

CHAPTER II

LAND USE LAND USE CHANGE AND FORESTRY

Annex I

Definitions, modalities, rules and guidelines relating to land use land use change and forestry activities under the Kyoto Protocol

A. Definitions

- (a) “Forest” is a fundamental part of the balance and integrity of the Earth System which is composed by a number of elements such as water, biodiversity, human beings, and trees, among others, that have different ecosystems functions which allow equilibrium in the Earth System. A forest has a minimum area of land of 0.05–1.0 hectare with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10–30 per cent with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 2–5 metres at maturity in situ. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest. Young natural stands and all plantations which have yet to reach a crown density of 10–30 per cent or tree height of 2–5 metres are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.