



The International Network for Bamboo and Rattan

Input to the CDM policy dialogue

Herewith the International Network for Bamboo and Rattan (INBAR) would like to contribute to the CDM policy dialogue to review past CDM experiences and to help ensure the readiness and positioning of the CDM to meet the challenges of the post-2012 period. INBAR is an intergovernmental organization dedicated to improving the social, economic, and environmental benefits of bamboo and rattan. INBAR connects a global network of partners from the government, private, and non-profit sectors in over 50 countries to define and implement a global agenda for sustainable development through bamboo and rattan. Since 2009 INBAR is an accredited observer organization of the UNFCCC COPs.

Bamboos offer a wide range of potential solutions to address the problems and hardships that may come with climate change. Bamboos can be integrated into all main types of forest-based climate change mitigation activities: afforestation / reforestation, forest management or avoided deforestation. Bamboos are amongst the fastest growing forestry resources in the world. Studies showed that appropriately managed and regularly harvested bamboo forests can sequester more carbon than if left in their natural state, and moreover, can sequester more carbon than fast-growing tropical and subtropical trees in comparable conditions. Due to its renewability, bamboo can take pressure of other forest resources and contribute to avoided deforestation.

Bamboos unique potential contribution to mitigation relies on the fact that it can combine continued biomass production with regular selective harvesting, thus leaving a standing carbon stock and a living ecosystem that will continue to grow. Moreover, when bamboos are used to substitute for energy intensive products, their growing stock can represent an increasing carbon sink. Longer lifespans of modern bamboo products will help ensure that more carbon remains sequestered.

Increasing the cultivation and use of bamboos is likely to contribute to the resilience of rural and urban populations to the impacts of climate change. Bamboos are relatively easy to grow and maintain and can provide additional food, energy and income security to the rural poor, as well as a range of environmental services and uses in their growing and harvested forms. Bamboo products such as houses and charcoal, can contribute to the livelihood resilience of rural and urban dwellers.

Theoretically CDM represents an excellent mechanism to enable global stakeholders to utilize and benefit from bamboo's potentials in climate change mitigation. However, experience shows that the complexity of the methodology and regulations impedes stakeholders to get involved with the CDM. Moreover, up to today, no bamboo CDM methodology has been approved yet, and – thus – no bamboo CDM project has yet been implemented. Therefore, in order to increase the opportunities for bamboo (and other similar plants) to become part of CDM projects, INBAR suggests the following topics for discussion:



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- **Harvested Wood Products (HWP):** INBAR welcomes the LULUCF decision by CMP7 which indicates that HWP carbon pools are to be included in future GHG balances. Even though this inclusion is methodologically complex and comprehensive – it is necessary to allow stakeholders to sustainably manage forest resources, earn carbon credits and still earn income from these forest resources. This could result in an increase of sustainably managed forest areas, as forest resources no longer need to be “locked up”, as long as they are sustainably managed and HWP are stored in durable products. Moreover it provides incentives to develop durable wood products and wood based substitutes (i.e. alternatives for GHG intensive materials) which could lead to a long-term increase of these respective global carbon pools and the resulting creation of emission reductions. Therefore INBAR recommends that the CDM guidelines are reviewed accordingly to allow for the inclusion of HWP carbon pools. Moreover, INBAR would appreciate the development of guidelines, so that interested project developers have a reliable tool to integrate the HWP pool when developing projects. In addition, INBAR suggests the CDM Executive Board to consider calling for and approving HWP baseline and monitoring related methodologies.
- By definition, botanically, bamboo is a grass and not a tree. However, it is commonly grown in forests. Therefore national forest definitions either include or exclude bamboo. Bamboos are wide-spread throughout the tropics as well as the sub-tropics and these ecosystems can sequester and store significant amounts carbon. The forest definition of the CDM follows the Kyoto Protocol which bases its definition of forests on “trees”. This current definition thus excludes bamboo and other NTFPs which potentially can provide beneficial impacts on climate change mitigation, but are not trees. Consequently INBAR recommends widening and extending the forest definition of the CDM – a possibility would be to follow IPCC’s definition which “includes: areas with bamboo and palms provided that height and canopy cover criteria are met”.
- Agro-forestry plays an important and increasing role in rural landscapes of many countries. These systems create services and synergies between agriculture and forestry – which can also positively impact climate change mitigation. These synergistic systems are often crucial for the livelihoods of rural communities and store significant amounts of carbon (also in the below-ground biomass pool). Moreover, SBSTA emphasized the growing importance of agricultural systems during COP17. The current CDM practices, however, focus on the establishment of pure forests. Therefore INBAR suggests that CDM explores opportunities of including land-uses which stand in between agriculture and forestry. Through the inclusion of such systems, more emission reductions can be created and new stakeholders can be included – especially in poor rural areas in developing countries.
- Currently forestry activities in the CDM are limited to afforestation and re-forestation. Studies, however, demonstrate that management measures can have a significant positive impact on the carbon storage and sequestration of forest ecosystems. For example, several scientific studies revealed that sustainable management measures in bamboo plantations can significantly increase the carbon sink function of these ecosystems. In order to allow stakeholders to benefit



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from the positive impacts of these management changes and in order to increase the area of sustainably managed forests an inclusion of management measures as forest activities to mitigate climate change would be helpful. Therefore INBAR suggests that the opportunities to include sustainable forest management as a possible CDM activity should be explored.

If there are any questions, INBAR would be happy to provide further support, clarification or additional information. INBAR thanks the CDM Executive Board for the excellent work over the past years and strongly appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this policy dialogue. INBAR looks forward to a bright future of the CDM!

Beijing, January 2012

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