



**CDM: Response form for request for clarification on
Approved Methodologies
(version 01.1)**

Date of A/R Working Group meeting:

As per procedures for fast track clarifications

Title and number of request for clarification

AR_AM_CLA_0020:

Clarifications on: 1) A/R rate in the baseline under AR-ACM0003; 2) Estimation of carbon stocks at the start of the A/R CDM project activity (CTREE_BSL); 3) Application EB50 Annex23

Summary of the query:

Please use the space below to summarize the request for clarification on the related approved methodologies.

1. Net baseline GHG removals in the case that afforestation and reforestation is present in the baseline

According to methodology AR-ACM0003, Equation (1), changes in carbon stock in tree biomass within the project boundary in the baseline scenario shall be estimated following the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities”; however, this tool does not provide any specific formulae for the case in which afforestation and reforestation exists in the baseline. Clarification is sought on how to estimate the baseline net GHG removals in projects where afforestation and reforestation is present in the baseline.

2. Application of “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in AR CDM project activities” (Version 3.0.0)

- a. According to the tool for the “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in AR CDM project activities” (Version 3.0.0) under the stock-change method, paragraph 34, “For the first verification, the variable $C_{TREE,t1}$ in Equation (14) is assigned the value of carbon stock in the tree biomass at the start of the A/R CDM project activity, that is: $C_{TREE,t1} = C_{TREE_BSL}$ for the first verification, where $t_1 = 0$ and $t_2 =$ year of the first verification”. Clarification is sought on whether it could be assumed $C_{TREE_BSL} = 0$ in the case 100% of existing trees are not removed and these are not included in the monitoring of tree carbon stocks.
- b. Clarification is sought on whether the provisions of the “Guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant” would be still applicable in order to neglect the losses of carbon stocks linked to the removal or mortality of existing trees, hence demonstrating that $C_{TREE_BSL} = 0$.
- c. Clarification is sought on how the increment method would be applied in the first verification and how it would be applied to determine the change in carbon stocks in tree biomass within the project boundary in year t (i.e. $\Delta C_{TREE,t}$).
- d. Clarification is sought on how would C_{TREE_BSL} be estimated in the case of slash-and-burn practices are present in the baseline, or whether the C_{TREE_BSL} is assumed to be zero since the C_{SHRUB_BSL} is already accounted for.

3. Application of the “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in

estimation of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks

According to paragraph 97 of EB67's meeting report, "the Board agreed to withdraw the "Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks". Due to recent improvements in A/R methodologies and tools, these guidelines are no longer required."

Clarification is sought on whether the application of the "Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks" is required in the context of the latest versions of available methodologies considering the decision of EB67 to withdraw these guidelines.

Clarification is sought on what would be an acceptable conservative approach in the application of default values, after withdrawal of the "Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks".

Recommendation by the A/R Working Group:

Please use the space below to provide amendments/changes (in your expert view, if necessary).

As contained below.

Answer to authors of the request for clarification by the A/R Working Group :

Please use the space below to provide an answer to the authors of the above query

The A/R WG agreed to clarify the above issues as follows:

1. Net baseline GHG removals in the case that afforestation and reforestation is present in the baseline

Where tree planting activities or afforestation/reforestation activities take place in the baseline, the baseline net GHG removals resulting from these activities may be estimated by applying any of the three methods mentioned in Table 2 of the tool “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in AR CDM project activities”. The values of the appropriate tree dimensions over time, to be inserted into the relevant equations, should be estimated using a growth curve, a growth model, or a yield table that gives the expected tree dimension as a function of the tree age (see parameter table 13 of the tool). The species, stocking density, and age of the trees, and the time of planting, should be determined according to the baseline scenario identified according to the relevant provisions of the “Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in AR CDM project activities”.

2. Application of “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in AR CDM project activities” (Version 3.0.0)

- a. While applying Equation (14) of the tool in the first verification, value of the parameter C_{TREE_BSL} may be set equal to zero when all of the following conditions are met:
 - i. The pre-project trees are neither harvested, nor cleared, nor removed throughout the crediting period of the project activity;
 - ii. The pre-project trees do not suffer mortality because of competition from trees planted in the project, or damage because of implementation of the project activity, at any time during the crediting period of the project activity;
 - iii. The pre-project trees are not inventoried along with the project trees in monitoring of tree carbon stocks but their continued existence, consistent with the baseline scenario, is monitored throughout the crediting period of the project activity.
- b. The provisions of the “Guidelines on conditions under which GHG emissions from removal of existing vegetation due to site preparation are insignificant” are not applicable in the tool. The tool provides a simplified method for estimating value of the parameter C_{TREE_BSL} when the pre-project tree crown cover in the project area is small (see section 8.3 of the tool). The tool accounts GHG emissions from removal of existing shrub vegetation as insignificant when the shrub crown cover is less than 5 per cent (see paragraph 56(a) of the tool).
- c. The ‘increment method’ does not apply in the first verification of an A/R CDM project activity. Paragraph 36 of the tool stipulates that the ‘increment method’ applies when the same sample plots are measured over successive verifications. Therefore, the ‘increment method’ can be applied only from the second verification onwards.
- d. Where slash-and-burn practices are present in the baseline and the trees are slashed or burnt, or slashed and burnt, the value of the parameter C_{TREE_BSL} should be set equal to half the carbon stock in the peak tree biomass that would be achieved under the slash-and-burn practices.

3. Application of the “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks

Application of the “Guidelines on conservative choice and application of default data in estimation of the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks” is not required in the context of the

latest versions of available methodologies. In absence of these guidelines, an acceptable conservative approach in the application of default values would be to use the default values specified within the methodologies and tools for individual parameters, where relevant.

The default value of biomass expansion factor (BEF) under the tool “Demonstrating appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities” should be the same as the default value of BEF used in the tool “Demonstrating appropriateness of allometric equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities”.

Signed by the Chair, Mr. Amjad Abdulla

Date: 23/04/2013

Signed by the Vice-Chair, Ms. Diana Harutyunyan

Date: 23/04/2013

Information to be completed by the secretariat

F-CDM-AM	AR_AM_CLA_0020
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