Land Use Glossary:

The following is a list of terms related to the land sector that can be found throughout the draft negotiating text for COP21 in Paris.

Land use systems; Land-use sector; area of land; forest: These terms directly refer to the land sector.

Forestry: "The science, art, and practice of managing and using for human benefit the natural resources that occur on and in association with forest lands"[1]

Sink: "Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas or aerosol from the atmosphere."[2] This is related to the land use because land and land uses can serve as a sink for carbon dioxide.

Removals: Removals of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere. This is related to sinks.

Reservoir: "A component of the climate system, other than the atmosphere, which has the capacity to store, accumulate or release a substance of concern, e.g. carbon, a greenhouse gas or a precursor."'[1] Land reservoirs include vegetation (biomass) and soils.

Stock: "The absolute quantity of substance of concerns, held within a reservoir at a specified time." Ex: the carbon stock in a forest.

Food production; Food security: Land management practices are important for protecting and promoting food security in mitigation and adaptation activities.

Ecosystems: "A system of interacting living organisms together with their physical environment…The extent of an ecosystem may range from very small spatial scales to, ultimately, the entire Earth."[1]

Warsaw Framework for REDD-Plus: 7 decisions (9-15/CP.19) that, along with 3 decisions in SBSTA 42, complete the methodological guidance for REDD-plus.

Joint mitigation and adaptation approaches to the integral and sustainable management of forests: An alternative policy approach to results based payments that can contribute to the activities under decision 2-CP.17 para 67.

Emissions reductions; net emissions: "'Emission reductions' means the sum of all reduced emissions and increased carbon stocks." –Section B. Definitions[3]

All major sources, all significant anthropogenic emissions, key categories: "A key category is one that is prioritised within the national inventory system because its estimate has a significant influence on a country's total inventory of greenhouse gases in terms of the absolute level, the trend, or the uncertainty in emissions and removals. Whenever the term key category is used, it includes both source and sink categories."[4]

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[1] http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/sres/land_use/index.php?idp=45
[2] http://www.ipcc.ch/ipccreports/tar/wg1/518.htm
[3] http://unfccc.int/files/bodies/application/pdf/ws1and2@2330.pdf
[4] http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/2006gl/pdf/1_Volume1/V1_4_Ch4_MethodChoice.pdf

Unconditional and Conditional Pledges: Unconditional pledges are those countries will take without international finance, while conditional pledges are the additional actions countries could take with international finance, as they did in relation to forests in the Lima Challenge.

Concepts that are necessary for ensuring environmental integrity of the land sector (and beyond):[5]

Articles 2 & 4 of the Convention: All Parties have committed to pursuing actions in the land-use sector that (1) contribute to the ultimate objective, and/or (2) promote sustainable management and enhancement of greenhouse gas sinks and reservoirs.

Continuous Improvement: The land-use sector has benefited from rules-based frameworks that assist Parties in addressing the sector in a transparent, comparable, and consistent manner. Parties have the opportunity to incorporate lessons learned from existing mechanisms into both the post-2020 framework and their individual contributions for the land-use sector.

IPCC Principles and Inventory Guidance: The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's (IPCC) principles of accuracy, comparability, completeness, consistency, and transparency should continue to guide Parties' approach to the land-use sector.

Once In, Always In: Once a Party has elected to account for lands, activities, carbon pools, and greenhouse gas fluxes, it must continue to account for those lands, activities, etc. moving forward.

Pathway to Complete Coverage: In addition to satisfying the threshold principle of "Once In, Always In," Parties' INDCs should facilitate pathways to move them towards complete coverage of all relevant lands, activities, carbon pools, and greenhouse gas fluxes over time.

Focus on the Measurable Effects of Policies and Measures: Emissions from natural disturbances and legacy effects may overwhelm the effects of policies and measures in the land sector; a rules-based framework can help Parties design transparent, comparable, and consistent contributions that focus on the effects of their policies and measures.

Promote Good Social and Environmental Governance: In order for the land-use sector to fulfill its many roles, a set of commonly agreed social and environmental safeguards should guide Parties' actions.

Technical Facilitation of Land-Use Sector Reporting and Assessment: A post-2020 framework should include a facilitative, iterative technical review process and/or assessment to maximize the accuracy, comparability, completeness, consistency, and transparency of Parties' contributions for the land-use sector.

[5] All principles are from: Elias, P., J. Funk, N. Greenglass, 2014. Positioning the land-use sector to contribute to post-2020 climate mitigation.