

FORESTRY SECTOR

FORESTRY SECTOR IN SOUTH AFRICA

height in accordance with national thresholds and which have the potential to revert to forest without human intervention.

- (b) Demonstrate that the activity is a reforestation or afforestation project activity:
  - i. for reforestation project activities, demonstrate that on 31 December 1989, the land was below the forest national thresholds (crown cover, tree height and minimum land area) for forest definition under decision 11/CP.7 as communicated by the respective DNA.
  - ii. for afforestation project activities, demonstrate that the land was below the forest national thresholds (crown cover, tree height and minimum land area) for forest definition under decision 11/CP.7 as communicated by the respective DNA, for a period of at least 50 years.
- 2. In order to demonstrate steps 1 (a) and 1 (b), project participants shall provide one of the following verifiable information:
  - (a) Aerial photographs or satellite imagery complemented by ground reference data; or
  - (b) Ground based surveys (land use

permits, land use plans or information from local registered such as cadastre, owners register, land use or land management register); or

- (c) If options (a) and (b) are not available/applicable, project particulars shall submit a written testimony which was produced by following a participatory rural appraisal methodology. (for approved afforestation and reforestation baseline methodology: see annex 17 EB 22 meeting of UNFCCC website:www.unfccc.int.)

USEFUL REFERENCES

Pearson, T., Walker, S., Brown,S., 2006. Guidebook for the formulation of afforestation and reforestation projects under the Clean Development Mechanism. Technical series 25.  
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Scholes, R.J., 2003. Forestry and Climate Change. Southern African Forestry Journal, no198.  
Trexler, M., 1999. Innovative Forest Financing Options and Issues: Forest conservation and management for climate change mitigation.

Potential Benefits of CDM Forestry Projects  
Procedures to define the eligibility of lands  
for afforestation & reforestation project activities



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BACKGROUND

South Africa's forests constitute valuable plantations; natural forests; woodlands; trees planted on urban and farmland as well as forestry for rural development. There is a total commercial timber plantation area of 1 266 196ha managed by public and private authorities. Natural forests cover approximately 492 699ha and are valued for their biological diversity; medicinal and local uses; and for their aesthetic and spiritual values. Woodlands constitute the most extensive forest type in South Africa and cover more than one third of the country. In terms of economy, the forestry sector makes a major economic contribution. The annual contribution to GDP is more than R18.4 billion or more of which R10.4 billion is contribution from plantation forestry. The total monetary contribution equates to about 1% to the total SA GDP.

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) was signed in 1992 for stabilization of atmospheric greenhouse gas concentrations. The Kyoto Protocol which aims to promote sustainable development by implementing policies and measures such as protection of sinks and reservoirs of greenhouse gases (GHG) e.g. promotion of Sustainable Forest Management (SFM) practices commits developed countries to quantified reductions in GHG.

DEFINITIONS AND INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORK

In the forestry sector, land use, land use change and forestry (LULUCF) forms a special category under Kyoto Protocol as growing trees lead to the sequestration of carbon dioxide rather than the avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions. The Seventh Conference of Parties (COP-7) determined that limitations of LULUCF CDM project to afforestation and reforestation. Afforestation is defined as replanting with trees areas that had been without forests for at least 50 years. Reforestation relates to the planting with trees areas that had been without forests since at least 31 December 1989.

CDM A/R project activities seek to use the capacity of vegetation to remove from the atmosphere, and to store, carbon dioxide for the purposes of generating greenhouse gas emissions reductions and to generate Certified Emissions Reductions (CERs) for the project participants. In this CDM A/R projects are similar to other CDM projects. The South African Definition of Forest for the purpose of CDM projects is:

- (a) A single minimum tree crown cover value of 30%; and
- (b) A single minimum land area value of 0.05 hectare; and
- (c) A single minimum tree height value of 2 metres

The above South African DNA definition of a tree falls within the stipulation of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The DNA definition of a tree is only meant for CDM Projects taking place in South Africa and it does not affect or conflict with definition of forests as defined in Section 2(1)(x) of the National Forests Act (Act 84 of 1998).

GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS

Forestry sector activities have direct and indirect GHG emissions. GHG emissions can be encountered from various number of forestry activities which include:

- forestry operations such as site preparation, herbicide treatment; thinning; harvesting
- controlled and or uncontrolled burning;
- timber processing;
- deforestation;
- decomposition of forest biomass and
- Transportation of materials and employees.

POTENTIAL CDM FORESTRY PROJECT OPPORTUNITIES

Forestry related projects can be relatively diverse and cover activities such as:

- Afforestation
- Reforestation
- Rehabilitation and management of degraded forests;
- salvage of barren areas; and
- energy savings through use of biomass fuels

POTENTIAL BENEFITS OF CDM FORESTRY PROJECTS

- Provide new sources of income and increase access to forest products and services;
- Improve productivity of land;
- Develop local knowledge base and local institutional development; and
- Improve energy efficiency of forest products.

PROCEDURES TO DEFINE THE ELIGIBILITY OF LANDS FOR AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES

1. project participants shall provide evidence that the land within the planned project boundary is eligible as an A/R CDM project activity following the steps outlined below
  - (a) Demonstrate that the land at the moment the project starts is not a forest by providing information that:
    - i. the land is below the forest national thresholds (crown cover, tree height and minimum land area) for forest definition under decisions 11/CP.7 and 19/CP.9 as communicated by the respective DNA; and
    - ii. the land is not temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes or is not covered by young natural stands or plantations which have yet to reach a crown density or tree