

**DRAFT GUIDANCE ON CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH GHG EMISSIONS FROM
REMOVAL OF EXISTING VEGETATION DUE TO SITE PREPARATION ARE
INSIGNIFICANT**

(Version 01)

I. SCOPE

1. The approach in this document can be used to determine whether the increase in emissions of greenhouse gases due to live woody vegetation existing within the proposed A/R project boundary prior to project commencement¹—the “existing woody vegetation”—being cleared, burned, and/or left to decay as part of site preparation² or other actions attributable to the A/R CDM project activity can be neglected and accounted as zero.

II. PROCEDURE

2. GHG emissions from felling, clearance, decay or burning of existing woody biomass during site preparation are insignificant if at least one of the conditions (a) to (c) below are met:

- (a) It can be demonstrated (e.g., as a part of developing the baseline scenario) that fire due to natural or anthropogenic causes is a common occurrence in the proposed A/R CDM project area³ and also that such fire has occurred at least once in the last 10 years;
- (b) It can be demonstrated (e.g., as a part of developing the baseline scenario) that due to natural or anthropogenic causes other than fire, clearance of woody vegetation in the proposed project area⁴ is a common occurrence, and also that such clearance has occurred at least once in the last 10 years;
- (c) The baseline scenario is *degrading land* involving decline in woody vegetation cover.

¹ In accordance with the guidance provided by the Executive Board at its forty-second meeting, GHG emissions from removal of herbaceous vegetation may be considered as insignificant and hence can be neglected in A/R baseline and monitoring methodologies and tools (refer to paragraph 35 of the meeting report).

² The term “site preparation” as used henceforth in this document includes all aspects of the A/R project activity that result in emissions from existing woody vegetation, whether these are specifically mentioned or not. This includes, *inter alia*, clearance of existing live woody vegetation by felling or fire, decay of felled or burned existing live woody vegetation, and decay of existing live woody vegetation that dies as a result of competition from forest (or other vegetation) planted as part of A/R project activities.

³ Emissions may be insignificant at the project, parcel, or individual stratum level, as applicable, depending on the extent of the area likely to be affected.

⁴ Emissions may be insignificant at the project, parcel, or individual stratum level, as applicable, depending on the extent of the area likely to be affected.

3. Demonstrating that particular natural or anthropogenic causes are a common occurrence can be performed by providing documented evidence that demonstrates that:

- (a) Either: “slash-and-burn” land clearance activities are commonly practiced in the region on land areas similar⁵ to those proposed for the project activity, and that vegetation within the proposed project boundary is already typical of that commonly cleared by “slash-and-burn” land clearance activities;
- (b) Or: land clearance activities other than “slash-and-burn” are commonly practiced in the region on land areas similar⁶ to those proposed for the project activity, and
 - Natural or anthropogenic causes have resulted in the majority of woody species being killed and/or cleared at least once within the proposed project boundary within the 10 years prior to project commencement;
 - Climatic, vegetative cover, land-use, legal, policy, and regulatory circumstances under which clearance of woody species occurred in the past are expected either to remain unchanged in the future, or to change in such a way as to make clearance of woody species at least as likely as in the past.

History of the document

Version	Date	Nature of revision(s)
01	EB 50, Annex # 16 October 2009	To be considered at EB 50.

⁵ If studies are not available that include all or part of the project area, evidence obtained from studies on land areas with characteristics similar to the proposed project area may be used. Such studies must have been performed for lands with similar existing vegetation, climate, topography, altitude, soils, and land-use. The lands must also be subject to the same legal, policy and regulatory frameworks as the proposed project area.

⁶ If studies are not available that include all or part of the project area, evidence obtained from studies on land areas with characteristics similar to the proposed project area may be used. Such studies must have been performed for lands with similar existing vegetation, climate, topography, altitude, soils, and land-use. The lands must also be subject to the same legal, policy and regulatory frameworks as the proposed project area.