

REPORT OF THE THIRTIETH MEETING OF THE AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION WORKING GROUP

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
18–20 October 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/methodologies/ARmethodologies/pnm>.
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/methodologies/ARmethodologies/pnm>.
6. The A/R WG agreed on the following recommendations:

Cases	A/R WG Recommendation ¹
AR-AM00XX : Afforestation or reforestation of degraded or abandoned agricultural land	A (annex 1)

7. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the new methodology AR-AM00XX “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded or abandoned agricultural land”. The methodology is applicable to A/R projects implemented on abandoned agricultural land which, in absence of the project, is likely to grow into shrub land. In particular, the approach provided in the methodology allows for a baseline scenario in which the SOC may increase. The draft baseline and monitoring methodology is contained in annex 1.

C. Clarifications and revisions of approved methodologies and methodological tools

8. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved methodology AR-AM0006 “Afforestation/Reforestation with Trees Supported by Shrubs on Degraded Land” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised methodology. Revision removes references to GHG emissions from enteric fermentation as they are not attributable to the

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.

A/R CDM project activities. The revision also applies the “Tool for estimation of changes in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of CDM A/R project activities” in order to streamline it with other approved methodologies. The revision does not increase the conservativeness of the methodology over its previous version. The draft revised methodology AR-AM0006 is contained in annex 2.

9. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved “Tool for estimation of Carbon Stocks, Removals and Emissions for the Dead Organic Matter Pools due to Implementation of a CDM A/R Project Activity” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised tool. The revision introduces a default method for estimation of changes in carbon stocks in the dead organic matter pools and removes the approach for estimation of emissions from burning of biomass contained in these pools as accounting of emissions is covered in another approved tool. The A/R WG also agreed to recommend changing the title of the tool to “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”. The revision does not increase the conservativeness of the tool over its previous version. The draft revised tool is contained in annex 3.

10. The A/R WG considered a revision of the approved tool “Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the revised tool. The revision simplifies the method of calculation of sample plots, introduces a simplified equation which applies in cases of small sampling fractions, and streamlines the general presentation of the tool with other recently approved tools. The revision does not increase the conservativeness of the tool over its previous version. The draft revised tool is contained in annex 4.

11. The A/R WG considered a spreadsheet aimed at facilitating calculation of changes in soil organic carbon stocks using the approved “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to recommend it to the Board for approval as a standardized utility for calculations. The draft spreadsheet is provided at the following link at the UNFCCC website:
<<http://cdm.unfccc.int/Panels/ar>>.

D. Workshop

12. The A/R WG noted that 17 A/R CDM project activities have been registered and another 40 projects are currently at various stages of the validation process. The group further noted that some of the approved A/R methodologies are used much more frequently than others. Hence, taking into account the CMP request to examine the issues related to low/no utilisation of some of the CDM methodologies, the group agreed to request the Board to organize a one-day workshop aimed at getting a better understanding of the methodological constraints for the application of approved A/R CDM methodologies.

E. Schedule of meetings

13. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the twenty-eighth and twenty-ninth rounds of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies are 22 November 2010 and 31 January 2011, 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 thirty-first meeting is 31 January 2011.

The A/R WG also reminded project participants that new baseline and monitoring methodologies could be submitted at any time prior to this deadline.

14. The A/R WG agreed to hold its thirty-first meeting on 14-16 March 2011.

External annexes to the 30th meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AM00XX “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded or abandoned agricultural land”
- Annex 2: Draft revised afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-AM0006 “Afforestation/Reforestation with Trees Supported by Shrubs on Degraded Land”
- Annex 3: Draft revised tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 4: Draft revised tool “Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities”