LULUCF in the EU Climate Policy Framework

Mobilizing LULUCF in the Post-Kyoto Framework

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State of play in the EU

- LULUCF net removals amount to about 8% of the EU's total GHG budget
- The relative importance of the sector varies significantly across the member States
- LULUCF not included in the current 20% reduction commitment in the Climate and Energy Package
- A legal proposal from the Commission (12 March 2012) on accounting rules and action plans on GHG emissions and removals resulting from LULUCF
- The European Parliament, The Council and the Commission discussing about the content

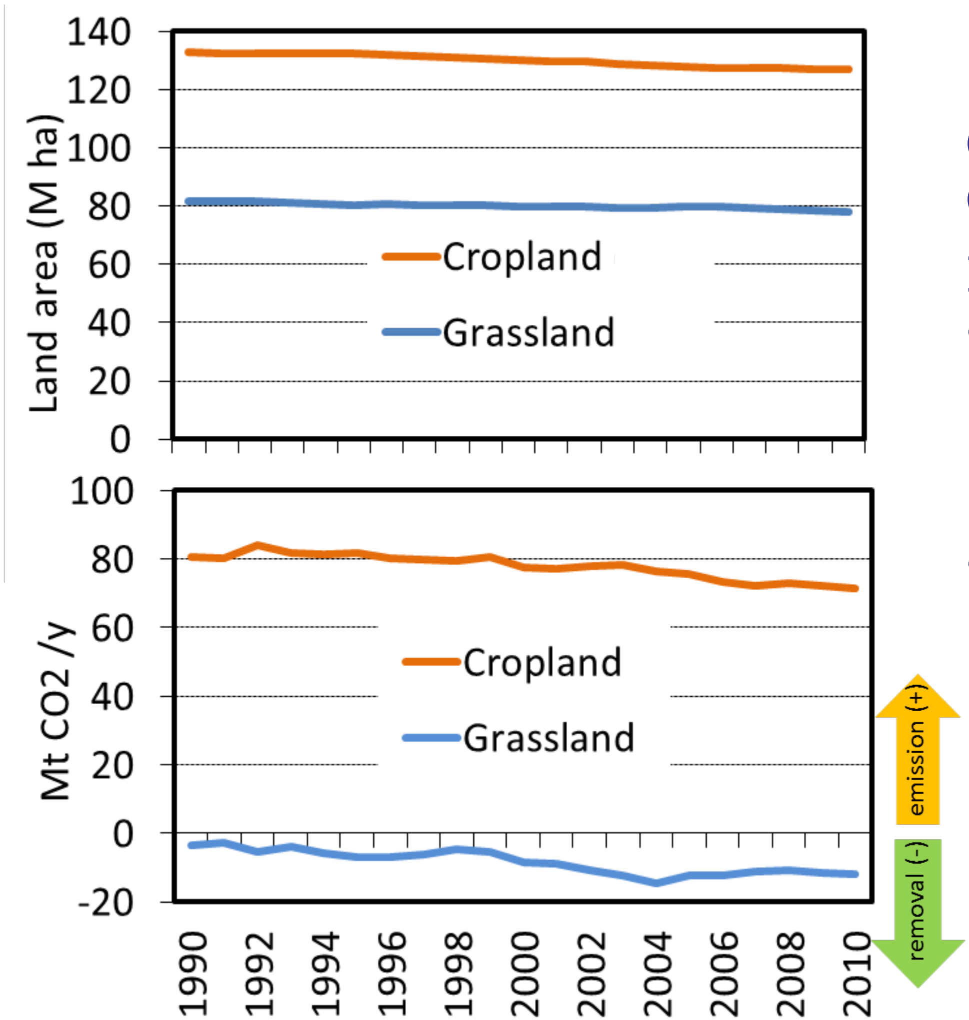
The contents of the LULUCF proposal

- rules for forest lands the same as in the Durban decision: mandatory accounting, reference levels for Forest Management, HWP, natural disturbances
- mandatory/ voluntary accounting of Cropland Management, Grazing land Management and Wetland Drainage and Rewetting being discussed
- LULUCF Action Plans to incentivise improved action
- Possible next step: a separate target for the LULUCF sector in EU's Climate Policy Framework

Post-Kyoto Framework

- EU open to discuss all options on the table
- more comprehensive accounting would be welcome
- the rules should be fair, simpler and equitable, provide incentives and have a limited role to achieve overall mitigation targets
- items to be discussed e.g. possible merging of A/R and FM with some sort of cap

EU trends on cropland (CL) and grassland (GL)



CL: slightly decreasing emissions
GL: slightly increasing removals

In both cases:

- most emissions from organic soils (e.g. in CL 2% of area, 60% of soil emissions) and land use changes
- uncertainty of emissions is high, but the trend is more robust (i.e. for CL mainly driven by area)

Is accounting of cropland/grazing land management feasible?

Main challenges: estimates for 1990, land identification/tracking.

However:

1) *IPCC allows a cost-effective and flexible reporting (e.g. tier 1)*: tier 1 accounting is better than tier zero!

2) *Most EU countries already report* cropland and grassland.

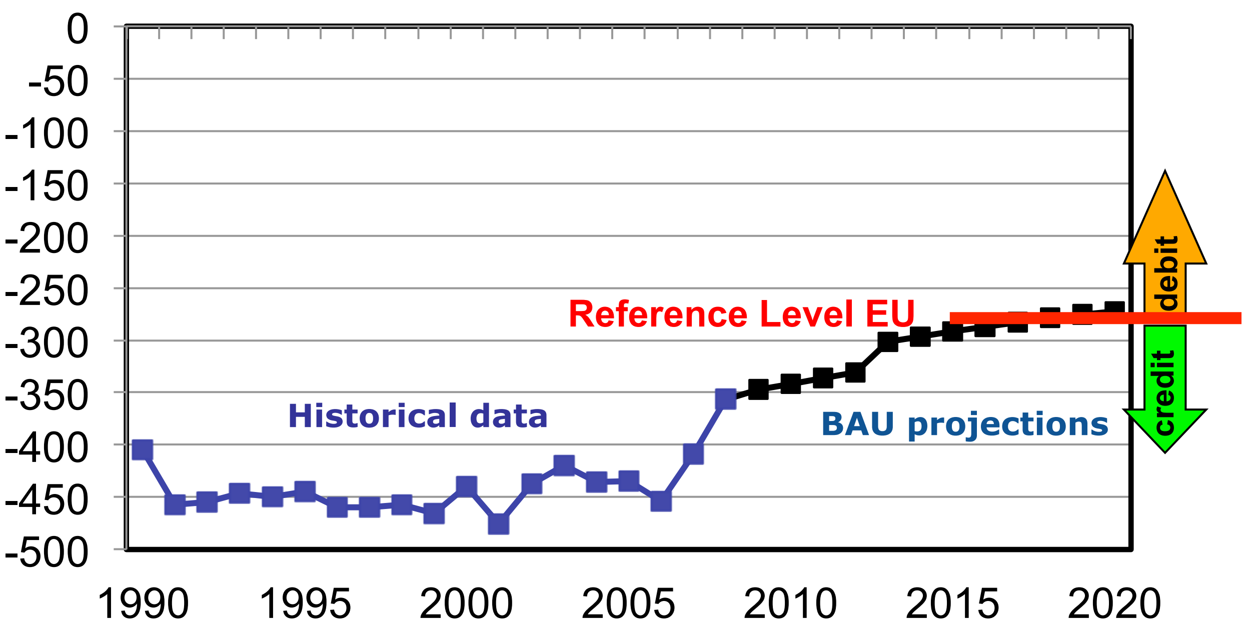
3) *Large unexploited potential* (e.g. better use of national/EU datasets) because there was no urgent need to do so.

4) *Much time to improve*. Reporting is a learning-by-doing process. Accounting will occur and the end of the accounting period.

5) *Simplifying assumptions are possible* if available data does not allow obtaining accurate estimates. If assumptions are robust and/or conservative, estimates shall be accepted for accounting.

Can Durban rules mobilize forest mitigation potential?

The forest management reference level (FMRL) is a value of emissions / removals from FM, against which the net emissions / removals reported in 2nd second commitment period will be compared to for accounting purposes.



Positive features of the FMRL:

1. Addresses *additionality* and national circumstances.
2. Treats equally all mitigation options: step beyond the "sink obsession"
3. Helped FM to become mandatory

Possible risks:

4. Technical complexity for future inventory compilers / reviewers
5. National circumstances / BAU
6. Uncertainties linked to the assumptions used

Note that 5 and 6 apply also in the setting of any target/QELROs.

Impact of uncertainties likely small for Annex 1 countries as a whole.

See Grassi et al. (2012), The role of LULUCF sector in achieving Annex I pledges, Climatic Change, 115:873–881

Thank you for your attention

http://ec.europa.eu/dgs/clima/mission/index_en.htm