

The International Climate Change Regime

This book presents a comprehensive, authoritative and independent account of the rules, institutions and procedures governing the international climate change regime. Its detailed yet user-friendly description and analysis covers the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, the Kyoto Protocol, and all decisions taken by the Conference of the Parties up to 2003, including the landmark Marrakesh Accords. Mitigation commitments, adaptation, the flexibility mechanisms, reporting and review, compliance, education and public awareness, technology transfer, financial assistance and climate research are just some of the areas that are reviewed. The book also explains how the regime works, including a discussion of its political coalitions, institutional structure, negotiation process, administrative base, and linkages with other international regimes. In short, this book is the only current work that covers all areas of the climate change regime in such depth, yet in such a uniquely accessible and objective way.

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A Guide to Rules,
Institutions and
Procedures

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Contents

List of figures xv
List of tables xvi
List of boxes xviii
Foreword by Joke Waller Hunter, Executive Secretary, FCCC xxi
Preface and acknowledgements xxiii
List of abbreviations xxv

1 Introduction 1
 1 Scope 3
 2 Structure and user's guide 4
 3 Analytical framework 6
 4 Legal foundations and structures 9
 5 Rule creation 12
 5.1 Custom 12
 5.2 Treaties 13
 5.3 General principles, judicial decisions and writings 17
 5.4 Other sources 18

2 Overview 20
 1 The climate change problem 20
 1.1 Causes and projections 20
 1.2 Impacts 21
 2 The international response to climate change 22
 2.1 The emergence of the climate change regime 22
 2.2 Entry into force and the Berlin Mandate 24
 2.3 The post-Kyoto era 26
 2.4 The post-Marrakesh era 28

vi Contents

3	Regime participants	30
1	Introduction	30
2	Parties	30
2.1	Groupings	32
2.2	Group of 77 and China	34
2.3	Alliance of Small Island States and Small Island Developing States	37
2.4	African Group	39
2.5	Least developed countries	39
2.6	Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries	40
2.7	Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova Group	41
2.8	European Union	42
2.9	Umbrella Group and JUSSCANNZ	45
2.10	Central Group and Central Group-11	47
2.11	Environmental Integrity Group	47
2.12	Open Balkan Group	48
2.13	Other groups	48
3	Non-governmental organisations	48
3.1	Constituencies	49
3.2	Environmental non-governmental organisations	50
3.3	Business and industry non-governmental organisations	52
3.4	Local government and municipal authorities	54
3.5	Indigenous peoples' organisations	54
3.6	Research and independent non-governmental organisations	55
3.7	Other non-governmental organisations	56
4	Intergovernmental organisations, UN bodies/specialised agencies	56
4.1	Intergovernmental organisations	56
4.2	UN bodies, specialised agencies and related organisations	58
5	The media	59
4	Objective and principles	60
1	Ultimate objective	60
1.1	Nature and scope	60
1.2	Detection and attribution	62
1.3	Dangerous interference	63
1.4	Timing	64
1.5	Developing long-term targets	65

2	Principles	66
2.1	Nature and scope	66
2.2	Common concern of humankind	67
2.3	Principle 21 Stockholm/Principle 2 Rio Declaration	68
2.4	Common but differentiated responsibilities	69
2.5	Precautionary principle	70
2.6	Right to sustainable development	72
2.7	Trade and environment	73
5	Mitigation commitments	74
1	Introduction	74
2	Coverage	77
2.1	Sources of greenhouse gases	77
2.2	Sinks	80
2.3	Gases controlled by the Montreal Protocol	83
2.4	Fuels used for international aviation and maritime transportation	83
2.5	Military emissions	88
3	Base year	89
4	Mitigation commitments: all Parties	93
4.1	Differentiation	93
4.2	Inventories	94
4.3	National programmes	94
4.4	Integration	99
4.5	Sinks and reservoirs	101
5	Mitigation commitments: Annex I Parties	105
5.1	Overview	105
5.2	Policies and measures	107
5.3	Scope and purpose of PAMs	108
5.4	Coordination and review of PAMs	113
5.5	PAMs and adverse impacts/response measures	117
5.6	Reporting of PAMs	117
5.7	Quantified commitments	117
5.8	The Convention's quantified aim	118
5.9	Kyoto quantified emission limitation or reduction commitments	119
5.10	Gases/sectors: Annex A	121
5.11	LULUCF activities	122
5.12	Early action	129
5.13	Calculating assigned amount	129
5.14	Use of Kyoto mechanisms	130
5.15	Carry-over	130
5.16	EITs and small economies	130
5.17	Joint fulfilment	132

viii Contents

6 Flexibility mechanisms	136
1 Introduction	136
2 Activities implemented jointly	140
2.1 Pilot phase	141
2.2 Uniform reporting format	141
2.3 Substantive AJJ criteria	142
2.4 Relationship to Kyoto mechanisms	142
3 Cross-cutting mechanisms issues	143
3.1 Adoption and review of mechanism modalities	143
3.2 Equity issues	144
3.3 Supplementarity	145
3.4 Fungibility	146
3.5 Stakeholder involvement	147
4 Participation/eligibility requirements	148
4.1 Protocol ratification	149
4.2 Designating national authorities	150
4.3 Establishing assigned amount	150
4.4 National system	150
4.5 National registry	151
4.6 Annual inventories	151
4.7 Supplemental information	153
4.8 Commitment period reserve	153
4.9 Eligibility assessment, consequences and reinstatement	153
4.10 Acceptance of compliance procedures	155
5 Emissions trading	156
5.1 Overview	157
5.2 Principles and supplementarity	157
5.3 Participation requirements	157
5.4 Commitment period reserve	158
5.5 Restraints and linkages	159
6 Clean Development Mechanism	159
6.1 Overview	159
6.2 CDM project cycle	160
6.3 CDM institutions and procedures	164
6.4 Validation and registration requirements	175
6.5 Monitoring and verification and certification requirements	182
6.6 Issuance of CERs	183
6.7 Funding issues	184
7 Joint implementation (Article 6)	187
7.1 Overview	187
7.2 JI institutions	189
7.3 Participation/eligibility	192
7.4 Track 1 procedure	193

7.5	Track 2 verification procedure	194
7.6	LULUCF projects	195
7.7	Small-scale and nuclear projects	196
7	Research, systematic observation, education, training and public awareness	197
1	Introduction	197
2	Research and systematic observation	197
2.1	Convention and Protocol commitments	197
3	Education, training and public awareness	205
3.1	Convention and Protocol commitments	206
3.2	New Delhi programme of work	208
3.3	Financing and linkages	211
8	Adaptation	213
1	Introduction	213
2	Meaning, scope and timing of adaptation	214
2.1	Definitions	214
2.2	Scope and timing	215
3	Preparation and planning commitments	218
3.1	National programmes: adaptation measures	218
3.2	Planning and integration	221
3.3	Technology commitments and adaptation	224
3.4	Adaptation and capacity-building	226
3.5	Special needs and circumstances	226
4	Adaptation financing	231
4.1	Resource providers	231
4.2	Recipients	232
4.3	Amount	233
4.4	Scope	235
4.5	COP guidance	235
4.6	Funds and channels	239
4.7	GEF reporting on adaptation	240
5	LDCs and adaptation	241
5.1	LDC work programme	241
5.2	NAPAs	242
5.3	LDC Expert Group	244
5.4	LDC work programme funding	246
9	Impacts of response measures	247
1	Introduction	247
2	Convention and Protocol provisions	248
2.1	Definitions and scope	248

x Contents

2.2 Principles	249
2.3 Commitments	250
3 Rule development	253
3.1 Minimisation of impacts of response measures	253
3.2 Coordination of PAMs	255
3.3 Decreasing vulnerability to impacts of response measures	256
4 Financing	258
4.1 Convention and Kyoto	258
4.2 Rule development	259
10 Finance, technology and capacity-building	264
1 Introduction	264
2 Resource commitments	265
2.1 Resource providers	266
2.2 Resource beneficiaries	272
2.3 New and additional resources	276
2.4 Incremental and full costs	278
2.5 Grant and concessional funding	281
2.6 Other sources of financing	282
3 Financial mechanism	283
3.1 Overview	283
3.2 COP guidance: scope, frequency and form	284
3.3 Reconsideration of particular decisions	285
3.4 GEF reporting and accountability	286
4 Marrakesh Accords funds	289
4.1 Least Developed Countries Fund	290
4.2 Special Climate Change Fund	292
4.3 Adaptation Fund	294
5 Accessing GEF resources	296
5.1 GEF mission	296
5.2 GEF governance structure	296
5.3 GEF operations	299
6 Technology	303
6.1 Background	303
6.2 Technology-related commitments	304
6.3 Marrakesh Accords: a framework for Article 4.5	309
6.4 Expert Group on Technology Transfer	311
6.5 Funding	314
7 Capacity-building	315
7.1 Background	315
7.2 Capacity-building-related commitments	316
7.3 Marrakesh Accords: frameworks for capacity-building	318
7.4 Funding	323

11	Reporting and review	327
1	Introduction	327
2	The Convention rules: Annex I Parties	330
2.1	National communications	330
2.2	Greenhouse gas inventories	333
2.3	Review process	338
3	The Kyoto Protocol rules: Annex I Parties	343
3.1	National systems	345
3.2	National registries	347
3.3	Greenhouse gas inventories and supplementary information	348
3.4	National communications and supplementary information	350
3.5	Pre-commitment period report	351
3.6	Post-commitment period report	352
3.7	Report on 'demonstrable progress'	352
3.8	Review process	353
4	The Convention rules: non-Annex I Parties	363
4.1	National communications	363
4.2	National adaptation programmes of action	365
4.3	Financial and technical support	365
4.4	Review process	367
4.5	Consultative group of experts	367
5	The Kyoto Protocol rules: non-Annex I Parties	369
12	Compliance	378
1	Introduction	378
2	Key concepts	380
3	Dispute settlement	382
3.1	Scope and purpose	382
3.2	Article 14 of the FCCC and Article 19 of the Protocol	382
4	Non-compliance procedures under the Convention	384
4.1	Multilateral consultative process	384
4.2	Compliance assessment by the COP	386
5	Compliance procedures and mechanisms under the Kyoto Protocol	386
5.1	Overview	386
5.2	Objective	388
5.3	Compliance Committee	389
5.4	Facilitative Branch	392
5.5	Enforcement Branch	393
5.6	Submissions	394
5.7	Allocation and preliminary examination	394
5.8	General procedures	395

xii Contents

5.9	Procedures for the Enforcement Branch	395
5.10	Appeals	395
5.11	Role of COP/MOP	396
5.12	Additional period for fulfilling commitments	396
5.13	Legally binding nature and mode of adoption	396
13	Institutions	398
1	Introduction	398
2	FCCC institutions	399
2.1	The Conference of the Parties	399
2.2	The subsidiary bodies	415
2.3	Temporary subsidiary bodies	421
2.4	Specialised bodies	422
3	Kyoto Protocol institutions	423
3.1	COP/MOP	425
3.2	Subsidiary bodies and their Bureaux	428
3.3	Specialised bodies	428
14	The negotiation process	431
1	Introduction	431
2	The Rules of Procedure	432
2.1	The Convention	432
2.2	The Kyoto Protocol	434
3	Delegations	434
3.1	Parties	434
3.2	Observers	435
4	The agenda	436
5	Conduct of business	438
5.1	Speaking: 'taking the floor'	438
5.2	Making proposals	439
5.3	Participation of observers	440
6	Decision-making	441
6.1	Decision-making under the Kyoto Protocol	445
7	Documents	445
7.1	Negotiating texts	446
8	Negotiating forums and techniques	449
8.1	Plenary	449
8.2	Working bodies	451
8.3	Informal working groups	453
8.4	'Friends' groups	455
9	Ministerial participation	457
9.1	Traditional general debate	458
9.2	Roundtable discussions	458
9.3	Direct participation	459

10	The last night	460
11	On the side	461
12	Intersessional workshops and presessional consultations	461
15	Scientific and technical input	464
1	Introduction	464
2	The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice	464
3	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	466
3.1	Role, organisation and products	466
3.2	Procedures, institutions and budget	469
3.3	The assessment process	474
3.4	Institutional channels for input to the climate change regime	479
4	Other sources of scientific and technical input	483
4.1	FCCC roster of experts	483
4.2	Secretariat	484
4.3	Intergovernmental organisations	485
4.4	Non-governmental organisations	485
16	Administering the regime	487
1	Introduction	487
2	The programme budget	487
2.1	Financial procedures	487
2.2	The core budget	489
2.3	Trust Fund for Participation	494
2.4	Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities	495
2.5	The 'Bonn Fund'	497
2.6	Financial procedures under the Kyoto Protocol	497
3	Secretariat	500
3.1	Institutional linkage with the UN system	500
3.2	Nature and structure of the Secretariat	504
17	Linkages	509
1	Introduction	509
2	Channels for institutional cooperation under the Convention and Kyoto Protocol	510
3	Linkages with other environmental regimes	511
3.1	Stratospheric ozone depletion	511
3.2	Biodiversity loss and desertification	517
3.3	Wetland ecosystems	527
4	Linkages with the international trading regime	530
4.1	Substantive linkages	530
4.2	Treaty provisions	531

xiv Contents

4.3	Institutional arrangements	531
4.4	Institutional cooperation	532
5	Linkages with other intergovernmental processes	534
5.1	The 'sustainable development' agenda	535
5.2	UNEP and international environmental governance	538
5.3	The wider UN system	541
18	Evolution of the regime	544
1	Introduction	544
2	Meaning, type and form of commitments	545
2.2	Meaning	545
2.2	Types	545
2.3	Form	546
2.4	Amendments	547
2.5	Annexes	549
2.6	Protocols	550
2.7	Entry into force, reservations and withdrawals	551
3	Review procedures	552
4	Other evolutionary mechanisms	554
4.1	Formal governmental initiatives	555
4.2	Other initiatives	556
19	Conclusion: taking stock and moving forward	560
1	Introduction	560
2	Implementation challenges	561
3	Strengthening commitments	565
4	Institutional challenges and beyond	570
	Appendix I List of Parties, their groups and key statistics	574
	Appendix II Annex I Party fact sheets: emissions, targets and projections for Annex I Parties and groupings	584
	Appendix III Table of Articles, issues and COP Decisions	643
	<i>Bibliography</i>	653
	<i>Index</i>	676

Figures

3.1 Individual participants at selected negotiating sessions	<i>page</i> 31
3.2 Party groupings in the climate change regime	32
3.3 Share of aggregate GHG emissions in 2000 of the EU member states covered by the EU burden-sharing agreement	42
3.4 NGOs admitted and present at selected negotiating sessions	49
3.5 IGOs admitted, and IGOs and UN/specialised agencies present at selected negotiating sessions	57
3.6 Media presence at selected negotiating sessions	59
6.1 CDM project activity cycle	162
8.1 Bilateral contributions to adaptation projects in NC3s of Annex II Parties	239
9.1 Real oil price 1970–2010	263
11.1 The reporting and review system under the Convention	331
11.2 The reporting and review system under the Kyoto Protocol	356
11.3 Time-frame for the annual review of inventories and supplementary information under the Kyoto Protocol	359
12.1 Structure and functions of the Compliance Committee	387
13.1 FCCC institutions	399
13.2 Institutions of the Kyoto Protocol	424
14.1 Negotiating forums for a generic COP session	452
15.1 Institutional structure of the IPCC	470
15.2 Preparation and consideration process of the TAR	476
16.1 Core budget of the Secretariat approved by the COP 1996–2005	490

Tables

5.1	Global warming potentials	<i>page</i> 79
6.1	Kyoto flexibility mechanisms overview	137
6.2	Difference between Track 1 and Track 2 JI	193
9.1	Regional distribution of fossil fuel reserves and exports (at end of 1998)	261
9.2	Change in demand for fossil fuels 1990–2010	262
9.3	Oil-exporting country revenues	263
11.1	Periodicity of national communications under the Convention	332
11.2	Summary of elements of KP reporting process for Annex I Parties	346
11.3	Summary of FCCC reporting guidelines for Annex I Party national communications	370
11.4	Summary of FCCC reporting guidelines for non-Annex I Party national communications	372
13.1	Dates, venues and Presidents of COP sessions	410
13.2	SB division of labour	419
13.3	Past and present subsidiary body Chairs	420
13.4	Composition and officers of specialised bodies under the Convention	423
13.5	Composition and officers of specialised bodies under the Kyoto Protocol	429
14.1	Document types	447
15.1	Government contributions to the IPCC Trust Fund in 2002	474
16.1	Twenty largest contributors to the 2003 FCCC core budget and their shares	492
16.2	Trust Fund for Participation	495
16.3	Trust Fund for Participation: contributors since 1996	496
16.4	Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities	497

	List of tables	xvii
16.5	Trust Fund for Supplementary Activities: contributors since 1996	498
16.6	Distribution of employed professional staff in the Secretariat by region and gender	505

Boxes

2.1	Key elements of the climate change regime	page 24
2.2	Key decisions in the climate change process	27
3.1	EU institutions and policy-making	44
5.1	Mitigation: key concepts and definitions	76
5.2	Sinks: comprehensive, gross and net accounting	80
5.3	ICAO and IMO work on bunker fuels	86
5.4	Annex I Parties under the Convention and notifications	105
5.5	Annex I/Annex B Parties under the Protocol	107
5.6	Commitments under Article 4.2 (a) and (b)	110
5.7	Kyoto Protocol Article 3: concepts and terminology	120
5.8	Regional economic integration organisations	132
6.1	Flexibility mechanisms: origins, evolution and concerns	139
6.2	Information and review provisions and stakeholders and observers in the CDM project cycle	173
6.3	CDM additionality, baselines and crediting	176
6.4	Simplified modalities and procedures for small-scale CDM projects	179
6.5	Joint implementation: history and characteristics	188
7.1	The Global Climate Observing System	199
8.1	Adaptation: key concepts and definitions	214
8.2	Adaptation and the COP agenda: a brief history	230
10.1	The GEF: a brief history	265
10.2	GEF replenishments, Annex II Parties and contributors	270
10.3	Recipients: developing countries and non-Annex I Parties	274
10.4	Incremental costs and global environmental benefits	280
10.5	Defining capacity-building and enabling activities	322
11.1	Key elements of the reporting and review process	328
11.2	Key terms in GHG inventories	337

	List of boxes	xix
12.1	Non-compliance procedures in other regimes	379
12.2	The development of the Multilateral Consultative Process	385
12.3	Development of compliance procedures under the Kyoto Protocol	388
13.1	The legal nature of the FCCC: UNOLA opinions	402
13.2	COP outputs	406
14.1	Draft Rule 42	442
14.2	Names of informal working groups	453
18.1	Recent multi-stakeholder initiatives advancing evolution	557

Foreword

Addressing growing concerns about climate change requires a broad understanding of its social, economic, developmental, scientific, political and environmental aspects. Increases in temperature as a result of increasing emissions of greenhouse gases will have serious impacts on our economic well-being and on the ecosystems on which the health of our planet depends. With the expected increase in the intensity and frequency of extreme weather events such as floods and droughts, and their devastating effects, climate change needs continued urgent attention. Governments worldwide are engaged in constructive dialogue aimed at finding and implementing practical and efficient solutions to address the global problem of climate change. This includes mitigation measures for the reduction of GHGs, as well as identifying ways to reduce countries' vulnerabilities to the effects of climate change.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change was adopted in 1992 and entered into force two years later. Today, it enjoys almost universal membership, with 188 countries joining together in a unique example of multilateralism to confront the global challenge of climate change.

An intergovernmental process facilitates and supports the implementation of the Convention. In this process countries discuss and agree on action needed to stabilise our global climate. As part of this ongoing dialogue, in 1997 governments adopted the Kyoto Protocol to the Convention, which contains more specific, binding commitments and concrete reduction targets, with specific deadlines for industrialised countries.

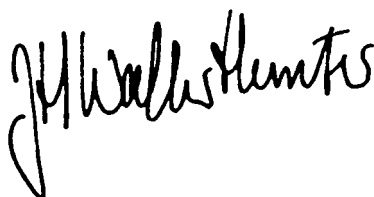
Each year, countries meet to discuss and agree on further action. At the Conference of the Parties, nine sessions of which have been held so far, all countries that are Parties to the Convention are represented, as well as the private sector, civil societies, the scientific community, the media, international and national organisations. These annual meetings serve as a forum for participants to share ideas and experiences, and discuss strategies, policies and the rulebook for action. This has

xxii Foreword by Joke Waller Hunter

resulted, over the years, in a comprehensive framework of decisions containing rules, procedures and other guidelines designed to assist countries in their efforts to implement the Convention and its Protocol.

This Guide is therefore timely. It explains in clear, simple and succinct words the intergovernmental process – the institutions and procedures of the climate change negotiations, as well as the myriad rules, guidelines, actions plans and other decisions adopted by the Parties since the adoption of the Convention. It should serve as an objective and comprehensive reference guide to the ‘rulebook’ agreed by Parties, which I am confident will assist governments, researchers, policy-makers, civil societies and the public to learn more about and to implement activities designed to address climate change. Action against human-induced climate change must take place at every level of society.

I trust that this Guide will serve as a vital resource tool in the coming years and help to deepen the knowledge and understanding of all who are interested in and committed to global action against the destabilising effects of climate change.



JOKE WALLER HUNTER
Executive Secretary, FCCC

Preface and acknowledgements

The aim of this book is simple: to provide a comprehensive, authoritative, objective and accessible guide to the climate change regime. The book thus describes and analyses the rules set out in the Convention, Kyoto Protocol and COP Decisions, together with the institutions and procedures that govern the climate change negotiations.

This book responds to two trends in the climate change process: first, its growing complexity, which makes it difficult for newcomers, and even for negotiators familiar with the regime, to make sense of all the rules, institutions, procedures and practices that have developed over the past decade; secondly, the regime's increasing specialisation, which produces experts on individual topics (e.g. emissions trading, compliance), but few who have an overall picture of how the climate change process works. This guide is therefore targeted at newcomers to the negotiations, specialists wishing to broaden their understanding of the regime, and all those involved in the intergovernmental response to climate change, as negotiators, policy-makers, stakeholders, researchers or other interested professionals.

The book is based on an exhaustive review and analysis of primary materials, principally the Convention, Kyoto Protocol, COP Decisions and supporting documentation. We have also examined secondary materials to the extent these assist analysis and provide commentary on the rules, institutions and procedures of the climate change regime. Our work has benefited from discussions with experts in the climate change process, including FCCC Secretariat staff, negotiators, NGOs and IGOs, who have provided supplementary insights and information to help make this book comprehensive, authoritative and practically useful.

One result of these discussions is that producing this book has involved many partners. The authors wish to express their deep gratitude to the UK Department for International Development, the main financial sponsor of the book, along with the Governments of Australia and Switzerland. Without their financial support, this book could never have been written. The authors would also like to thank

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Abbreviations

4AR	Fourth Assessment Report
A6SC	Article 6 Supervisory Committee
AAU	Assigned amount unit
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AE	Applicant entity
AG13	Ad Hoc Group on Article 13
AGBM	Ad Hoc Group on the Berlin Mandate
AHTEG	Ad hoc technical expert group
AIJ	Activities implemented jointly
AIXG	Annex I Experts Group of the OECD/IEA
AOSIS	Alliance of Small Island States
ARD	Afforestation, reforestation and deforestation
ASEAN	Association of South East Asian Nations
BAPA	Buenos Aires Plan of Action (Decision 1/CP.4)
BCSE	Business Council for Sustainable Energy
BINGO	Business and industry non-governmental organisation
CACAM	Central Asia, Caucasus, Albania and Moldova
CAEP	Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection
CAN	Climate Action Network
CARICOM	Caribbean Community
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CC	Compliance Committee
CDI	Capacity Development Initiative
CDIAC	Carbon Dioxide Information Analysis Centre
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDR	Common but differentiated responsibilities
CEB	UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination
CEE	Central and Eastern Europe

xxvi List of abbreviations

CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CER, ICER and tCER	Certified emission reduction, long-term CER and temporary CER
CERES	Coalition for environmentally responsible economies
CFC	Chlorofluorocarbon
CG	Central Group
CG-11	Central Group 11
CGE	Consultative Group of Experts on National Communications from Non-Annex I Parties
CH ₄	Methane
CHF	Swiss francs
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species
CO	Carbon monoxide
CO ₂	Carbon dioxide
CO ₂ e	Carbon dioxide equivalent
COP	Conference of the Parties
COP/MOP	Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
CPR	Commitment period reserve
CRF	Common reporting format
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development
CST	Committee on Science and Technology
CTE	Committee on Trade and Environment
CTI	Climate Technology Initiative
DC	Developing Country
DNA	Designated national authority
DoD	Department of Defense
DSA	Daily subsistence allowance
e5	European Business Council for a Sustainable Energy Future
EAEO	Executing Agency with Expanded Opportunities
EB/CDM	Executive Board of the Clean Development Mechanism
EC	European Community
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council of the United Nations
EDF	Environmental Defence
EGTT	Expert Group on Technology Transfer
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
EIG	Environmental Integrity Group
EIT	Economy in transition
EMA	Emissions Marketing Association
EMG	Environmental Management Group
ENB	Earth Negotiations Bulletin