

CDM-ARWG38-A08

~~Procedure~~ Draft A/R Methodological tool

Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities

Version 02.0 – Draft

DRAFT



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

COVER NOTE

1. Procedural background

1. The Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG) undertook the work of improvement of A/R methodological standards, including simplification and consolidation of standards, as part of its 2012 work programme. Since this work could not be concluded during the year, the A/R WG agreed to conclude the work of simplification and consolidation of standards at its 38th meeting.
2. The following A/R methodological tools had been agreed by the A/R WG to be revised, while incorporating the relevant decisions of the Executive Board (hereinafter referred to as the Board) of the clean development mechanism (CDM) and other substantive improvements:
 - (a) “Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity”;
 - (b) “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”;
 - (c) “Procedure to determine when accounting of the soil organic carbon pool may be conservatively neglected in CDM A/R project activities”.
3. Draft revisions of the tools were prepared by the secretariat and were considered by the A/R WG at its 38th meeting. The A/R WG agreed to launch a call for public inputs on the draft revised tools as contained in annexes 2, 3 and 8 of the report of the 38th meeting of the A/R WG.
4. The A/R WG further agreed to finalize the draft revisions after taking into account public inputs received in response to the call and to recommend the finalized drafts to the Board for its approval.
5. As no public inputs were received in response to the call, the draft revisions of the tools as contained in annexes 2, 3, and 8 of the report of the 38th meeting of the A/R WG are recommended by the A/R WG for approval of the Board.

2. Purpose

6. These revisions of the A/R CDM methodological tools aim to incorporate the relevant decisions of the Board and also to incorporate other substantive improvements.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

7. The following improvements are proposed in the draft revisions of the tools:
 - (a) “Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity”
 - (i) Incorporating related decisions of the Board;

- (ii) Delinking leakage emission from the project carbon stocks;
 - (iii) Estimating leakage from actual carbon stocks in the receiving lands;
 - (iv) Reformatting the tool using the current template, thus enhancing readability and consistency;
 - (b) “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities”
 - (i) Introducing conditions under which the conservative default-factor based methods for estimation of carbon stock in dead wood and litter can be used, in order to safeguard environmental integrity of the tool.
 - (c) “Procedure to determine when accounting of the soil organic carbon pool may be conservatively neglected in CDM A/R project activities”
 - (i) Incorporating relevant clarifications issued by the Board;
 - (ii) Removing the distinction between the requirements for demonstration of land eligibility for 'afforestation' vs. 'reforestation'.
8. Changing the title from “Procedures to demonstrate the eligibility of lands for afforestation and reforestation CDM project activities” to tool for “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities”, in line with the nature of the document.

4. Impacts

9. The revisions of the approved A/R CDM methodological tools will improve the objectivity, simplicity and accessibility of the tools while also enhancing their environmental integrity.
10. The revisions will allow withdrawal of a number of stand-alone documents containing decisions by the Board relating to substantive issues addressed in the tools.
11. The revision of the tools will not have any adverse impact on A/R CDM project activities that are already registered.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

12. If approved by the Board, the revised tools will become effective from the date of publication on the UNFCCC website following the approval of the Board, and the earlier versions of the tools will remain valid for a period of 240 days.

6. Recommendations to the Board

13. The A/R WG recommends that the draft revisions of the A/R CDM methodological tools be approved by the Board.

1. Introduction

1. This tool provides a step-by-step method for demonstrating eligibility of land for an afforestation or reforestation (A/R) project activity under the clean development mechanism (CDM). The tool also specifies the type of information and data that shall be furnished for demonstration of eligibility of land.

2. Scope, applicability, and entry into force

2.1. Scope

2. The tool covers all types of A/R CDM project activity or programme of activity.

2.2. Applicability

3. This tool has no internal applicability conditions.

2.3. Entry into force

4. The date of entry into force of the revision is the date of the publication of the EB 75 meeting report on 4 October 2013.

3. Normative references

5. The following documents are indispensable for the application of this tool:
 - (a) Glossary of CDM terms;
 - (b) The annex to the decision 5/CMP1 (Modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities).

4. Definitions

6. The definitions contained in the Glossary of CDM terms shall apply.
7. For the purpose of this tool, the following definition shall apply:
 - (a) **Forest threshold values applicable to the host Party** - refers to the values of minimum tree crown cover, minimum land area, and minimum tree height reported to the Executive Board of the CDM by the host Party under paragraph 8 of the annex to decision 5/CMP1 (Modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities).

5. Demonstrating eligibility of land

8. Project participants shall provide evidence that the land within the planned project boundary is eligible for an A/R CDM project activity by following the steps outlined below:
 - (a) Demonstrate that the land at the start of the project activity does not contain forest by providing transparent information confirming that:

- (i) Vegetation on the land is below the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party;
 - (ii) The young natural stands and plantations on the land, if existing at the start of the project activity, are not expected to reach or exceed the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party;
 - (iii) The land is not a part of forest area that is temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention (e.g. harvesting) or natural causes, and the land is not expected to revert to forest.
- (b) Demonstrate that the land also met criteria under sub-paragraph (a) above on 31 December 1989.

Note 1. Where the vegetation comprises of tree storeys of different heights, each tree storey meeting the height threshold or having the potential to meet the height threshold at maturity *in situ* shall be included in determining whether the tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) threshold is reached or not.

Note 2. If the host Party has confirmed to the Executive Board of the CDM that either palms or bamboos or both are considered trees for the purpose of determining the forest threshold values, then the crowns of palms or bamboos or both, as appropriate, shall be included in determining the tree crown cover. Otherwise palms or bamboos or both, as appropriate, shall be considered shrub vegetation, both in the baseline and in the project.

9. In order to demonstrate that the land meets the criteria provided under paragraph 8 above, the project participants shall provide information that reliably discriminates between forest and non-forest land on the basis of the forest threshold values applicable to the host Party. Such information may include, *inter alia*, one or more of the following:
- (a) Aerial photographs or satellite imagery complemented by ground reference data;
 - (b) Land-use or land-cover information from maps or digital spatial datasets;
 - (c) Ground-based surveys (e.g. land-use or land-cover information from permits or plans, information from local registers such as cadastre or owner registers).
10. If the information required under paragraph 9 above is not available, the project participants shall submit a written testimony as the result of a Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) methodology¹.

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¹ PRA is an approach to the analysis of local problems and the formulation of tentative solutions with local stakeholders. It makes use of a wide range of visualisation methods for group-based analysis to deal with spatial and temporal aspects of social and environmental problems. This methodology is, for example, described in:

- (a) Chambers R (1992): Rural Appraisal: Rapid, Relaxed, and Participatory. Discussion Paper 311, Institute of Development Studies, Sussex;
- (b) Theis J, Grady H (1991): Participatory rapid appraisal for community development. Save the Children Fund, London.

Document information

<i>Version</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Description</i>
Draft 03.0	4 October 2013	To be considered by the Board at EB 75. The call for public inputs (open from 21 August to 5 September 2013) did not receive any inputs. This version now includes a cover note.
Draft 02.0	21 August 2013	<p>A/R WG 38, Annex 8</p> <p>A call for public input will be issued on this draft revised tool.</p> <p>This draft version includes input from the call for public inputs from 21 August 2013 to 5 September 2013.</p> <p>The revision:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporates related clarification issued by the Board in meeting report EB31 paragraph 45 and meeting report EB32 paragraph 44; • Removes the distinction between the requirements for demonstration of land eligibility for 'afforestation' vs. 'reforestation'; • Changes the title from “Procedures to demonstrate the eligibility of lands for afforestation and reforestation CDM project activities” to tool for “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities”, in line with the nature of the document; • Due to the overall modification of the document, no highlights of the changes are provided.
01	19 October 2007	<p>EB 35, Annex 18</p> <p>New procedures developed on request of CMP2. Initial adoption at EB 35.</p>

Decision Class: Regulatory

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