



**PROCEDURES TO DEMONSTRATE THE ELIGIBILITY OF LANDS FOR  
AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES<sup>1</sup>  
(VERSION 02)**

1. Project participants shall provide evidence that the land within the planned project boundary is eligible for an A/R CDM project activity by following the steps outlined below.
  - (a) Demonstrate that the land at the moment the project starts is not forest by providing transparent and complete information that:
    - i. Woody vegetation on the land is below the forest thresholds (crown cover or equivalent stocking level, tree height at maturity *in situ*, minimum land area, and minimum width)<sup>2</sup> adopted for the definition of forest by the host country under decisions 11/CP.7 and 19/CP.9 as communicated by the respective DNA; and
    - ii. The land is not covered by young natural stands or plantations which have the potential to reach — without direct human intervention — the thresholds adopted for definition of forest by the host country; and
    - iii. The land is not temporarily unstocked, for a period consistent with common forest practices in the host country, as a result of either direct human intervention such as harvesting or indirect natural causes such as fire or insect damage; and
    - iv. Environmental conditions, anthropogenic pressures, or lack of available seed sources prevent significant encroachment or regeneration of natural woody vegetation to an extent that could be expected to exceed—without human intervention—the thresholds adopted by the host country for definition of forest.
  - (b) Demonstrate that the activity is a reforestation or afforestation project activity:
    - i. For reforestation project activities, demonstrate that the land was not forest by demonstrating that the conditions outlined under (a) above also applied to the land on 31 December 1989.
    - ii. For afforestation project activities, demonstrate that any woody vegetation on the land has for at least 50 years been below the thresholds adopted by the host country for definition of forest. For this purpose, project participants should provide evidence that the land was below the national thresholds for at least four single representative years within the time period of 50 years (e.g. 10 years, 25 years, 40 years and 50 years before the project start).

<sup>1</sup> Previously called “Procedures to define the eligibility of lands for afforestation and reforestation project activities”.

<sup>2</sup> The Marrakesh Accords define forest as a minimum area of land of 0.05–1.0 hectares with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10%–30% with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 2–5 m at maturity *in situ*. In addition to the minimum area of forest, it is *good practice* that countries specify the minimum width that they will apply to define forest and units of land subject to afforestation, reforestation and deforestation activities.



- iii. The land has not been forest land at any time since 1 January 1990, that is, there is no time since 1 January 1990 at which woody vegetation on the land has met the thresholds adopted for the definition of forest by the host country.<sup>3</sup>
2. In order to demonstrate steps 1 (a) and 1 (b), project participants shall provide one of the following types of verifiable information:
- (a) Aerial photographs or satellite imagery<sup>4</sup> complemented by ground reference data; or
  - (b) Land use or land cover information<sup>5</sup> from maps or digital spatial datasets; or
  - (c) Ground based surveys (land use or land cover information<sup>4</sup> from permits, plans, or information from local registers such as cadastre, owners registers, or other land registers); or
  - (d) If options (a), (b), and (c) are not available/applicable, project participants shall submit a written testimony which was produced by following a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology<sup>6</sup>.

---

<sup>3</sup> According to IPCC GPG for LULUCF, “deforestation land cannot become afforestation/reforestation land in the first commitment period. That is, if a forest is established on land deforested since 1990, the carbon removals cannot be reported as a reforestation activity during the first commitment period because of time limits in the definition for reforestation agreed in the Marrakesh Accords, designed not to credit reforestation on lands that were forest land in 1990.”

<sup>4</sup> If remote sensing, based either on satellite imagery or aerial photographs, is used to determine whether land is eligible for CDM A/R projects, the project participants shall demonstrate that the approach taken is capable of discriminating between forest and non-forest land according to the thresholds adopted for forest land by the host country, including demonstration that any imagery used has adequate spatial and spectral resolution.

<sup>5</sup> Caution should be exercised when interpreting land use or land cover from maps or other information, as the information may not have been prepared for CDM-related purposes. Project participants shall demonstrate that the information in any maps, datasets, or other documents used is fit for the purpose of discriminating between forest and non-forest land-use especially according to the crown cover thresholds adopted by the host country for definition of forest.

<sup>6</sup> Participatory rural appraisal (PRA) is an approach to the analysis of local problems and the formulation of tentative solutions with local stakeholders. It makes use of a wide range of visualisation methods for group-based analysis to deal with spatial and temporal aspects of social and environmental problems. This methodology is, for example, described in:

- Chambers R (1992): Rural Appraisal: Rapid, Relaxed, and Participatory. Discussion Paper 311, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex.
- Theis J, Grady H (1991): Participatory rapid appraisal for community development. Save the Children Fund, London.