

**REPORT OF THE NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE AFFORESTATION AND
REFORESTATION WORKING GROUP**

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

14 - 16 April 2008

**RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE A/R WORKING GROUP
TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Chair of the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG), Mr. José Domingos Miguez, opened the meeting.
2. On behalf of the A/R WG, the Chair welcomed Ms. Diana Harutyunyan as Vice-Chair of the A/R WG.
3. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

B. Consideration of proposed new methodologies

4. The A/R WG considered the proposed new A/R methodologies for the following cases as well as desk reviews and public inputs received, where applicable.
5. The final recommendations, proposed by the A/R WG for the consideration by the Executive Board, are made available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <http://cdm.unfccc.int/goto/ARprometh>.
6. The A/R WG agreed on the following recommendation:

Cases	A/R WG19 Recommendation¹
ARNM0035: Rubber outgrowing and carbon sequestration in Ghana (ROCS-Ghana)	C

C. Clarifications and requests for revisions of approved methodologies

7. The A/R WG considered the following requests for clarifications related to the application of approved baseline and monitoring methodologies. The requests submitted and the recommendations provided by the A/R WG are made publicly available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <http://cdm.unfccc.int/goto/ARclar>.

Clarification number	Approved Methodology	Title of the request for clarification	A/R WG19 recommendation
SSC_AR_003	AR-AMS0001 ver. 4	Applicability concerning soil disturbance as a result of soil preparation	Clarified (see paragraph 8)
AR_AM_CLA_002		AR-CDM verifications per commitment period	Clarified (see paragraph 9)
AR_AM_CLA_003		Palms and Bamboos and national forest thresholds	Clarified (see paragraph 10)

¹ Recommendations to the proposed new methodologies from the meeting of the A/R WG, where: A (recommended for approval) and C (recommended for non-approval), are final recommendations to the Board.

8. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification SSC_AR_003, which sought to confirm:
- (i) If the applicability condition on soil disturbance as a result of preparation for planting (as mentioned in paragraph I.1.(d) of the AR-AMS0001/version 04.1, namely: "project activities are implemented on lands where <10% of the total surface project area is disturbed as result of soil preparation for planting") refers only to soil preparation needed for planting; and
 - (ii) If the methodology AR-AMS0001/version 04.1 is applicable for projects involving small-farm agricultural intercropping with annual crops covering areas of more than 10% of the total surface project area, and occurring after planting.

The A/R WG clarified that the condition "project activities are implemented on lands where less than 10% of the total surface project area is disturbed as result of soil preparation for planting" is intended to limit soil disturbance associated with planting which could possibly lead to loss of soil carbon, since, for simplicity changes in soil carbon stocks are not accounted for in the small-scale methodology. It is expected that soil preparation for planting in the context of an A/R project activity is typically a once-per-rotation soil disturbance.

Any soil disturbance that was not present in the baseline scenario, and was introduced after initiation of the A/R CDM project activity, is allowed only if the total disturbance covers less than 10% of the project area.

The A/R WG further clarified that after initiation of the A/R CDM project activity, any soil disturbance present in the baseline scenario - e.g., due to cropping activities - may continue within the same area as in the baseline scenario, and at the same or a lesser level of disturbance.

9. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_002, which sought to confirm if it is possible to have more than one verification and issuance of CERs within the first commitment period.

The A/R WG noted that, in accordance with paragraph 32 of the "Modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol" (decision 5/CMP.1), the initial verification and certification of an afforestation or reforestation project activity under the CDM may be undertaken at a time selected by the project participants. Thereafter, verification and certification shall be carried out every five years until the end of the crediting period. The A/R WG clarified, that paragraph 32 (as quoted above) excludes the possibility of two verifications (one early in 2008 and another late in 2012) within the first commitment period.

For projects that have opted for a prompt start the first verification could occur at any time as long as the verification of the project activity occurs after the date of registration (EB 21, para 64).

10. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_003, which sought to confirm if palm (trees) and bamboo are eligible for A/R CDM project activities. The A/R WG clarified that the environmental integrity of the CDM activities is not affected by considering palm (trees) and bamboos as being equivalent to trees in the context of A/R CDM project activities. However, inclusion of palm (trees) or bamboos in A/R CDM project activities may affect the extent of land eligible for A/R CDM activities.

The A/R WG was of the opinion that palm (trees) or bamboos may be treated in the same way as trees in the context of A/R CDM project activities.

D. Guidance on application of the definition of the project boundary

11. The Executive Board at its thirty-eighth meeting requested the A/R WG for further proposals on the application of the definition of the project boundary to A/R CDM project activities to allow for more flexibility, in particular for those projects which are not intended to be submitted as a Programme of Activities (PoA). The A/R WG considered draft guidance on the application of the definition of the project boundary and concentrated on a comparison of the flexibility allowed by the draft proposal versus the broadening of the application of flexibility already included in "Modalities and procedures for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism in the first commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (Decision 5/CMP.1). Furthermore, the group considered the potential cost efficiency of the draft guidance when compared to the application of Programme of Activities (PoA) approach. The A/R WG was not able to conclude its considerations and requested the secretariat to prepare an advanced draft reflecting issues raised by members with a view to recommending it to the Board in its forty-first meeting.

E. Draft "Tool for estimation of leakage caused by use of non-renewable wood"

12. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft tool for estimation of leakage caused by use of non-renewable wood, as contained in annex 1. The tool allows for estimation of the increase in GHG emissions resulting from an increased use of non-renewable woody biomass, from sources outside the project boundary, attributable to an A/R CDM project activity.

F. Draft revision of "Tool for estimation of GHG emissions related to displacement of grazing activities in A/R CDM project activity"

13. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a revision to the approved "Tool for estimation of GHG emissions related to displacement of grazing activities in A/R CDM project activity", as contained in annex 2. The recommended revision broadens the applicability of the tool to allow for its application to A/R CDM project activities that cause displacement of grazing activities to cropland covered with perennial crops.

G. Draft forms to be used with the "Procedure for the submission and consideration of request for clarification on the application of approved small scale methodologies"

14. At its thirty-eight meeting, the Board clarified that the "Procedure for the submission and consideration of request for clarification on the application of approved small-scale methodologies" applies *mutatis mutandis* to requests for clarification on the application of approved A/R small-scale methodologies and the Board had requested the secretariat to prepare and make available the forms to be used with the above-mentioned procedure. The A/R WG noted with appreciation the forms prepared by the secretariat.

H. Schedule of meetings

15. The A/R WG agreed to hold its twentieth meeting from 18-20 June 2008.

External annexes to the nineteenth meeting of the A/R WG

Annex 1: Draft "Tool for estimation of leakage caused by use of non-renewable wood"

Annex 2: Draft revision of "Tool for estimation of GHG emissions related to displacement of grazing activities in A/R CDM project activity"