

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

21–23 September 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. Mr. Braulio Pikman informed the Chair that he can not continue as a representative of the Methodologies Panel to the A/R WG. The Chair on behalf of the group expressed his deep appreciation to Mr. Pikman for his important contributions to the work 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 Board, are made available on the UNFCCC CDM website at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/goto/ARpropmeth>>.
6. 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>>.
7. The A/R WG agreed on the following recommendations:

Cases	A/R WG Recommendation¹
ARNM0036: Rubber outgrowing and carbon sequestration in Ghana (ROCS-Ghana)	WIP (see paragraph 8)
ARNM0037: Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process	WIP (see paragraph 9)

8. The A/R WG requested the Board to take note that although the submission from project proponents has improved substantially, the A/R WG could not conclude its consideration of the case ARNM0036 due to the need for application of the guidance on: (i) Estimation of leakage from displacement of cropland, and (ii) Estimation of leakage from displacement of grazing activities, in this case, for which the group has not completed their consideration yet. The A/R WG expects to conclude its consideration of the case at its next meeting.

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.

9. The A/R WG requested the Board to take note that the A/R WG could not conclude its consideration of the case ARNM0037 due to the need for significant simplification of the approach for: (i) Accumulation of the soil organic carbon in baseline scenario, (ii) Estimation of leakage from displacement of cropland, and (iii) Estimation of leakage from displacement of grazing activities, for which the group has not completed their consideration yet. The A/R WG expects to conclude its consideration of the case at its next meeting.

C. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies

10. The A/R WG considered a request for clarifications related to the consistency in the application of the procedures to demonstrate the eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities and the baseline assessment for A/R project activities. The A/R WG agreed to notify the Board that it was not able to conclude its deliberations during the meeting. The A/R WG requested a small group of members to consider this request and to provide the group with a proposal for response to the request to be considered at its twenty-sixth meeting.

11. 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 approaches applied to similar issues differ. Following the request, the A/R WG considered the draft revisions prepared by the secretariat and agreed to the following improvements in the revised methodologies:

- (a) Removal of references to GHG emission sources that are insignificant in A/R CDM project activities and may therefore be neglected in A/R baseline and monitoring methodologies;
- (b) Simplification of the approach for stratification;
- (c) Application of the latest version of "Guidance on the application of the definition of project boundary to A/R CDM project activities";
- (d) Change of the confidence level in the Reliable Minimum Estimate approach, and/or simplification of the approach for consideration of uncertainties and changing the confidence level;
- (e) Editorial changes to give further clarity.

The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the following revisions to the methodologies:

- (a) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0002** "Restoration of degraded lands through afforestation/reforestation". The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 1.
- (b) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0004** "Reforestation or afforestation of land currently under agricultural use". The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 2.
- (c) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0005** "Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses". In addition to the application of the guidance referred to in paragraph 37 of the EB 44 report, the revision applied the simplified design proposed in the approved methodology AR-ACM0001. The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 3.
- (d) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0006** "Afforestation/Reforestation with trees supported by shrubs on degraded land". The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 4.

- (e) A revision to the approved methodology **AR-AM0010** “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on unmanaged grassland in reserve/protected areas”. The draft revised approved methodology is contained in annex 5.

D. Draft guidance on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant

12. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft guidance on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant. The guidance allows to determine whether the increase in GHG emissions due to clearing, burning, and/or leaving to decay live woody vegetation existing within the proposed A/R project boundary prior to the project commencement is insignificant and can be accounted as zero. The draft guidance is contained in annex 6.

E. Draft revision of the tool for estimation of GHG emissions from clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation due to implementation of a CDM A/R project activity

13. The A/R WG agreed to recommend that the Board approve a revision to the approved A/R methodological tool: “Estimation of GHG emissions from clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation due to implementation of a CDM A/R project activity” to further simplify the applied approach, including broadening the use of the conservative default factors. The draft revised tool is contained in annex 7.

F. Draft revision of guidelines on conservative choice of default data for estimation of biomass stocks and change in woody vegetation

14. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft revision to guidelines on conservative choice of default data for estimation of biomass stocks and change in woody vegetation. The revision improved the approach and broadened the applicability of the guidelines in order to provide information on satisfying requirements for the conservative choice and application of default data in establishing the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks. Consequently the title of the guidelines was changed from “Guidelines on conservative choice of data when estimating biomass stocks and change in woody vegetation” to “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks” to reflect the scope of the applied changes. The draft revised guidelines are contained in annex 8.

G. Options for definition of forest in exhaustion

15. The Board during its forty-ninth meeting requested the A/R WG to consider, at the highest priority, the draft of the experts' report on the assessment of the implications of the possible inclusion of lands with forests in exhaustion as A/R CDM project activities and provide the Board with its input on options for definition of forest in exhaustion.

16. The A/R WG considered the draft of the experts' report on the assessment of the implications of the possible inclusion of lands with forests in exhaustion as A/R CDM project activities and agreed to recommend to the Board the following option for definition of forest in exhaustion:

“Forest in exhaustion” is area of land containing forest - established through planting, seeding and/or the human-induced promotion of natural seed sources - on 31 December 1989 and/or at the starting date of the project activity. If the land at the starting date of the project activity is forest then, in absence of the project activity, it will be converted to non-forested land through final harvesting within [X] years of starting date of the project activity. If the land at the starting date of the project activity is non-forested land then, in absence of the project activity, it is expected to remain as non-forested land.

17. The A/R WG noted that the above recommended option may require revision of annex to Decision 16/CMP.1 Land use, land-use change and forestry section D, Article 12, in order to introduce the draft new paragraph 13 (bis) as follows:

For the first commitment period, reforestation activities will be limited to reforestation occurring on those lands that did not contain forest or contained forest in exhaustion on 31 December 1989.

H. Schedule of meetings

18. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the twenty-fourth round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 26 October 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.

19. The A/R WG agreed to hold its twenty-sixth meeting from 28–30 October 2009.

I. Roster of experts

20. The A/R WG noted the satisfactory completion of the desk reviews undertaken for the proposed new methodologies considered at the meeting.

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

- Annex 1: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0002 “Restoration of degraded lands through afforestation/reforestation”
- Annex 2: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0004 “Reforestation or afforestation of land currently under agricultural use”
- Annex 3: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0005 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses”
- Annex 4: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0006 “Afforestation/Reforestation with trees supported by shrubs on degraded land”
- Annex 5: Draft revised methodology AR-AM0010 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on unmanaged grassland in reserve/protected areas”
- Annex 6: Draft guidance on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant
- Annex 7: Draft revision of the tool “Estimation of GHG emissions from clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation due to implementation of a CDM A/R project activity”
- Annex 8: Draft revision of guidelines on conservative choice of default data for estimation of biomass stocks and change in woody vegetation