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Agenda item 11(d)

Methodological issues under the Kyoto Protocol

Implications of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities

Submission from Brazil

1. On 3 December 2014 the secretariat received a submission from Brazil. The secretariat was requested to issue a conference room paper containing this submission.
2. This submission is attached and reproduced* in the language in which it was received and without formal editing.¹

* This submission has been electronically imported in order to make it available on electronic systems, including the World Wide Web. The secretariat has made every effort to ensure the correct reproduction of the text as submitted.

¹ Also available at <http://unfccc.int/meetings/lima_dec_2014/session/8499/php/view/documents.php>.

Submission from Brazil

Implication of the inclusion of reforestation of lands with forest in exhaustion as reforestation clean development mechanism project activities

SBSTA agenda item 11 (d)

CRP by the Government of Brazil

During SBSTA 40, Parties made considerable progress in the consideration of agenda item 12(d) "Forests in Exhaustion" on the basis of a draft text proposed by a number of Parties after discussion of Brazil's submission (FCCC/SBSTA/2014/MISC.1), but could not reach agreement on the matter.

During the latest informal consultation meeting, a proposal for a draft CMP decision was introduced as a basis for possible consensus. As there was no time available for its proper consideration, the issue was forwarded to SBSTA 41.

With a view to capture the progress achieved during SBSTA-40 and facilitate reaching an appropriate conclusion of this agenda item during SBSTA-41, the Government of Brazil offers the proposed way forward:

Proposed way forward: elements for a draft CMP decision

For the second commitment period, the eligibility of reforestation project activities under Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol shall be limited to reforestation occurring on lands that did not contain forest on 31 December 1989, or contained planted forests in their last harvesting cycle on 31 December 1989. In the latter case, it shall be demonstrated that the forest land has been converted to non forest land and has been as degraded non forest land for at least the last [10] years prior to the starting date of the project activity.

Rationale of the proposal

In order to address the inclusion of reforestation on lands with forest in exhaustion as reforestation clean development mechanism project activities in a comprehensive manner, in a way that promotes the recovery of degraded non-forest lands and does not provide perverse incentives, this proposal expands the eligibility of areas for reforestation project activities under the Clean Development Mechanism in the second commitment period.

This expansion is only applicable in the following situations:

- the forest land contained planted (industrial) plantations in December 1989 in its last harvesting cycle;
- the forest land would be converted to non-forest land at the end of the last harvesting cycle; and
- the non-forest land would have to be at least [10] years as degraded non-forest land prior to the starting date of the project activity.

This expanded eligibility would decrease the pressure on other land for reforestation/afforestation project activities and would ensure environmental integrity (through demonstration that the project activity would not occur in the absence of the CDM revenues) as well as would help promote sustainable development (through recovery of degraded, non-forest land).

The expansion of the eligibility of lands for reforestation project activities under the CDM, as proposed, is deemed relevant for the following reasons:

1. It helps Parties not included in Annex I in achieving sustainable development and assists Parties included in Annex I in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments under Article 3 of the Kyoto Protocol, which are the objectives of the CDM.
2. It provides for multiple co-benefits in addition to the enhancement of carbon stocks, including erosion prevention, reduced pressure on natural forests and socio-economic benefits to the local communities.
3. It provides opportunity for a more equitable distribution of projects among developing countries and for a more significant share of A/R project activities in the total of CDM registered projects (limited to 49 out of 7329).¹
4. It reduces the potential for additional degraded land in developing countries due to the provision of incentives to reforest lands that contained planted forests in 1989 in their last harvesting cycle.²
5. It reduces the pressure on other land uses, including grassland or cropland, and may help restore the soil carbon pool.
6. It continues to be subject to the demonstration of additionality as any other project activity, so that in the absence of the CDM revenues the land would remain as degraded land, as well as all present and future permanence modalities and procedures.
7. There are significant differences in the nature, scale and scope of the areas eligible to A/R CDM as proposed, and the activities referred to in paragraph 70 of Decision 1/CP.16 (REDD+).
8. It does not alter in any way agreed definitions, modalities and procedures under the CDM.

¹ As of 16/10/13

² See table for "Trends in extent of planted forests 1990-2010" , attached to the submission presented in document FCCC/SBSTA/2014/MISC.1 , available at Annex 3 of the FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization) Global Forest Resource Assessment 2010