

REPORT OF THE THIRTY-FIRST MEETING OF THE AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION WORKING GROUP

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
14–16 March 2011

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), Ms. Diana Harutyunyan, opened the meeting and welcomed the members. On behalf of the A/R WG, the Chair expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing Chair Mr. José Domingos Miguez.
2. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

B. Proposed new methodologies

3. The A/R WG considered the proposed new A/R methodology, listed in the table below, as well as public inputs received, where applicable.
4. The final recommendations 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. Provided these are received within four weeks then the preliminary recommendations shall be reconsidered at the next meeting of the panel. If project participants do not provide clarifications related to the preliminary recommendation within a timeframe of three months, the case will be considered withdrawn.
6. The panel agreed on the following recommendation:

New methodology submissions		
Submission number	Title	Recommendation ¹
AR-NM0038	Afforestation and reforestation of degraded tidal forest habitats	WIP (See paragraph 7)

7. The A/R WG completed its consideration of the proposed new methodology AR-NM0038: “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded tidal forest habitats” and requested the secretariat to send the draft reformatted methodology to the project participants in order to seek their confirmation whether the methodology still applies to their project. The group also requested the secretariat to send the draft reformatted methodology to the secretariat of the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance (the Ramsar Convention) for their comments.

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. Development of new methodologies and tools

8. Following the request from the Board to develop top-down methodologies to increase the geographic coverage of the CDM to under-represented regions, the A/R WG agreed to recommend a new A/R methodology AR-AM00XX: “Afforestation and reforestation of lands other than wetlands”, as contained in annex 1.

The new methodology has the following features:

- (a) Its applicability is broader since it is applicable to all types of lands other than wetlands;
- (c) The methodology allows a choice of any of the three baseline approaches under paragraph 22 of annex to the Decision 5/CMP.1;
- (d) The methodology follows the modular structure by using the approved tools wherein the respective algorithms/steps are contained.

D. Revision of approved methodologies and tools

9. The A/R WG agreed to recommend amendments to approved A/R methodologies and tools as a part the ongoing process of improving approved methodologies to further enhance their objectivity, applicability, usability and consistency.

10. **Amendment of AR-ACM0001 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land.”** The A/R WG considered an amendment of the approved methodology and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft amended methodology, as contained in annex 2. The amendment addresses issues regarding applicability of the methodology for short-rotation forestry and the use of recently approved A/R methodological tools.

11. **Amendment of the tool “Estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity.”** The A/R WG considered an amendment of the approved tool to align it with other recently approved A/R methodological tools and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft amended tool as contained in annex 3. Further, the group agreed to change the title of the tool to “Estimation of non-CO₂ GHG emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity”.

12. **Amendment of the “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities.”** The A/R WG considered an amendment of the approved tool to harmonize the unit of the output parameter with other approved A/R methodological tools and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft amended tool, as contained in annex 4.

13. **Amendment of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities.”** The A/R WG considered an amendment of the approved tool to include an approach for ensuring that the precision of the estimation meets the precision prescribed in the approved A/R methodologies and to include an alternative approach for estimation of change in carbon stocks. The group agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft amended tool, as contained in annex 5.

E. Clarifications to approved methodologies and tools

14. The A/R WG considered submissions requesting clarifications to approved A/R methodologies. The detailed responses provided by the A/R WG are made publicly available at <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/clarifications>>. They can also be accessed by clicking the hyperlinked submission numbers in the table below.

Requests for clarifications		
AR_AM_CLA_0013	“Consideration of changes in an A/R project as part of the implementation of monitoring plan”	Partly clarified (See paragraph 15)
AR_AM_CLA_0014	“Changes in the project boundary due to partially implementation of the forest areas as planned in the registered PDD”	WIP (See paragraph 16)

15. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_0013 in which clarification is sought whether changes in a registered A/R CDM project activity, including changes in the project boundary during implementation of the project activity, require revision of the monitoring plan and re-assessment of additionality. The request for clarification relates to AR-AM0001 “Reforestation of Degraded Land” (Version 01) and other approved A/R methodologies. The A/R WG agreed to clarify that updating of *ex post* stratification and updating of sample size does not require a revision to the monitoring plan. The group agreed to continue working on the clarification, at its thirty-second meeting, in order to consider the other two issues raised in the request for clarification.

16. In response to the submission AR_AM_CLA_0014 requesting clarification on whether changes in the project boundary during implementation of a registered A/R CDM project activity require revision of the monitoring plan, the A/R WG agreed to continue its consideration at its thirty-second meeting.

F. Other issues

17. **Continuous forest inventory.** The A/R WG agreed to initiate consideration of applicability of continuous forest inventory for the purpose of verification in A/R CDM project activities.

18. **Request from the SSC WG.** The A/R WG considered a request from the SSC WG on issues relating to cultivation of short-cycle cellulosic biomass. The issues relate to the request for revision SSC_454 “Revision to include cover crops of short-cycle cellulosic biomass from non-dedicated plantations”. The A/R WG agreed to provide its response on the issues raised, as contained in annex 6.

G. Schedule of meetings and round of submissions

19. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the thirtieth round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 21 March 2011. 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-second meeting is 28 March 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.

20. The A/R WG agreed to hold its thirty-second meeting on 9-11 May 2011.

Annexes to the report of the 31st meeting of the A/R WG

Annex 1: AR-AM00XX “Afforestation and reforestation of lands other than wetlands”

Annex 2: Draft amendment of AR-ACM0001 “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land”

Annex 3: Draft amendment of the tool “Estimation of non-CO2 GHG emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity”

Annex 4: Draft amendment of the tool “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities”

Annex 5: Draft amendment of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”

Annex 6: Response to request from Small-Scale Working Group (SSC-WG) seeking advice on identified issues related to SSC request for revision SSC_454 “Revision to include cover crops of short-cycle cellulosic biomass from non-dedicated plantations”