



## ANNEX 18

## DEFINITION OF RENEWABLE BIOMASS

*Biomass* is “renewable” if one of the following five conditions applies:

1. The biomass is originating from land areas that are **forests**<sup>1</sup> where:
  - (a) The land area remains a forest; and
  - (b) Sustainable management practices are undertaken on these land areas to ensure, in particular, that the level of carbon stocks on these land areas does not systematically decrease over time (carbon stocks may temporarily decrease due to harvesting); and
  - (c) Any national or regional forestry and nature conservation regulations are complied with.
2. The biomass is **woody biomass** and originates from **croplands and/or grasslands** where:
  - (a) The land area remains cropland and/or grasslands or is reverted to forest; and
  - (b) Sustainable management practices are undertaken on these land areas to ensure in particular that the level of carbon stocks on these land areas does not systematically decrease over time (carbon stocks may temporarily decrease due to harvesting); and
  - (c) Any national or regional forestry, agriculture and nature conservation regulations are complied with.
3. The biomass is **non-woody** biomass and originates from **croplands and/or grasslands** where:
  - (a) The land area remains cropland and/or grasslands or is reverted to forest; and
  - (b) Sustainable management practices are undertaken on these land areas to ensure in particular that the level of carbon stocks on these land areas does not systematically decrease over time (carbon stocks may temporarily decrease due to harvesting); and
  - (c) Any national or regional forestry, agriculture and nature conservation regulations are complied with.
4. The biomass is a **biomass residue**<sup>2</sup> and the use of that biomass residue in the project activity does not involve a decrease of carbon pools, in particular dead wood, litter or soil organic carbon, on the land areas where the biomass residues are originating from. For example, if bagasse from sugar production would in the absence of the CDM be dumped or left to decay and is used for energy generation under the CDM, it can be assumed that the use of the bagasse does not affect the sugar cane cultivation practices and hence the carbon pools of the respective

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<sup>1</sup> The forest definitions as established by the country in accordance with the decisions 11/CP.7 and 19/CP.9 should apply.

<sup>2</sup> Biomass residue is defined as biomass by-products, residues and waste streams from agriculture, forestry, and related industries. (Please refer to Annex 8 of the report of the twentieth meeting of the Executive Board, see <http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/Meetings/020/eb20rep.pdf>).



soils. In contrast, where a CDM project involves the collection of dead wood from a forest, which would not be collected in the absence of the CDM, the extracted biomass cannot be regarded as renewable, since it would result in a decrease of carbon stocks.

5. The biomass is the non-fossil fraction of an **industrial** or **municipal waste**.

Otherwise, where none of these conditions applies, the biomass is considered as “*non-renewable*”.

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