

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

16–18 June 2010

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE A/R WORKING GROUP TO THE CDM 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, welcomed the members and especially welcomed the new member Mr. Timothy Pearson.
2. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

B. Consideration of proposed new methodologies and methodological tools

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 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
ARNM0037 : Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process	WIP (see paragraph 7)

7. The A/R WG was not able to conclude its consideration of the new methodology ARNM0037: “Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process” due to a request from the project participants to include a module allowing estimation of emissions from possible decrease in soil organic carbon. The group agreed to work on the request at its next meeting.
8. The A/R WG considered a draft A/R methodological tool “Tool for estimation of changes in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to recommend it to the Board. The tool allows estimation of changes in soil organic carbon stocks on the basis of transition between two land uses. The draft tool is contained in annex 1.

¹ Recommendations on 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.

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_0010	All A/R methodologies	“Conservative reduction of the required precision levels of GHG removals at monitoring and verification by reducing the mean carbon density”	Clarified (see paragraph 11)
AR_AM_CLA_0011	AR-AM0004 ver. 3 AR-AM0005 ver. 3 AR-AM0006 ver. 2 AR-AM0002 ver. 2 AR-AM0010 ver. 3	“Submission of a PDD for registration with a valid version of an approved methodology listed above, for which the Global Stakeholder Process (GSP) was started with a later version of the methodology”	Clarified (see paragraph 12)
AR_AM_CLA_0012	All A/R methodologies	“Applicability of the "Guidelines for the assessment for Investment Analysis" for AR-CDM project”	Clarified (see paragraph 13)
SSC_AR_005	All SSC A/R methodologies	“Declaration on low-income communities and individuals as per A/R CDM requirement”	Clarified (see paragraph 14)

11. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications AR_AM_CLA_0010: “Conservative reduction of the required precision levels of GHG removals at monitoring and verification by reducing the mean carbon density” and agreed that if the precision required by the applied methodology is not met then:

- (a) If the precision level of the mean of the quantity is wider than $\pm 20\%$, then the number of sample plots shall be increased to achieve a precision level of at least $\pm 20\%$ at the confidence level requested in the methodology;
- (b) In other cases a conservatively reduced mean of the quantity may be used:

Conservatively reduced mean of the quantity = mean of the quantity \times (100% – precision level achieved + precision level required).

In order to apply the above guidance to registered A/R CDM project activities a request for deviation is required.

12. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR_AM_CLA_0011: “Submission of a PDD for registration with a valid version of an approved methodology listed above, for which the Global Stakeholder Process (GSP) was started with a later version of the methodology.” The secretariat noted that it was technically not possible to upload PDDs for the GSP applying the methodologies listed in AR_AM_CLA_0011 from 13 November 2009 to 29 March 2010. The group clarified that the affected project activities need not repeat the GSP if they wish to register their PDD with the previous version of the respective methodologies.

13. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, AR_AM_CLA_0012: “Applicability of the “Guidelines for the assessment for Investment Analysis” for AR-CDM project.” The group clarified that the use of “Guidelines on the Assessment of Investment Analysis” (EB 51, Annex 58) is applicable but not mandatory for A/R CDM project activities.

14. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications, SSC_AR_005: “Declaration on low-income communities and individuals as per A/R CDM requirement.” The group clarified that the host Party may mandate the DNA to attest the written declaration by the project participants that the proposed small-scale afforestation or reforestation project activity under the CDM is developed or implemented by low-income communities and individuals as determined by the host Party.

The attestation of the above-mentioned written declaration may be included in the letter of approval. Alternatively, the DNA may wish to publish the criteria that allow identification of low-income communities and individuals in a transparent and consistent manner. If these criteria are publicly available, the DOE shall validate the conformity of communities and individuals who develop or implement the small-scale afforestation or reforestation project activity under the CDM to the above-mentioned criteria.

D. Revision of forms

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

- (a) Proposed New A/R Methodology Expert Form – Second Review (version 03) (F-CDM-AR-NMex_2d);
- (b) Proposed New A/R Methodology Expert Form – Lead Review (version 03) (F-CDM-AR-NMex_3d);

and agreed to recommend the revised forms to the Board. The draft forms are contained in annexes 2 and 3 respectively.

E. Schedule of meetings

16. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the twenty-sixth round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 21 June 2010 and the deadline for the twenty-seventh round of submissions is 30 August 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 twenty-ninth meeting of the group to be held from 9–11 August 2010 is 28 June 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.

17. The A/R WG agreed to hold its twenty-ninth meeting from 9–11 August 2010.

External annexes to the 28th meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft tool: “Tool for estimation of changes in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 2: Draft revised form: Proposed New A/R Methodology Expert Form – Second Review (version 03) (F-CDM-AR-NMex_2d)
- Annex 3: Draft revised form: Proposed New A/R Methodology Expert Form – Lead Review (version 03) (F-CDM-AR-NMex_3d)