

DEFINITION
Baseline Design Element

ODF Forest Carbon Working Group

Definition – Additionality/Baseline: Additionality means the forest carbon project must store more carbon (or reduce emissions by a greater amount) than the baseline amount that would have been stored in the absence of the project. (This definition was supplied by Jim Cathcart. This was not polled for agreement by the workgroup, however based on previous workgroup discussions on this design element in the Principles Document, it is likely that the definition would be supported by the workgroup.)

Desired Outcomes for Protocol Approaches to Baseline

- Encourages participation from within all landowner types by being simple, cost effective, and operationally and administratively functional.
- Provides an incentive to maintain forestland as forestland.
- Recognizes/rewards prior positive action while considering the impacts on the objective of increasing carbon.
- Offsets should not incentivize a reduction in carbon in the short-term and a baseline that encourages a surge in carbon reduction is not desirable.
- Baseline is not based on current landowner actions or intent, but rather is set as a common reference.
- Provides opportunities for projects that promote sequestration and projects that maintain carbon storage.
- Is measurable and can be monitored/verified so as to serve as a reference for measuring the carbon benefits attributable to the project.
- Is inclusive of all significant carbon pools affected by the project. Carbon pools include but are not limited to: (a), (b), (c), ..., wood products, and woody material for biomass energy. (We still need to develop our list of pools.)
- Should be able to incorporate into national and global protocols and designs.