

# Introduction to the Kyoto Surplus

Anja Kollmuss, Carbon Market Watch December 1, 2012, COP18, Doha





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Kyoto Rules on Banking

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**NGO** Position





## **The Kyoto Mechanisms**

**Emissions Trading (AAUs)** 

The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

**Joint Implementation (JI)** 

Goals

Stimulate sustainable development through technology transfer and investment

Help countries with Kyoto commitments to meet their targets by reducing emissions or removing carbon from the atmosphere in other countries in a cost-effective way

Encourage the private sector and developing countries to contribute to emission reduction efforts

http://unfccc.int/kyoto\_protocol/mechanisms/items/1673.php



## **Current carry-over rules under Kyoto Protocol**

#### **Emissions Trading (AAUs)**

Full carry over, no restriction on use.

#### **CDM** and JI

# Carry-over limited to up to 2.5% each of the total amount of AAUs a country received for CP1

**Decision 13/CMP.1 Annex paragraph 15** [...] the Party may carry over to the subsequent commitment period:

(a) Any ERUs held in its national registry, which have not been converted from RMUs and have not been retired for that commitment period or cancelled, to a maximum of 2.5 per cent of the assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, of that Party.

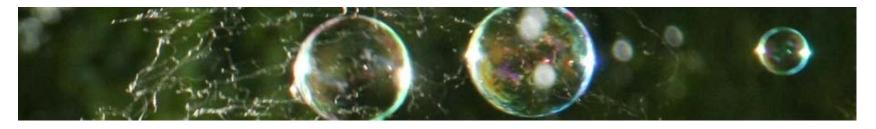
(b) Any CERs held in its national registry, which have not been retired for that commitment period or cancelled, to a maximum of 2.5 per cent of the assigned amount pursuant to Article 3, paragraphs 7 and 8, of that Party



# **Carry-over (banking): good or bad?**

#### Banking under a tight cap: rewarding countries that reduce emission more than required

→may motivate overachievement and early action



- Banking under weak targets (ie. above BAU projections) lead to accumulation of emission permits and delay active mitigation action
  - $\rightarrow$  creates hot air, undermines climate protection

# **Size of Surplus**



# 1st Kyoto commitment period: 13-14 billion

### CP2: Could be over 2 billion



## A short History of the Kyoto Surplus





# Where does the surplus come from?

 Political compromise to get countries to ratify KP to ensure the Protocol could come into force. → very weak baselines/targets.

e.g. Poland: Baseline 1988 emissions, target -6% was set in 1997, when emission were already more than -20% below 1988.

- 2. US did not ratify the Kyoto protocol, would have bought many AAUS. (Note, this would not have improved environmental integrity of "hot air" but reduced size of AAU surplus)
- 3. Economic downturn of the last 2 years considerably increased surplus in other nations too.





### **UNFCCC Negotiations: Party Positions**

# Insist on cancelling/use restriction

G-77 and China

LDCs

African Group

AOSIS

EIG

Denmark, Germany, Switzerland UK, .... and many more

# Opposed to cancelling/use restriction

Russia, Poland, Ukraine (and other ex-Soviet states): insist on full carry over

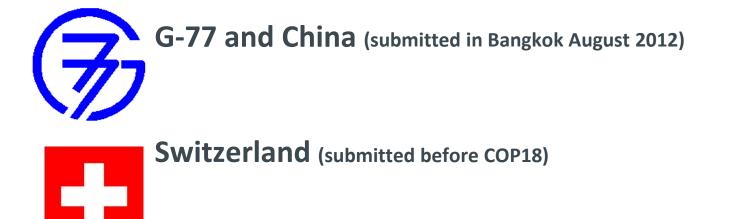
Australia opposed to "stifling overachievement," want to use surplus to meet domestic targets

(Not so noble) Silence

EU: silent at UNFCCC negotiation due to internal disagreement



#### **Proposals @COP18 to Address Kyoto Surplus**









# **NGO Position**

- 1) Cancel all AAUs and ERUs including surplus at the end of the CP2; for CDM existing rules should remain.
- 2) Do not allow for trading of carried over Kyoto units, except for units coming from the CDM.
- 3) If a Party's QELRO is higher than its 2012 emissions it cannot participate in the Kyoto mechanisms



# **Thank You!**

We are looking forward to the presentations and to a constructive debate.

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