

China's Submission on the Implications of the Inclusion of Reforestation of Lands with Forest in Exhaustion as CDM A/R Activities

In the paragraph 1 of the document FCCC/SBSTA/2010/L.15, parties are invited to submit their views on the implications of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities, China welcomes the opportunity for submitting its views.

China is of the view that CDM A/R activities are in general to encourage conversion of non-forested land to forested land. The proposal on inclusion of reforestation on the lands with forest in exhaustion as an eligible CDM A/R activity should address the following principles:

1. Any activity newly proposed to be eligible under current CDM A/R rules should be helpful for increasing forested land and encouraging sustainable forest management.
2. Any activities newly proposed to be eligible under current CDM A/R rules should not incentivize conversion of natural forests to plantations.
3. Any activities newly proposed to be eligible under current CDM A/R rules should not cause bigger change of existing CDM A/R rules.
4. Any activities newly proposed to be eligible under current CDM A/R rules should demonstrate its additionality.

China also is of the view that the ongoing discussion on forest in exhaustion is helpful for parties to have deep understandings of how forests contribute climate change mitigation, and what are the most effective ways for forests to achieve its mitigation potentials. However, the controversy in discussion on forest in exhaustion may be, to great extent, caused by the premature definition of forest in exhaustion, which does not clearly differentiate degraded forested land with forest in exhaustion. Therefore, China thinks the definition of forest in exhaustion should be further discussed and the consensus should be achieved under SBSTA, before taking further actions on whether or not including forest in exhaustion into CDM A/R activities.

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