

CDM-EB83-AA-A05

Concept note

Applicability of the CDM A/R modalities and procedures to project activities involving revegetation

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 “assess the applicability of the modalities and procedures contained in decisions 5/CMP.1 and 6/CMP.1 to project activities involving revegetation, based on the definition contained in decision 16/CMP.1 annex, paragraph 1(e), including in areas with agroforestry and silvopastoral practices where the established vegetation is not likely to reach the forest thresholds selected by the host Party under decision 5/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 8, in the event that such project activities would be eligible under the clean development mechanism”.¹
2. The CMP further requested the Board to report back at CMP 11 on “the outcome of the assessment referred to in paragraph 1 above, including an indication of sections of the modalities and procedures in which modifications would be needed in respect of the project activities referred to in paragraph 1 above”.²

2. Purpose

3. This concept note aims to:
 - (a) Provide the Board with a proposal on how to address the CMP mandate for assessing the applicability of the modalities and procedures contained in decisions 5/CMP.1 and 6/CMP.1 to project activities involving revegetation;
 - (b) Seek the Board’s guidance on the substantive and 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

4. Afforestation/reforestation (A/R)³ is a project category and sectoral scope under the clean development mechanism (CDM) through which eligible projects can generate emission reduction offsets from carbon sequestration by forests.⁴ Activities additional to afforestation and reforestation will be eligible if agreed by any future decision of the CMP.⁵
5. Revegetation has been defined in decision 16/CMP.1 as “human-induced activity to

¹ FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9/Add.1, decision 7/CMP.10, paragraph 1.

² FCCC/KP/CMP/2014/9/Add.1, decision 7/CMP.10, paragraph 2.

³ The CMP has agreed that the modalities and procedures described in the annex to decision 5/CMP.1 and the annex to decision 6/CMP.1 shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol (decision 2/CMP.7, annex, para. 18).

⁴ A minimum area of land of 0.05–1.0 hectares with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10–30 per cent with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 2–5 metres at maturity in situ.

⁵ FCCC/KP/CMP/2011/10/Add.1, Article 12.

increase carbon stocks on sites through the establishment of vegetation that covers a minimum area of 0.05 hectares and does not meet the definitions of afforestation and reforestation”.⁶

6. Thus the essential difference between A/R activities and revegetation activities is the type of vegetation established in respect of its capacity to reach the threshold values selected by the host Party for the purpose of defining forest. Although “agroforestry” and “silvopastoral” practices have not been defined by the CMP, these practices are referred to in publications of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).⁷ These practices can involve establishment of vegetation that may or may not meet the threshold values defining forest as selected by the host Party.
7. Where agroforestry and silvopastoral practices are expected to result in the establishment of vegetation that meets or exceeds the threshold values selected by the host Party for the purpose of defining forest, these activities qualify as A/R activities and therefore such activities are already eligible under the modalities and procedures for CDM A/R project activities. Where agroforestry and silvopastoral practices are expected to result in establishment of vegetation that does not meet the threshold values selected by the host Party for the purpose of defining forest, but meets the vegetation thresholds specified under the definition of “revegetation”, these practices will qualify as revegetation.
8. In view of these considerations, it appears that the modalities and procedures for CDM A/R project activities can be broadly applied, *mutatis mutandis*, to revegetation activities, including revegetation activities in areas with agroforestry and silvopastoral practices where the established vegetation is not likely to reach the threshold values selected by the host Party for the purpose of defining forest.
9. However, detailed analysis of the different methodological and eligibility requirements contained in the modalities and procedures for CDM A/R project activities would be necessary in order to:
 - (a) Identify and confirm which sections in the modalities and procedures for CDM A/R project activities can be applied *mutatis mutandis*; and
 - (b) Determine whether any changes to the modalities and procedures for CDM A/R project activities or new requirements would be required.

4. Subsequent work and timelines

10. For the subsequent work planned it is suggested that the secretariat is to involve the A/R WG to finalize the recommendation to the Board. Since the A/R WG had no meeting planned for this year, it is recommended that the working group provides input to this matter via electronic means.

⁶ FCCC/KP/CMP/2005/8/Add.3, decision 16/CMP.1, annex, paragraph 1(e).

⁷ The IPCC *Special Report on Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry* (2000), section 4.4.4, defines agroforestry as “a management system that integrates trees on farms and in the agricultural landscape.” It also notes that “agroforestry can encompass a wide variety of practices, including crop-fallow rotations, complex agroforests, simple agroforests, silvopastoral systems, and urban agroforestry” thus implying that agroforestry is the umbrella activity that includes in it silvopastoral systems.

11. The Board agreed that this matter is to be considered at its eighty-six meeting (EB 86) in October in time for reporting to the CMP through its annual report. However, the Board may wish to consider this matter earlier (e.g. at EB 85) in case further work is required before making a recommendation to the CMP.

Product	EB 82	EB 83	EB 84	EB 85	EB 86	EB 87
Assessment of and report on applicability of A/R modalities and procedures based on CMP 10 mandate		Concept			Final (panel/working group input)	

5. Recommendations to the Board

12. The secretariat recommends that the Board agree upon the proposed approach for consideration of this matter and provide substantive and procedural guidance as appropriate.

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Document information

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