

**AR-TOOL19**

**A/R Methodological tool**

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**Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R  
CDM project activities**

Version 02.0



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## 1. Introduction

1. This tool provides a step-by-step method for demonstrating eligibility of land for an afforestation or reforestation (A/R) project activity under the clean development mechanism (CDM). The tool also specifies the type of information and data that shall be furnished for demonstration of eligibility of land.

## 2. Scope, applicability, and entry into force

### 2.1. Scope

2. The tool covers all types of A/R CDM project activity or programme of activity.

### 2.2. Applicability

3. This tool has no internal applicability conditions.

### 2.3. Entry into force

4. The date of entry into force of the revision is the date of the publication of the EB 75 meeting report on 4 October 2013.

## 3. Normative references

5. The following documents are indispensable for the application of this tool:
  - (a) Glossary of CDM terms;
  - (b) The annex to the decision 5/CMP1 (Modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities).

## 4. Definitions

6. The definitions contained in the Glossary of CDM terms shall apply.
7. For the purpose of this tool, the following definition shall apply:
  - (a) **Forest threshold values applicable to the host Party** - refers to the values of minimum tree crown cover, minimum land area, and minimum tree height reported to the Executive Board of the CDM by the host Party under paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 5/CMP1 (Modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities).

## 5. Demonstrating eligibility of land

8. 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 start of the project activity does not contain forest by providing transparent information confirming that:

- (i) Vegetation on the land is below the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party;
  - (ii) The young natural stands and plantations on the land, if existing at the start of the project activity, are not expected to reach or exceed the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party;
  - (iii) The land is not a part of forest area that is temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention (e.g. harvesting) or natural causes, and the land is not expected to revert to forest.
- (b) Demonstrate that the land also met criteria under sub-paragraph (a) above on 31 December 1989.

Note 1. Where the vegetation comprises of tree storeys of different heights, each tree storey meeting the height threshold or having the potential to meet the height threshold at maturity *in situ* shall be included in determining whether the tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) threshold is reached or not.

Note 2. If the host Party has confirmed to the Executive Board of the CDM that either palms or bamboos or both are considered trees for the purpose of determining the forest threshold values, then the crowns of palms or bamboos or both, as appropriate, shall be included in determining the tree crown cover. Otherwise palms or bamboos or both, as appropriate, shall be considered shrub vegetation, both in the baseline and in the project.

9. In order to demonstrate that the land meets the criteria provided under paragraph 8 above, the project participants shall provide information that reliably discriminates between forest and non-forest land on the basis of the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party. Such information may include, *inter alia*, one or more of the following:
- (a) Aerial photographs or satellite imagery complemented by ground reference data;
  - (b) Land-use or land-cover information from maps or digital spatial datasets;
  - (c) Ground-based surveys (e.g. land-use or land-cover information from permits or plans, information from local registers such as cadastre or owner registers).
10. If the information required under paragraph 9 above is not available, the project participants shall submit a written testimony as the result of a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology<sup>1</sup>.

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<sup>1</sup> 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:

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

**Document information**

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<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
02.0	4 October 2013	EB 75, Annex 25 The revision: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Incorporates related clarification issued by the Board in meeting report EB31 paragraph 45 and meeting report EB32 paragraph 44;</li><li>• Removes the distinction between the requirements for demonstration of land eligibility for 'afforestation' vs. 'reforestation';</li><li>• Changes the title from "Procedures to demonstrate the eligibility of lands for afforestation and reforestation CDM project activities" to tool for "Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities", in line with the nature of the document.</li></ul>
01	19 October 2007	EB 35, Annex 18 New procedures developed on request of CMP2. Initial adoption at EB 35.

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