

Definitions

Reforestation

Reforestation refers to the planting of forest on land that was forest but has been out of forest cover for a certain duration. For the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol this was defined as planting on land that did not contain forest on the 31 December 1989. In North America and in the lead up to post-2012 negotiations ‘on land that has been out of forest for at least 10 year’s is a likely alternative.

Afforestation

Afforestation refers to the establishment of forest on land that is considered to not have been forest previously.

Deforestation

Deforestation is a change in land cover from forest (plantation or natural forest) to non-forest.

Forest Degradation

Is the persistent depletion of carbon stocks in a forest while still meeting the definition of a forest?

Forest Management

Is land use that met the definition of a forest on 31 December 1989 and is managed?

Harvest wood products

Is a generic term used to describe the treatment of harvesting, use and disposal of wood products? It includes the assumptions about emissions from each of the three components – harvest, use and disposal. A proposal to alter the treatment would require consideration of all three components.

Coverage

If a sector or activity is covered by an emissions trading scheme it is included in the cap on emissions with compulsory participation in the scheme within the cap and a requirement to surrender permits for emissions.

Offsets

For sectors and sub-sectors not included within the cap or coverage of the scheme they may be eligible to participate in creating offsets of emissions. There can be additional requirements to allow for leakage and to ensure activities are beyond business as usual.

Inclusion

Is a generic term for consideration of a sector’s activities in an emissions trading scheme that encompasses coverage and offsets but may also include other hybrid or modified forms of participation. For example, an activity could be deemed as included in the scheme but have neutral emissions – for example the use of agricultural residues for biomass energy.

NZ-style inclusion

The NZ scheme includes reforestation through an opt-in model that is probably best thought of as offsets or described with the specific term.