

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
22–24 August 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 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 (designated operational entity), 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related to the preliminary recommendation within a timeframe of three months, the case will be considered withdrawn.
6. The A/R WG agreed on the following recommendation:

| New methodology submissions | | |
|-----------------------------|--|-----------------------------|
| Submission number | Title | Recommendation ¹ |
| ARNM0039 | CarbonFix A/R baseline and monitoring methodology for multiple baseline land uses and leakage settings | C |

C. Revision of approved methodologies and tools

7. **Amendment of AR-AM0005 "Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses"**. The A/R WG could not conclude its consideration of an amendment of the approved methodology AR-AM0005 as contact with the project participants could not be established. The A/R WG agreed to continue work in its next meeting.

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.

8. **Amendment of AR-ACM0002 “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded land without displacement of pre-project activities”.** The A/R WG considered an amendment of the methodology AR-ACM0002 and agreed to recommend the Board to approve the draft amended methodology, as contained in annex 1. The amendment corrects the reference to the tool “Estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity” by inserting the revised title of the tool as “Estimation of non-CO2 GHG emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity”, following the request of the Board contained in paragraph 61 of the EB 60 report. The amendment also improves some sections of the methodology to make these consistent with the revised tool.

9. **Withdrawal of approved methodology “AR-AM0006: Afforestation/Reforestation with Trees Supported by Shrubs on Degraded Land”.** The A/R WG agreed to recommend the Board to withdraw the approved methodology “AR-AM0006: Afforestation/Reforestation with Trees Supported by Shrubs on Degraded Land” as this methodology was consolidated into the approved methodology “AR-ACM0001: Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land” but was allowed to remain as a separate methodology by the Board.

D. Clarifications to approved methodologies and tools

10. 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>>. The responses can also be accessed by clicking the hyperlinked submission numbers in the table below.

| Requests for clarifications | | |
|------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------|
| AR_AM_CLA_0015 | Use of different predictors in allometric equations than the DBH | Clarified (See paragraph 12) |
| AR_AM_CLA_0016 | Parameters of older methodologies and project emissions | WIP (See paragraph 13) |
| SSC_AR_007 | Applicability of methodology for project implementation on croplands and whether project activities are required to lead to establishment of forest | Clarified (See paragraph 14) |

11. In response to the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_0015 seeking clarification on whether any different predictors can be used instead of diameter at breast height for estimation of total stem volume, while the methodology requires the measurement of the DBH, the A/R WG clarified 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.

12. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification AR_AM_CLA_0016 but could not conclude its consideration. The A/R WG agreed to continue consideration of the request for clarification at its next meeting.

13. The A/R WG considered the request for clarification SSC_AR_007 seeking clarification regarding eligibility of “croplands” under the small-scale methodology AR-ASM0002

version 02 and whether the project activity to which the methodology is applied must lead to the establishment of forest (according to area, height and crown cover thresholds reported to the Board by the host Party). The A/R WG clarified that lands classified as “croplands”, as defined in the Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-use Change and Forestry (IPCC, 2003), cannot be considered as eligible land categories in paragraph I.1 (a) of the small-scale methodology AR-AMS0002, and that the project activity to which the methodology AR-AMS0002 version 02 is applied must lead to the establishment of forest as defined by the threshold values reported by the host Party under paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 5/CMP.1.

E. Other issues

14. **Draft guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities.** Taking into account the outcome of the one-day stakeholder workshop held on 12 May 2011 in Bonn, the A/R WG considered draft guidelines on the application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities and agreed to recommend the Board to approve the draft guidelines, as contained in annex 2. The draft guidelines allows a registered A/R CDM project activity to apply, at the time of verification, the improvements in the methodology that were approved after the date of registration of the project activity.

15. **Draft guidelines on accounting of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design documents (PDD).** Taking into account the outcome of the one-day stakeholder workshop held on 12 May 2011 in Bonn and the response to call for public input opened by the Board from 3 June 2011 to 3 July 2011, the A/R WG considered draft guidelines on accounting of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design documents (PDD) and agreed to recommend to the Board to approve the draft guidelines, as contained in annex 3. The draft guidelines list the types of changes from the project description in the registered PDD of an A/R CDM project activity which are identified as minor in nature, and which therefore are to be addressed through the verification stage by the DOE without submitting a notification or a request for approval.

16. **Consideration of the outcome of the stakeholder workshop and the call for public input.** The A/R WG considered the outcome of the stakeholder workshop and the call for public inputs and noted that some of the issues raised are addressed by the draft guideline annexes recommended by the A/R WG at this meeting. The A/R WG requested the secretariat to consider the inclusion of the remaining issues in the proposals for a future work programme for the A/R WG.

17. **Applicability of globally derived allometric equations and volume equations.** The A/R WG was not able to conclude its consideration of the draft “Tool for demonstration of applicability of allometric equations and volume equations in A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to continue its work during the next meeting.

18. **Work in progress.** The A/R WG agreed to request the Board to take note that the A/R WG will continue consideration of the following issues:

- (a) Accounting for emissions resulting from forest fires in A/R CDM project activities;
- (b) Developing guidelines on standardized baseline to be applied in A/R CDM project activities;
- (c) Alternative approaches used for demonstrating additionality in SSC A/R CDM projects;
- (d) Consideration of simplified approaches to eligibility of land and determination of project boundary for A/R CDM activities.

F. 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 thirty-second round of submissions of proposed new A/R methodologies is 29 August 2011. The A/R WG also informed project participants that the deadline for submission of requests for revision and requests for clarification to be considered at the thirty-fourth meeting is 29 August 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-fourth meeting on 10-12 October 2011.

Annexes to the report of the 33rd meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft amendment of AR-ACM0002 “Afforestation or reforestation of degraded land without displacement of pre-project activities”
- Annex 2: Draft guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities
- Annex 3: Draft guidelines on accounting of specified types of changes in A/R CDM project activities from the description in registered project design documents (PDD)