



CFI VEGETATION METHODOLOGY: HUMAN-INDUCED REGENERATION

The Carbon Farming Initiative (CFI) allows farmers and other land managers to earn carbon credits by storing carbon or reducing greenhouse gas emissions on the land. Participants can generate carbon credits by setting up a project under an approved CFI methodology, which sets out the rules for the activity.

This fact sheet outlines the methodology for the *Human-induced regeneration of a permanent even-aged native forest*.

Who could benefit?

This methodology could be used by landholders who want to establish forests by promoting the regeneration of native forests which have been suppressed by agricultural land uses, such as grazing. For example, landholders may want to regenerate certain areas of their property to provide shelter for stock, minimise erosion, reduce salinity, improve water quality or provide a habitat for wildlife, while potentially boosting their income by generating credits under the CFI.

How does it work?

Under this methodology, forests are established in areas that have been used for cropping or ongoing grazing for at least 10 years before the project starts.

The methodology is based on the assumption that without a decision to change land management, the land would remain unforested. The change in land management must allow seed stores in the soil, remnant native plants or existing rootstock native to the site to sprout and germinate.

Assisted regeneration can involve activities such as excluding livestock from the project area (not the whole property), managing the timing and extent of grazing, managing feral animals and non-native plants in the project area and stopping or suppressing activities such as mechanical clearing of natural regrowth.

This methodology differs from other vegetation methodologies because it involves assisted natural forest regeneration rather than planting or direct seeding. Other vegetation methodologies are available at www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

Human-induced regeneration projects are a carbon storage activity and the project area must be maintained permanently to ensure that any environmental benefit achieved is not reversed.

The CFI permanence rules recognise the realities of Australia's natural environment and climatic conditions. Owners of human-induced regeneration projects will not be penalised for losing carbon through no fault of their own. In the event of naturally occurring events such as bushfire or disease, the landholder must take reasonable action to re-establish carbon stores.

Specific requirements

Eligibility

Projects need to meet the following requirements to be eligible under this methodology.

- The regeneration must consist of Australian species that are native to the local area and the project must be consistent with any planning requirements. The regeneration must also be the result of active management to produce human-assisted regeneration.
- The activity must occur on areas of cleared land on which regrowth has been regularly suppressed (but which has the potential to grow if suppression activities ceased), or on cleared areas alongside existing native vegetation.
- The project must establish or maintain native vegetation only through promoting and managing regeneration from natural seed sources. The methodology does not apply to projects that involve direct seeding or planting.
- The area of regeneration must have the potential to attain a crown forest cover of at least 20 per cent, at a height of at least two metres.
- The regenerated forest may not be harvested other than:
 - for thinning for ecological purposes or to remove debris for fire management, or
 - to remove firewood, fruits, nuts, seeds, or material used for fencing or as craft materials, if those things are not removed for sale, or
 - in accordance with traditional Indigenous practices or native title rights.

These requirements are in addition to broader eligibility criteria. For example, the project needs to happen in Australia and the project proponent needs to have the legal right to conduct the project.

Forestry projects cannot be established on land that has been cleared unlawfully. If the land was lawfully cleared, this must have occurred more than seven years before the project application, or five years before the application if there were new owners of the land after the clearing occurred. This is to ensure there is no incentive to clear native forests in order to establish a CFI project.

Monitoring, reporting and auditing

Participants must use the CFI reforestation modelling tool to calculate carbon emissions. They may also use the CFI mapping tool to monitor and report on geospatial information in line with the spatial mapping guidelines. These tools are available from our website at www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi.

The proponent must monitor the project (either through on-ground observation or remote-sensing imagery), report disturbances within the project boundaries, and adjust project boundaries. It's important to keep project records because they will be used to calculate the abatement that has been achieved by the project. Projects are required to submit a report to the Clean Energy Regulator every one to five years.

Projects must be audited by a registered CFI auditor. A list of registered auditors is available from the [Clean Energy Regulator website](http://www.cer.gov.au).

More information

Visit ComLaw to read this determination at www.comlaw.gov.au/Details/F2013L00162.

Contact the Clean Energy Regulator at www.cleanenergyregulator.gov.au if you want to submit a project application.

Visit our website at www.climatechange.gov.au/cfi for more information or to subscribe to regular updates.

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