A/R WG feedback to the draft guidelines for standardized baselines with expanded applicability to afforestation and reforestation projects

1.   The following steps should be applied to establish standardized baselines for A/R project activities:

(a)   Delineation of geographic region

The geographic region within which an A/R standardized baseline is applicable can be one or more discrete areas of land located entirely within a host Party or can be located in more than one host Party with similar edapho-climatic, geomorphic, ecological and socioeconomic conditions.

(b)   Identification of land types and/or land-uses

Land types and/or land-uses are identified, within the geographic region delineated, which have reasonably homogeneous (i.e. Coefficient of Variation CV 10%): (i) aboveground carbon stock; (ii) baseline net GHG removals by sinks per hectare; (iii) land cover history allowing for simple demonstration of land eligibility.

(c)   Estimation of aboveground carbon stock and baseline net GHG removals by sinks per hectare

Mean aboveground carbon stock and mean baseline net GHG removals by sinks per hectare in the lands identified are estimated within an accuracy ≥90% and a precision of at least 0.001.

(d)   Demonstrating additionality

A proposed A/R project activity is additional if the DNA confirms that:

(i)   The baseline land-use identified in the standardized baselines is in accordance with the mandatory applicable legal and regulatory requirements; or

(ii)   tree planting (or establishment of tree/ shrub vegetation, if applicable) in these lands is not required by mandatory applicable legal and regulatory requirements, or the tree planting to the extent required by law is reflected in estimation of net baseline GHG removals by sinks; or

(iii)   An examination of current practice in the region in which the mandatory law or regulation requiring tree planting (or establishment of tree/shrub vegetation, if applicable) applies, leads to a conclusion that those applicable mandatory legal or regulatory requirements are systematically not enforced and that non-compliance with those requirements is widespread, i.e. prevalent on at least 30% of area of the smallest administrative unit that encompasses the project area.

(e)   Demonstration of land eligibility

An approach is provided for demonstrating the eligibility of land types and/or land-uses areidentified, within the geographic region delineated, according to the criteria of land eligibility defined under paragraph 1 of the annex to decision 16/CMP.1.

2.   Criteria are to be developed by the DNA for identification of land types and/or land-uses and socio-economic conditions in which afforestation or reforestation project activities are not likely to be implemented without the financial incentives of the CDM. Possibe examples of criteria are contained in Annex 1 of these guidelines. In future more criteria may be added or the existing criteria may be modified depending upon availability of data and information.

Land types and/or land-uses and socio-economic conditions in which afforestation/reforestation project activities are not likely to be implemented without the financial incentives of the CDM

3.   The examples provided here are only for the purpose of illustration and are assumed to be based on hypothetical data and conditions. In practice, the proposals of standardized baselines received from the DNA(s) of the host Party(ies) concerned must be accompanied by actual supporting data and information.

A. Lands with limited productivity

4.   *Rationale*: The land types listed in Table 1 are indentified by their biophysical limitations to productivity and afforestation/reforestation activities implemented on these lands are not likely to generate sufficient financial returns to make these activities financially viable. Therefore, the financial incentive of the CDM is required for implementation of afforestation/reforestation activities on these lands. The baseline scenario for these land types is continuation of pre-project land-use.

Table 1

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
A.1 Drylands	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) Lands are identified as drylands, arid lands, or lands affected by desertification; (ii) Lands receive an annual average precipitation of 600 mm or less; (iii) Ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration (P/PET) for the lands is 0.65 or less
A.2 Lands containing soils that for some applications may be deemed problematic	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) Soil pH is less than 4.0; (ii) Soil salinity is greater than 7.5 dS/m; (iii) Soil sodium absorption ratio (SAR) is greater than 8.0; (iv) Soil surface is intercepted by stones/rocks covering more than 50% of the area; (v) Soils are calcareous soils with calcium carbonate equivalent of 20% or more; (vi) Soils are skeletal soils with a mean soil depth of 30 cm or less. Provided that the criteria apply to more than 50% of land area within the geographic region identified for a standardized baseline

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
A.3 Lands consisting of soils with various degrees of contamination, including soils with toxicity, municipal landfills, mine tailings	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) In case of lands affected by industrial pollution or by agricultural activities (e.g. over-use of chemical fertilizers, irrigation, or pesticides), appropriate data should be provided to demonstrate that the productive capacity of the lands has been impaired; (ii) In case of municipal landfills and mine tailings, the lands should have been officially designated for these purposes, or categorized as such lands. Provided that the criteria apply to more than 50% of land area within the geographic region identified for a standardized baseline

B. Lands with restricted land-use rights

Rationale: the land types listed in Table 2 are identified by their legal status that allows afforestation/reforestation activities but prevents intermediate or final harvesting, although removal of trees for management operations (e.g. salvage of fallen or dead trees, over-mature trees, etc) is permitted. Afforestation/reforestation activities implemented on these lands are not likely to generate sufficient financial returns to make these activities financially viable because no intermediate or final harvest is permitted. Therefore, the financial incentive of the CDM is required for implementation of afforestation/reforestation activities on these lands. The baseline scenario for these land types is continuation of pre-project land-use.

Table 2

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
B.1 Protected watersheds; B.1 Protected watersheds; B.3 National parks, wildlife sanctuaries/refuges; B.6 Lands along riverbanks, lands with steep slopes, gullied and ravinous lands	Lands were legally classified under one of these categories under the applicable legal provisions in the host Party country which and the applicable legal provisions do not permit intermediate or final harvesting

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