

Forest Methodology

Assessing the greenhouse gas impacts of forest policies

List of key recommendations

This document lists all of the key recommendations related to assessing GHG impacts of policies and actions contained in the ICAT *Forest Methodology*. Chapter 11 of the guide lists all key recommendations related to reporting, which are not duplicated here.

Key recommendations are intended to assist users in producing credible impact assessments that pursue high quality and are based on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy.

The *Introduction to the ICAT Assessment Guides* provides further description on how and why key recommendations are used within the ICAT assessment guides, as well as more information about following either the “flexible approach” or the “key recommendations” approach when using the guide.

KEY RECOMMENDATIONS

Chapter 2: Objectives of estimating GHG impacts

- Determine the objectives of the assessment at the beginning of the impact assessment process

Chapter 4: Using the methodology

- Base the assessment on the principles of relevance, completeness, consistency, transparency and accuracy

Chapter 5: Describing the policy

- Clearly describe the policy (or package of policies) that is being assessed

Chapter 6: Identifying impacts: How forest policies reduce emissions or enhance removals

- Identify all stakeholders affected by, or with influence on, the policy
- Identify the inputs and activities that go into implementing the policy
- Identify all intermediate effects of the policy
- Identify all potential GHG impacts of the policy
- Develop a causal chain
- Include all significant GHG impacts in the GHG assessment boundary
- Define the assessment period

Chapter 7: Estimating the baseline scenario and emissions

- Identify the intended policy outcomes and target drivers
- Stratify land by land-use category
- Estimate the area of land in each stratum
- Estimate the carbon stock change (e.g., emission factor) for each carbon pool in each land stratum
- Calculate the cumulative GHG emissions and removals for the baseline scenario over the assessment period

Chapter 8: Estimating GHG impacts ex-ante

- Determine the maximum implementation potential of the policy
- Analyse policy design characteristics and national circumstances that may reduce the effectiveness of the policy, and account for their effect on the maximum implementation potential
- Analyse the financial feasibility of the policy for each stakeholder group, and account for the effect on the implementation potential of the policy
- Analyse other barriers that could reduce the effectiveness of the policy and account for their effect on the implementation potential
- Estimate the GHG impacts of the policy

Chapter 9: Estimating impacts ex-post

- Estimate or update baseline emissions using observed values for parameters that are not affected by the policy and estimated values for parameters that are affected by the policy
- Ascertain whether the inputs, activities and intermediate effects that were expected to occur according to the causal chain, actually occurred (if relevant)
- Estimate the GHG impacts of the policy over the assessment period for each GHG source and carbon pool included in the GHG assessment boundary

Chapter 10: Monitoring performance over time

- Identify the key performance indicators that will be used to track performance of the policy over time and define the parameters necessary to estimate GHG emissions ex-post
- Create a plan for monitoring key performance indicators and parameters
- Monitor each of the indicators and parameters over time, in accordance with the monitoring plan

Chapter 11: Reporting

- Report information about the assessment process and the GHG impacts resulting from the policy (including the information listed in Section 11.1)