



# Bridging the Emissions Gap

A UNEP Synthesis Report



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# Glossary and Acronyms

**Annex I Countries** The industrialized countries (and those in transition to a market economy) which took on obligations to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Black Carbon** A form of air pollution produced by incomplete combustion of fuels. It is produced especially by diesel-powered vehicles, open biomass burning, cookstoves, and other sources.

**‘Bottom up’ model** A model which represents reality by aggregating characteristics of specific activities and processes, considering technological, engineering and cost information.

**Business-As-Usual** A scenario used for projections of future emissions assuming no action, or no new action, is taken to mitigate emissions.

**Carbon Credits** Tradable permits which aim to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by giving them a monetary value.

**Carbon Dioxide Equivalent** A simple way to place emissions of various climate change agents on a common footing to account for their effect on climate. It describes, for a given mixture and amount of greenhouse gas, the amount of carbon dioxide that would have the same global warming ability, when measured over a specified timescale. For the purpose of this report, greenhouse gas emissions (unless otherwise specified) are the sum of the basket of greenhouse gases listed in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol, expressed as carbon dioxide equivalent.

**Conditional Pledge** Pledges made by some countries that are contingent on the ability of national legislatures to enact the necessary laws, ambitious action from other countries, realization of finance and technical support, or other factors.

**Double Counting** In the context of this report, double counting refers to a situation in which the same emission

reductions are counted towards meeting two countries’ pledges.

**Emission Pathway** The trajectory of annual global greenhouse gas emissions over time.

**Greenhouse Gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol**

Include the six main greenhouse gases, as listed in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol, namely: Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>); Methane (CH<sub>4</sub>); Nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O); Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs); Perfluorocarbons (PFCs); and Sulphur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>).

**Integrated Assessment Models** Models of climate change that seek to combine knowledge from multiple disciplines in the form of equations and/or algorithms. As such, they describe the full chain of climate change, including relevant linkages and feedbacks between socio-economic and biophysical processes.

**Kyoto Protocol** An international environmental treaty intended to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. It builds upon the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

**Leakage** Carbon leakage is defined as the increase in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions occurring outside of countries taking domestic mitigation action.

**Lenient Rules** Pledge cases with maximum Annex I “lenient LULUCF credits” and surplus emissions units.

**Likely Chance** A greater than 66 per cent likelihood. Used in this report to convey the probabilities of meeting temperature limits.

**Medium Chance** A 50 to 66 per cent likelihood. Used in this report to convey the probabilities of meeting temperature limits.

**Montreal Protocol** A multilateral environmental agreement dealing with the depletion of the earth’s ozone layer.

**Non-Annex I Countries** A group of developing countries that have signed and ratified the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. They do not have binding emission reduction targets.

**Pledge** For the purpose of this report, pledges include Annex I targets and non-Annex I actions as included in Appendix I and Appendix II of the Copenhagen Accord.

**Radiative Forcing** Radiative Forcing (RF) is the global mean radiation imbalance over the long-term radiation 'budget' of the earth's atmosphere from the pre-industrial period. A positive forcing warms the system, while a negative forcing cools it.

**Scenario** A description of how the future may unfold based on 'if-then' propositions. Scenarios typically include an initial socio-economic situation and a description of the key driving forces and future changes in emissions, temperature or other climate change-related variables.

**Strict Rules Pledge** cases in which the impact of "lenient LULUCF credits" and surplus emissions units are set to zero.

**'Top down' model** A model which applies macroeconomic theory, econometric and optimization techniques to aggregate economic variables. Using historical data on consumption, prices, incomes, and factor costs, top-down models assess final demand for goods and services, and supply from main sectors, such as the energy sector, transportation, agriculture, and industry.

**20th-80th percentile range** Results that fall within the 20-80 per cent range of the frequency distribution of results in this assessment.

**Unconditional Pledges** Pledges made by countries without conditions attached.

## Acronyms

<b>BAU</b>	Business-As-Usual
<b>CAEP</b>	Committee on Aviation Environmental Protection
<b>CCS</b>	Carbon Capture and Storage
<b>CDM</b>	Clean Development Mechanism
<b>CFC</b>	Chlorofluorocarbons
<b>CO<sub>2</sub>e</b>	Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
<b>COP</b>	Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>GDP</b>	Gross Domestic Product
<b>GHG</b>	Greenhouse Gas

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