

Forest Carbon Accounting TWG Kick-off Meeting Minutes

Meeting #1

Date: Call 1: 17th December 2024, 07:00 – 08:00 UTC, 14:00 – 15:00 IST

Call 2: 19th December 2024, 16:00 – 17:00 UTC, 11:00 – 12:00 EST

Location: "Virtual" via Zoom

Attendees

Technical Working Group Members 17.12.2024

1. Antti Marjokorpi, Stora Enso Oyj
2. Kate Dooley, University of Melbourne
3. Pippa Notten, The Green House, University of Cape Town
4. Torbjörn Skytt, Mid Sweden University
5. Vaughan Andrews, Weyerhaeuser
6. Chandra Shekhar Deshmukh, APRIL

Technical Working Group Members 19.12.2024

7. Alessandro Baccini, Chloris Geospatial / Boston University
8. Charles Canham, Cary Institute of Ecosystem Studies
9. Christoph Leibling, IKEA
10. Jennifer Skene, NRDC
11. Jiaxin Chen, Ontario Forest Research Institute
12. Melissa Gallant, TNC
13. Miguel Brandao, KTH – Royal Institute of Technology
14. Nathan Truitt, American Forest Foundation
15. Nicolas Gordon, CMPC
16. Tim Searchinger, WRI/Princeton University

Hosts 17.12/19.12.2024 (ISB, GHG Protocol, EY)

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| 1. Amir Safaei, WBCSD – GHG Protocol | 6. Ishita Chelliah, EY |
| 2. Matt Ramlow, WRI – GHG Protocol | 7. Johannes Tinter, EY |
| 3. Adrien Portafaix, EY | 8. Francois Binard, EY |
| 4. David Kennedy, EY | 9. Weza Bombo Joao, EY |
| 5. Gregory Simonin, EY | |

Guests

Dr. Alexander Bassen, Chair ISB

Documents referenced

1. Recommended Reading material (in the SharePoint folder)
2. Logistical and Policy documents (in the SharePoint folder)

Item	Topic and Summary – Presenter 17 th / Presenter 19 th	Outcomes
1.	<i>Housekeeping</i> The meeting started with welcome and introduction, outlining the housekeeping rules for the Zoom call.	Recording and transcript will be shared post-call.
2.	<i>Welcome and Introduction</i> Dr. Alexander Bassen (Head of ISB) welcomed everyone and introduced the session with highlights and importance of the TWG efforts.	
3.	<i>GHG Protocol Overview</i> An overview of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol was provided, including its history, governance, and the importance of the protocol in corporate GHG reporting.	
4.	<i>GHG Protocol Governance, Standard Setting Procedures, Policies & TWG Terms of Reference</i> The governance structure of the GHG Protocol was explained, including the roles of the Steering Committee, Independent Standard Board (ISB), and the Secretariat.	TWG members to review and adhere to the terms of reference and governance policies.
5.	<i>Decision-making Criteria</i> The decision-making criteria for the GHG Protocol were presented, focusing on integrity, impact, and feasibility.	TWG members use the decision-making criteria in their deliberations.
6.	<i>FCA Deliberation Approach</i> The approach for the Forest Carbon Accounting (FCA) deliberation was outlined with the two main options, Managed Land Proxy and Activity-Based Accounting and the overall planned stages and timeline.	TWG members to review the materials and choose to participate in one of three subgroup sessions.
7.	<i>Introduction of TWG Members</i> TWG members introduced themselves, sharing their backgrounds, current roles, and motivations for joining the working group.	
8.	<i>Closing Remarks</i> The meeting concluded with a reminder of the next steps, including the upcoming subgroup sessions and the distribution of additional materials for review. Happy Holiday Season!	TWG members should read the distributed documents on SharePoint in preparation for the first subgroup sessions.

Summary of discussion and outcomes

1. Housekeeping

- The meeting consisted of introduction, outlining the housekeeping rules of the Zoom call (slide 2-3).

Summary of discussion

- The participants were welcomed and the housekeeping rules for the Zoom call were reviewed, emphasizing the use of the raise hand function or chat for questions. It was noted that the meeting would be recorded and shared with TWG members who could not attend one of the two kick-off sessions.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- Recording and transcript will be shared post-call.

2. Welcome & Introduction

- Dr. Alexander Bassen (Head of ISB) welcomed everyone and introduced the session. He thanked participants for their efforts and highlighted the importance of addressing greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture, forest, and land sectors (slide 4-6).

Summary of discussion

- Dr. Bassen emphasized the critical need for standardized guidance in corporate greenhouse gas inventories, particularly for the agriculture, forest, and land sectors. He pointed out the current gaps in standardized methodologies and stressed the importance of developing a harmonized framework to accelerate corporate climate action. Dr. Bassen expressed optimism about the group's potential to make significant contributions in this area.
- One TWG member asked for further clarification regarding the specific objectives of the plenary and subgroup sessions, seeking to understand how these sessions would contribute to the overall goals.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- No specific outcomes.

3. GHG Protocol Overview

- An overview of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol was provided, including its history, governance, and the importance of the protocol in corporate GHG reporting (slide 7-10).

Summary of discussion

- A comprehensive overview of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol was provided, detailing its inception, evolution, and the governance structure that supports its implementation. The discussion highlighted the protocol's pivotal role in setting standards and providing guidance for GHG accounting and reporting. The protocol's impact on enhancing transparency was highlighted, together with consistency, and comparability in corporate GHG reporting, which is crucial for stakeholders, including investors, regulators, and the public.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- No specific outcomes.

4. GHG Protocol Governance, Standard Setting Procedure, Policies & TWG Terms of Reference

- The governance structure of the GHG Protocol was explained, including the roles of the Steering Committee, Independent Standard Board (ISB), and the Secretariat. The responsibilities of the Technical Working Group (TWG) members were also detailed (slide 11-25).

Summary of discussion

- An in-depth explanation of the GHG Protocol's governance structure was provided, detailing the roles and responsibilities of the Steering Committee, Independent Standard Board (ISB), and the Secretariat. The importance of TWG members acting in the public interest and disclosing any conflicts of interest was emphasized to ensure transparency and integrity in the standard-setting process.
- One TWG member sought an explanation regarding the twin oversight of the Secretariat by the ISB and the Co-Hosts. They were interested in understanding how this oversight functions, whether different aspects of the Secretariat are overseen by each, and how any disagreements are resolved. Additionally, they questioned whether the task of resolving any lack of consensus is fully vested with the ISB. The distinct yet complementary roles of the ISB and Co-Hosts in overseeing the Secretariat were clarified, along with the mechanisms in place for resolving disagreements.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- TWG members to review and adhere to the terms of reference and governance policies.

5. Decision-making Criteria

- The decision-making criteria for the GHG Protocol were presented, focusing on integrity, impact, and feasibility (slide 26-29).

Summary of discussion

- The decision-making criteria that guide the development of GHG Protocol standards were presented. These criteria include integrity, ensuring that standards are scientifically valid and unbiased; impact, ensuring that standards drive meaningful reductions in GHG emissions; and feasibility, ensuring that standards are practical and implementable by companies of various sizes and sectors. The importance of these criteria in maintaining the credibility and effectiveness of the GHG Protocol was emphasized, and TWG members were encouraged to apply these criteria in their deliberations.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- TWG members use the decision-making criteria in their deliberations.

6. FCA Deliberation Approach

- The approach for the Forest Carbon Accounting (FCA) deliberation was outlined, including the planned stages and timeline (slide 30-38).

Summary of discussion

- The structured approach for the Forest Carbon Accounting (FCA) deliberation was outlined, detailing the planned stages and timeline for the process. The two main topics introduced were the Managed Land Proxy and Activity-Based Accounting. The rationale behind these topics and how they aim to improve the accuracy and relevance of forest carbon accounting were explained. The process for refining these options through stakeholder engagement was discussed, highlighting the importance of incorporating diverse perspectives and expertise.
- One TWG member inquired about the basis for the statement "More accurately.." in the pro side of activity-based accounting, seeking information on the validation done to prove the approach's accuracy. The validation methods used, including empirical studies and pilot projects, were detailed, emphasizing the importance of ongoing validation to ensure the robustness of the approach.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- TWG members are to review the materials and choose to participate in one of three subgroup sessions for 1) the managed land proxy, 2) activity-based accounting, or 3) undecided or alternative options.

7. Introduction of TWG Members

- TWG members introduced themselves, sharing their backgrounds, current roles, and motivations for joining the working group (slide 39-40).

Summary of discussion

- Each TWG member provided a brief introduction, sharing their professional backgrounds, current roles, and motivations for joining the working group. This exercise helped to establish a collaborative environment and allowed members to understand the diverse expertise and perspectives within the group. The introductions highlighted the collective commitment to advancing the goals of the GHG Protocol and the importance of leveraging each member's unique skills and experiences.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- No specific outcomes.

8. Closing

- The meeting concluded with a reminder of the next steps, including the upcoming subgroup sessions and the distribution of additional materials for review. Participants were wished a Happy Holiday Season (slide 41).

Summary of discussion

- The meeting concluded with a summary of the next steps, including the upcoming subgroup sessions and the distribution of additional materials for review. Participants were reminded to read the distributed documents on SharePoint in preparation for the first subgroup sessions.

Outcomes (e.g. recommendations, options)

- TWG members should read the distributed documents on SharePoint in preparation for the first subgroup sessions.