

B-3: Greenhouse gas emissions

Glossary, abbreviations, legends and units of measurement

Glossary:

Carbon Sink:	Forests and other ecosystems that absorb carbon, thereby removing it from the atmosphere and offsetting CO ₂ emissions. The Kyoto Protocol allows certain human-induced sinks activities undertaken since 1990 to be counted towards Annex I Parties' emission targets.
CO ₂ equivalent:	In order to aggregate the emissions of different GHGs, these are presented in CO ₂ equivalent, based on the concept of a gases global warming potential (GWP) expressed as a factor of carbon dioxide.
Emissions:	The release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.
Fugitive emissions:	Emissions of GHG in the energy sector which are released without combustion.
Greenhouse gas:	A gas that contributes to the natural greenhouse effect. The Kyoto Protocol covers a basket of six greenhouse gases (GHGs) produced by human activities: carbon dioxide (CO ₂), nitrous oxide (N ₂ O), methane (CH ₄), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆).
Global warming potential:	A relative measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere. It compares the amount of heat trapped by a certain mass of the gas in question to the amount of heat trapped by a similar mass of carbon dioxide. A GWP is calculated over a specific time interval, commonly 20, 100 or 500 years. GWP of GHG is expressed as a factor of carbon dioxide (whose GWP is standardized to 1).
International dollar:	Monetary unit used by the World Bank for the calculation of the GDP at purchasing power parity.
Land use, land use change and forestry:	A greenhouse gas inventory sector that covers emissions and removals of greenhouse gases resulting from

direct human-induced land use, land-use change and forestry activities PFC: Perfluorocarbon.

Abbreviations:

CRF:	Common Reporting Format
EEA:	European Environment Agency
EU:	European Union
Eurostat:	European Union Statistical Office
GDP:	Gross domestic product
GHG:	Greenhouse gas
GWP:	Global warming potential
IPCC:	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISIC:	International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities
ISO:	International Organization for Standardization
LULUCF:	Land use, land use change and forestry
PPP:	Purchasing power parity
UNFCCC:	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
WSSD:	World Summit on Sustainable Development

Legends:

HFC:	hydrofluorocarbon
CH ₄ :	methane
CO ₂ :	carbon dioxide
N ₂ O:	nitrous oxide
SF ₆ :	sulphur hexafluoride

Units of measurement:

km ² :	square kilometre
t:	ton
kt:	kiloton
Mt:	megaton