

CDM-EB83-AA-A06

Concept note

Additional cost-effective approaches to demonstrating the eligibility of land for A/R CDM project activities

Version 01.0



United Nations
Framework Convention on
Climate Change

1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP) at its tenth session requested the Executive Board of the clean development mechanism (the Board) to “explore additional cost-effective approaches to demonstrating the eligibility of land to qualify as a clean development mechanism (CDM) afforestation or reforestation (A/R) project activity”, and to report back on this matter to the CMP at CMP 11 for its consideration.¹

2. Purpose

2. This concept note aims to:
 - (a) Provide the Board with a proposal on how to address the CMP mandate on possible additional cost-effective approaches to demonstrating the eligibility of land for A/R CDM project activities;
 - (b) Seek the Board’s guidance on substantive and/or procedural aspects of this matter with the view to enabling the secretariat to support the Board in taking an informed decision related to its recommendation to the CMP.

3. Key issues and proposed solutions

3. The secretariat, in consultation with the Afforestation and Reforestation Working Group (A/R WG) can explore, identify, analyse and elaborate a draft recommendation to the CMP for the Board’s consideration on additional cost-effective approaches as mandated above.
4. In addition, the Board may also wish to consider and to provide guidance at this current eighty-third meeting (EB 83) on a “specific approach” identified by the secretariat that may be suitable as an option for demonstrating the eligibility of land for A/R CDM project activities in a cost-effective way.
5. This specific approach, additional to other approaches, if any, from the future analysis, consists of allowing the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity as elaborated in the appendix. This would require revising the “CDM project standard” and the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities”.
6. If the Board agrees, in principle, to adopt this specific approach at this meeting, two procedural options can be considered by the Board for this work:
 - (a) The Board may report to CMP 11 on this specific approach (allowing the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity) and revise, as appropriate, the “CDM project standard” and the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities” after CMP 11; or

¹ FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9/Add.1, decision 4/CMP.10, paragraph 8.

- (b) The Board may revise the “CDM project standard” and the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities” at a later Board meeting this year and report to CMP 11 on the implementation of this specific approach (allowing the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity).

4. Subsequent work and timelines

7. For the subsequent work it is suggested that the secretariat in consultation with the A/R WG finalize a recommendation to the Board for the meeting in October (EB 86).
8. In order to allow the Board a precautionary approach for the processing of guidance received, the Board may wish to consider requesting that this technical work be brought to its attention at an earlier meeting (e.g. EB 85).
9. Since the A/R WG has no meeting scheduled for this year, it is recommended that the working group provides input to this matter via electronic means.

Product	EB 82	EB 83	EB 84	EB 85	EB 86	EB 87
Additional cost-effective approaches for eligibility of land to qualify as CDM A/R projects		Concept			Final (panel/working group input)	

The following is the subsequent work and timelines if the Board agrees, in principle, to adopt and implement the specific approach above prior to CMP 11.

Product	EB 82	EB 83	EB 84	EB 85	EB 86	EB 87
Additional cost-effective approaches for eligibility of land to qualify as CDM A/R projects		Concept			Final (panel/working group input)	
Review of the “CDM project standard”					Final (panel/working group input)	

Product	EB 82	EB 83	EB 84	EB 85	EB 86	EB 87
Review of the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities”					Final (panel/ working group input)	

5. Recommendations to the Board

10. The secretariat recommends that the Board:

- (a) Adopt the proposed workplan to address the CMP mandate on exploring possible additional cost-effective approaches to demonstrating the eligibility of land for A/R CDM project activities;
- (b) Decide on the specific approach including whether and when to revise the “CDM project standard” and the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities” to allow the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity.

Appendix. Specific approach allowing the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity

1. The “CDM project standard” requires that project participants “shall define the project boundary that geographically delineates the proposed A/R CDM project activity¹ under the control of the project participants, including information allowing the unique identification(s) of the project activity”. It further requires that “if the proposed A/R CDM project activity contains more than one discrete area of land, each discrete area of land shall have a unique identification”.²
2. Meeting the above requirement of assigning a unique identification to each discrete area (parcel) of land in situations where the project area consists of a mosaic of forest vegetation pockets interspersed with non-forest vegetation or blank areas can steeply increase the cost of preparing the project design document.
3. Extensive deforested lands containing fragments of forest vegetation are a common situation in many non-Annex I Parties. Delineating boundaries of individual land parcels of size equal to or greater than the threshold area selected by the host Party for definition of forest (e.g. 0.05 hectares) can be time-consuming and costly even in a modest-size project.
4. A possible methodological solution in this regard is to waive the requirement for delineation of the boundaries of individual land parcels and allow estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary by applying statistical sampling methods for area estimation.
5. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) provides sampling methods for area estimation which can be applied for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity.
6. In view of the above considerations, a possible solution is to revise the “CDM project standard and the A/R methodological tool “Demonstration of eligibility of lands for A/R CDM project activities” by allowing the use of sampling methods for estimation of forest and non-forest area within the project boundary of a proposed A/R CDM project activity.

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¹ The “Glossary: CDM terms” version 8.0 defines “A/R CDM project activity” as: “An afforestation or reforestation measure, operation or action that aims to achieve net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks, whether as a whole project or as a part of a project.”

² “CDM project standard”, version 07.0 (CDM-EB79-A03), paragraph 110.

Document information

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