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Title: The Carbon Market and the Harvested Wood Products Potential within Latin America

Authors: Zanetti, Ederson Augusto; Oliveira, Edilson Batista; Souza, Danielle Maia De; Hosokawa, Roberto T; Siqueira, Joesio D P; Ximenes, Fabiano; Reis, Eunice

Thema: 3. Forests in the service of people

Subtheme: 3.2 Forests and climate change

Abstract of the paper: The International Panel on Climate Change – IPCC, estimates a potential of emission's reduction or sequestration for seven sectors contribution for climate change mitigation until 2030: energy, industry, construction, transport, agriculture, residues and forests. Forest sector contributes to global climate change through different ways: trees sequester carbon during their natural growing process, forest stands store carbon in their aerial and underground biomass, litter, dead wood and soils and Harvested Wood Products - HWP either keep the carbon for periods ranging from one to a couple hundred of years, depending on their raw material origin and characteristics. Some woods are used in the same years as energy, others are applied to paper products and there are also many used for construction and furniture. HWP are part of carbon stocks and flux considerations within the Agriculture Forests And Other Land Use (AFOLU) sector of Kyoto Protocol. Currently, national reporting of greenhouse gas emissions and removals in Latin America does not include carbon store in HWP, however, carbon stored in HWP can be used to offset part of Greenhouse Gases – GHG emissions, taking into account the lifetime of different materials, resulting from forest harvesting. As an example, the consumption of HWP in Brazil in 2006, discounting exports, was in order of 187,1 million m³ / year, 42,3 Tg of Carbon. When this value is subtracted from the country's total GHG emissions, the result is around a 75% reduction. Within this context, Life Cycle Assessment (LCA), a managerial instrument which helps identifying environmental impacts along each production chain, can help the compilation of mass and energy balances and on identification of forest sector impacts. Strategies have been suggested to increase forest products consumption and therefore forest sector contribution to face global climate change. The Latin America has low rates of forest production and consumption levels, thus increasing regional use and trade of long living wood species can largely contribute to mitigate global climate change impacts.

Email: eder.zanetti@cnpf.embrapa.br, edilson@cnpf.embrapa.br, danimaiasouza@gmx.net, rth@onda.com.br, joesio@stcp.com.br, fabianox@sf.nsw.gov.au, nicereis@cnpma.embrapa.br

