

Submission by Ethiopia on the Implications of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities.

28th of March, 2011

Ethiopia considers that this issue represents a great opportunity for non-Annex I countries to enhance the development of potential A/R CDM projects. The eligibility of lands that contained planted forests in exhaustion increases the amount of eligible lands for A/R CDM, without compromising the environmental integrity of the Kyoto Protocol and its definitions. We understand that the current rules unnecessarily prevent the use of lands that contained planted forests in the past, thus restricting mitigation opportunities in a key sectoral scope for developing countries, such as afforestation and reforestation.

Ethiopia, therefore, supports the recommendation proposed by the CDM Executive Board, as per its 2010 Annual Report, which defines Forests in Exhaustion as ***“an area of land that contained forest – established through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources – on 31 December 1989 and/or at the starting date of the project activity. If the land at the starting date of the project activity is forest then, in the absence of the project activity, it would be converted to non-forested land through final harvesting within [5] years of the proposed starting date of the project activity. If the land at the starting date of the project activity is non-forested land then, in the absence of the project activity, it is expected to remain as non-forested land.”***

Additionally, we also suggest the preparation of a technical paper about this issue by the Secretariat, followed by a workshop in order to enable all necessary clarifications, with a view of adopting the recommendation by the CDM EB as soon as possible.