

ISO standard on Greenhouse Gas accounting: the process of standards development

Update Report, March 2004
ECOLOGIA

ISO TC 207 WG 5 convened in London from March 8-12 to continue development of ISO 14064, its standard on greenhouse gas accounting. This interim report on the process of the standard's development serves as the second update to the comprehensive process report written by ECOLOGIA in July 2003, at the end of the first year of WG5's deliberations (see <http://www.ecologia.org/ems/ghg/docs/report2process.pdf>).

Participation

While no participation list for the London meeting was circulated, ECOLOGIA estimates that 40-50 participants from 21 countries took part, representing 19 ISO member bodies, 2 liaison groups, and four specially invited organizations: the UN Convention on Climate Change Secretariat, World Resources Institute, World Business Council on Sustainable Development, and the World Bank Carbon Finance Business Unit. The engagement of these latter organizations marks a significant diversification of participation in WG5, enabling its deliberations to draw more directly on valuable GHG accounting expertise developed through the Greenhouse Gas Protocol Initiative and early implementation of the Kyoto Protocol's flexibility mechanisms. The involvement of these participants, as well as the elevation of two NGO representatives to new leadership positions (see table 3 below), continues a trend of broadening participation that has been slowly at work throughout the life of the WG. However, the informal 'guest' status of the new participants raises the question of whether their participation will have continuity and will remain effective as the standard nears completion. In addition, under-representation of developing countries and dominance of deliberations by native English speakers both remain significant concerns. See tables below for detailed participation metrics.

Transparency/Accountability

WG5 continues to work primarily via three sub-groups (organizational accounting, project accounting, and validation/verification), which have substantial flexibility in establishing their own procedures. In London, groups 1 (organizational accounting) and 3 (validation/verification) largely followed consistent, transparent processes in accordance with ISO rules and agreed upon by group members. Group 2 (project accounting) process partly broke down when facilitators proposed to work from a revised draft of the project part of the standard which had not been circulated to group members. There was also disagreement on the extent to which ISO rules require the sub-groups to address each comment on draft text made by member bodies. As a result, the project accounting group did not achieve the required level of consensus to move its text forward for another round of written comments, and a special meeting for Part 2 of the standard has been scheduled for April 2004.

WG5's Guiding Principles

WG5 established at its second meeting four guiding principles for its work: speed to market, broad participation, technical rigour, and policy/regime neutrality. Of these, only one (policy/regime neutrality) was discussed in detail and clearly defined. ECOLOGIA raised questions about adherence to the process principles in an open letter about WG5 process in September 2003. In London, ECOLOGIA Project Director Heather McGray made a brief presentation in the WG5 plenary reviewing the principles, including the following points:

- ✧ **Speed to Market:** The expected market for the ISO greenhouse gas standard deserves some analysis in order to determine an appropriate speed for the development of the standard. Rather than assuming that "faster is better", WG5 should identify critical elements in the development of this market in establishing its timeline.
- ✧ **Broad Participation:** As discussed above, there has been a general trend in broadening of participation, both in terms of technical expertise and stakeholder perspective (business, government, standards-making, consulting, NGO). However, developing countries and NGOs both remain under-represented.
- ✧ **Technical Rigour/Regime Neutrality:** Success with these principles depends to a great extent upon participation in WG5. Dialogue with GHG Protocol and UNFCCC representatives presents an important opportunity to further both of these goals.

Upcoming WG5 Schedule

April 28-30, 2004	Part 2 (Project Accounting) Meeting in Toronto, Canada
May 9, 2004	Release of Committee Draft 2 of ISO 14064 (all three parts) for comment (not for vote) by member bodies
August 9, 2004	Deadline for submission of comments by member bodies
August 30 - September 5, 2004	WG5 meeting in conjunction with the annual plenary of ISO's environmental management committee. Possible vote on "Draft International Standard" status for ISO 14064.
June 2005	Expected publication date for ISO 14064.

Table 1. Participation of Member Bodies in WG 5 Decision Making

TC 207 consists of 69 voting member bodies, which are the national standardization bodies of each member country. In addition, there are 19 observer members and 46 bodies that have liaison status to the TC (both non-voting). In June 2002, the TC approved the creation of WG5 by a vote of 31 'for', 3 'against', and 5 abstaining. The table below tracks the participation of the 27 member bodies and liaisons that have subsequently been active in the WG. ECOLOGIA began tracking meeting participation at the third meeting (Malaysia, March 2003). Member bodies not listed have not, to the best of our knowledge, attended meetings or made comments.

Member Body/ Liaison	Vote to Start WG5	Written Com- ments 2/03	Malaysia Meeting	Written Com- ments 5/03	Bali Meeting ¹	Vienna Part 2 Meeting 10/03	Written Com- ments 2/04	London Meeting 3/04
Argentina					1 expert		Yes	
Australia	Yes	Yes	3 delegates	Yes	3 delegates	1 expert	Yes	3 experts
Austria	Yes	Yes	2 delegates	Yes	1 delegate	1 expert	Yes	1 expert
Brazil	Yes	Yes			1 expert		Yes	1 expert
Canada	Yes	Yes	3 delegates	Yes	2 delegates	1 expert	Yes	2 experts
Columbia	Yes	Yes						
Czech Republic	Yes	Yes	1 delegate	Yes	1 expert			
Denmark	Yes	Yes	2 experts	Yes	1 expert			1 expert
Ecologia	N/A	No	2 experts	Yes	2 experts	1 expert	Yes	2 experts
FEE	N/A				1 expert			
Finland	Yes	Yes	2 experts			2 experts		2 experts
France	Yes	Yes	3 experts	Yes	2 experts	1 expert	Yes	3 experts
Germany	Yes	Yes	4 experts	Yes	7 experts	1 expert	Yes	2 experts
Greenhouse Gas Protocol		Yes		Yes		1 'guest'	Yes	3 'guests'
IEEE							Yes	
Indonesia	Yes		1 expert		3 experts			1 expert
Ireland	Didn't vote				1 expert			1 expert
ISO TC 146 (Air Quality) SC1/SC4	N/A	Yes						
ISO TC 207/SC2	N/A		1 expert		1 expert			
ISO Conformity Assessment Committee	N/A	Yes	1 expert		1 expert			
Japan		Yes	5 experts		5 experts	2 experts	Yes	
Malaysia	Yes	Yes	3 experts	Yes	3 experts	1 expert	Yes	1 expert
Mexico			1 expert			1 expert		1 expert
Netherlands	Yes	Yes			1 expert		Yes	
New Zealand							Yes	
Norway	Didn't vote	Yes	2 experts	Yes	1 expert	1 expert	Yes	1 expert
Portugal							Yes	
Singapore	Yes				2 experts			1 expert
South Africa	Yes	Yes	1 expert		1 expert		Yes	1 expert

¹ Note that participation at the Bali meeting was difficult to track precisely because a formal participants list was not issued. The meeting took place in conjunction with the TC207 plenary, and was open to experts and observers from the TCs other sub-groups. Most likely, the figures given here underestimate participation.

South Korea	Yes		1 expert		3 experts			
Spain	Yes		1 expert				Yes	
Sweden	Yes	Yes	1 expert	Yes			Yes	2 experts
Switzerland		Yes					Yes	1 expert
UK	Yes	Yes	4 experts	Yes	4 experts	2 experts	Yes	4 experts
UNFCCC								1 'guest'
USA	Yes	Yes	1 expert	Yes	3 experts	1 expert	Yes	7 experts
World Bank								1 'guest'

Table 2. Additional Participation Metrics

ISO deliberations are frequently dominated by representatives from a small number of countries. ECOLOGIA offers two examples to illustrate this concern.

A. Written Comments

Of 721 official written comments submitted on Part 1 prior to the London WG5 meeting:

- 16% come from the US;
- 50% come from the US, Austria, the UK, N Zealand and Australia.
- 91% come from these five and further six developed countries (Canada, Sweden, France, Germany, Spain, and Japan)
- 7 % come from three developing countries
- 2% come from two developed, three developing countries, Ecologia, and three industry associations

(This example does not include GHG Protocol comments, which were not included in the official comments grid compiled for the meeting.)

B. Oral Interventions

Of 289 interventions tracked over two mornings' meetings on Part 2:

- 22% came from the US;
- 55% came from the US, Japan, Canada and Switzerland;
- 90% came from these four, plus ECOLOGIA, UK, GHG Protocol, Germany and Australia;
- 4% came from four developing countries;
- 20% came from ECOLOGIA, GHG Protocol, and the World Bank
- 60% came from native English speakers

Table 3. Leadership and Structure of ISO TC 207/Working Group 5 on Climate Change

Convener: Dr. Chan Kook Weng, Malaysian Department of Standardization and Malaysian Palm Oil Board

Secretary: Mr. Kevin Boehmer, Canadian Standards Association

Sub-Group Structure and Leadership, March 2004

Sub-Group	Facilitators
Entity Quantification	Nigel Carter, UK Aleg Cherp, ECOLOGIA
Project Quantification	Klaus Radunsky, Austria Irving Mintzer, USA
Verification and Validation	Christine Schuh, Canada alternate: Geoff Visser, South Africa

Sub-Group Structure and Leadership, July 2003-March 2004

Sub-Group	Facilitators
Entity Quantification	Nigel Carter, UK Brian Dawson, Australia
Project Quantification	Klaus Radunsky, Austria Steven Messner, UK
Verification and Validation	Mark Barthel, UK Christine Schuh, Canada alternate: Geoff Visser, South Africa

Sub-Group Structure and Leadership, June 2002-July 2003

Sub-Group	Facilitators
Ad Hoc Group 1: Entity	Tod Delaney (USA) Brazil
Ad Hoc Group 2: Project	Mitsutsune Yamaguchi (Japan) India (facilitator never named)
Ad Hoc Group 3: Verification	Mark Barthel (UK) Czech Republic (facilitator never named)
Ad Hoc Group 4: Cross-cutting	Aleg Cherp (ECOLOGIA) Franzjosef Schafhausen (Germany)
Ad Hoc Group 5: Facilitators Group	Kevin Boehmer, Secretary (Canada)