

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

UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
21–23 March 2012

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE A/R WG TO THE CDM EXECUTIVE BOARD

A. Opening of the meeting and adoption of the agenda

1. The new Chair of the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG), Mr. Eduardo Calvo, elected by the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the Board) at its sixty-sixth meeting, opened the meeting. The members of the A/R WG expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing Chair Diana Harutyunyan and the Vice-Chair Daniel Ortega-Pacheco for their excellent contribution to the work of the group. The A/R WG members welcomed the new Chair Mr. Eduardo Calvo and the new Vice-Chair Ms. Diana Harutyunyan.
2. The agenda was revised to include the following item: “Screening of land suitability and determination of project boundary in fragmented landscapes”. The revised agenda was adopted by the A/R WG.

B. Revisions of approved methodologies and tools

3. **Amendment of AR-AM0005 “Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses”**: the A/R WG could not conclude the discussion on the issue of afforestation/reforestation in the baseline of an A/R CDM project activity and agreed to continue the consideration of the revision of the approved methodology AR-AM0005 at the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG.
4. **Revision of the tools “Tool for the demonstration and assessment of additionality in A/R CDM project activities” and the “Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities”**: the A/R WG considered a draft proposal for a revision of the “Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities” and agreed that, in view of the available guidelines “Guidelines for objective demonstration and assessment of barriers (EB 50, annex 13) and the “Guidelines on the assessment of investment analysis” (EB 62, annex 5), a revision of the tools is currently not needed.
5. **Revision 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 a draft proposal for a revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”. The consideration of the draft revision was advanced and the group agreed to continue working on the draft at the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG.
6. **Revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”**: the A/R WG considered a draft proposal for a revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to recommend the Board to approve the draft revision, as contained in annex 1. The revision incorporates the use of the tools “Demonstrating appropriateness of allometric equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities” (EB 65, annex 28) and “Demonstrating

appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities” (EB 65, annex 29).

7. **Amendment of the tool “Demonstrating appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities”**: following the recommendation for approval of the revised tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”, the A/R WG further agreed to amend the tool “Demonstrating appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities” in order to enhance the clarity of the text by replacing “volume equation” with “volume table or volume equation”. The A/R WG agreed to recommend the Board to approve the draft amendment, as contained in annex 2.

8. **Revision of the tool “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities”**: the A/R WG considered a draft proposal for a revision of the tool “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities” and agreed to continue its consideration at the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG.

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>> and <<http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/SSCAR/clarifications>>.

Requests for clarifications		
Submission	Title	Paragraph
SSC_AR_008	Application tools for tree and shrub in small-scale A/R methodology	(See paragraph 10)

10. In response to the submission SSC_AR_008, regarding the application of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities” in small-scale A/R CDM methodologies, the A/R WG agreed that it will be appropriate to incorporate the use of the tool in small-scale A/R CDM methodologies. The A/R WG agreed that the tools “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities” and the “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities” should also be used in small-scale A/R CDM methodologies. This would allow project participants a full range of options to account for carbon stock changes in all the five carbon pools.

The A/R WG further agreed that it would be appropriate that those approved SSC A/R methodologies which do not have any methodological specificity after incorporation of the tools should be consolidated and subsequently withdrawn. After consolidation, only two SSC A/R methodologies could be retained, namely:

- (a) AR-AMS0007 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands”;
- (b) AR-AMS0003 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small scale CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on wetlands”.

The group noted that after consolidation it will be necessary to amend the title of AR-AMS0007 to reflect the expanded scope of its applicability.

D. Other issues

11. **Revision of the “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks”:** the A/R WG agreed to recommend the Board to withdraw the “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks”. The consequences of such withdrawal will be simplification of A/R standards since the guidelines are no longer required in view of recent improvements in A/R methodologies and tools.

12. **Consultation on draft guidelines for standardized baselines with expanded applicability to afforestation and reforestation projects:** the A/R WG agreed to provide feedback to the secretariat on the draft “Guidelines for establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”. The feedback provided by the group is contained in annex 3 to this report.

13. **Request from the Methodologies Panel regarding dedicated plantations:** the A/R WG considered the request from the Methodologies Panel seeking advice from the group on possible emissions from cultivation of organic soils and other issues related to soil emissions. The A/R WG agreed on the draft terms of reference prepared by the secretariat for hiring a consultant for preparation of a report to be considered at the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG. The group noted that the draft terms of reference may benefit from due consideration of issues regarding appropriateness, estimations (particularly measurement feasibility) and ecological regions.

14. **Screening of land suitability and determination of project boundary in fragmented landscapes:** the A/R WG considered a draft approach for screening of land suitability and determination of project boundary in fragmented landscapes and agreed to continue working on the draft approach at the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG.

E. Schedule of meetings and rounds of submissions

15. The A/R WG agreed to hold its thirty-sixth meeting from 20 to 22 June 2012 taking into account the meeting schedule approved by the Board. The deadline for new methodology submissions and requests for revisions to this meeting is 11 April 2012 and the deadline for submitting requests for clarifications for the thirty-sixth meeting of the A/R WG is 9 May 2012.

Annexes to the report of the thirty-fifth meeting of the A/R WG

- Annex 1: Draft revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 2: Draft amendment of the tool “Demonstrating appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities”
- Annex 3: Feedback to the secretariat from the A/R WG on the draft “Guidelines for establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”