

**REPORT OF THE TWENTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE AFFORESTATION AND  
REFORESTATION WORKING GROUP**

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

25 - 27 February 2009

**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. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

**B. Consideration of proposed new methodologies**

3. 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.
4. The final recommendations, proposed by the A/R WG for the consideration by the Board, are made available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/goto/ARpropmeth>>.
5. In accordance with the procedures for submission and consideration of a proposed new methodology, project participants may submit, via the DOE, technical clarifications to preliminary recommendations. Preliminary recommendations for which project participants have not provided any clarifications within the four (4) week consultation period shall be considered as final recommendations and will be forwarded to the Executive Board and made available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/goto/ARpropmeth>>.
6. The A/R WG agreed on the following recommendation:

<b>Cases</b>	<b>A/R WG Recommendation<sup>1</sup></b>
<b>ARNM0036:</b> Rubber outgrowing and carbon sequestration in Ghana (ROCS-Ghana)	<b>Preliminary recommendation</b>
<b>AR-ACM000X:</b> Afforestation or reforestation of degraded land without displacement of pre-project activities	<b>A</b>

7. The Board during its forty-fourth meeting considered the draft recommendation for proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology ARNM0036 and agreed to request the A/R WG to reconsider its recommendation in order to request project proponents to simplify the methodological approach applied, in particular to use a deterministic approach in determining the baseline net GHG removals by sinks (paragraph 34 of the EB 44 meeting report). Following the request, the A/R WG has agreed to the preliminary recommendation.

8. The Board during its forty-fourth meeting requested the secretariat to prepare draft revisions to those approved A/R CDM baseline and monitoring methodologies affected by the Board's guidance referred to in paragraph 37 of the EB 44 report, and also, in doing so, to make the methodologies consistent with each other, especially if they differ in approaches applied for similar issues. Following the request, the A/R WG agreed to recommend the approval of the draft consolidated methodology AR-

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<sup>1</sup> 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.

ACM000X: “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded land without displacement of pre-project activities”. The methodology is applicable to simple cases of afforestation or reforestation activities on degraded lands where there is no displacement of pre-project activities and the leakage is insignificant. It applies unified approaches for estimation of the baseline net GHG removals by sinks and the actual net GHG removals by sinks and makes use of all relevant approved tools. The consolidated methodology applies the simplified design proposed in the approved methodology AR-ACM0001. The draft new consolidated methodology is contained in annex 1.

### C. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies

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

10. The A/R WG recommended that the Board take note of the response to the request for clarifications related to the application of approved baseline and monitoring methodologies, as presented below.

Clarification number	Approved Methodology	Title of the request for clarification	A/R WG recommendation
AR_AM_CLA_0006	All	“GHG emissions from removal of herbaceous vegetation”	<b>Clarified</b> (see paragraph 11)

11. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR\_AM\_CLA\_0006, regarding the GHGs emissions from removal of herbaceous vegetation. The A/R WG clarified that the changes in carbon stocks in herbaceous vegetation to the baseline net GHG removals by sinks is insignificant and shall be accounted for as zero.

The A/R WG further clarified that the contribution of changes in carbon stocks and emissions of GHGs measured in CO<sub>2</sub> equivalents from any removal, including but not limited to burning, harvesting or decay, of herbaceous vegetation to the actual net greenhouse gas removals by sinks is insignificant and shall be accounted for as zero.

In their decision, the A/R WG recognized that there are areas where the carbon stocks in herbaceous vegetation are large; but it was considered that, on average, the stocks would be insignificant in areas that are likely to be subject to an A/R activity.

12. The Board during its forty-fourth meeting requested the secretariat to prepare draft revisions to approved A/R CDM baseline and monitoring methodologies as detailed in paragraph 8 above. Following the request, the A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve a revision to the approved consolidated methodology **AR-ACM0001 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”**. The draft revised methodology applies approved guidance on significance of GHG emissions and flexibility in application of the definition of the project boundary. It introduces the default approach for assessing changes in soil organic carbon pool and provides several editorial changes to give further clarity. The draft revised consolidated methodology is contained in annex 2.

13. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve a revision to the approved methodology **AR-AMS0005 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on lands having low inherent potential to support living biomass”** in order to allow for application of the default approach for estimation of changes in soil organic carbon and provide several editorial changes allowing for further clarity. The draft revised simplified baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS0005 is contained in annex 3.

**D. Draft guidance on conditions under which changes in carbon stocks in existing live woody vegetation are insignificant**

14. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft guidance on conditions under which the change in carbon stocks in existing live woody vegetation can be considered insignificant and shall be accounted as zero. The guidance allows for simplification of estimation of baseline net GHG removals by sinks in large scale A/R CDM project activities. The draft guidance is contained in annex 4.

**E. Draft guidelines on conservative choice of default data**

15. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft guidelines on conservative choice of default data for estimation of biomass stocks and change in woody vegetation. The guideline provides supplemental information on satisfying requirements of applying conservative manner regarding the choice of approaches, assumptions, parameters and data sources in establishing the baseline net greenhouse gas removals by sinks. The draft guideline is contained in annex 5.

**F. Draft tool for estimation of changes in carbon stocks in pre-project trees and shrubs**

16. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft tool for the estimation of changes in carbon stocks in of existing trees and shrubs within the boundary of an A/R CDM project activity. The tool provides two approaches on the estimation of changes in carbon stocks in pre-project trees and shrubs which unify equivalent approaches applied in all approved afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodologies applicable to large scale A/R CDM project activities. The draft tool is contained in annex 6.

**G. Draft revision of tool for calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities**

17. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve a revision to the approved A/R methodological tool: "Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities" to further clarify practical aspects on location of permanent sample plots for data collecting and improve clarity of formulae. The draft revised tool is contained in annex 7.

**H. Draft terms of reference**

18. The Board at its forty-fifth meeting requested the A/R WG to work on a draft terms of reference to address the assessment of the implications of the possible inclusion of lands with forests in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities, taking into account technical, methodological and legal issues for approval by the Board as soon as possible (paragraph 74 of the EB 45 meeting). Following the request, the group agreed to recommend draft terms of reference as contained in annex 8.

The draft terms of reference outlines the formation of two consultative expert bodies (CEBs) and details the work items of the CEBs in assisting the CDM-EB to carrying out its work in response to the request by the CMP, and the timely provision of a report recommendation on the subject in inclusion in the report to the CMP at its 5th session in Copenhagen.

**I. Schedule of meetings**

19. The A/R WG reminded project participants that the deadline for the twenty-second round of submissions of proposed new methodologies is **15 June 2009**. The A/R WG also reminded project participants that new baseline and monitoring methodologies could be submitted at any time prior to this deadline.

20. The A/R WG agreed to hold its twenty-fourth meeting from 29 April–01 May 2009.

**External annexes to the twenty-third meeting of the A/R WG**

- Annex 1: Draft consolidated methodology AR-ACM000X: “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded land without displacement of pre-project activities”
- Annex 2: Draft revised consolidated methodology AR-ACM0001: “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”
- Annex 3: Draft revised simplified baseline and monitoring AMS0005: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on lands having low inherent potential to support living biomass”
- Annex 4: Draft guidance on conditions under which the change in carbon stocks in existing live woody vegetation can be considered insignificant
- Annex 5: Draft guidelines on conservative choice of data when estimating biomass stocks and change
- Annex 6: Draft A/R Methodological tool: “Estimation of changes in the carbon stocks of existing trees and shrubs within the boundary of an A/R CDM project activity”
- Annex 7: Draft revised tool “Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 8: Draft terms of reference: The assessment of the implications of the possible inclusion of lands with forests in exhaustion as afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities, taking into account technical, methodological and legal issues

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