

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH MEETING OF THE AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION WORKING GROUP

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

29 April - 01 May 2009

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

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The Vice-Chair of the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG), Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, opened the meeting.
2. On behalf of the A/R WG the Chair of the A/R WG Mr. Jose Domingos Miguez expressed his deep appreciation to the outgoing A/R WG members, Mr. Craig Trotter and Mr. Willy Makundi for their excellent service to the A/R WG.
3. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

B. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies

4. 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>>.
5. 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_0007	AR-AM0001 ver. 2	“Applicability for afforestation projects under AR-AM0001 ver. 2”	Clarified (see paragraph 6)

6. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR_AM_CLA_0007, regarding the applicability of the approved methodology AR-AM0001 “Reforestation of degraded land” to a project activity, which has been identified as an afforestation project. The A/R WG clarified that each approved baseline and monitoring methodology for A/R CDM project activities is applicable to both afforestation and reforestation activities irrespective of the activity actually mentioned in its title. This clarification follows the approach adopted by the Board at its thirty-eighth meeting, when the Board clarified that, for consideration of the eligibility of land, it is not necessary to differentiate between afforestation and reforestation CDM project activities.

7. The Board during its forty-fourth meeting requested the secretariat to prepare draft revisions for consideration by the A/R WG, 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. The A/R WG considered the draft revisions prepared by the secretariat and agreed to recommend that the Board approve:

(a) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0007** “Afforestation and Reforestation of Land Currently Under Agricultural or Pastoral Use”. The revision replaced a complicated approach for inclusion of land use change as a part of the baseline scenario with a simple unified approach for

estimation of the baseline net GHG removals by sinks, and applied the simplified design proposed in the approved methodology AR-ACM0001. The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 1.

(b) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0009** “Afforestation or reforestation on degraded land allowing for silvopastoral activities”. 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 approved methodology is contained in annex 2.

8. The A/R WG agreed to recommend that the Board approve a revision to the approved methodology AR-AMS0004 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale agroforestry - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism” 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 and simplification. The draft revised simplified baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS0004 is contained in annex 3.

C. Draft new small-scale methodology for A/R CDM project activities

9. The A/R WG considered and agreed to recommend to the Board for approval a draft new small-scale A/R methodology for A/R CDM project activities: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale silvopastoral - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”. The methodology is applicable to SSC A/R CDM project activities that are implemented on croplands or degraded grasslands subjected to grazing activities and allows for continuation of a grazing regime in the project scenario. The draft simplified baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS0006 is contained in annex 4.

D. Consideration of practical application of the CMP.4 decision “Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism”

10. The A/R WG considered the practical application of the CMP.4 decision “Further guidance relating to the clean development mechanism” and discussed various proposals for improvement of the process of consideration of methodological issues, aiming at improving quality of and consistency between approved methodologies and enhancing efficiency of the group. The A/R WG requests that the Board notes the following:

- (a) A/R CDM methodologies that are too generic and try to cover a very wide range of circumstances may lead to too much complexity for practical application. In the A/R context, simplicity may be best achieved by customized methodologies, that deal with narrower but common circumstances potentially applicable over large areas;
- (b) Further development of a modular approach to A/R methodologies is expected to simplify their application in project-specific circumstances;
- (c) User-friendliness of the approved methodologies and tools is expected to be increased if they are implemented as software, including the possibility for simple entry of data and selection of values for default parameters;
- (d) In order to get inputs on difficulties in application, or reasons for non-application of the methodologies, feedback should be sought (using questionnaires) from PPs that have proposed methodologies which have been approved by the EB, and also from those known to be attempting to apply the approved methodologies, and other relevant stakeholders (DNAs, DOEs);

(e) The A/R WG shall continue its efforts to facilitate application of the approved methodologies and tools and make them more user-friendly, and revise them as appropriate;

(f) In the context of regional and sub-regional CDM project activity distribution and capacity-building, the A/R WG welcomes the opportunity to take part in A/R CDM capacity-building activities.

E. Schedule of meetings

11. 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.

12. The A/R WG agreed to hold its twenty-fifth meeting from 21–23 September 2009.

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

- Annex 1: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0007: “Afforestation and Reforestation of Land Currently Under Agricultural or Pastoral Use”
- Annex 2: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0009: “Afforestation or reforestation on degraded land allowing for silvopastoral activities”
- Annex 3: Draft revised simplified baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS0004: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale agroforestry - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”
- Annex 4: Draft new small-scale methodology AR-AMS0006: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale silvopastoral - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”