

Inputs on modalities and procedures for possible additional LULUCF activities under the CDM in response to the call for submissions per the decision 2/CMP.7, paragraph 6

Views submitted by the World Bank

Land use and decisions associated with land-use change are important in the context of food security, poverty reduction, and sustainable development. Unsustainable land use and land use change are a significant source of global GHG emissions. Addressing these sources not only has the potential to mitigate GHG emissions and lead to low-carbon development but, when implemented in an integrated manner, can also enhance food security, improve productivity of land resources, and harness multiple sustainable development co-benefits (e.g., improved cropland and grassland productivity, nutrient management, biodiversity, water resources management). Mitigation activities related to land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) also provide opportunities for scaling up mitigation actions covering multiple land use activities at the level of landscapes and enable climate change mitigation in other sectors such as energy.

Climate finance can be one way to support the low-carbon development of LDCs and address some of these challenges. The CDM offers the opportunity to explore market-based climate change mitigation opportunities. Land use, land-use change and forestry (LULUCF) activities are among the few opportunities available to developing countries. However, eligible land use activities under the CDM are limited to afforestation and reforestation (A/R). This limitation is a constraint for most LDCs in harnessing mitigation opportunities. As a result, these projects account for less than 1% of the total projects registered under the CDM.

The progress made by national and regional regulated markets and by voluntary markets in developing procedures and requirements for mitigation activities involving LULUCF activities has shown that emission reductions from a wide variety of LULUCF activities can be estimated in a credible way. For example, the Verified Carbon Standard has approved requirements and methodologies for mitigation projects focusing on agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) covering afforestation, reforestation and revegetation, agricultural land management, improved forest management, reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, avoided conversion of grasslands and shrub lands and peatland rewetting and conservation.

Thus, it is timely for SBSTA to consider additional LULUCF activities and deliberate on the submissions of Parties with a view to making recommendations for inclusion of additional LULUCF activities under the CDM to CMP.8. Consideration of additional activities should recognize the broader discussion on land use under the UNFCCC, for example those on non-permanence.

We will be glad to provide further information and clarifications as necessary.

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