

ECO



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Pathways Towards Climate Protection

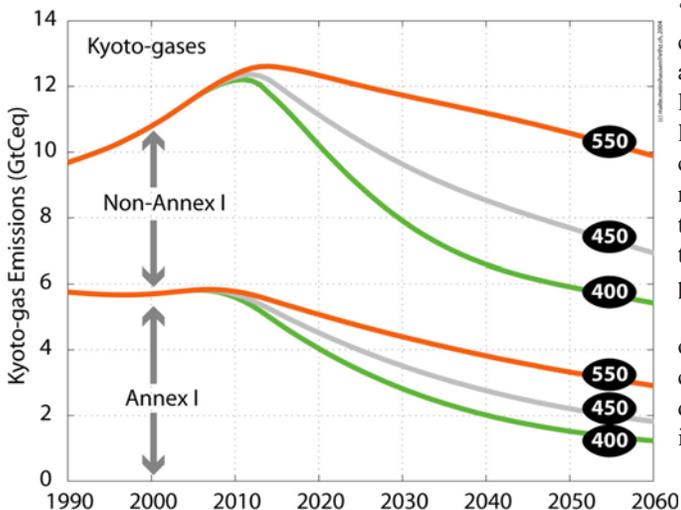
ECO welcomes the fact Parties are finally starting to examine the implications of future emission pathways that will allow them to meet the ultimate objective of the Convention as defined in Article 2. This came up in the Ad-Hoc Working Group (AWG) workshop on Tuesday, and seems to have penetrated the discussions here in Nairobi more generally.

An examination of the limits on global emissions over the long term necessary to keep global warming to below 2°C is an essential parameter for negotiating emission reductions requirements for Annex 1 countries, as well as for understanding the scale of the efforts needed in developing countries.

It is possible to estimate the atmospheric greenhouse gas (GHG) concentration levels, and from there annual emission levels, that will have a good chance of keeping global warming

to less than 2°C above pre-industrial levels. Timing is also key. There are remaining uncertainties in precisely quantifying the climate sensitivity, so the best the world can do at this stage is to define a range of probabilities for meeting the long term target. This is a very good reason to keep the system of five-year commitment periods in the future iterations of the Protocol, but that is another story.

The figure below shows one scenario for the division of the annual emissions 'pie' between different groups of countries within an overall cap that will put the world on a pathway towards stabilisation at a given concentration level. The stabilisation level will determine the likelihood of keeping warming to below the desired target. Using the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change language, a 550 ppm concentration level is 'likely' (65-90 per cent chance) to overshoot 2°C, and a 450 ppm concentration level has a 'medium likelihood' (35-65 per cent chance) to overshoot 2°C. To make it 'likely' to stay below the 2°C target, concentration targets then must be for 400 ppm or lower.



Meeting the ultimate objective of the climate convention – to avoid dangerous climate change – is going to require significant

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Article 9 Review Offers Opportunity

This first COP/MOP meeting in Sub Saharan Africa converges the priorities of the developing and developed nations under the Kyoto Protocol, with focus on the post-2012 regime and adaptation needs.

It is a great disappointment that this convergence of interests was not reflected in Article 9 interventions, with many countries resisting future plans and activities under the Review.

If there has been a common sentiment amongst developing countries, including the most vulnerable, it is that the Adaptation Fund, while very much needed, is not enough. Proposals have been made in all the right meetings (plenary, contact groups, informals and coffee breaks) for additional share of proceeds to be applied to all flexible mechanisms.

Climate Action Network believes the Article 9 Review provides the most fruitful opportunity to increase priority and resourcing for adaptation needs. This Review requires countries to assess the Kyoto Protocol "in light of best available science information and assessment of climate change and its impacts". ECO believes the work needed for meaningful review and improvement of the Protocol should continue beyond Nairobi to allow robust assessment of both the impacts of climate change and adequacy.

To limit or delay the Article 9 Review will risk losing the opportunity to address the needs of the billions of the most vulnerable in the developing world at risk of losing their lives,

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 action on a global basis. The politics of that will of course be complicated, but the science is certainly clear.

The world has to act even faster and take more dramatic action if it is to avoid damage associated with a 2°C global average temperature rise. This means that for now, the aim has to be stabilising GHGs in the atmosphere and then seeking to bring them down as rapidly as possible if there is to be a reasonable chance of keeping global temperature rise below 2°C.

To meet these goals dramatic reductions in GHG emissions are needed, and they are needed soon. From a moral, legal and practical perspective, the initial burden of emissions reductions has to fall on industrialised countries. Domestic reductions of at least 30 per cent on 1990 levels (the ‘baseline’ year for the Kyoto Protocol) by 2020 from industrialised countries are required, with a

target of at least 75 per cent reductions by mid-century.

Globally, there is a need to ensure emissions peak as soon as possible, and no later than 2015-2020, and then reduce them by 50 per cent by mid-century. This means not only that industrialised countries must make dramatic reductions in the next decade but a fair means must be found for engaging rapidly industrialising countries in reduction efforts in the near future.

Consequences of delay in the process of reducing emissions means the world will face a dire global emergency in the 2020s which will require rates of emission reductions in the past only associated with massive economic collapse such as the collapse of the Soviet Union. The world must not be forced to choose between economic catastrophe and climate catastrophe. The most likely outcome in that case would be both, and we have a good chance of avoiding this if we Act Now.

“Fossil of the Day” Award

Brazil took first place in yesterday’s fossil award competition for its hard line and spurious rationale in selfishly preventing the use of Article 9 to strengthen and broaden climate protection efforts in the post-2012 period. In spite of the urgency of the problem and inadequacy of existing responses, Brazil insisted on a narrow, legalistic interpretation of the Protocol text. Its effort was aimed at fragmenting discussions under the various negotiating tracks, and delaying any serious discussion of how developing countries can contribute to a comprehensive strategy using the Kyoto Protocol and Climate Convention. Without a strong negotiation process under Article 9, there is no chance of getting global emissions trends moving in a direction compatible with preventing dangerous climate change.

The EU was voted into second place for “supporting” carbon capture and storage (CCS) in the Clean Development Mechanism and siding with OPEC countries. CCS technology is yet to be proven and many issues, including monitoring and verification and liability, need to be developed before it is considered for inclusion in the CDM. CCS in the CDM could squeeze out investment in technologies that support sustainable development like renewables and energy efficiency.

Traditional fossil stronghouse, the US, came in third place for blocking the submission of a Secretariat paper to the deforestation contact group. The paper was supposed to highlight common elements of the different policy approaches submitted by Parties. It seems inconceivable progressive negotiations can move forward without a sensible and specific examination of the commodities and differences between policy approaches.

Cartoon Competition: Two Entries Received

ECO is delighted to announce receipt of two entries for its Climate Change Cartoon Competition launched on November 8. The first was from Cécile Bertrand in Belgium while the second was from Lawrence Moore in the UK. ECO is pleased to publish a cartoon by Moore in this issue. Other cartoons submitted will be highlighted later.

ECO strongly urges other aspiring cartoonists among COP participants and ECO readers to submit your works, so that you too can participate in the competition. As a winner, YOU will be the proud owner of a unique collection of “negotiation stuff” with which you can impress your friends and colleagues! Entries can be sent to ecopaper@hotmail.com preferably in JPEG format. Those in Nairobi with hand-drawn entries are requested to hand them to a CAN member or call 0720-899-374.



– Article 9 Review , *from front page* –
 livelihoods or homes with future warming.

ECO states there must be progress on Article 9 at this COP/MOP to build faith in the international negotiations and make practical steps towards building a responsive and equitable framework for the Kyoto Protocol beyond 2012.

Keep Your Eye on the Prize!

TUSKER

Having arrived late in Nairobi on Tuesday after a pre-COP safari, Tusker had no time to change and was taken off to Gigiri in his dusty khaki suit. His survival gear came in handy, as it was not before Friday lunch-time that Tusker finally found his way to a side event at the African something tree in ICRAF.

A new potential Party to the Protocol, the Dependant Republic of AAUrania, that had recently elected a Harvard trained economist as its President, was presenting its request to join Annex B.

The new AAUranian government had been advised it could increase the gross domestic product of its country 5,000 per cent by going to Nairobi and pledging to take on a Voluntary Emissions Liberalisation and Constant Revenue Objective (VELCRO).

An expensive consultant study has proposed to set up the VELCRO level at an annual growth reduction of 0.1 per cent compared to 1900 levels. The US delegate following the side event immediately proclaimed his endorsement of the concept.

NGO Party Today!

Put on your dancing shoes! The ever-popular NGO party, organised by Climate Action Network, will be held today, Saturday, November 11 from 8pm onwards. Venue for the event is the Jomo Kenyatta Conference Centre (JKCC) in Nairobi’s city centre near the Parliament. (Refer to the back of a 100 Shillings note for visual details.)

ECO urges all COP participants to join the party, unwind from the vigours of the negotiations, meet others and have fun.

Conference badges must be worn to gain entry. No cover charge will be imposed and it will be a cash bar. Extra security detail will be present to ensure enhanced safety.