

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
9–11 May 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.
2. The Chair on behalf of the group welcomed the new Vice-chair of the group Mr. Daniel V. Ortega-Pacheco and the new members Mr. Raul Ponce-Hernandez and Mr. Larwanou Mahamane. The Chair expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing members Mr. Nagmeldin Elhassan and Mr. Walter Oyhantcabal.
3. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

B. Proposed new methodologies

4. The A/R WG considered the proposed new A/R methodology, listed in the table below, as well as public inputs received, where applicable.
5. 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>.
6. 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. If these are received within four weeks then the preliminary recommendations shall be reconsidered at the next meeting of the panel. If the project participants do not provide clarifications related to the preliminary recommendation within a timeframe of three months, the case will be considered withdrawn.
7. The group agreed on the following recommendation:

New methodology submissions		
Submission number	Title	Recommendation ¹
ARNM0038	Afforestation and reforestation of degraded tidal forest habitats	A (See paragraph 8)

8. The A/R WG agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft methodology AR-AM00XX “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded mangrove habitats” based on the new methodology submission ARNM0038. The methodology is applicable to afforestation and reforestation of degraded mangrove habitats. It allows accounting of carbon stock changes in the following carbon pools: (i) Above-ground biomass; (ii) Below-ground biomass; (ii) Dead wood; and (iv) Soil organic carbon. Changes in dead wood carbon pool and the soil organic

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.

carbon pool are accounted for by using default factors. The draft baseline and monitoring methodology is contained in annex 1.

C. Clarifications to approved methodologies and tools

9. 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	Clarified (See paragraph 10)
AR_AM_CLA_0014	Changes in the project boundary due to partially implementation of the forest areas as planned in the registered PDD	Clarified (See paragraph 11)

10. The A/R WG considered the following two issues raised in the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_0013: (i) Whether any changes to the project area require revision of the monitoring plan and its approval by the CDM Executive Board, and (ii) Whether, in the course of project implementation, changes in species composition from the species composition described in the registered PDD require re-assessment of the additionality of a project. The A/R WG agreed to clarify that in the situation described in the request for clarification, the “Procedures for notifying and requesting approval of changes from the project activity as described in the registered project design document” (annex 66 to the report of the EB 48 meeting) and “Guidelines on assessment of different types of changes from the project activity as described in the registered PDD” (annex 67 to the report of the EB 48 meeting) apply.

11. In response to the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_0014 seeking clarification 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 clarify that in the situation described in the request for clarification, the procedures and the guidelines mentioned in paragraph 10 above apply.

12. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board for a mandate to work on identifying types of changes from the project description in the PDD which are considered minor in nature and can be addressed, at the time of verification, by the DOE without submitting a notification or a request for approval of changes as provided under paragraph 6 of the “Procedures for notifying and requesting approval of changes from the project activity as described in the registered project design document” (annex 66 to the report of the EB 48 meeting).

13. The A/R WG further agreed to request the Board to launch a call for public input on the following issues:

- (a) Common difficulties in the implementation of A/R CDM project activities according to the registered PDD;
- (b) Types and scale of changes from the project description in the PDD that are typical for forestry practice and have been already identified, or are expected to occur, at the time of verification of A/R CDM project activities.

14. The group requested the secretariat to prepare detailed questions covering issues identified above to be used in call for public inputs.

D. Other issues

15. **Request from CMP.6.** Following the request from CMP (paragraph 40 of decision 3/CMP.6) for development of alternative approaches for demonstration and assessment of additionality, the A/R WG agreed to recommend the draft “Guidelines for demonstrating additionality in A/R CDM project activities”, as contained in annex 2. The guidelines identify conditions under which A/R CDM project activities are considered additional.
16. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to take note of the following issues:
- (a) **Draft revision of the “Guidance on application of the definition of the project boundary to A/R CDM activities.”** The A/R WG agreed to continue working on the revision of the guidance;
 - (b) **Draft guidelines for estimation of baseline net greenhouse gas removals by sinks when planting of trees is required under law.** In response to the issue raised by the project participants related to accounting of pre-project tree-planting in the approved methodology AR-AM0005 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses”, the A/R WG agreed to consider a draft revision of the methodology at its next meeting;
 - (c) **Verification of globally derived allometric equations and volume equations.** The A/R WG agreed to continue working on issues related to verification of globally derived allometric equations and volume equations;
 - (d) **Continuous forest inventory.** The A/R WG considered the applicability of continuous forest inventory for the purpose of verification in A/R CDM project activities. The group agreed to continue working on this issue at its next meeting;
 - (e) **Accounting for emissions resulting from wildfires in A/R CDM project activities.** The A/R WG considered the issue of accounting for emissions resulting from wildfires in A/R CDM project activities and agreed to continue working on this issue at its next meeting;
 - (f) **Accounting of root biomass of a coppice forest subject to harvesting.** The A/R WG considered the issue of accounting of root biomass of a coppice forest subject to harvesting and agreed to initiate revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”.

E. Schedule of meetings and round of submissions

17. The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to remind project participants that the deadline for the thirty-first round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 4 July 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 11 July 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.

18. The A/R WG agreed to hold its thirty-third meeting on 22-24 August 2011.

Annexes to the report of the 32nd meeting of the A/R WG

Annex 1: AR-AM00XX “Afforestation and reforestation of degraded mangrove habitats”

Annex 2: Draft “Guidelines for demonstrating additionality in A/R CDM project activities”