and David Lindenmeyer (200*) ANU E Press.

The key take home messages from these papers are;

1. **That the Kyoto Protocol is inaccurate in addressing the carbon story in that it does not differentiate between carbon stored in native forests versus plantations.** Therefore there is no incentive in the Protocol not to have the perverse outcome of converting old growth native forests which are large carbon banks resilient to climate change, with plantations which are comparatively small carbon banks and which are not climate change resilient;

2. **It is crucial to accurately measure green carbon.** It is impossible to get correct Kyoto policy settings correct unless we get the calculation of Green Carbon storage in native forests correct. The documents in this submission now reveal that the accurate calculation of Green Carbon in native forests is within reach, both here in Australia and for native forests internationally;
3. **We must calculate emissions from deforestation and forest degradation in both developed and developing countries.** Emissions from deforestation and degradation have the same implications for climate change whether it occurs in Australia or Brazil.

We hope you find this contribution to the Review helpful, and I will endeavor to send this submission electronically. Please do not hesitate to contact me for further information or a briefing by myself or any of the report's authors.

Sincerely,

Gavan McFadzean
Victorian Campaigns Manager