



Agriculture in UNFCCC: how to better address adaptation and mitigation needs?

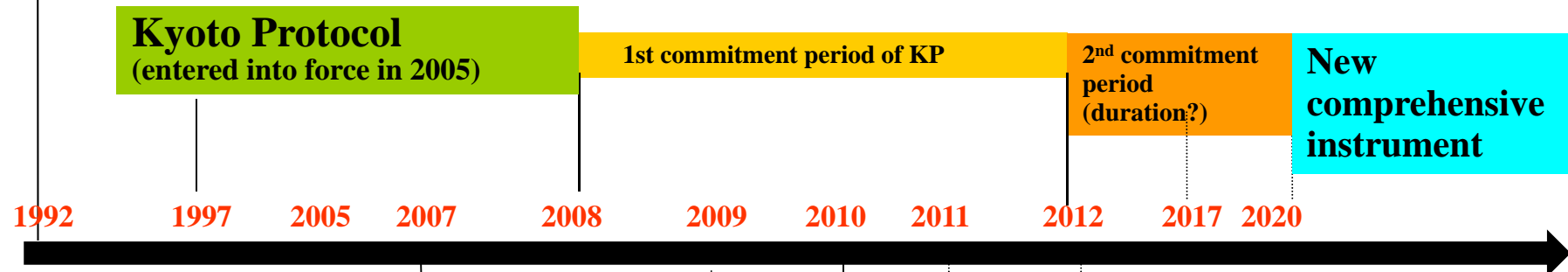


United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

DG Agriculture and Rural Development

**Unit H.4 – Bioenergy, Biomass, Forestry
and Climate Change**

United Nations Convention on climate change



2007
Bali Action Plan

2009
Bangkok
Barcelona
Copenhagen
October
November
December

2010
Cancun
December

2011
Durban
December

2012
Bonn May
Doha December



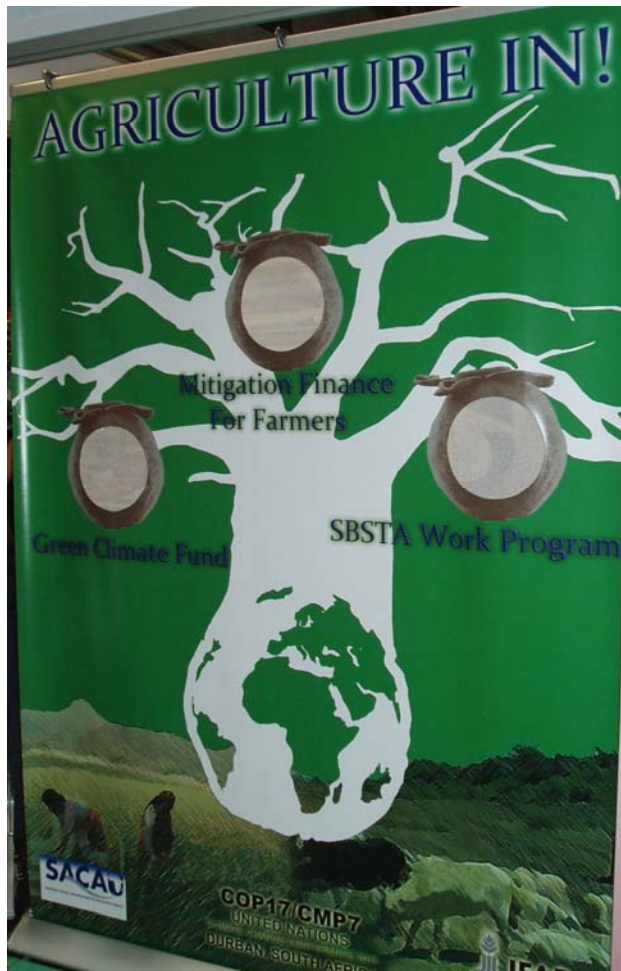
The Durban package (December 2011)



Balanced package consisting of :

- agreement on the principle of a second commitment period under the Kyoto Protocol (starting on 1.1.2013)
- « Durban Platform » with a view to agree on:
 - a single post 2020 agreement on a new comprehensive legal instrument
 - with all Parties on board
 - to be adopted in 2015, to come into effect in 2020

Discussions on agriculture since 2009



The question: how to better take into account the agricultural sector in the climate regime?

- Emphasis on the links between food security, mitigation and adaptation in agriculture: how to feed 9 billion people in 2050?
- Broad willingness to launch a dedicated work on this sector
- Some principles put on the table by some Parties including on « common but differentiated responsibilities », trade, small and marginal farmers, indigenous peoples, safeguarding livelihoods, etc.

The Durban mandate on agriculture

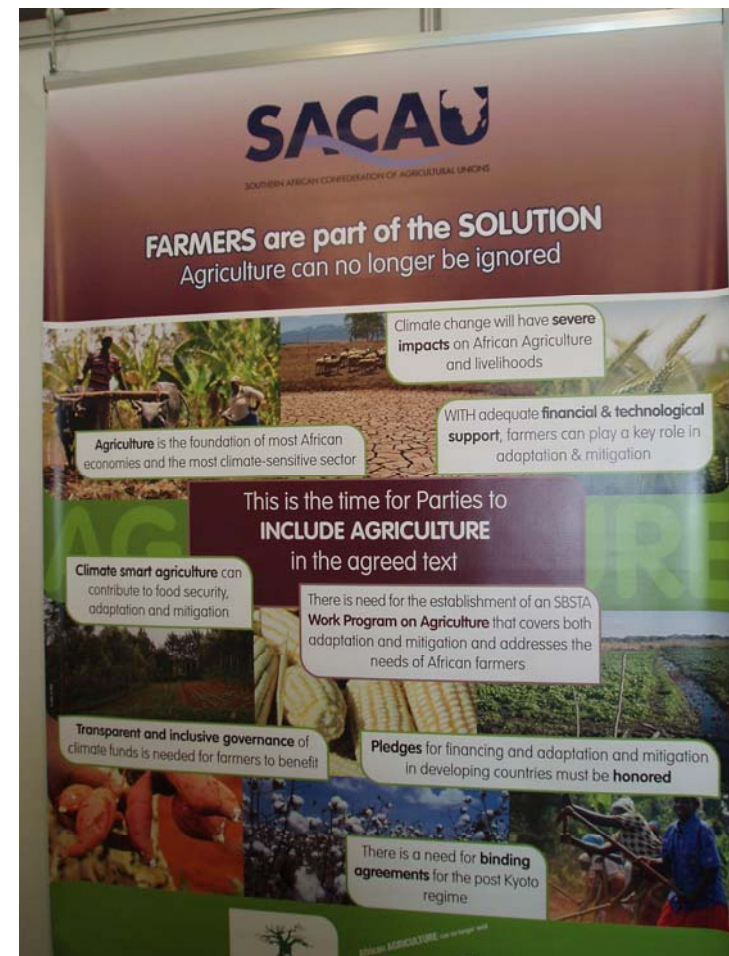
A text was adopted in December 2012:

- March 2012:

Parties invited to send « submissions »

- May 2012: « Exchange of views » in the Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)

- with the aim of adopting a decision at the next Conference of the Parties in Doha in December 2012



The EU position (1/3)

Some principles:

- Need to address adaptation and mitigation, their synergies and trade-offs
- Of interest for both developed and developing countries
- Need to take into account that « one size fits all » doesn't work for agriculture: diverse agricultural systems, specific national and regional development priorities
- Need to take into account all relevant work in related areas (inside and outside UNFCCC)



http://unfccc.int/files/methods_science/redd/submissions/application/pdf/20120305_eu_agriculture.pdf



The EU position (2/3)

The relevance of further work on agriculture under UNFCCC:

- Need to improve understanding of scientific and technical issues (measurement, identification of most relevant adaptation and mitigation actions etc.)
- Contribute to reaching the objective of the Convention, including ensuring that food production is not threatened
- Need to better address adaptation needs and to improve resilience building
- Need to increase agricultural production in a sustainable way, to increase productivity and efficiency of agricultural systems
- Need to enhance research and development cooperation
- Experiences/success stories are already being implemented on the ground: need to enhance information and knowledge sharing especially towards farmers





The EU position (3/3)

Proposal of issues to be considered under SBSTA:

- the state of scientific knowledge on the impacts of climate change on agriculture and food security and associated vulnerabilities;
- the state of scientific knowledge on the measurement and estimation of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in the agriculture sector;
- scientific, technical, environmental and socio-economic aspects of adaptation and mitigation in agriculture and their synergies and trade-offs;
- the identification of efficient and sustainable agricultural technologies, practices, processes and know-how for adaptation and mitigation;
- the identification of ways and means of promoting their development, implementation and/or transfer to farm level;
- approaches to enhance international cooperation in research and development related to climate change, as well as ways and means to support capacity-building, information sharing, education and training of all relevant stakeholders, and particularly farmers, on adaptation and mitigation in agriculture.



24 Parties' submissions

- Representing around 110 countries from all continents
- Different views on the balance between adaptation and mitigation (but only one Party clearly opposed mitigation)
- For many developing countries, adaptation is the priority in relation to food security

Some raised concerns

+ 5 submissions from intergovernmental organisations (incl. FAO, WB) and 26 from NGOs





Outcome of the Bonn session (1/2)

- Substantive discussions, all Parties involved
- Possible areas for scientific and technical work:
 - assessment of existing knowledge, of research gaps,
 - need for more cooperation in research and development, information sharing,
 - need to increase in a sustainable way productivity, efficiency and resilience of agricultural systems,
 - ways and means for support.



Outcome of the Bonn session (2/2)

- Disagreement on the balance between adaptation and mitigation

→ See how to « depoliticise » the debate

- Consideration of possible concrete next steps

- Discussion will continue in Doha in December





Conclusion

- The process on how to better take into account agriculture in UNFCCC is now launched
- All Parties on board
- Discussion will continue at the next session

DOHA 2012
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP18 | CMP8

