CDM-EB102-A04-STAN

Standard

Establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM

Version 01.0

United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

CDM-EB102-A04-STAN
Standard: Establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities
under the CDM
Version 01.0

TABLE OF CONTENTS **Page**

1. Introduction

1.   The conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol, at its sixth session, agreed to implement standardized baselines under the CDM and requested the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (CDM) (hereinafter referred to as the Board) to develop standardized baselines. Based on this mandate, the Board developed various regulatory documents relating to standardized baselines, including the "Guideline: Establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM". The Board at its 101th meeting agreed to reclassify this guideline to a standard.

2. Scope, applicability, and entry into force

2.1. Scope

2.   The present standard provides requirements and approaches for the development of standardized baselines, including demonstration of additionality and demonstration of land eligibility, for afforestation and reforestation (A/R) clean development mechanism (CDM) project activities.

2.2. Applicability

3.   This standard is applicable to A/R CDM project activities only.

2.3. Entry into force

4.   The date of entry into force is the publication of the EB 102 meeting report on 28 March 2019.

3. Normative references

5.   This standard requires the application of the following approved CDM documents:

   (a)   "Guideline: Quality assurance and quality control of data used in the establishment of standardized baselines";

   (b)   "Procedure: Development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines".

4. Definitions

6.   The definitions contained in the "Glossary: CDM terms" shall apply.

7.   For the purpose of this standard, a standardized baseline for A/R CDM project activities:

   (a)   Is established for a geographic region entirely located within a host Party country or extending across a group of host Party countries;

   (b)   Provides one or more approaches for the determination of the baseline scenario;

(c)   Provides one or more approaches for the demonstration of additionality of proposed A/R project activities;

(d)   Optionally, provides one or more approaches for: (i) the estimation of baseline carbon stocks and baseline net greenhouse gas (GHG) removals by sinks in the above-ground carbon pool; and/or (ii) the demonstration of eligibility of land.

5.   Developing standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation clean development mechanism project activities

5.1.   Criteria for identification of land types and/or land uses

8.   Criteria shall be selected for the identification of land types and/or land uses and socio-economic conditions in which A/R project activities are unlikely to be implemented without the financial incentives of the CDM. Developers of proposed standardized baselines shall:

(a)   Use the default criteria contained in the appendix of this standard; or

(b)   Propose different criteria along with justification based on transparent and verifiable information.

5.2.   Identification of areas of land

9.   Areas of lands for which the proposed standardized baselines are to be applied shall be identified and delineated and shall meet one or more of the criteria selected under paragraph 8 above. Such delineation shall include lists of geo-coordinates (e.g. latitudes and longitudes) allowing unique identification of the areas. Proponents of proposed standardized baselines shall demonstrate, based on transparent and verifiable information, that the selected criteria apply to the identified areas of land. For example, existing precipitation maps may be used for delineation of areas of land as dryland areas to which criterion A.1 (ii) of the appendix would apply. .

5.3.   Identification of the baseline land-use scenario

10.   The baseline land-use scenario of an A/R project activity implemented in the areas of land in which the proposed standardized baselines are to be applied shall be deemed to be the same as the pre-project land-use scenario, provided that:

(a)   The pre-project land-use scenario is in accordance with the mandatory applicable legal and regulatory land-use requirements, in effect in the host Party country, for tree planting or establishment of tree/shrub vegetation in the lands that cover the boundary of the A/R CDM project activity, or an examination of the current practice in the region in which mandatory laws or regulations requiring tree planting or establishment of tree/shrub vegetation apply reveals that those applicable mandatory legal or regulatory requirements are not systematically enforced and that non-compliance of those requirements is widespread;

(b)   No more than 20 per cent of the areas of lands in the geographic region for which the proposed standardized baselines are established have been afforested or reforested during the 20 years preceding the date of submission of the

standardized baselines for approval by the Board. If the geographic region for which the standardised baselines are established are part of the host country (and not entire country), the developers of the proposed standardized baselines shall provide justification, based on transparent and verifiable information, on why the areas are sufficient for the purpose of analysing the practice of afforesting or reforesting the identified areas of land over or below the extent of 20 per cent.

11. The standardized baselines shall not apply to an A/R project activity implemented in the areas of land not meeting the requirements specified under paragraph 10 above.

5.4. Demonstration of additionality

12. An A/R project activity implemented in the areas of land identified for approved standardized baselines shall be deemed to be additional.

5.5. Standardized estimation of baseline carbon stocks and greenhouse gas (GHG) removals

13. Proposed standardized baselines may, depending on the availability of data, include estimated values of baseline carbon stocks and baseline net greenhouse gas (GHG) removals by sinks in the above-ground and below-ground carbon pools, on a per-hectare basis. Proposed values may be reported by strata within the identified areas of land. Where the values are based on sample-based estimation, the associated uncertainty estimated at a 90 per cent confidence level shall not be more than 10 per cent. Where the uncertainty is larger than 10 per cent, the values shall be demonstrated to be conservative estimates.

14. Tree planting or the establishment of tree/shrub vegetation to the extent required by mandatory applicable legal and regulatory requirements shall be reflected in the estimated values of baseline carbon stocks and baseline net GHG removals by sinks in the above-ground and below-ground carbon pools.

5.6. Demonstration of land eligibility

15. Proposed standardized baselines may, depending on the availability of data:

(a) Provide one or more approaches for demonstrating that the identified areas of land are eligible for A/R project activities under the CDM according to the relevant criteria defined in paragraph 1 of the annex to decision 16/CMP.1; or

(b) Provide confirmation that the areas of lands are eligible for A/R project activities under the CDM according to the relevant criteria defined in paragraph 1 of the annex to decision 16/CMP.1.

6. Submitting proposals for standardized baselines

16. Proposals for standardized baselines developed in accordance with this standard shall be submitted through the designated national authorities (DNAs) of the host Party countries within which the identified areas of land are located.

17. When developing proposals for standardized baselines in accordance with this standard, the proponents shall follow, mutatis mutandis, the latest version of the "Guideline: Quality

assurance and quality control of data used in the establishment of standardized baselines".

18. When submitting proposals for standardized baselines developed in accordance with this standard, the DNAs shall follow, mutatis mutandis, the latest version of the "Procedure: Development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines".

Appendix 1. Land types and/or land uses and socio-economic conditions in which afforestation and reforestation project activities are not likely to be implemented without the financial incentives of the CDM

1. Lands with limited productivity

1.   The land types listed in table 1 are characterized by their biophysical limitations of productivity, and afforestation and reforestation (A/R) activities implemented on these lands are not likely to generate sufficient financial returns to make these activities financially viable. Therefore, the financial incentive of the clean development mechanism (CDM) is required for the implementation of A/R activities on these types of lands.

Table 1.   Lands with limited productivity

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
A.1 Drylands	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) Lands are identified as drylands, arid lands, or lands affected by desertification, in a public document that was: (a) submitted to the secretariat of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification along with the national action programme of the host Party country; or (b) published prior to 31 December 2011; (ii) Lands receive an annual average precipitation of 600 mm or less;[a] (iii) The ratio of annual precipitation to potential evapotranspiration (P/PET) for the lands is 0.65 or less.
A.2 Lands containing low productivity and/or degraded soils	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) Soil pH is less than 4.0; (ii) Soil salinity is greater than 7.5 dS/m; (iii) Soil sodium absorption ratio (SAR) is greater than 8.0; (iv) Soils are calcareous soils with calcium carbonate equivalent of 20 per cent or more; (v) Soils are shallow with a mean soil depth of 30 cm or less.
A.3 Lands containing contaminated soils including soils with toxicity, closed/abandoned municipal landfill areas and mine tailings areas	Lands meet any one of the following criteria: (i) In the case of lands affected by industrial pollution or agricultural activities (e.g. over-use of chemical fertilizers, irrigation, or pesticides), appropriate data are provided to demonstrate that the productive capacity of the lands has been impaired; (ii) In the case of closed/abandoned municipal landfill areas and mine tailings areas, the lands were officially designated for these purposes, or demonstrated to have actually been used for these purposes.

[a] Average of annual precipitation is calculated over the past 10 years or more.

2. Lands with restricted land-use rights

2. The land types listed in table 2 are characterized by their legal status that allows A/R activities but does not allow intermediate or final harvesting, although removal of trees for management operations (e.g. salvage of fallen or dead trees, over-mature trees) is permitted. A/R activities implemented on these lands are not likely to generate sufficient financial returns to make these activities financially viable because no intermediate or final harvest is allowed. Therefore, the financial incentive of the CDM is required for the implementation of A/R activities on these lands.

Table 2.   Lands with restricted land-use rights

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
B.1 Protected watersheds, protected forest lands, and reserved forest lands	Lands are legally classified under one of these categories under the applicable legal provisions in the host Party country and the applicable legal provisions do not permit intermediate or final harvesting of tree plantations in these lands.
B.2 Biodiversity conservation areas	
B.3 National parks, wildlife sanctuaries/refuges	
B.4 Lands along roads, highways, railways, canals, and waterways	
B.5 Lands along riverbanks, lands with steep slopes, gullied and ravined lands	

3. Lands located in specified geographic regions

3. The lands listed in table 3 are characterized by their location in geographic regions where there is no experience or precedent of A/R activities. A/R activities implemented on these lands are not likely to generate sufficient financial returns to make these activities financially viable because no prior experience or precedent of such activities exists. Therefore, the financial incentive of the CDM is required for the implementation of A/R activities on these lands.

Table 3.   Lands located in specified geographic regions

Land type	Objective criteria/evidence
C.1 Lands located in specified host Party countries lacking experience/capacity	Lands meet one of the following criteria: (i) Lands are located in least developed countries or small island developing States that have no precedent of raising commercial forestry plantations, and have no registered A/R CDM project activities as of 31 December 2010; (ii) Lands are located in countries that have fewer than 10 registered CDM project activities as of 31 December 2010, none of which is an A/R CDM project activity, and have no precedent of raising commercial forestry plantations.

4. References

(a) IPCC, 2003. Published: IGES, Japan. *Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry, prepared by the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, Jim Penman, Michael Gytarsky, Taka Hiraishi, Thelma Krug, Dina Kruger, Riitta Pipatti, Leandro Buendia, Kyoko Miwa, Todd Ngara (eds).* URL: http://www.ipcc-nggip.iges.or.jp/public/gpglulucf/gpglulucf.html;

(b) Alberta Agriculture, Food and Rural Development. 2004. *Soil quality criteria relative to disturbance and reclamation (Revised);*

(c) FAO. 1989. *Arid Zone Forestry: A Guide for Field Technicians (FAO Conservation Guide, 20);*

(d) AgResearch Ltd, Hamilton, New Zealand. L*and Use Capability Survey Handbook, 3rd edition;*

(e) United Nations Environment Management Group. 2011. *Global Drylands: A UN System-wide Response;*

(f) Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation, Australia. 2002. *Improved Species Climatic Profiles.*

- - - - -

Document information

Version	Date	Description
01.0	28 March 2019	EB 102, Annex 4 Initial adoption. This document has been reclassified from a guideline to a standard. Previous version was "Establishment of standardized baselines for afforestation and reforestation project activities under the CDM (version 01.0)" (EB 70, Annex 10).