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## About CDM

### Binding targets

The central feature of the  [Kyoto Protocol](#) (66 kB) is its requirement that countries limit or reduce their greenhouse gas emissions. By setting such targets, emission reductions took on economic value. To help countries meet their emission targets, and to encourage the private sector and developing countries to contribute to emission reduction efforts, negotiators of the Protocol included three market-based mechanisms – Emissions Trading, the Clean Development Mechanism and [Joint Implementation](#).

### Clean Development Mechanism

The CDM allows emission-reduction (or emission removal) projects in developing countries to earn certified emission reduction (CER) credits, each equivalent to one tonne of CO<sub>2</sub>. These CERs can be traded and sold, and used by industrialized countries to meet a part of their emission reduction targets under the Kyoto Protocol.

The mechanism stimulates sustainable development and emission reductions, while giving industrialized countries some flexibility in how they meet their emission reduction limitation targets.

The projects must qualify through a rigorous and public registration and issuance process designed to ensure real, measurable and verifiable emission reductions that are additional to what would have occurred without the project. The mechanism is overseen by the [CDM Executive Board](#), answerable ultimately to the countries that have ratified the Kyoto Protocol.

In order to be considered for registration, a project must first be approved by the [Designated National Authorities](#) (DNA).

Operational since the beginning of 2006, the mechanism has already registered more than 1,000 projects and is anticipated to produce CERs amounting to more than 2.7 billion tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, 2008–2012.

### Key documents

**Modalities and procedures** for a clean development mechanism, as defined in Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol [more >>](#)

For [Procedures](#), [Guidance](#), [Clarifications](#) and [Tools](#) relating to CDM projects activities. Check the **Reference/Documentation** section [more >>](#)

### Other resources



[Further information on the CDM Project Activity Cycle](#)

The mechanism is seen by many as a trailblazer. It is the first global, environmental investment and credit scheme of its kind, providing a standardized emissions offset instrument, CERs.

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#### Issues related to the CDM

- The implications of the establishment of new **hydrochlorofluorocarbon-22 (HCFC-22)** [more >>](#)
- Implications of possible changes to the **limit established for small-scale afforestation and reforestation CDM project activities** [more >>](#)
- **Carbon dioxide Capture and Storage (CCS)** as CDM project activities [more >>](#)