



A Glossary of Term Related to Forests and Climate Change

Foreword

In recent years, the role of forests in relation to climate change has gained ever greater international attention. This is both because conserving and sustainably managing forests is a cost-effective approach to mitigating the impacts of climate change and because the same activities are important in adapting to climate change.

In the context of the UNFCCC, the Kyoto Protocol, agreed in 1997, and coming into force in 2005, allowed for only a minor contribution from forests. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) projects under the Kyoto Protocol covered only afforestation and reforestation, so-called "A/R CDM projects". The methodological complexities associated with such projects meant that very few A/R CDM projects have been implemented.

Subsequently, discussions on a UNFCCC mechanism that became known as "REDD+" began in 2005, and were effectively concluded in 2013, with the "Warsaw Framework for REDD+", and enshrined in Article 5 of the "Paris Agreement" in 2015.

In the meantime, outside the framework of the UNFCCC, voluntary market projects dealing with forest management and afforestation/reforestation became popular among NGOs, especially in the first decade of the century.

Each of these initiatives, and climate science in general, uses a set of terms that either goes beyond the vocabulary of everyday speech, or which involves terms having quite specific meanings that may not correspond with everyday speech. Therefore, even in English, a glossary is an important document in helping to clarify understanding of such terms, but for Myanmar, establishing consistent translations of these terms into the national language is equally important.

While some terms are used across all forests and climate initiatives, others may be specific to REDD+, to the Kyoto Protocol, or to voluntary market projects. For this reason, it is important to include all relevant terms in the glossary. If, for example, a reader was interested in the interpretation and Myanmar translation of the term "assigned amount", which is used uniquely in the Kyoto Protocol, a glossary covering only REDD+ would not include the term, leaving the reader feeling confused and frustrated. Therefore the glossary contains terms relevant to forests and climate change as a whole, and identifies those terms used uniquely in relation to REDD+, the Kyoto Protocol, or voluntary market projects, and those terms used generally across initiatives and in climate science.

The column “Usage” refers to the context where the term is used. UNFCCC = United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; UNFCCC KP = The Kyoto Protocol under the UNFCCC; VM = Voluntary carbon Market projects; and Gen = General terms used both in the context of UNFCCC and VM or in general technical language use for forestry and land use.

Term	Usage	Definition
AAU		See "Assigned Amount Units"
Abatement	UNFCCC	Reducing the degree or intensity of greenhouse gas emissions
Aboveground biomass	Gen	Living vegetation above the soil, including stem, stump, branches, bark, seeds, and foliage.
Activities Implemented Jointly (AIJ)	UNFCCC	Activities carried out under the Convention to mitigate climate change through partnerships between an investor from a developed country and a counterpart in a host country under a pilot phase that ended in the year 2000. The purpose was to involve private-sector money in the transfer of technology and know-how.
Activity data (AD)	Gen	Activity data for REDD+ activities refers to the area change data, expressed in hectares per year. Activity data can be developed for all activities recognised under REDD+ including deforestation, forest degradation, sustainable forest management, forest conservation, and afforestation. It is used to generate inventories of GHG emissions/removals in combination with emissions/removal factors to calculate forest carbon emission estimates.
Activity-shifting leakage	VM	Forest carbon activities that directly cause carbon-emitting activities to be shifted to another location outside of the project boundaries cancelling out some or all of the project’s carbon benefits. One example would be a plantation project that displaces farmers and leads them to clear adjacent forests. See “Leakage.”
Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention (AWG-LCA)	UNFCCC	The AWG-LCA was established in Bali in 2007 to conduct negotiations on a strengthened international deal on climate change. The AWG-LCA concluded its work at COP18 in Doha.
Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action (ADP)	UNFCCC	The ADP is a subsidiary body established at COP 17 in Durban in 2011 to develop a protocol, another legal instrument or an agreed outcome with legal force under the Convention applicable to all Parties. The ADP completed its work at COP21 in Paris with the adoption of the Paris Agreement.
Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement (APA)	UNFCCC	The APA was established at COP21 in Paris with the mandate to prepare for operationalization of the Paris Agreement.
Adaptation	UNFCCC	The adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities. Various types of adaptation can be distinguished, including anticipatory, autonomous and planned adaptation.
Adaptation Fund	UNFCCC	The Adaptation Fund (AF) was established in 2001 to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes in developing country Parties to the Kyoto Protocol that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
Adaptive capacity	Gen	The ability of a system to adjust to climate change (including climate variability and extremes) to moderate potential damages, to take advantage of opportunities, or to cope with the consequences.

Adaptive management	Gen	A concept based on the assumption that management must proceed in the absence of complete information. It views management not only as a way to achieve objectives, but also as a process for probing to learn more about the resource or system being managed. Learning is an inherent objective of adaptive management. Adaptive management, thus is a process where policies and activities can adapt to future conditions to improve management success.
Additionality	VM and UNFCCC KP	The requirement by which, under the Kyoto Protocol and sound voluntary market standards, carbon credits will be awarded only to project activities where emissions reductions are "additional to those that would occur anyway", i.e. additional reductions compared to the "baseline scenario".
Addressing safeguards	UNFCCC	A common understanding is that 'addressing safeguards' refers to a body of policies, laws and regulations, and associated institutional arrangements, that are in place on paper to deal with the potential benefits and risks associated with REDD+ actions.
ADP		See "Ad hoc Working Group on the Durban Platform for Enhanced Action"
Afforestation	Gen	Establishment of new forest on land that was not covered by forests for at least an established period of time before. For the Kyoto Protocol this is restricted to direct human-induced conversion of land that has not been forested for a period of at least 50 years to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human induced promotion of natural seed sources.
Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR)	VM	ARR is an eligible project category under the VCS, combining some or all of the three elements of afforestation, reforestation and revegetation. It covers activities that increase carbon stocks in woody biomass (and in some cases soils) by establishing, increasing and/or restoring vegetative cover through the planting, sowing and/or human-assisted natural regeneration of woody vegetation.
AGB		See Above-ground Biomass
Agricultural Land Management (ALM)	VM	ALM is an eligible project category under the VCS. This methodology is applicable to projects that introduce sustainable management practices to an agricultural landscape where the soil organic carbon would have remained constant or decreased in time without the intervention of the project.
Agroforestry	Gen	An integrated approach of using the interactive benefits from combining trees and shrubs with crops. It combines agricultural and forestry technologies to create more diverse, productive, profitable, healthy, and sustainable land-use system
AIJ		See Activities Implemented Jointly
Allocation	UNFCCC KP	The allocation of emissions permits or allowances among greenhouse gas emitters is made to establish an emission trading market. The allocation of emission permits / allowances can be done through grandfathering (based on past emissions) or the auctioning of permits.
Allometry	Gen	It is the study of the relationship between size and shape of organisms; in forestry, it generally refers to the relationship between tree diameter, height, crown size and biomass.
ALM		See "Agricultural Land Management"
Annex II countries	UNFCCC	Group of countries included in Annex II to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including all developed countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development. Under Article 4.2(g) of the Convention., These countries are expected to provide financial resources to assist developing countries into complying with their UNFCCC related obligations, such as preparing national reports, among others. Annex II countries are also expected to promote the transfer of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries.

Annex-I, Annex-B Countries/Parties	UNFCCC	Group of countries included in Annex I (as amended in 1998) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, including all the developed countries in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, and economies in transition. By default, the other countries are referred to as non-Annex I countries.
Annex B Countries	UNFCCC	The signatory nations to the Kyoto Protocol that are subject to caps on their emissions of greenhouse gases and committed to reduction targets – countries with developed economies. Annex I refers to the 36 countries identified for reduction in the UNFCCC while the Annex B is an adjusted list of 39 countries identified under the more recent Kyoto Protocol. Annex B countries have their reduction targets formally stated.
ANR		See Assisted/Accelerated Natural Regeneration
Anthropogenic	Gen	The term used to distinguish naturally occurring greenhouse gas emissions from the ones that result from human activity. The objective of the Convention is to avoid dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system and countries are only responsible for reducing anthropogenic GHG emissions.
Anthropogenic emission	Gen	Emissions caused by humans. For ecosystems this can sometimes be difficult to determine and the pragmatic solution used so far has been to label all emissions from managed lands as anthropogenic and all emissions from un-managed lands as non-anthropogenic. Managed land may be distinguished from that unmanaged by fulfilling not only the production but also ecological and social functions. The detailed definitions and the national approach to distinguishing between unmanaged and managed land should be described in a transparent manner.
Approved Methodological Approach	VM	The Voluntary Carbon Standard as well as the CDM Executive Board approves methodologies project developers can use when developing projects.
ARR		See Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation
Assigned amount	UNFCCC KP	The total assigned amount of greenhouse gas that each Annex B country is allowed to emit during the commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol.
Assigned amount units (AAU)	UNFCCC KP	The total assigned amount of greenhouse gas that each Annex B country is allowed to emit during the commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol. An Assigned Amount Unit (AAU) is a tradable unit of 1 metric ton of CO ₂ equivalent. (tCO ₂ e).
Assisted /Accelerated Natural Regeneration (ANR)	VM	This is a name of a methodology under the VCS. It describes management actions taken to enhance the natural processes of forest restoration, focusing on encouraging the natural establishment and subsequent growth of indigenous forest trees, whilst preventing any factors that might harm them.
AUFDD		See Avoiding unplanned frontier deforestation and degradation
AUMDD		See Avoiding unplanned mosaic deforestation and degradation
Avoided deforestation	Gen	This occurs when land that would have been demonstrably deforested is not, because of a change in policy, funding, actions, goals, etc.
Avoiding planned deforestation (APD)	VM	This is a methodology under the VCS. The reduction in GHG emissions by stopping deforestation of forest lands that are authorized and documented to be converted to non-forest land. APD project proponents must provide evidence showing that the project area was planned to be converted.
Avoiding unplanned frontier deforestation and degradation (AUFDD)	VM	This is a methodology under the VCS including the reduction in GHG emissions by stopping deforestation/ degradation of degraded to mature forests at the forest frontier that has been expanding historically, or will expand in the future, as a result of improved forest access, often through construction of roads.

Avoiding unplanned mosaic deforestation and degradation (AUMDD)	VM	The reduction in GHG emissions by stopping deforestation/degradation of degraded or mature forests occurring in a mosaic pattern. Such deforestation/ degradation typically occurs where population pressure and local land use practices produce a patchwork of cleared lands, degraded forests, secondary forests of various ages, and mature forests; where the forests are accessible; and where the agents of deforestation/ degradation typically are present within the region containing the area to be protected.
AWG-LCA		See Ad hoc Working Group on Long-term Cooperative Action under the Convention
Bali Action Plan	UNFCCC	The Bali Action Plan is included in the Bali Road Map, It introduced the AWG-LCA, which were concluded at COP18 in Doha in 2012.
Bali Road Map	UNFCCC	The Bali Road Map was adopted at COP13 in December 2007 in Bali. The Bali Road Map was a 2-year process, which established a set of forward-looking decisions that represent the work that needed to be done under various negotiating 'tracks' essential to reaching a secure climate future.
Barrier	Gen	Barriers in the context of REDD+ are often understood as something that prevents REDD+ actions from happening. It can be policies, lack of knowledge, resources, among others.
Baseline scenario	Gen	In seeking to measure whether greenhouse gases have increased or decreased, it is necessary to have a known previously emitted amount (often connected to a baseline date or year), against which to make a comparison over time. This is often referred to as the "baseline scenario" or "baseline", i.e. expected emissions if the emission reduction activities were not implemented. In the case of REDD+, the main options are historical baselines (average emissions during a past period), projections using modelled baselines (spatially explicit - e.g., land use models – or non-spatially explicit process models – e.g., econometric models), and negotiated baselines.
BAU		See Business-as-Usual Scenario
BEF		See Biomass Expansion Factor
Belowground biomass (BGB)	Gen	All biomass contained in living roots. Fine roots of less than 2mm diameter are often excluded because they are frequently difficult to distinguish from soil organic matter with current methodological approaches.
Benefit-sharing mechanism	Gen	The principles, models and processes developed and applied to distribute benefits, both direct and indirect, of project activities, including project funding, between different participants and stakeholders.
BGB		See Below-ground Biomass
Biennial Update Report (BUR)	UNFCCC	BURs are reports to be submitted by non-Annex I Parties, containing updates of national Greenhouse Gas (GHG) inventories, including a national inventory report and information on mitigation actions, needs and support received. The first BUR were due to be submitted by December 2014 and then every two years. However, flexibility is given to Least Developed Country Parties (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS), which may submit such reports at their discretion.
Biodiversity	Gen	The total diversity of all organisms and ecosystems at various spatial scales (from genes to entire biomes).
Biomass	Gen	The total mass of living organisms in a given area or volume; dead plant material can be included as dead biomass.
Biomass expansion factor (BEF)	Gen	Biomass Expansion Factors (BEF) expand merchantable timber volume to total aboveground biomass volume in order to account for non-merchantable components of wood stock and increment in forests. BEF are necessary because many forest inventories in the world are still restricted to only measure the commercial timber component of forests

Biomass increment	Gen	Increase in biomass in the forest due to plant growth.
Biomass removals	Gen	Loss of biomass in the forest due to harvest and disturbance (e.g. forest fire.)
Biomes	Gen	A major and distinct regional element of the biosphere, typically consisting of several ecosystems (e.g., forests, rivers, ponds, swamps) within a region of similar climate. Biomes are characterized by typical communities of plants and animals.
Buffer	VM	The amount of carbon credits, determined by risk analysis or the rules of a particular standard, which are set aside and not commercialized to ensure validity of carbon credits from a project in the event of leakage or non-permanence.
BUR		See "Biennial Update Report"
Business-as-usual scenario	Gen	The land use and emissions profile prior to intervention, serves as a benchmark to measure the impact of REDD actions. It is also referred to as "baseline."
Cancun Agreement	UNFCCC	A set of significant decisions adopted at COP16 in Cancun, Mexico in 2010.
Cancun Safeguards	UNFCCC	The seven safeguards countries should promote and support when implementing REDD+ actions agreed as part of the Cancun Agreement.
Canopy cover	Gen	See 'Crown Cover' The percentage of the surface of a land area that is covered by tree canopies. Also referred to as 'canopy cover' or just 'tree cover'.
Cap and trade	UNFCCC KP	An emissions trading system, which involves the buying and selling of emission allowances, where total emissions are limited or "capped". The Kyoto Protocol is an example of a cap and trade system in the sense that emissions from Annex-B countries are capped and excess permits can be traded.
Capacity building	Gen	In the context of climate change, the process of developing the technical skills and institutional capability in developing countries and economies in transition to enable them to address effectively the causes and results of climate change.
Carbon accounting	Gen	The tracking of changes in carbon pools associated with human-induced sources and sinks of greenhouse gas emissions.
Carbon benefits	VM	Term used for the project based REDD+. The quantity of emissions avoided or carbon sequestered above the business-as-usual scenario, after appropriate deductions are made for leakage and impermanence. Usually measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Carbon credit	Gen	A generic term for any tradable certificate or permit representing the right to emit one metric ton of carbon dioxide or the mass of another greenhouse gas with a carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e) equivalent to one metric ton of carbon dioxide.
Carbon cycle	Gen	The term used to describe the flow of carbon (in various forms, e.g. as carbon dioxide) through the atmosphere, ocean, terrestrial biosphere and lithosphere.
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	Gen	A naturally occurring gas, also a by-product of burning fossil fuels from fossil carbon deposits, such as oil, gas and coal, of burning biomass and of land use changes and other industrial processes. It is the principal anthropogenic greenhouse gas that affects the Earth's radiative balance. It is the reference gas against which other greenhouse gases are measured and therefore has Global Warming Potential of one.
Carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e)	Gen	The universal unit of measurement used to indicate the global warming potential of each of the seven greenhouse gases. It is used to evaluate the impacts of releasing (or avoiding the release of) different greenhouse gases.

Carbon footprint	Gen	Carbon footprint is the emissions caused by a population, activity or technology, usually measured in metric ton CO ₂ equivalent.
Carbon market	Gen	Transactions for the sale of permits, reductions or offsets together comprise the carbon market. The Kyoto Protocol has implemented such a market. South Korea, part of China, states in the US and provinces in Canada provide other examples of carbon markets. See Carbon Trading
Carbon neutral	Gen	Having a net zero carbon footprint, refers to achieving net zero carbon emissions by balancing a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount sequestered or offset, or buying enough carbon credits to make up the difference. The Paris Agreement also aim to achieve a global balance between anthropogenic emissions by sources and removals by sinks of greenhouse gases in the second half of this century.
Carbon offset	Gen	Credits issued in return for a reduction of atmospheric carbon emissions through projects such as the provision of renewable energy to replace fossil fuel energy, or reforestation cleared land to create a carbon sink. By paying for such emission reducing activities, individuals and organizations can use the resulting credits to offset their own emissions, either voluntarily or under the rules of most emissions trading schemes. One offset credit is equivalent to an emission reduction of one metric ton of CO ₂ e.
Carbon pool	Gen	A reservoir of carbon. A system that has the capacity to accumulate or release carbon. Carbon pools are measured in terms of mass (e.g. metric tons of carbon). The major carbon pools associated with forests are: living biomass (including above and below ground components,), dead biomass, litter and soil organic matter.
Carbon rights	Gen	Carbon rights refer to the claims on the benefit streams from carbon pools, for example, the benefit from a specific parcel of forest. Where a market exists for GHG emissions reductions carbon rights may have a financial value. Carbon rights may also define the management responsibilities associated with a specific area of forest. Issues concerning carbon rights include how the rights are defined, how they work in places where land ownership is unclear, and whether legal institutions are strong enough to protect the rights. The concept of carbon rights has been discussed in the context of REDD+ projects but not in the context of national implementation.
Carbon sequestration	Gen	The storage of carbon by plants, trees and other flora, which absorb carbon dioxide from the atmosphere while they grow, release oxygen, and store the carbon.
Carbon sink	Gen	The removal of CO ₂ from the atmosphere caused by carbon sequestration.
Carbon source	Gen	A carbon pool (reservoir) can be a source of carbon to the atmosphere if less carbon is flowing into it than is flowing out of it. It is the opposite of a sink.
Carbon stock	Gen	The quantity of carbon in a carbon pool measured in metric tons per land unit
Carbon stock enhancement	UNFCCC	A component of a REDD Plus strategy that could include both the restoration/ improvement of existing but degraded forests and increase of forest cover through environmentally appropriate afforestation and reforestation.
Carbon trading or emission trading	Gen	A sale or purchase of 'permits' or 'allowances' (i.e. AAUs) to emit greenhouse gases (GHGs); or certificates that prove a certain reduction in emissions from a particular activity beyond what would otherwise have been the case (i.e. 'business as usual' emissions); or certificates that indicate a certain amount of actual emissions have been 'offset' somewhere else, through for example, carbon sequestration.

CBD		See Convention on Biological Diversity
CCBA		See Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance
CCX		See Chicago Climate Exchange
CDM		See Clean Development Mechanism
CDM Designated National Authority	UNFCCC KP	An appointed authority necessary for the implementation of CDM projects. The DNA issues the Letter of Approval (LoA) needed for registration of a project. A project will need both a host country approval as well as investor country approval.
CDM Designated Operational Entity (DOE)	UNFCCC KP	A domestic legal entity or an international organization accredited and designated by the CDM Executive Board. The DOE validates and requests registration of a proposed CDM projects activity and verifies emission reductions of a registered CDM project activity.
CER		See Certified Emission Reductions
Certification	VM	A phase in the certification process of a CDM or JI (Voluntary) project when permits are issued on the basis of calculated emissions reductions, verified by an accredited third party. Voluntary carbon market have rules for certification before carbon credits are issued.
Certified emission reductions (CERs)	UNFCCC KP	The technical term for the output of CDM projects. A CER is a unit of GHG reductions that has been generated and certified under the provisions of Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol, the Clean Development Mechanism. One CER equals one metric ton of carbon. Two special types of CERs can be issued for net emission removals from afforestation and reforestation CDM projects: (i) temporary certified emission reduction (tCERs); and (ii) long-term certified emission reductions (ICERs)
Chicago Climate Exchange (CCX)	VM	A voluntary exchanged based emissions market that stopped in 2010 due to inactivity in the U.S. carbon markets.
Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)	UNFCCC KP	A facility created under the Kyoto Protocol, which allow Annex I countries to finance emissions reducing projects in developing countries that are party to the Kyoto Protocol then to use the resulting 'certified emissions reductions' ('CERs') to offset their own emissions.
Climate change	Gen	Climate change means a change of climate, which is attributed directly or indirectly to human activity that alters the composition of the global atmosphere and which is in addition to natural climate variability observed over comparable time periods.
Climate change adaptation	Gen	Adaptation refers to adjustments in ecological, social, or economic systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli and their effects or impacts. It refers to changes in processes, practices, and structures to moderate potential damages or to benefit from opportunities associated with climate change.
Climate change mitigation	Gen	A range of policies and various economy-wide packages of policy instruments have been effective in reducing GHG emissions in different sectors such as the energy or the forest sector.
Climate projection	Gen	A projection of the response of the climate system to emission or concentration scenarios of greenhouse gases and aerosols, or radiative forcing scenarios, often based upon simulations by climate models. Climate projections are distinguished from climate predictions in order to emphasise that climate projections depend upon the emission/concentration/radiative forcing scenario used, which are based on assumptions concerning, for example, future socio-economic and technological developments that may or may not be realised and are therefore subject to substantial uncertainty.

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA)	VM	The CCBA is a unique partnership of leading international NGOs that was founded in 2003 with a mission to stimulate and promote land management activities that credibly mitigate global climate change, improve the well-being and reduce the poverty of local communities, and conserve biodiversity.
CO ₂ e		See Carbon Dioxide Equivalent
Coalition for Rainforest Nations	Gen	A voluntary grouping of developing nations with rainforests, which addresses issues surrounding environmental sustainability specific to tropical rainforests. Countries participate on a voluntarily basis primarily through unified negotiating positions, workshops and collaborative programmes. This group has played a major role in the UNFCCC negotiations on REDD+.
Co-benefits	UNFCCC	The benefits arising from REDD+ (other than reducing GHG emissions), such as alleviating poverty, protecting the environment, enhancing biodiversity, improving forest governance and protecting human rights. In UNFCCC decisions the term non-carbon benefits has been used covering the same benefits.
Commitment period	UNFCCC KP	The period of time in a regulatory greenhouse gas mitigation scheme during which countries are required to reduce emissions by a specific amount. The Kyoto Protocol 1st Commitment Period included the five years 2008 to 2012 and the 2nd Commitment Period the eight years 2013 to 2020.
Common reporting format	UNFCCC	The Common Reporting Format is a set of tables to be used by Annex I Parties when they report their GHG inventory to the UNFCCC. The CRF facilitate the review process and the comparability between Parties.
Community forestry	Gen	Community forestry is a forest management concept where a forest resource is managed collectively by local people, usually with timber and non-timber forest product extraction. This can happen under different tenure systems.
Compliance	UNFCCC KP	The achievement by a Party when it meets its quantified emissions limitation and reduction commitments under the Kyoto Protocol.
Compliance committee	UNFCCC KP	A committee that helps facilitate, promote, and enforce compliance with the provisions of the Kyoto Protocol. It has 20 members with representation spread among various regions, small-island developing states, Annex I parties and non-Annex I parties, and functions through a plenary, a bureau, a facilitative branch and an enforcement branch.
Compliance market	UNFCCC KP	The market for carbon credits used to reach emissions targets under a regulatory regime.
Conference of the Parties acting as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (COP/MOP)	UNFCCC KP	The supreme body of the Kyoto Protocol that meets annually for negotiations, in conjunction with the UNFCCC COP.
Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement	UNFCCC	The supreme body of the Paris Agreements that meets annually for negotiations, in conjunction with the UNFCCC COP.
Conference of the Parties (COP)	UNFCCC	The term used to describe the regular meeting of state parties to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. This is the body with authority to take decisions under the Convention.
Conservation	Gen	The preservation, management, and care of natural and cultural resources.

Conservation of forest carbon stocks	UNFCCC	One of the five activities included in REDD+ which aim to maintain carbon stocks in contrast to losing forest carbon through deforestation and forest degradation.
Controlled burning	Gen	Intentional and controlled fires in bush land or forest designed to prevent more intensive, uncontrolled forest or bushfires.
Convention on Biodiversity (CBD)	Gen	The Convention of Biological Diversity is a global agreement addressing all aspects of biological diversity: genetic resources, species, and ecosystems.
COP		See Conference of the Parties
COP/MOP		See Conference of the Parties acting as Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol
Corruption	Gen	The abuse of entrusted power for private gain.
Cost-benefit analysis	Gen	Monetary measurement of all negative and positive impacts associated with a given action. Costs and benefits are compared in terms of their difference and/or ratio as an indicator of how a given investment or other policy effort pays off seen from the society's point of view.
Countries with Economies in Transition	Gen	Central and East European countries and former republics of the Soviet Union in transition from state-controlled to market economies.
Country Approach to safeguards	UNFCCC	A country approach to safeguards allows a country to respond to international safeguard frameworks by building on existing governance arrangements that, combined with national policy goals, can be used to operationalize the Cancun safeguards.
Crown cover	Gen	The percentage of the surface of a land area that is covered by tree canopies. Also referred to as canopy cover' or just 'tree cover'.
Customary rights	Gen	Customary rights' to lands and resources refers to patterns of long-standing community land and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples' and local communities' customary laws, values, customs, and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to land and resources issued by the State.
Dead wood	Gen	The term used to describe all non-living woody biomass not contained in the litter, either standing, lying on the round, or in the soil. Dead wood includes wood lying on the surface, dead roots, and stumps larger than or equal to 10 cm in diameter or any other diameter used by the host country.
Deciduous	Gen	The term used to describe certain trees or shrubs that shed leaves annually or periodically. (not evergreen)
Defensible Methodological Approach	VM	A term used under a project approach where a 'Defensible' methodological approach follows good practice guidance that includes procedures for delineating the conditions under which the methodological approach can be applied: defining the project area; estimating any projected rates of land cover change in the without-project and with-project scenarios; conservatively estimating without project GHG emissions and removals; monitoring GHG emissions over the project lifetime; defining types of leakage potential caused by project activities; and conservatively estimating expected leakage emissions under the with-project scenario.
Deforestation	Gen	Conversion of forest to non-forest.
Designated National Authority (DNA)	UNFCCC KP	An office, ministry, or other official entity appointed by a Party to the Kyoto Protocol to review and give national approval to projects proposed under the Clean Development Mechanism.
Designated Operational Entity (DOE)	UNFCCC KP	A domestic legal entity or an international organization accredited and designated by the CDM Executive Board. The DOE validates and requests registration of a proposed CDM projects activity and verifies emission reductions of a registered CDM project activity.

Development Path or Pathway	Gen	An evolution based on an array of technological, economic, social, institutional, cultural, and biophysical characteristics that determine the interactions between natural and human systems, including production and consumption patterns in all countries, over time at a particular scale. Alternative development paths refer to different possible trajectories of development, the continuation of current trends being just one of the many paths.
Displacement	UNFCCC	When activities to reduce emissions from deforestation or forest degradation in one area shift the pressure to another area and increase emissions there. The same concept is called leakage when working with projects such as CDM projects.
DNA		See Designated National Authority
DOE		See Designated Operational Entity
Domestic funding	Gen	Funding reported by REDD+ countries that is spent in-country for REDD+.
Driver	Gen	Refers to both direct and indirect causes of deforestation and forest degradation. Expansion of the agricultural area is a direct driver of deforestation while the population growth is an indirect driver.
Ecosystem	Gen	The interactive system formed from all living organisms and their physical and chemical environment within a given area. Ecosystems cover a hierarchy of spatial scales and can comprise the entire globe, biomes at the continental scale or small, well-circumscribed systems such as a small pond.
Ecosystem degradation	Gen	A gradual or persistent process of loss of capacity of an ecosystem to provide ecosystem services.
Ecosystem rehabilitation	Gen	The practice of renewing and restoring degraded, damaged, or destroyed ecosystems and habitats in the environment by active human intervention and action.
Ecosystem services	Gen	The benefits people obtain from the environment. Ecosystem services are the transformation of natural assets including soil, plants and animals, air and water, into things that we value. They can be viewed as provisioning such as food and water; regulating, for example, flood and disease control; cultural such as spiritual, recreational, and cultural benefits; or supporting, like nutrient cycling, that maintain the conditions for life on earth.
Efficient	Gen	Is defined as achieving the target with minimum cost, effort and time.
EGTT		See Expert Group on Technology Transfer
Emission factor	Gen	An emission factor is the rate of emission per unit of activity, output or input. E.g. if a hectare of forest store 300 metric tons CO ₂ . This could be an emissions factor for deforestation if all carbon is emitted as CO ₂ following deforestation.
Emission permit	UNFCCC KP	An emission permit is a non-transferable or tradable entitlement allocated by a government to a legal entity (company or other emitter) to emit a specified amount of a substance. A tradable permit is an economic policy instrument under which rights to discharge pollution - in this case an amount of greenhouse gas emissions - can be exchanged through either a free or a controlled permit-market.
Emission quota	UNFCCC KP	Used interchangeable with the term emission permit
Emission reduction (ER)	Gen	A reduction in emissions normally measured in metric tons CO ₂ equivalent
Emission reduction purchase agreement (ERPA)	VM	A binding purchase agreement signed between buyers and sellers of carbon credits.
Emission sources	Gen	A source of greenhouse gas emissions.
Emission trading	UNFCCC KP	A number of emission trading systems exist such as the EU ETS where companies have been allocated emission permits they can sell and buy. Used to create a cap and trade system that generates a price on emissions.

Endemic species	Gen	Species with natural occurrence restricted to certain sites, regions or countries
Enhancement of forest carbon stocks	UNFCCC	One of the five activities included in REDD+, which aim to enhance forest carbon stocks that can be converted to CO ₂ removals and recognized as a REDD+ result.
Enrichment planting	Gen	The process by which trees are planted to increase the population density of existing tree species or increase tree species richness by adding tree species to a (usually) degraded forest.
Entry Into force	UNFCCC	The point at which an intergovernmental agreement becomes legally binding - The Paris Agreement shall enter into force on the thirtieth day after the date on which at least 55 Parties to the Convention accounting in total for at least an estimated 55 per cent of the total global greenhouse gas emissions have deposited their instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession.
Environmental services	Gen	Environmental services are services provided by ecosystems – in some cases subject to payments for environmental services (PES). ²
Environmentally sustainable technologies	Gen	Technologies that are less polluting, use resources in a more sustainable manner, recycle more of their wastes and products, and handle residual wastes in a more acceptable manner than the technologies that they substitute. They are also more compatible with nationally determined socio-economic, cultural and environmental priorities.
Equity and equitable	Gen	Are defined as just, impartial and fair to all parties.
ER		See Emission Reductions
ERPA		See Emission Reduction Purchase Agreement
European Union allowances (EUA)	UNFCCC KP	The tradable allowance unit under the European Union Emissions Trading Scheme (EU-ETS).
European Union Emission Trading Scheme (-EUETS)	UNFCCC KP	The Trading Scheme within the European Union.
Evergreen	Gen	A plant that retains green foliage throughout the year.
Ex-ante accounting	VM	A method of accounting for emissions reductions in which money is given up-front for the guarantee that a given activity will be carried out and emissions reductions will occur in the future.
Ex-ante crediting	VM	The issuance of credits in expectation of future emission reductions (not eligible under Kyoto).
Expert Group on Technology Transfer (EGTT)	UNFCCC	An expert group established at COP 7 with the objective of enhancing the implementation of Article 4.5 of the Convention, by analysing and identifying ways to facilitate and advance technology transfer activities under the Convention. The EGTT completed its work in 2010.
Expert Review Teams	UNFCCC	Groups of experts, nominated by Parties, who review national reports submitted by Annex I Parties to the UNFCCC and the Kyoto Protocol.
Ex-post crediting	VM	The issuance of credits after independent verification of emission reductions.
FAO forest definition	Gen	Land with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10 per cent and area of more than 0.5 hectares (ha). The trees should be able to reach a minimum height of 5 meters (m) at maturity in situ. Includes areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest.
Fast-start finance	UNFCCC	At COP 15 in Copenhagen in 2009, developed countries pledged to provide new and additional resources, including forestry and investments, approaching USD 30 billion for the period 2010 - 2012 and with balanced allocation between mitigation and adaptation. This collective commitment has come to be known as "Fast-start Finance".

Financial mechanisms for the UNFCCC	UNFCCC	The Green Climate Fund (GCF) is the financial mechanism for the UNFCCC established at COP16 in 2010. The Global Environment Facility (GEF) is also financing mechanism for the UNFCCC as well for the CBD, UNCCD and a number of other environmental agreements. The GEF was established in 1991.
Food security	Gen	Having access to sufficient, safe, nutritious food to maintain a healthy and active life.
Forest biomass	Gen	Forest biomass is the sum of the biomass in the five carbon pools.
Forest carbon	Gen	Forest carbon generally refers to the carbon stored in forests; usually in reference to climate change mitigation actions, which aim to increase carbon sequestration in or decrease carbon dioxide emissions from forests.
Forest carbon stock	Gen	The quantity of carbon held within a forested area at a specified time. An increase in forest carbon stocks means the forest is removing CO ₂ from the atmosphere and a decrease in forest carbon stocks means the forest is emitting CO ₂ to the atmosphere.
Forest degradation	Gen	The term used to describe the condition of a forest that has been reduced in its natural capacity for providing goods and services, but not below the threshold of the forest definition of the country. In the context of climate change this often refers only to reduction in forest carbon stocks.
Forest dynamics	Gen	Describes the underlying physical and biological forces that shape and change a forest over time, or the continuous state of change that alters the composition and structure of a forest. Two basic elements of forest dynamics are forest succession and forest disturbance.
Forest fragmentation	Gen	Forest fragmentation occurs when deforestation is splitting a larger forest area up in smaller areas, which often make the remaining forest plots more vulnerable to degrading activities and reduce the value of the forest for animals that require larger forest areas for their habitat.
Forest management	Gen	A branch of forestry concerned with scientifically sound interventions in forests based on planned activities and long-term objectives (or sustainable management, as opposed to purely extractive logging). In the context of climate change, this is usually in order to maintain or enhance carbon stocks in forests..
Forest reference emission levels/forest reference levels	UNFCCC	Are the benchmarks for assessing country's performance expressed in metric tons of CO ₂ e/year. FREL is generally used for emissions and FRL is used for removals.
Forest transition curve	Gen	Forest transition refers to a theory which describes the development of land use changes from forest to non-forest and partly back to forests again over time usually at national scale. These changes over space and time in forest cover of a country are often expressed as a forest transition curve. The drivers behind forest transitions are economic, technological and demographic trends as well as changes in political and social conditions in countries.
FPIC		See Free, prior and informed consent
Fragmentation	Gen	The transformation of a contiguous patch of forest into several smaller, disjointed patches surrounded by other land uses.
Free, prior and informed consent	UNFCCC	The principle that a smallholder or community has the right to give or withhold their consent to proposed projects that may affect the land they own, occupy or otherwise use.
Frontier	Gen	A regional forest landscape configuration where humans and their infrastructure are encroaching into areas with relatively little human activity.

Frontier Deforestation	VM	That which is predicted to occur at some point during a project crediting period in an area with historically low deforestation rates but the potential for future incursion, settlement and/or infrastructure development.
Full and effective participation	UNFCCC	Meaningful influence of all relevant rights holder and stakeholder groups throughout the process.
Fungible or fungibility	Gen	Being of such a nature that one part or quantity may be replaced by another equal part or quantity in the satisfaction of an obligation. The fungibility of a metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO ₂ e) for an example allows for the use of various types of gas i.e., methane. Fungibility can also allow for the possibility to exchange, or use interchangeably, different types of reduction credits achieved under different mechanism (e.g. CERs for AAUs).
G20		See Group of Twenty
G77		See Group of 77 and China
GCF		See Green Climate Fund
GEF		See Global Environment Facility
Gender responsive	Gen	Is to understand and give consideration to socio-cultural norms and discriminations in order to acknowledge the different rights, roles & responsibilities of women and men in the community and the relationships between them. Gender sensitive policy, program, administrative and financial activities, and organizational procedures will: differentiate between the capacities, needs and priorities of women and men; ensure that the views and ideas of both women and men are taken seriously; consider the implications of decisions on the situation of women relative to men; and take actions to address inequalities or imbalance between women and men.
Geographic Positioning System (GPS)	Gen	A handheld or vehicle mounted system that uses satellite communications to determine the geographical position and other navigational information.
GHGs		See Greenhouse Gases
Global Environment Facility (GEF)	UNFCCC	The GEF is a multilateral facility established in 1991 that provides grants to developing countries for projects that address a variety of environmental problems. The GEF is also the formally designated financial mechanism for several multilateral agreements, including the UNFCCC.
Global warming	Gen	The progressive gradual rise of the Earth's average surface temperature.
Global warming potential (GWP)	Gen	An index, describing the radiative characteristics of well-mixed greenhouse gases, that represents the combined effect of the differing times these gases remain in the atmosphere and their relative effectiveness in absorbing outgoing infrared radiation.
Good governance	Gen	In land use it refers to a governance system characterized by the fulfilment of minimum standards of accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, fairness/equity, participation and transparency as defined by different international bodies or organisations (World Bank, Chatham House).
Governance	Gen	Governance is generally described to encompass the interaction of laws and other norms, institutions, and processes in a society; how decisions are being made; as well as how and if responsible actors or decision-makers are held to account (if at all).
GPP		See Gross Primary Productivity
GPS		See Geographic Positioning System

Grandfathering	Gen	An allocation method by which the government gives allowances to entities based on their historic production, emission or consumption levels. (These allowances are allocated for free and are not sold.)
Green Climate Fund (GCF)	UNFCCC	At COP 16 in Cancun in 2010, Governments established a Green Climate Fund as an operating entity of the financial mechanism of the Convention under Article 11. The GCF will support projects, programmes, policies and other activities in developing country Parties. The Fund will be governed by the GCF Board.
Greenhouse gas (GHG)	Gen	The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change. The major GHGs are carbon dioxide (CO ₂), methane (CH ₄) and nitrous oxide (N ₂ O). Less prevalent - but very powerful - greenhouse gases are hydro fluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs) and sulphur hexafluoride (SF ₆).
Greenhouse effect	Gen	The process by which greenhouse gases in the earth's atmosphere absorb infrared radiation from the sun, reflect some of it back into space and emit some of it towards the earth. This natural process provides for relatively stable and mild temperatures on earth and in the atmosphere. However, human activity can change the concentration of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, which can amplify the greenhouse effect.
Grievance redress mechanism (GRM)	Gen	A process for receiving, hearing, responding to and attempting to resolve Grievances within a reasonable time period.
GRM		See Grievance Redress Mechanism
Gross primary productivity (GPP)	Gen	Gross primary productivity is the amount of carbon fixed during photosynthesis by all producers in the ecosystem. However, a large part of the energy is used up by the metabolic processes of the producers (respiration). The amount of fixed carbon not used by plants is called net primary productivity.
Group of 77 (G-77) and China	UNFCCC	A large negotiating alliance of developing countries that focuses on numerous international topics, including climate change. The G-77 was founded in 1967 under the auspices of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD). It seeks to harmonize the negotiating positions of its 131 member states.
Group of Eight (G8)	Gen	Group of Eight. The G8 is a forum of the largest industrialized economies. Members are Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, the United States, and Russia, which joined in 1998, after several years of informal participation. While the G8 was founded to address economic issues, it has increasingly focused on climate change policy and other matters over the last several years. Russia's membership is suspended at the moment.
Group of Twenty (G20)	Gen	Group of Twenty. The G20 includes the G8 members and major emerging market countries, providing a forum for finance ministers and central bank governors to address international finance issues.
GWP		See Global Warming Potential
Harvested wood products	UNFCCC	HWP includes all wood material (including bark) that leaves harvest sites. HWP constitutes a carbon reservoir. The time carbon is held in products will vary depending on the product and its uses. Many types of paper are likely to have a use life in uses less than 5 years, which may include recycling of paper; and sawn wood or panels used in buildings may be held for decades to over 100 years.
HFLD		See High Forest cover and Low Deforestation
High conservation values area	Gen	A natural habitat with conservation values considered being of outstanding significance or critical importance, requiring appropriate management for its maintenance.
High forest cover and low deforestation	Gen	A developing country with more than 50% forest cover and a deforestation rate below 0.22% per year is considered to fall into the High Forest cover, Low

		Deforestation category.
Hot air	UNFCCC	Excess emission allowances that have been allocated but do not reflect realistic baseline emissions (emission reductions not additional) because of an economic collapse or declined production for reasons not directly related to efforts to curb emissions (e.g. in Eastern European Countries around 1990).
Human rights	Gen	Are the fundamental rights and freedoms that belong to every person in the world, based on core principles like dignity, fairness, equality, respect and autonomy, including but not limited to the rights enshrined in relevant international treaties, conventions and other instruments.
IFM		See Improved Forest Management
Implementation costs	Gen	In addition to opportunity costs, there are also costs involved in implementing a REDD+ programme. These are the costs directly associated with actions to reduce deforestation, and hence emissions. Examples include the costs of: guarding a forest to prevent illegal logging, replanting trees in degraded or logged forests, relocating timber harvesting activities away from natural forests to degraded, forests scheduled for reforestation, etc.
Improved forest management (IFM)	VM	Forest management activities that result in increased carbon stocks within forests and/or reduce GHG emissions from forestry activities when compared to business as usual forestry practices (e.g. reduced impact logging)
INDC		See Intended Nationally Determined Contribution
Independent assessment report	UNFCCC	Independent Assessment Report, the output of an independent assessment of each Annex I Party's International Transaction Log, which in turn is part of the Party's reporting requirements to the UNFCCC. IAR is forwarded to expert review teams for consideration as part of the review of national registries under Article 8 of the Kyoto Protocol. The procedure to produce the IAR is designed to provide independent assessment of each national registry.
In-depth review	UNFCCC	A process by which an Annex I Party's implementation of the Convention and/or the Kyoto Protocol is technically assessed by international teams of experts.
Indicators	Gen	Agreed list of quantitative markers for monitoring progress towards desired goals and targets. The CCB Standards include indicators under each criterion that third-party auditors must use to determine whether the project in question satisfies the established standards.
Indigenous peoples	Gen	No internationally accepted definition of indigenous peoples exists. Common characteristics often applied under international law, and by United Nations agencies to distinguish indigenous peoples include: residence within or attachment to geographically distinct traditional habitats, ancestral territories, and their natural resources; maintenance of cultural and social identities, and social, economic, cultural and political institutions separate from mainstream or dominant societies and cultures; descent from population groups present in a given area, most frequently before modern states or territories were created and current borders defined; and self-identification as being part of a distinct indigenous cultural group, and the desire to preserve that cultural identity.
Informal contact group	UNFCCC	A group of delegates instructed by the President or a Chair to meet informally to discuss a specific matter in an effort to consolidate different views, reach a compromise, and produce an agreed proposal, often in the form of a written text.
Intended nationally determined contributions (INDC)	UNFCCC	At COP20 in Lima it was decided that each country should submit an INDC covering the contribution towards achieving the objective of the Convention as set out in its Article 2, including how the Party considers that its INDC is fair and ambitious, in light of its national circumstances. An INDC can also include an adaptation component.

Intensive agriculture	Gen	An agricultural system with high productivity per unit area. Intensive agricultural systems also frequently have high input requirements per unit area, relying upon the use of mechanization, fertilizers, and agrochemicals.
Intergovernmental negotiating committee for the UNFCCC	UNFCCC	Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee for the UNFCCC (1990-1995). A committee created to draft the Convention. The INC met in five sessions between February 1991 and May 1992. After the text of the Convention was adopted in 1992, the INC met six further times to prepare for COP-1. It completed its work in February 1995.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	Gen	Established in 1988 as a special body by the UN Environment Programme and the World Meteorological Organization to provide assessments to policymakers of the results of on-going climate change research. The IPCC is responsible for providing the scientific and technical foundation for the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, primarily through the publication of periodic assessment reports (see 'Second Assessment Report' and 'Third Assessment Report'). http://www.ipcc.ch/
International consultation and analysis	UNFCCC	A process organized by the UNFCCC secretariat to conduct a technical analysis of the BUR by a team of technical experts and a facilitative sharing of views among Parties. The will result in a summary report and a record of the facilitative sharing of views.
International emissions trading (IET)	UNFCCC KP	Established by Article 17 of the Kyoto Protocol. Countries with Annex B commitments can participate in IET. See also "cap and trade."
Invasive species	Gen	Defined as non-native species that threaten ecosystems, habitats or species in a specified area as identified in the Global Invasive Species Database: http://www.issg.org/database , from scientific literature, and from local knowledge.
IPCC		See Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU	UNFCCC	The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2006 Guidelines for National GHG Inventories for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use, Volume 4: http://www.ipccnggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/vol4.html .
JI		See Joint Implementation
JISC		See Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee
JLG		See Joint Liaison Group
Joint implementation mechanism (JI)	UNFCCC KP	A facility created under the Kyoto Protocol, which allows an Annex I party to fund and/or run a project to reduce emissions in another Annex I party. The funding country can then apply the emissions reductions generated to help it to meet its own emissions target under the Kyoto Protocol (as opposed to projects located in non-Annex I countries as in the CDM).
Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC)	UNFCCC KP	The Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC), under the authority and guidance of the CMP, inter alia, supervises the verification procedure for Joint Implementation projects.
Joint Liaison Group (JLG)	UNFCCC	Group of representatives of UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD Secretariats set up to explore common activities to confront problems related to climate change, biodiversity and desertification.
Kyoto Protocol	UNFCCC KP	A subsidiary agreement to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change that was signed at COP-3 to the UNFCCC in Kyoto, Japan, December 1997. It specifies emission obligations for the Annex-B countries and defines the three so-called Kyoto mechanisms (or "flexible mechanisms") JI, CDM and emissions trading. It entered into force in 2005.
Land rent	Gen	An economic term defined as the total net revenue or benefits received from a parcel of land.

Land tenure	Gen	The relationship, whether legally or customarily defined, through which people, as individuals or groups, own or hold rights to use land.
Land Use, land Use Change and Forestry (LULUCF)	UNFCCC	This is one of six sectors in countries GHG inventories. It is further divided into six land use categories (forest land, cropland, grassland, wetlands, settlements and other lands).
Landscape	Gen	Landscape comprises the visible features of an area of land, including the physical elements of landforms such as (ice-capped) mountains, hills, water bodies such as rivers, lakes, ponds and the sea, living elements of land cover including indigenous vegetation, human elements including different forms of land use, buildings and structures, and transitory elements such as lighting and weather conditions.
LDCF		See Least Developed Countries Fund
LDCs		See Least Developed Countries
Leakage	Gen	The unexpected loss of anticipated carbon benefits due to the displacement of activities in the project area to areas outside the project, resulting in carbon emissions. Leakage can negate some or all of the carbon benefits generated by a project. Although not often acknowledged, leakage can also be positive, if best practices are adopted outside of the project area and gain widespread use, e.g. the displacement of logging due to forest conservation activities.
Least Developed Countries (LDCs)	Gen	The world's poorest countries. The criteria currently used by the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) for designation as an LDC includes low income, human resource weakness and economic vulnerability. Currently 48 countries have been designated by the UN General Assembly as LDCs.
Least Developed Countries Expert Group (LEG)	UNFCCC	The LEG was established in 2001. The LEG is requested by the COP to provide technical support and advice to the least developed countries (LDCs) on the national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs) and the LDC work programme, and to provide technical guidance and support to the national adaptation plan (NAP) process.
Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF)	UNFCCC	The LDCF is a fund established to support a work programme to assist Least Developed Country Parties to carry out, inter alia, the preparation and implementation of national adaptation programmes of action (NAPAs). The Global Environment Facility, as the entity that operates the financial mechanism of the Convention, has been entrusted to operate this fund.
LEG		See Least Developed Countries Expert Group
Litter	Gen	Forest carbon pool that includes the detritus, leaves, small dead biomass lying on the ground, and humus layers of the soil surface.
Loss and damage	UNFCCC	At COP19 in Warsaw the Warsaw International Mechanism for Loss and Damage associated with Climate Change Impacts (Loss and Damage Mechanism) was established, to address loss and damage associated with impacts of climate change, including extreme events and slow onset events, in developing countries that are particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change.
LULUCF		See Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
Market leakage	Gen	An increase in GHG emissions when a project changes the supply and demand equilibrium, causing other market actors to shift their activities. For example, if a large forest conservation project reduces the local timber supply so that demand is unmet, this may increase prices and pressures on forests elsewhere. See "Leakage".
Marrakesh Accords	UNFCCC KP	Agreements reached at COP-7 in 2001 that set rules for implementing the more detailed provisions of the Kyoto Protocol. Among other things, the accords include rules for establishing a greenhouse gas emissions trading system; implementing and monitoring the CDM; and setting up and operating three funds to support efforts to adapt to climate change.

Mature (Climax) forest	Gen	A mature or climax forest is an undisturbed, stable, forest that reaches maximum development in terms of structure and species composition, determined by soil and climatic conditions.
Mature (Climax) tree species	Gen	Mature or Climax Tree Species are tree species composing a mature (climax) forest, with shade tolerant seedlings.
Measurement, reporting and verification – MRV	UNFCCC	The collection of data and information at a national (or sub-national) level, and performance of the necessary calculations for estimating emission reductions or enhancement of carbon stocks and associated uncertainties against a reference level.
Meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (MOP)	UNFCCC KP	The supreme body of the Kyoto Protocol that meets annually for negotiations, in conjunction with the UNFCCC COP.
Methodology	Gen	A detailed approach to determining a project baseline, greenhouse gas sources and sinks, specific additionality tests and planned monitoring processes under a standard, specific to the particular project type and circumstance.
Mitigation	UNFCCC	The term used to describe any action seeking to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by human-related activities. Such actions might include reducing our use of fossil fuels and changing the way we use land - such as by reducing our rate of land clearing and deforestation, and increasing our rate of reforestation.
Mitigation potential	UNFCCC	In the context of climate change mitigation, the mitigation potential is the amount of mitigation that could be – but is not yet – realised over time. The IPCC Assessment Report Working Group 3 provides estimates on technical and economic mitigation potential, often expressed as million metric tons carbon- or CO ₂ -equivalent of avoided emissions, compared with baseline emissions
Monitoring	Gen	The collection and archiving of all relevant data necessary for measuring of anthropogenic emissions by sources (or sinks) of greenhouse gases (GHG) within a national or project boundary (and leakage of emissions if at project level).
Montreal Protocol	Gen	The Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, an international agreement adopted in Montreal in 1987.
MOP		See Meeting of the Parties
Mosaic	Gen	A regional forest landscape configuration where human populations and associated agricultural activities and infrastructure (roads, towns, etc.) are spread out across the landscape and most areas of forest within such a configured region or country are accessible.
Mosaic deforestation	Gen	Mosaic deforestation occurs where population pressure and local land use practices produce a patchwork of cleared lands, where forests are accessible and where the agents of deforestation and degradation typically are present within the region containing the area to be protected.
MRV		See Measurement, Reporting and Verification
Multiple benefits	UNFCCC	When REDD+ prevents the loss or degradation of forest, this will result in multiple benefits in addition to protecting or enhancing carbon stocks. These include ‘ecosystem-based benefits’ are also called co-benefits or non-carbon benefits and include conservation of forest biodiversity, water regulation, soil conservation, timber, forest foods and other non-timber forest products.
NAMA		See National Appropriate Mitigation Action
NAPA		See National Adaptation Programmes of Actions
National adaptation programmes of actions (NAPAs)	UNFCCC	Process for the LDCs to identify priority activities that respond to their urgent and immediate needs with regard to adaptation to climate change - those needs for which further delay could increase vulnerability or lead to increased costs at a later stage.

National communication	UNFCCC	A document submitted in accordance with the Convention (and the Protocol) by which a Party informs other Parties of activities undertaken to address climate change. Most developed countries have now submitted their sixth national communications; most developing countries have completed their second national communication and are in the process of preparing their third.
National forest monitoring system	UNFCCC	This is one of the four elements REDD+ countries are requested to develop following the Cancun Agreement. The system should provide data and information that are transparent, consistent over time, and suitable for measuring, reporting and verifying anthropogenic forest related emissions by sources and removals by sinks. Decision 11/CP.19 provide further guidance, among others
National greenhouse gas inventory	UNFCCC	The national inventory is prepared according to the framework of rules supporting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Kyoto Protocol. All parties to these agreements must use the UNFCCC Reporting Guidelines on Annual Inventories and the supplementary reporting requirements under the Kyoto Protocol to prepare their national inventories. These guidelines establish standardised reporting formats and require detailed information on all aspects of each party's National Inventory System, including measurement systems, data collection systems, estimation methodologies, reporting and data management.
National REDD+ strategy (NRS)	UNFCCC	This is one of the four elements REDD+ countries are requested to develop following the Cancun Agreement. Countries are requested to address, inter alia, the drivers of deforestation and forest degradation, land tenure issues, forest governance issues, gender considerations and the safeguards, ensuring the full and effective participation of relevant stakeholders, inter alia indigenous peoples and local communities.
Nationally appropriate mitigation actions (NAMAs)	UNFCCC	From 2009, the climate change negotiations opened up an unprecedented opportunity for all developing countries to join global efforts to contribute towards reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Developing countries agreed to craft Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMAs) that are in line with their national development objectives. Through NAMAs, developing countries aim to reduce their emissions below business as usual by 2020.
Native or natural forests	Gen	A forest composed of indigenous trees not established by planting or/and seeding in the process of afforestation or reforestation.
Natural regeneration	Gen	The recovery of a forest following disturbance (natural or human-induced) or planned management activities which make use of natural dynamics as part of silvicultural systems within a long term sustainable management concept.
Nested approach	Gen	An approach to include project based REDD+ into jurisdictional or national REDD+ implementation. Nested approach include the following elements: a clear national reference emission level, defined sub-national reference regions (non-overlapping areas that cover the entire land mass of the country designated based on common drivers of deforestation and political jurisdictions), and, in some cases, nested projects whose reference emission levels add up to the reference region and hence the national reference emission level.
Net primary productivity (NPP)	Gen	The amount of carbon retained in an ecosystem (increase in biomass); it is equal to the difference between the amount of carbon produced through photosynthesis (GPP) and the amount of energy that is used for respiration (R).
NGOs		See Non-governmental Organization
Non timber forest products (NTFP's)	Gen	Any product or service other than timber that is produced in forests. They include fruits and nuts, vegetables, fish and game, medicinal plants, resins, essences and a range of barks and fibres such as bamboo, rattans, and a host of other palms and grasses.

Non-Annex I Parties/Countries or Non-Annex B countries	UNFCCC	Parties, mostly developing nations that have ratified or acceded to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and are not included in Annex I of the Kyoto Protocol.
Non-governmental organizations (NGOs)	Gen	A non-governmental organization (NGO) is an organization that is neither a part of a government nor a conventional for-profit business.
Non-native species	Gen	Species occurring outside their natural range, whether accidentally or intentionally introduced. Sometimes also called exotic species.
No-regrets options	UNFCCC	Technology for reducing greenhouse gas emissions whose other benefits (in terms of efficiency or reduced energy costs) are so extensive that the investment is worth it for those reasons alone. An example could be energy savings that could have direct economic benefit.
NPP		See Net Primary Productivity
NRS		See National REDD+ Strategy
NTFPs		See Non Timber Forest Products
Opportunity costs	Gen	REDD+ opportunity costs are the difference in net earnings from conserving or enhancing forests versus converting them to other, typically more valuable, land uses
PAMs		See Policies and Measures
Party	UNFCCC	A state (or regional economic integration organization such as the European Union) that agrees to be bound by a treaty and for which the treaty has entered into force.
Payments for environmental (ecosystem) services (PES)	Gen	The voluntary payment by a (minimum one) buyer to a (minimum one) provider to “buy” an environmental service (or a land use likely to secure that service), if, and only if the provider secures the environmental service.
PDD		See Project Design Document
Peatland (Peat swamp Forests)	Gen	Forests where waterlogged soils prevent dead leaves and wood from fully decomposing, which over time creates thick layers of acidic peat (organic matter).
Performance target	Gen	The level that an indicator must reach, or an outcome or activity that must be completed by participants to trigger payment or other benefits being provided.
Permanence	Gen	A key pre-requisite for the credibility of any carbon sequestration activity, particularly tree planting; that it have in place safeguards to cover the possibility that carbon removed from the atmosphere may be released in the future, for example, due to fire, disease or logging. In practice, ongoing verification of planted trees must take place where carbon offset credits have been generated for those carbon reductions.
PES		See Payment for Ecosystem/ Environmental Services
PES agreement	Gen	A contract made between a project coordinator with a smallholder or community group, providing the basis for the transaction of climate and other ecosystem services, and specifying rights and responsibilities of the parties over a specified duration.
PES period	Gen	The time period over which participants receive payments or other benefits and are monitored against performance targets under their PES agreements
Photosynthesis	Gen	The process by which plants take carbon dioxide from the air to build carbohydrates, releasing oxygen in the process.
PIN		See Project Idea Note
Pioneer species	Gen	Species with the ability to colonize bare or disturbed land, usually leading to ecological succession. Since bare land may have thin, poor quality soils with few nutrients, pioneer species are often plants with adaptations such as long roots and root nodes containing nitrogen-fixing bacteria, and tend to grow well in open high-light environments.

Plan vivo	VM	Plan Vivo is a registered Scottish charity which has created a set of requirements for smallholder and communities wishing to manage their land sustainably. Plan Vivo works with a standard for Payments for Ecosystem Services (PES) and recognises five eligible activities for generating Plan Vivo certificates: afforestation, agroforestry, forest conservation, restoration and avoided deforestation. Communities participating in Plan Vivo can access funding from the voluntary carbon market and other sources of funding through selling Plan Vivo certificates.
Planned adaptation	VM	Adaptation that is the result of a deliberate policy decision, based on an awareness that conditions have changed or are about to change and that action is required to return to, maintain, or achieve a desired state.
Planned deforestation	VM	Planned deforestation can encompass a wide variety of activities such as: national resettlement programs, conversion of forestland to industrial-scale production of commodities such as soybeans, oil palm; urban, rural, and infrastructure development. This could include decisions by individual land owners or community groups, whose land is legally zoned for agriculture, to convert their forest(s) to crop production or biofuel plantations. These planned deforestation activities would be outlined in land planning or management documents, and could therefore be readily verified under the VCS. See unplanned Deforestation.
PLR		See Policies laws and regulations
Policies and measures - PAMs	UNFCCC	In REDD+, PAMs are nationally enacted policies and actions that countries undertake to reduce emissions or increase removals.
Policies, laws and regulations (PLR)	UNFCCC	In the context of REDD+ PLRs is often referred to as the policies, laws and regulations in place to ensure that the REDD+ safeguards are being addressed ☒
Precautionary principle	Gen	Is defined in the Preamble to the Convention on Biological Diversity (1992): '[W]here there is a threat of significant reduction or loss of biological diversity, lack of full scientific certainty should not be used as a reason for postponing measures to avoid or minimize such a threat.'
Primary forest	Gen	See Mature (climax) forest.
Principle of conservativeness	UNFCCC	Justification for intentionally underestimating emissions reductions or removals increases to reduce the risk of overestimation of the climate benefit. The principle is applied when MRV cannot completely, accurately and precisely measure, report and verify emissions or removals.
Project area	VM	The land area in which project activities aim to demonstrate net climate benefits.
Project crediting	VM	The period of time for which net GHG emissions reductions or removals will be verified, which under the VCS is equivalent to the project lifetime.
Project crediting period	VM	Project crediting involves the issuing of credits to an emissions reduction project, e.g. a CDM project.
Project description (PD) and project design document (PDD)	VM	The document(s) that describe the design of a project and the ways in which it meets each of the requirements of the CCB Standards.
Project GHG accounting period	VM	The time period over which changes in GHG emissions reductions and/or removals resulting from project activities are monitored for use as offsets.
Project idea note (PIN)	VM	A short project description (about 6 pages) that provides basic information about the project such as type, size and location of the project; estimation of the anticipated total amount of Greenhouse Gas (GHG) reductions compared to the "business-as-usual" scenario, etc.
Project intervention	VM	A specific land use system implemented as part of the project that is expected to provide climate benefits, such as reforestation, or avoided deforestation.

Project intervention area	VM	The area of land where specified project interventions are carried out.
Project lifetime	VM	The time period over which project activities will be implemented.
Project proponents	VM	The entities or individuals organizing, proposing or advocating a particular carbon offset project. The project proponents could be the project designer(s), developer(s) and/or investor(s), or other parties working on behalf of the project.
Project start date	VM	For the purposes of the CCB Standards the 'start of the project' is defined as the start of implementation of activities that will directly cause the project's expected GHG emissions reductions or removals.
Property rights and property rights holders	Gen	'Property Rights' are defined as statutory and customary tenure/use/access/management rights to lands, territories and resources and 'Property Rights Holders' are the entities that have individual or collective Property Rights.
Protected area	Gen	An area of land and/or sea especially dedicated to the protection and maintenance of biological diversity, and of natural and associated cultural resources, and managed through legal or other effective means.
Quantified emissions limitation and reduction commitments (QELROs)	UNFCCC KP	Legally binding targets and timetables under the Kyoto Protocol for the limitation or reduction of greenhouse gas emissions by developed countries.
Readiness	UNFCCC	Country actions in order to establish the required four building blocks for REDD+ (REDD+ strategy, FREL, NFMS and SIS), including capacity building, policy design, consultation and consensus building, and testing and evaluation of a REDD+ national strategy, prior to a comprehensive REDD+ implementation.
REDD plus social & environmental standards	VM	An initiative used to provide a comprehensive framework of key issues to address with respect to the social and environmental performance of a REDD+ program. The standards provide guidance to assist with REDD+ design and also provide a mechanism for reporting on the social and environmental performance of REDD+ programs.
REDD-plus (or REDD +	UNFCCC	The extra consideration in reducing greenhouse emissions beyond deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) being given to sustainable forest management and afforestation/reforestation in developing countries.
REDD+ activity	UNFCCC	The scope of REDD+ includes five recognised REDD+ activities: reducing emissions from deforestation, reducing emissions from forest degradation, conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests and enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
REDD+ design elements	UNFCCC	REDD+ Design elements is the four elements countries are requested to develop according to the Cancun Agreements: a national strategy or action plan, a national forest reference emission level and/or forest reference level, a robust and transparent national forest monitoring system and a system for providing information on how the safeguards are being addressed and respected.

REDD+ partnership	UNFCCC	A voluntary and interim platform for country partners, with the core objective to contribute to the global battle against climate change by serving as an interim platform for the Partners to scale up REDD+ actions and finance, and to that end to take immediate action, including improving the effectiveness, efficiency, transparency and coordination of REDD+ initiatives and financial instruments, to facilitate among other things knowledge transfer, capacity enhancement, mitigation actions and technology development and transfer. The Partnership closed in 2013 by COP19 in Warsaw.
Reduced impact logging	Gen	Logging techniques that result in significantly less damage to the surrounding forest and forest ecosystem. Examples of RIL include directional felling, trimming of inter-crown vines, and careful road planning.
Reducing emissions from deforestation & forest degradation (REDD)	Gen	An initiative to cut greenhouse gas emissions associated with forest clearing by the inclusion of "avoided deforestation" in carbon market mechanisms. More simply, payment in return for the active preservation of existing forests.
Reference area	VM	As pertaining to a forest carbon project, a larger area with similar conditions, agents and drivers used for comparison over time.
Reference scenarios	VM	Please refer to "Baseline Scenario."
Reforestation	Gen	Reforestation is the direct human-induced conversion of non-forested land to forested land through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources, on land that was forested but that has been converted to non-forested land.
Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative (RGGI)	VM	A cap-and-trade scheme introduced in ten US Northeast and Mid-Atlantic states, beginning in 2009.
Remote sensing	Gen	A method of measuring deforestation and/or forest degradation by a recording device that is not in physical contact with the forest, such as a satellite.
Removals	Gen	This is the opposite of an emission of greenhouse gas and occurs when greenhouse gases are removed from the atmosphere, for example, by trees during the process of photosynthesis.
Reservoirs	Gen	A component or components of the climate system where a greenhouse gas or a precursor of a greenhouse gas is stored. Trees are "reservoirs" for carbon dioxide.
Resilience	Gen	The capacity of a system to absorb disturbance and reorganize while undergoing change so as to retain essentially the same function, structure, and ecosystem services.
Respecting safeguards	UNFCCC	Respecting safeguards is commonly understood as the meaning how the PLR in place to address the safeguards are being respected in practice.
Respiration	Gen	The process by which animals and plants use up stored foods (mostly complex carbohydrates) by combustion with oxygen to produce energy for body maintenance.
Reversals	UNFCCC	Re-emission of previously accounted removals, such as when an afforestation projects has generated carbon credits and then the carbon is re-emitted due to a disturbance by natural phenomena or human intervention.
Review of commitments	UNFCCC	Regular scrutiny by Convention Parties of the adequacy of the treaty's Article 4.2 (a) and (b) outlining developed country commitments to limit greenhouse gas emissions.
RGGI		See Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
Rights holders	Gen	Those whose rights are potentially affected by the REDD+ program, including holders of individual rights and Indigenous Peoples and others who hold collective rights.
RIL		See Reduced Impact Logging

Rio conventions	UNFCCC	Three environmental conventions, two of which were adopted at the 1992 "Earth Summit" in Rio de Janeiro: The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), and the Convention on Biodiversity (CBD), while the third, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD), was adopted in 1994. The issues addressed by the three treaties are related -- in particular, climate change can have adverse effects on desertification and biodiversity -- and through a Joint Liaison Group, the secretariats of the three conventions take steps to coordinate activities to achieve common progress.
Rio+20	UNFCCC	The United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil in 2012 20 years after the first UN Conference on Sustainable Development was the "Earth Summit", held in 1992, and it spawned the three "Rio Conventions"-- the UNFCCC, the UNCCD, and the UNCBD.
Risk buffer	VM	A reserve of climate services generated by Plan Vivo projects but not eligible to be sold as Plan Vivo Certificates, to protect against unexpected losses of carbon stocks or increases of emissions.
Risk classification (or class)	VM	Under the VCS, one of four categories (low, medium, high, or unacceptably high/fail) representing the general level of non-permanence risk associated with a given project.
Roster of experts	UNFCCC	Experts nominated by Parties to the Climate Change Convention to aid the Secretariat in work related to review of national reports of Annex I Parties, preparation of reports on adaptation technology, the transfer of technology to developing countries, and the development of know-how on mitigating and adapting to climate change.
R-package	Gen	The Readiness package (or R-Package) is produced by countries at the end of the first phase, and is a collection of documents required by the World Bank's Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF) at the end of the readiness phase. The development of the R-Package is in fact a critical moment to build confidence in the process, as countries will need to have their R-Packages reviewed if they want to submit an emissions reductions programmes to the FCPF Carbon Fund. R-Package assessment by the Participants Committee (PC) is voluntary, so if a country does not want to access the Carbon Fund, they do not have to be assessed if they do not want to.
R-Plan	Gen	REDD+ Readiness Plan
R-PP	Gen	Readiness Plan Proposal
Rules of procedure	UNFCCC	The parliamentary rules that govern the procedures of the COP, the CMP and the subsidiary bodies, covering such matters as decision-making and participation. Also the CDM Executive Board, the Adaptation Committee and other Bodies established by the COP has rules of procedure.
Safeguards (see also Cancun safeguards above)	UNFCCC	The UNFCCC agreed on seven safeguards at COP16 in Cancun that should be promoted and supported when implementing REDD+. These include both social and environmental aspects.
Safeguards information system (SIS)	UNFCCC	The SIS is one of the four design elements countries need to develop. Here countries should provide information on how all the seven safeguards are being addressed and respected throughout the implementation of REDD+.
SBI		See Subsidiary Body for Implementation
SBSTA		See Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice
Scale	UNFCCC	Scale in the context of REDD+ refers to the area included – national or subnational.
SCCF		See Special Climate Change Fund
Scope	UNFCCC	Scope in the context of REDD+ refers to the five REDD+ activities to be included in REDD+ strategies and forest (emission) reference levels.

Secondary forest	Gen	A forest or woodland area which has re-grown after a major disturbance but is not yet at the end point of succession (climax forest), usually distinguished by differences in ecosystem functionality, vegetation species diversity, structural complexity, among others.
Secretariat of the UNFCCC	UNFCCC	The office staffed by international civil servants responsible for "servicing" the UNFCCC Convention and ensuring its smooth operation. The secretariat makes arrangements for meetings, compiles and prepares reports, and coordinates with other relevant international bodies. The Climate Change Secretariat, which is based in Bonn, Germany, is institutionally linked to the United Nations.
Sequestration (carbon)	Gen	The process of increasing the carbon content of a carbon pool other than the atmosphere.
SFM		See Sustainable Forest Management
Silviculture	Gen	The science and practice of forest management measures aimed at controlling the establishment, growth, composition, health, and quality of forests to meet diverse needs and values of landowners and the society.
Sink		See Carbon Sink
SIS		See Safeguards Information System
Soil organic matter (SOM)	VM	The carbon pool that includes all organic material in soil, but excluding the coarse roots of the belowground biomass pool.
SOM		See Soil organic matter
SOP		See Standard Operating Procedures
Source	Gen	Source mostly refers to any process, activity or mechanism that releases a greenhouse gas, aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas or aerosol into the atmosphere. Source can also refer to, e.g. an energy source.
Special Climate Change Fund (SCCF)	UNFCCC	The SCCF was established to finance projects relating to adaptation; technology transfer and capacity building; energy, transport, industry, agriculture, forestry and waste management; and economic diversification. This fund should complement other funding mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention. The Global Environment Facility (GEF), as the entity that operates the financial mechanism of the Convention, has been entrusted to operate this fund.
Stakeholder	Gen	An individual, group or body that has a legitimate stake or interest in the project and is either participating in or likely to be affected or influenced by the project.
Standard operating procedures (SOPs)	Gen	Established procedure to be followed in carrying out a given operation or in a given situation.
Standards	Gen	Refer to standards for verifying and validating pilot REDD+ projects – see Verified Carbon Standard.
Stern report/review	Gen	The Stern Review on the Economics of Climate Change is a 700-page report commissioned by the British government. The Review, by the economist Lord Stern of Brentford, was released on 30 October 2006 and discusses the effect of climate change and global warming on the world economy. The report highlighted forest and reducing deforestation as an important measure in climate change mitigation.
Stratification	Gen	Stratification in the context of forest monitoring or forest inventory is a component of a sampling strategy by which the whole forest area is divided up into smaller subareas with similar structure or features in order to minimise within strata variation and maximise among strata variation. Thus either the efficiency of data collection and/or the precisions of estimates of forest attributes including carbon stocks is improved or optimized.
Subnational	Gen	Subnational in the context of REDD+ is when implementing REDD+ in an area smaller than the full national territory

Subsidiary Body for Implementation (SBI)	UNFCCC	The SBI makes recommendations on policy and implementation issues to the COP and, if requested, to other bodies.
Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice (SBSTA)	UNFCCC	The SBSTA supports the work of the COP and the CMP through the provision of timely information and advice on scientific and technological matters as they relate to the Convention or its Kyoto Protocol.
Summary of information	UNFCCC	In the context of REDD+ safeguards the summary of Information on how all the safeguards are addressed and respected should be provided to the UNFCCC.
Sustainable development	Gen	Development that meets the needs of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. (Brundtland Commission)
Sustainable forest management	Gen	The management of forest areas designated for the production of goods and services including timber and other forest products in such a way as to effectively balance social, economic and ecological objectives.
Sustainable management of forests	UNFCCC	Sustainable management of forest is one of the five REDD+ activities. For all practical matters it can be considered as sustainable forest management.
Technology transfer	Gen	A broad set of processes covering the flows of know-how, experience and equipment for mitigating and adapting to climate change among different stakeholders.
Territories	Gen	Are particularly relevant for Indigenous Peoples and refers to the total environment of the areas which peoples concerned occupy or otherwise use (ILO Convention 169).
Thinning	Gen	The common term for the process of judiciously removing certain individual trees to improve the remaining quality and tree vigour in a plantation or a forest; thinning can reduce the risk of a reversal of carbon sequestration due to fire, wind throw, insect infestations and disease.
Threatened species	Gen	The term 'threatened' is used to describe species at risk of extinction, specifically those falling into IUCN's threat categories of Critically Endangered (CR), Endangered (EN) and Vulnerable (VU). The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species is the most comprehensive global standard on the status and distribution of globally threatened species.
Tier	UNFCCC	The IPCC Good Practice Guidance tiers are levels of methodological complexity: Tier 1 is the most basic and uses global default values for carbon stocks; Tier 2 is intermediate and uses national values; and Tier 3 is most demanding in terms of complexity and data requirements, and uses site-specific values for carbon stocks.
Traditional knowledge	Gen	"...the manifestations of *indigenous peoples+ sciences, technologies and cultures, including human and genetic resources, seeds, medicines, knowledge of the properties of fauna and flora, oral traditions, literatures, designs, sports and traditional games and visual and performing arts" (UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples).
Transaction cost	Gen	Transactions costs are the incurred costs to fulfil the requirements for REDD+ participation, e.g. establishing and running a national forest monitoring system, the safeguards information system, consultation processes etc.
Trans-boundary	Gen	Trans-boundary is a term describing the situation when activities have impact (often environmental impact) in neighbouring countries such as with air pollution from the haze when burning peat forests. A number of international agreements are dealing with trans-boundary pollution.

Transparency and transparent	Gen	Mean that decisions taken and their enforcement are done in a manner that follows rules and regulations. It also means that information is freely available and directly accessible to those who will be affected by such decisions and their enforcement. It also means that enough information is provided and that it is provided in easily understandable forms and media (OECD, Citizens as partners, 2001).
Tree cover		See "Crown Cover"
Trust funds	Gen	A fund, comprised of a variety of assets, intended to provide benefits to an individual or organization. In the context of the UN system, the term often describes funds earmarked for specific programmes.
Uncertainty	Gen	An expression of the degree to which a value is unknown (e.g. the future state of the climate system). Uncertainty can result from lack of information or from disagreement about what is known or even knowable. Uncertainty can be represented by quantitative measures (e.g., a range of values calculated by various models) or by qualitative statements (e.g., reflecting the judgment of a team of experts).
UNDRIP		See United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
UNFCCC		See United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples	Gen	The UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2007. The Declaration sets out the individual and collective rights of indigenous peoples, as well as their rights to culture, identity, language, employment, health, education and other issues.
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)	UNFCCC	An international agreement that was established in 1992 at the Rio Earth Summit. It is the overall framework guiding the international climate negotiations. Its main objective is "stabilization of greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (manmade) interference with the climate system". The Kyoto Protocol is a Protocol to the UNFCCC.
Unplanned (unsanctioned) deforestation	VM	Unplanned or unsanctioned deforestation generally occurs as a result of socioeconomic forces that promote alternative uses of forested land, and the inability of institutions to control these activities. Examples include population growth, road expansion and other infrastructure developments often leads to subsistence food production and fuel wood gathering taking place on lands not designated for such activities.
Validation	Gen	A process by which an independent third-party organization, which has been certified to evaluate projects according to a specific standard, thoroughly reviews the design, methodologies, calculations and strategies employed in a project, ensuring the project follows the rules of the chosen standard.
VCS		See Verified Carbon Standard
VCU		See Verified/Voluntary Carbon Unit
VER		See Verified Emission Reduction / Voluntary Emission Reduction
Verification	Gen	The periodic independent review and ex-post determination of the monitored reductions in anthropogenic emissions by sources of greenhouse gases or increases in carbon stocks (carbon benefits) that have occurred as a result of a project activity during the verification period.
Voluntary (verified) emission reduction (VER)	VM	The general name given to carbon offset credits in the voluntary carbon market. These are tradable credits for greenhouse emission reductions generated to meet voluntary demand for carbon credits by organizations and individuals wanting to offset their own emissions.
Voluntary action	VM	Informal programmes, self-commitments and declarations, where the parties (individual companies or groups of companies) entering into the action set their own targets and often do their own monitoring and reporting.

Voluntary agreement	VM	An agreement between a government authority and one or more private parties to achieve environmental objectives or to improve environmental performance beyond compliance to regulated obligations. Not all voluntary agreements are truly voluntary; some include rewards and/or penalties associated with joining or achieving commitments.
Voluntary carbon market (VCM)	VM	The term used to describe carbon markets outside the regulatory carbon framework that does not involve international agreements. These markets are driven by voluntary commitments from organizations (e.g. energy companies, airlines) and individuals.
Verified Carbon Standard (VCS)	VM	VCS is the world's largest voluntary greenhouse gas reduction program, founded in 2005 by a collection of business and environmental leaders. The VCS provides methodologies for 15 different sectors including REDD+.
Voluntary carbon unit (VCU)	VM	The name of carbon offset credits specifically verified to the Voluntary Carbon Standard, one of the leading independent standards established to demonstrate integrity in project-based emission reductions in the unregulated voluntary carbon market.
Voluntary REDD+ database	Gen	A publicly available voluntary database of REDD+ financing, actions and results.
Vulnerability	Gen	The degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extremes. Vulnerability is a function of the character, magnitude, and rate of climate variation to which a system is exposed, its sensitivity, and its adaptive capacity.
Vulnerable people or groups	Gen	Those people or groups with high exposure to external stresses and shocks (including climate change); and with high sensitivity and low adaptive capacity to adjust in response to actual or expected changes due to their lack of secure access to the assets on which secure livelihoods are built (socio-political, cultural, human, financial, natural and physical). Forest dependency may be an important factor affecting vulnerability particularly where the project itself may change access to forest resources. In many situations marginalization exacerbates vulnerability, e.g. marginalization by gender.