

REDD Methodological Module

“Determining the significance of emissions sources and changes in carbon pools in REDD project activities”

Version 1.0 – April 2009

I. SCOPE, APPLICABILITY AND PARAMETERS

Scope

This tool facilitates the determination of which GHG emissions and changes in carbon pools are insignificant for the VCS-REDD project activity.

A number of emission sources are deemed insignificant and, hence, can be neglected in VCS-REDD baseline and monitoring methodologies. In all other cases, the project shall account for any significant increase in emissions of carbon dioxide (CO₂), nitrous oxide (N₂O) and methane (CH₄), and reduction in carbon pools that is reasonably attributable to the project activity — the sum of decreases or increases in carbon pools and in emissions that may be neglected shall be less than 5% of total project GHG benefits.

Applicability

The module shall be used:

- a) To justify neglecting emissions sources and changes in carbon pools that are *a priori* deemed insignificant in REDD project activities.
- b) To determine which additional emissions sources and changes in carbon pools are insignificant and can be neglected.

c) If harvested wood products and dead-wood are increasing more or decreasing less in the baseline compared to the project scenario and the project proponent wishes not to account for them.

d) If emissions sources in the project are enhanced compared to the baseline scenario and the project proponent wishes not to account for them.

Parameters

None.

II. INSIGNIFICANT SOURCES AND POOLS

For REDD project activities under the VCS AFOLU standard, the following emissions sources and carbon pools may be considered as insignificant¹ and hence can be neglected in VCS-REDD baseline and monitoring methodologies:

Emissions sources:

- Fertiliser application
- Removal of herbaceous vegetation
- Transportation
- Fossil fuel combustion
- Collection of wood from non-renewable sources to be used for fencing of the project area
- Nitrous oxide (N₂O) emissions from decomposition of litter and fine roots from N-fixing trees

Carbon pools:

- Litter and dead-wood

¹ Justification is provided in a background document that is available upon request. Various rulings of the CDM Executive Board (as per January 2009: EB 24, 28, 42, 44) have been assessed for their validity in REDD project activities. The VCS considers market leakage to be a potentially significant emission source in REDD project activities.

III. PROCEDURE

In determining which emissions sources and changes in carbon pools are insignificant for VCS-REDD project activities, the following procedure shall be followed.

Baseline scenario:

The sources and pools listed in Section II may be considered as insignificant and hence can be neglected in VCS-REDD baseline methodologies. Whether or not listed in Section II, sources and pools may be selected for accounting in the baseline. In this case they shall be accounted for in the with-project-scenario as well. The A/R CDM “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities” shall be used to test the significance of emissions sources and changes in carbon pools.

With-project scenario:

The sources and pools listed in Section II may be considered as insignificant and hence can be neglected in VCS-REDD monitoring methodologies and ex-ante calculations of total project GHG benefits. In all other cases, use the A/R CDM “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities” to determine if emissions sources and carbon pools in the with-project scenario are insignificant.

Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities

The following EB tool can be used to test the significance of emissions sources - http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/031/eb31_repan16.pdf. This tool requires an ex-ante calculation of total project GHG benefits. Please note that the calculation pertains to the entire crediting period of the project activity.

For the ex-ante calculation of total project GHG benefits, the VSC-approved module “Ex-ante calculation of total project GHG benefits” can be used.