

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

17–19 February 2010

Report Version 01.1*

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 CDM Executive Board (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 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 recommendations:

Cases	A/R WG Recommendation ¹
AR-NM0036: “Afforestation and reforestation of land subject to polyculture farming”	A
AR-NM0037: “Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process”	WIP

7. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the new methodology AR-NM0036: “Afforestation and reforestation of land subject to polyculture farming”. The methodology is applicable to A/R CDM project activities that are implemented on areas of land that contain polyculture, possibly including perennial tree crops and/or fallow periods with woody regrowth. The draft baseline and monitoring methodology AR-NM0036 is contained in annex 1.
8. The A/R WG was not able to conclude its consideration of the new methodology AR-NM0037: “Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process” due

* This version was issued to: (i) insert a link to paragraph 9; and, to (ii) correct some typographical errors.

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.

to a late submission of technical clarifications by the project participants. The group agreed to continue the consideration of the methodology at its next meeting.

C. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies

9. The A/R WG considered the requests for clarifications related to the application of approved baseline and monitoring methodologies. All requests submitted to the A/R WG are made publicly available on the UNFCCC CDM website at:

<<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/clarifications>> and

<<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/SSCAR/clarifications>>.

10. The A/R WG recommended that the Board take note of the response to the requests 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_0008	AR-ACM0001 – ver. 03	Methane emissions of biomass removed during the site preparation and burned outside the project boundary	Clarified (see paragraph 11)
AR_AM_CLA_0009	AR-ACM0001 – ver. 03	Ex post estimation of soil organic carbon	Clarified (see paragraph 12)
SSC_AR_004	All	Implication of including palm in the national CDM forest definition on the status of AR CDM project	Clarified (see paragraph 13)

11. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR_AM_CLA_0008, regarding the applicability of the approved methodology AR-ACM0001 version 03 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”. The group agreed that the methane emissions resulting from biomass collected from the project area and burned outside the project boundary shall be accounted as leakage emissions, unless the burning is not attributable to the A/R CDM project activity, or the burning results in GHG emission that obeys the definition of “market leakage” as contained in paragraph 33 of the report of the 28th meeting of the Board. The group further noted that the approved methodologies do not provide any approach for estimation of “market leakage” because the guidance contained in paragraph 33 of the report of the 28th meeting of the Board states that it shall not be accounted for in afforestation/reforestation baseline and monitoring methodologies.

12. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR_AM_CLA_0009, regarding the applicability of the approved methodology AR-ACM0001 version 03 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”. The group clarified that the methodology AR-ACM0001 version 03 provides only the default method to estimate the soil organic carbon.

The A/R WG further clarified that if some areas of land included in the boundary of an A/R CDM project activity do not satisfy at least one of the conditions listed in paragraph 5.1.4.1 of the above-mentioned methodology, then the default approach for accounting for changes in soil organic carbon pool shall not be applied to these areas.

The group agreed to remove the reference to the “Procedure to determine when accounting of the soil organic carbon pool may be conservatively neglected in A/R CDM project activities” because of its redundant use in the methodology.

The group further agreed to revise the methodology AR-ACM0001 version 03 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land” in order to apply the above-mentioned clarification. The revised methodology is contained in annex 2.

13. The A/R WG considered the clarification SSC_AR_004 “Implication of including palm in the national CDM forest definition on the status of A/R CDM project”. The group agreed to request the Board to further clarify the guidance provided in paragraph 33 of the report of the 39th meeting of the Board by stating that until a DNA provides clarification that the definition of forest as reported by them to the Board includes palm (trees) and/or bamboos it shall be deemed that the definition does not include palms (trees) and bamboos. Additionally, the A/R WG requested the Board to clarify that any clarifications from the DNA regarding the inclusion of palm (trees) and/or bamboos shall not retroactively affect the A/R project activities for which a Letter of Approval was issued.

14. The A/R WG continued its deliberation of a request for clarifications related to the consistency in the application of “Procedures to demonstrate the eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities” (hereafter referred to as “Procedures”) and “Guidance on conditions under which the change in carbon stocks in existing live woody vegetation are insignificant” (hereafter referred to as “Guidance”) as contained in an unsolicited letter submitted to the Board.

The group clarified that the application of the Procedures may be performed at a different spatial level than the application of the Guidance.

The group further clarified that the information, used for discriminating between forest and non-forest land according to the thresholds contained in the paragraph 8 of the Decision 5/CMP.1 as communicated to the Board by the DNA of the Host Party, may be at any spatial level provided that the applied approach allows discrimination between forest and non-forest land.

15. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification on practical application of the guidance provided in the paragraph 38 of the report of the 50th meeting of the Board as contained in the unsolicited letter submitted to the Board. The group clarified that the above-mentioned guidance allows DOEs to upload PDDs of project activities in which the following versions of the methodologies revised at the 50th meeting of the Board have been applied:

- (a) AR-AM0002 “Restoration of degraded lands through afforestation/reforestation” (version 02);
- (b) AR-AM0004 “Reforestation or afforestation of land currently under agricultural use” (version 03);
- (c) AR-AM0005 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses” (version 03);
- (d) AR-AM0006 “Afforestation/Reforestation with trees supported by shrubs on degraded land”(version 02);
- (e) AR-AM0010 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on unmanaged grassland in reserve/protected areas” (version 03)

for public comments for validation at any date before 30 April 2011.

16. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification of issues related to inclusion of an A/R project activity as an A/R CPA under the A/R PoA as submitted to the Chair of the A/R WG. The group was of the opinion that if an A/R project activity was started after 10 December 2005 and complies with the eligibility criteria for inclusion as an A/R CPA under the A/R PoA, then the project activity may be included as an A/R CPA under the A/R PoA and its crediting period starts at the starting date of the project activity. The clarification follows the guidance on the starting date of the project activity and the starting date of the crediting period for A/R project activities as contained in paragraph 64 of the report of the 21st meeting of the Board.

D. Revision of forms

17. The A/R WG considered the revision of the following forms:

- (a) Proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology for A/R (CDM-AR-NM) – Version 04;
- (b) Project design document form for afforestation and reforestation project activities (CDM-AR-PDD) - Version 04;

and agreed to recommend the revised forms to the Board. The draft forms are contained in annexes 3 and 4, respectively.

E. Workprogramme of the A/R WG

18. The A/R WG took note of its workprogramme for the first semester of 2010 as contained in annex 16 of the report of the 52nd meeting of the Board.

F. Schedule of meetings

19. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the 25th round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 01 March 2010. The working group also informed project participants that the deadline for submission of requests for revision and requests for clarification to be considered at the 28th meeting to be held from 16–18 June 2010 is 04 May 2010, 24:00 GMT.

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 28th meeting from 16–18 June 2010.

G. Roster of experts

21. 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 27th meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft A/R methodology AR-AM00XX “Afforestation and reforestation of land subject to polyculture farming”
- Annex 2: Draft revised consolidated afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-ACM0001 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land” - Version 04
- Annex 3: Draft revised form: Proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology for A/R (CDM-AR-NM) - Version 04
- Annex 4: Draft revised form: Project design document form for afforestation and reforestation project activities (CDM-AR-PDD) - Version 05