

1.2.1. The Kyoto Protocol

The Protocol contains the first legally binding commitments to limit or reduce the emissions of six GHGs or groups of gases (CO₂, CH₄, N₂O, HFCs, PFCs, and SF₆). For Annex I Parties, the targets agreed upon under the Protocol by the first commitment period (2008 to 2012) add up to a decrease in GHG emissions of 5.2% below 1990 levels in terms of CO₂ equivalents.¹ Non-Annex I Parties are not required to take on specific commitments for emission reductions. Articles 3.3 and 3.4 of the Protocol stipulate that human activities related to land use, land-use change and forestry (**LULUCF**) (afforestation, reforestation, deforestation, forest management and agricultural activities) since 1990 can also be used to meet 2008–2012 commitments.² In addition, the Protocol endorses emissions trading (Article 17), joint fulfillment and implementation between Annex I Parties (Articles 4 and 6), and a clean development mechanism (Article 12) that allows Annex I and non-Annex I Parties to act together to reduce emissions (FCCC, 1998; see also WBGU, 1998: Chapter 3; IISD, 2002: 1–3).³

¹ For some Annex I Parties the base year is different from 1990.

² The part of the terrestrial biosphere, which is affected by these Kyoto compliant LULUCF activities, is hereafter referred to as *Kyoto biosphere* and its complement as *non-Kyoto biosphere*.

³ IISD (2002). *Earth Negotiations Bulletin* **12** (209), 4 November, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD). Available on the Internet: <http://www.iisd.ca/linkages/download/pdf/enb12209e.pdf>.