

PRIMAKLIMA - Catalogue of Criteria



Afforestation and forest preservation measures initiated by PRIMAKLIMA - weltweit - e.V. are designed to sequester carbon or respectively to prevent carbon dioxide emissions in order to mitigate global climate change. The following Catalogue of Criteria defined by PRIMAKLIMA ensures the acceptance and the achievement of the goals of a forestry project. The criteria consider national and regional characteristics as well as socio-economic and ecological topics to promote sustainable development.

- (1) Precondition for the financial support of forestry projects is the additional sequestration of atmospheric carbon dioxide or the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions from forest degradation via afforestation or respectively silvicultural forest preservation measures. The project is implemented for a period of 35 to 99 years.
- (2) The tenure and use rights to the land and forest resources shall be clearly defined and documented before any afforestation or silvicultural activity is undertaken. Property and tenure rights as well as other benefits that result from the project remain with the project host. Only exception is the right to the carbon offset, which will pass partly or to the full extent to PRIMAKLIMA.
- (3) PRIMAKLIMA and the local partner will recognize and respect the legal and customary rights of indigenous people and other interest groups to own, use and manage their lands, territories and resources. Local environmental NGOs will be informed of the planned project.
- (4) Forest management and silvicultural measures are determined by a long-term management, preservation and financial plan, which describes the project goals and the measures of implementation. This project plan must refer explicitly to the potential and planned effects on the carbon stocks and fluxes.
- (5) The project area is managed in consideration of natural and ecological features. Forest management shall promote the efficient use of the forest's multiple products and services to ensure economic viability and a wide range of environmental and social benefits to the population and by that ensure the acceptance of the project.
- (6) For any project not situated in Germany the acceptance of the government in the host country (national and regional level) must be guaranteed as a prerequisite for any forestry activity to be carried. The agreement shall be accompanied by the exchange of a "Letter of Intent" between the German Government and the government responsible for the territory on which the project will be implemented.
- (7) Primary forests, well-developed secondary forests and sites of major environmental, social and cultural significance shall be conserved. Hence, such areas shall not be influenced negatively by project activities.
- (8) Exotic tree species are seen as a complement or mid-level step to PRIMAKLIMA's main goal of restoring native forests. Their contribution to carbon offset and the proper utilization of surrounding natural forests should be shown in the management plan.
- (9) Plantations consisting of fast-growing species are to be planned and managed according to the principles mentioned above. Such plantations shall complement natural forests and the surrounding ecosystems, provide community benefits and contribute to satisfy the demand for forestry products.
- (10) The project partner ensures that the payments for the carbon offset contribute significantly to the initiation of the project. The project activities are only implemented due to PRIMAKLIMA's incentive (financial additionality).
- (11) An area to be afforested must have been without forest cover for at least 20 years before the project agreement was signed. Silvicultural measures in existing forests are only supported if they can stop and revert a degradation process and if there is no evidence that the planned activities would have been carried out without the project (environmental additionality).
- (12) The project partner points out any kind of secondary effects which might either increase or reduce emissions of carbon dioxide in surrounding areas (leakage).
- (13) The project partner enumerates any risks, which might endanger the positive project effects (reversibility risks). Leakage effects and reversibility risks are considered in the documentation, the assessment, the management and the certification of the project.
- (14) Both afforestation and silvicultural measures shall conserve or increase the ecological situation, e.g. biological diversity and its associated values, water resources, soils, unique and fragile ecosystems and landscapes.