

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany

9–11 August 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 and welcomed the members.
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 as well as desk reviews and public inputs received, where applicable, for the following cases.
4. The final recommendations, proposed by the A/R WG for the consideration of 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 or reforestation of degraded or abandoned agricultural land	WIP
AR-AMS000X : Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities on grasslands and/or croplands	A (annex 1)

7. The A/R WG could not complete its consideration of the proposed new methodology ARNM0037: “Afforestation/reforestation activities on degraded agricultural land subject to abandonment process” because of further consideration needed to finalize the option allowing an increase in stock of soil organic carbon in abandoned lands, including the impact of the intensity of ploughing of abandoned lands and its timing in the project scenario. The A/R WG agreed to continue working on this methodology and expects to complete its consideration at its next meeting.

8. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the new methodology: AR-AMS000X: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM

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.

project activities on grasslands or croplands”. The methodology allows for accounting of changes in stock of soil organic carbon by using the approved “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities”. It also applies the tool “Estimation of changes in the carbon stocks of existing trees and shrubs within the boundary of an A/R CDM project activity” in order to improve its usability. The draft baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS000X is contained in annex 1.

C. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies and methodological tools

9. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved methodology AR-AMS0001 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on grasslands or croplands” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised methodology. The revision corrects equations 33, 34, 35 and 36 and changes the title of the methodology to “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities”. The new title is more informative as it points out to a limited displacement of pre-project activities. The draft revised baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS0001 is contained in annex 2.

10. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved consolidated methodology AR-ACM0001: “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised methodology. The revision broadens its applicability by allowing of more than 10% of project area to be ploughed in the project scenario. The revision also introduces simplified methods for estimation of initial biomass in living trees in the baseline. The draft revised baseline and monitoring methodology AR-ACM0001 is contained in annex 3.

11. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved tool “Estimation of changes in the carbon stocks of existing trees and shrubs within the boundary of an A/R CDM project activity” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised tool. The revision: (i) Allows the tool to be applied in both the baseline and the project scenarios; (ii) Simplifies the procedure for estimation of shrub biomass by adopting a default method based on a fraction of forest biomass; (iii) Streamlines the mathematical notation and equations according to the recently approved A/R methodologies; and (iv) Changes its title to “Tool on estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in an A/R CDM project activity”. The draft revised tool is contained in annex 4.

12. 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/SSCAR/clarifications>.

13. 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
SSC AR 006	AR-AMS0004 version 2	“Query regarding use of basal diameter of stem or root collar diameter in developing species-specific allometric equations for calculating above-ground biomass of a living tree”	Clarified (see paragraph 14)

14. The A/R WG considered the request for clarifications SSC_AR_006: “Query regarding use of basal diameter of stem or root collar diameter in developing species-specific allometric equations for calculating above-ground biomass of a living tree” and agreed that the project participants may use basal diameter or root collar diameter, instead of diameter at breast height if species-specific or group-of-species-specific allometric equations based on these measurements are available in the national forest inventory or peer-reviewed scientific publications, provided that these equations relate to site conditions similar to the site conditions of the project area.

D. Revision of “Guidelines for completing the CDM A/R forms for: the project design document (CDM-AR-PDD) and the proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology (CDM-AR-NM)”

15. The A/R WG agreed to recommend a draft revision to the “Guidelines for completing the CDM A/R forms for: the project design document (CDM-AR-PDD) and the proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology (CDM-AR-NM)”. The revision restructures the guidelines to reflect changes applied in the revised forms CDM-AR-PDD and CDM-AR-NM approved by the Board at its fifty-fifth meeting. The draft revised guidelines are contained in annex 5.

E. Schedule of meetings

16. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the twenty-seventh and the twenty-eighth rounds of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies are 30 August 2010 and 22 November 2010, respectively. 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 thirtieth meeting of the group to be held from 18-20 October 2010 is 06 September 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 thirtieth meeting from 18-20 October 2010.

External annexes to the 29th meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AMS000X: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities on grasslands or croplands”
- Annex 2: Draft revised afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring AR-AMS0001: “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities”
- Annex 3: Draft revised consolidated afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring AR-ACM0001: “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”
- Annex 4: Draft revised tool: “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 5: Draft revised “Guidelines for completing the CDM A/R forms for: the project design document (CDM-AR-PDD) and the proposed new baseline and monitoring methodology (CDM-AR-NM)”