

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

Haus Carstanjen, UNFCCC Headquarters, Bonn, Germany
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Version 01.2¹

RECOMMENDATIONS BY THE AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION 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), Mr. Eduardo Calvo, opened the meeting. The Chair on behalf of the A/R WG welcomed the new member Ms. Sarah Walker. The Chair expressed deep appreciation to the outgoing member Mr. Timothy Pearson for his excellent contribution to the work of the group.
2. The agenda was adopted as proposed.

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 considered the issue of afforestation/reforestation in the baseline of an A/R clean development mechanism (CDM) project activity and agreed to review the methodology with a view to finalizing it at the 37th meeting of the A/R WG.
4. **Revision of the methodology AR-AMS0007 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands”**: the A/R WG agreed to recommend that the Board approve the proposed revision of the methodology AR-AMS0007, as contained in annex 1.
5. The revised methodology incorporates the use of the approved A/R methodological tools to allow project participants the full range of options to account for carbon stock changes in all the five carbon pools. The revision also consolidates five other small-scale A/R methodologies into this methodology and makes the methodology modular in its structure, thus enhancing its usability. The small-scale A/R methodologies consolidated into the draft revised methodology are:
 - (a) AR-AMS0001 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities”;
 - (b) AR-AMS0002 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM implemented on settlements”;
 - (c) AR-AMS0004 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale agroforestry - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”;

¹ This version was issued to correct the reference AM_REV_0238 (report version 01.1) to AM_REV_0229 in paragraph 17.

(d) AR-AMS0005 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on lands having low inherent potential to support living biomass”;

(e) AR-AMS0006 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale silvopastoral - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”.

6. The A/R WG further agreed to change the title of the draft revised methodology AR-AMS0007 to “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small scale CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on lands other than wetlands” in order to reflect the expanded scope of its applicability.

7. **Consolidation and withdrawal of small-scale A/R methodologies:** the A/R WG further agreed to recommend that the Board withdraw the following small-scale A/R methodologies, which will be superseded by the draft revised methodology AR-AMS0007:

(a) AR-AMS0001 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities”;

(b) AR-AMS0002 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM implemented on settlements”;

(c) AR-AMS0004 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale agroforestry - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”;

(d) AR-AMS0005 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism implemented on lands having low inherent potential to support living biomass”;

(e) AR-AMS0006 “Approved simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small-scale silvopastoral - afforestation and reforestation project activities under the clean development mechanism”.

8. **Revision of the methodology AR-AMS0003 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small scale CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on wetlands”:** the A/R WG agreed to recommend that the Board approve the draft revised methodology, as contained in annex 2.

9. The draft revised methodology incorporates the use of the approved A/R methodological tools to allow project participants the full range of options to account for carbon stock changes in all the five carbon pools.

10. **“Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities”:** the A/R WG agreed to recommend that the Board withdraw the methodological tool “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities”.

11. Consequences of the withdrawal will be simplification of the A/R standards since the tool is no longer required as a result of recent improvements in methodological standards approved by the Board.

12. **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 revision of the methodological tool and further advanced the work of revision. The group agreed to recommend that the Board launch a call for public inputs on the draft revised tool, as contained in annex 3, while using a questionnaire, as contained in annex 4 for soliciting specific and general public inputs.

C. Clarifications to approved methodologies and tools

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

Requests for clarifications		
Submission	Title	Status
AR_AM_CLA_0017	Request for clarification in respect to the combining of large and small scale methodologies within an A/R Programme of Activities (PoA)	Clarified (See paragraph 14)
AR_AM_CLA_0018	Inclusion of other AR-Methodologies to EB 63 Annex 26	Clarified (See paragraph 15)

14. In response to the submission AR_AM_CLA_0017, requesting clarification on whether it is possible to combine large- and small-scale methodologies within an A/R Programme of Activities (PoA), the A/R WG agreed to clarify that any combination of A/R CDM methodologies, including a combination consisting of small-scale A/R methodologies and large-scale A/R methodologies, is allowed in an A/R PoA.

15. In response to the submission AR_AM_CLA_0018 concerning inclusion of other A/R methodologies in the “Guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities” (EB 63, annex 26), the A/R WG agreed to clarify that the provisions of Table 1 in the guidelines apply to any version of any methodology that was used by a registered A/R CDM project activity that was in the process of registration by the end of the grace period applicable to that version of the methodology.

16. Following the response to the submission AR_AM_CLA_0018 above, the A/R WG further agreed to recommend that the Board approve the draft amended “Guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities” (EB 63, annex 26), as contained in annex 5.

D. General guidance and cross-cutting issues

17. **Request from the Methodologies Panel regarding dedicated plantations:** the A/R WG agreed to provide a response to the Methodologies Panel regarding the revision request AM_REV_0229 “Revision of AM0036 to include fuel switch to biomass from dedicated plantations”, as contained in annex 6.

18. The response addresses the issues of accounting for possible emissions from cultivation of organic soils and other issues related to soil emissions and has been prepared taking into account the methodologies AM0036 “Fuel switch from fossil fuels to biomass

residues in heat generation equipment” and ACM0017 “Production of biodiesel for use as fuel” as well as input from a consultant.

19. **Screening of land suitability and determination of project boundary in fragmented landscapes:** the A/R WG considered a draft approach for determining project boundaries in fragmented landscapes and agreed not to consider the issue further at this time. However, the group agreed that the issue could possibly be taken up in future at an appropriate time.

E. Schedule of meetings and rounds of submissions

20. The A/R WG agreed to schedule its 37th meeting from 29 to 31 October 2012 taking into account the schedule of the Board. The deadline for new methodology submissions and requests for revisions to be considered at this meeting is 21 August 2012 and the deadline for submitting requests for clarifications for this meeting is 17 September 2012.

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

Annex 1 - Draft revision of AR-AMS0007 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small scale CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on lands other than wetlands”

Annex 2 - Draft revision of AR-AMS0003 “Simplified baseline and monitoring methodology for small scale CDM afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on wetlands”

Annex 3 - Draft revision of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”

Annex 4 - Call for public input on the draft revision of the A/R methodological tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities

Annex 5 - Draft amendment of the “Guidelines on application of specified versions of A/R CDM methodologies in verification of registered A/R CDM project activities”

Annex 6 - Response to the request from the Methodologies Panel