

NEW ZEALAND CLIMATE CHANGE ACCORD

OBJECTIVES OF THE 1991 NEW ZEALAND FOREST ACCORD

- A. *Recognising* that the agreed objectives of the New Zealand Forest Accord signed in August 1991:
- Define those areas where it is inappropriate to establish plantation forestry;
 - recognise the important heritage values of New Zealand's remaining natural indigenous forests and the need for their protection and conservation;
 - acknowledge that the existing area of natural indigenous forest in New Zealand should be maintained and enhanced;
 - recognise that commercial plantation forest of either introduced or indigenous species are an essential source of perpetually renewable fibre and energy, offering an alternative to the depletion of natural forests;
 - acknowledge the mutual benefits emanating from an accord between New Zealand commercial forestry enterprises and conservation groups and the example that this unique accord can provide for the international community.

RESPONDING TO THE THREAT OF CLIMATE CHANGE

- B. *and, acknowledging* the ongoing durability of, and with specific reference to, the New Zealand Forest Accord and responding to the urgency of the threat of climate change, the parties recognise the following specific climate change related principles:
1. That environmental benefits delivered by indigenous forests and plantation forests include storing carbon in reservoirs and sequestering carbon in sinks.
 2. That carbon sequestration by forests is a key mechanism to offset green house gas emissions and should be utilised to help New Zealand's transition to a carbon neutral economy.
 3. That policies must be consistent with the Polluter Pays Principle, be broad-based, equitable, efficient and cover all greenhouse gases in all sectors.

4. That policies should avoid perverse outcomes such as the loss of indigenous forests or greenhouse reservoirs in other indigenous ecosystems; and should avoid net increases in green house gases.
5. That policies should promote the retention and expansion of indigenous forests and the replanting and expansion of plantation forests and associated use of wood products to recognise their positive climate change benefits.
6. That policies should ensure all sectors are taking responsibility for their post-1990 emissions.
7. That policies should be consistent with customary rights and responsibilities of Maori; and should be consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi.
8. That wood is a renewable, reusable and recyclable resource that can play a significant role in the production of energy; and can be substituted for materials that cause greater greenhouse gas emissions.

C. *the parties further agree* that government climate change policies must:

1. Be consistent with the principles listed under section B.
2. Be non-partisan and politically durable.
3. Encourage the maintenance and enhancement of existing carbon reservoirs and carbon sinks.
4. Recognise the contribution of the post-1990 forests to New Zealand's Kyoto Protocol Commitments.
5. Have measures to reduce emissions that are consistent with the Polluter Pays Principle, effective, broad-based, equitable, efficient and cover all greenhouse gases in all sectors.
6. Promptly implement a carbon equivalent price on all greenhouse gases.
7. Have clear, early, time-bound targets that lead to net greenhouse gas emission reductions.

DEFINITIONS & INTERNATIONAL COMMITMENTS

Relevant definitions

Relevant definitions from Article 1 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992), which entered into force in March 1994:

- Climate change means a change of climate which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
- Emissions means the release of greenhouse gases and/or their precursors into the atmosphere over a specified area and period of time.
- Greenhouse gases means those gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorb and re-emit infrared radiation.
- Reservoir means a component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored.
- Sink means any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere.

Refer to: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/2536.php

Relevant commitments

Relevant commitments from article 4 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (1992).

The developed country Parties and other Parties included in Annex I commit themselves specifically as provided for in the following:

- (a) Each of these Parties shall adopt national policies and take corresponding measures on the mitigation of climate change, by limiting its anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases and protecting and enhancing its greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs.

Refer to: http://unfccc.int/essential_background/convention/background/items/1362.php

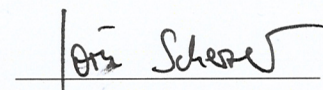
Signed by the following parties to this agreement in Wellington on the 29th day of October 2007

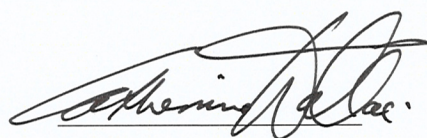
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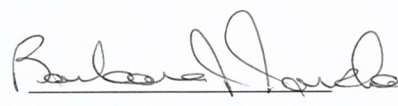
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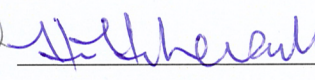
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New Zealand Farm Forestry Association
New Zealand Forest Owners Association
New Zealand Timber Design Society
Pacific Institute of Resource Management

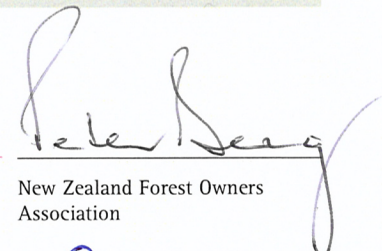
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Sustainable Energy Forum
WWF New Zealand

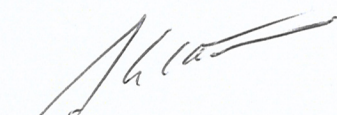

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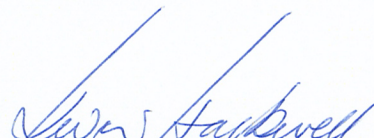

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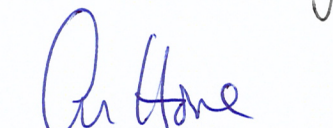

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