

**CDM-ARWG39-A01**

## Information note

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# Rationale for the continuation of exceptions related to A/R project activities and A/R programmes of activities

Version 01.0



**United Nations**  
Framework Convention on  
Climate Change

## COVER NOTE

### 1. Procedural background

1. The Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board), at its seventy-fifth meeting, (EB 75 report, paragraph 43) requested the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG) to provide additional inputs on the rationale that would justify the continuation of exceptions allowed for afforestation and reforestation (A/R) project activities and programmes of activities (PoAs), as indicated in paragraph 128(c) and footnote 18 of the “Clean development mechanism project standard” (PS), version 04.0.
2. The A/R WG, at its 39<sup>th</sup> meeting, considered the request by the Board and provided its inputs on the rationale that would justify the continuation of the above exceptions.

### 2. Purpose

3. This information note contains the inputs provided by the A/R WG in response to the above request of the Board (EB 75 report, paragraph 43).

### 3. Key issues and proposed solutions

4. The modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities provide that the crediting period “shall begin at the start of the afforestation or reforestation project activity under the CDM” (annex to decision 5/CMP.1, paragraph 23). As this rule continues to operate, the related exception agreed by the Board, contained in the EB 21 meeting report, paragraph 64, allowing crediting of A/R CDM project activities for the removals achieved before registration of the activity, also continues to apply.
5. The Board, at its seventy-third meeting, agreed to clarify that any A/R project activity that started after 1 January 2000, but has not been registered as a CDM project activity, may be included as an A/R component project activity (A/R CPA) in an A/R PoA after 31 December 2005 as long as the first verification of the A/R CPA occurs after the date of inclusion of this A/R CPA, and the A/R CPA can accrue temporary certified emission reductions (tCERs) or long-term certified emission reductions (ICERs) as of the starting date (EB 73, annex 16).
6. This information note responds to the request by the Board to the A/R WG to provide additional inputs on the rationale that would justify the continuation of exceptions allowed for A/R project activities and A/R PoAs as indicated in paragraph 128(c) and footnote 18 of the PS, version 04.0.

### 4. Impacts

7. This information note will further clarify the rationale justifying the continuation of exceptions allowed for A/R project activities and A/R PoAs as indicated in paragraph 128(c) and footnote 18 of the PS, version 04.0.

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**5. Recommendations to the Board**

8. The secretariat recommends that the Board consider the inputs provided by the A/R WG.

## 1. Introduction

1. Following the request from the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board), at its seventy-fifth meeting (EB 75 report, paragraph 43), the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG) agreed to provide additional inputs on the rationale that would justify the continuation of exceptions allowed for afforestation and reforestation (A/R) project activities and A/R programmes of activities (PoAs) as indicated in paragraph 128(c) and footnote 18 of the “Clean development mechanism project standard” (PS), version 04.0.

## 2. Inputs from the A/R WG

2. The A/R WG agreed to provide the following additional inputs on the rationale that would justify the continuation of the exceptions allowed for A/R project activities and A/R PoAs as indicated in paragraph 128(c) and footnote 18 of the PS version 04.0:
  - (a) The planning, development and implementation of A/R project activities are complex time- and resource-consuming operations that may face a number of uncertainties;
  - (b) The modalities and procedures for A/R CDM project activities provide that the crediting period “shall begin at the start of the afforestation or reforestation project activity under the CDM” (annex to decision 5/CMP.1, paragraph 23). In case of A/R component project activities (CPAs) under an A/R PoA, this flexibility should be maintained because of the long time that may elapse between implementation of an A/R project activity and its registration as an A/R CDM project activity or as an A/R CPA. Restricting the start of the crediting period to be after the registration of the project activity or the PoA will deprive the project participants of the temporary certified emission reductions/long-term certified emission reductions (tCERs/ICERs) generated from the net anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) removals achieved during the period between the start date and the registration date of the project activity or the PoA;
  - (c) A PoA is a framework built around one or more generic component project activities (generic CPAs) that are expected to be replicated by including more similar project activities in due course (PS, version 7, para. 241). The generic A/R CPAs demonstrate both the additionality and the feasibility of implementation of the later A/R CPAs likely to be included in the A/R PoA;
  - (d) If the A/R CPAs are only allowed to start after the registration of an A/R PoA, the project development costs and the transaction costs involved in validation and registration of the A/R PoA may not be assured to be fruitful in view of the uncertainties in feasibility of the implementation of the A/R CPAs under the A/R PoA;
  - (e) Allowing one or more A/R CPAs, depending on their individual features, to start before the registration of an A/R PoA would, therefore, facilitate development and implementation of A/R PoAs;
  - (f) Allowing the start date of one or more A/R CPAs to be before the registration of an A/R PoA will not have any adverse impact in terms of the environmental

integrity of the A/R CPAs or of the A/R PoA. This will have implications only in terms of the decreased transaction costs and reduced uncertainty in project development and registration.

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### Document information

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