

**ACR APPROVAL OF CDM APPROVED CONSOLIDATED METHODOLOGY
AR-ACM0001, VERSION 5
“AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION OF DEGRADED LAND”**

ACR recommends use of ACR’s own published methodologies and tools where available. However, to provide flexibility to Project Proponents, ACR may accept methodologies and tools approved by other GHG emission systems. A list of approved methodologies is posted at www.americancarbonregistry.org.

AR-ACM0001 Version 5 is approved for use in preparing an Afforestation/Reforestation (AR) project for registration on ACR, subject to the following clarifications.

ACM0001 Section	Clarification
General	Any Project Proponent using an ACR-approved methodology from another GHG emission system must comply with the <i>ACR Standard</i> and any relevant ACR sector standard. In the case of conflicts between the methodology and the <i>ACR Standard</i> or sector standard, the <i>ACR Standard</i> or sector standard shall govern.
General	All definitions, eligibility requirements, and other criteria of the <i>ACR Forest Carbon Project Standard</i> shall apply. This includes the definitions of “forest” and “Afforestation/Reforestation”. ACR makes no operational distinction between Afforestation and Reforestation.
General	References to the A/R CDM project activity shall be understood to refer to the AR ACR project activity. References to Project Design Document or PDD shall be understood to mean GHG Project Plan. References to Project Participants (PP) shall be understood to mean the ACR Project Proponent; the Proponent may be an entity representing a landowner, or aggregating multiple landowners.
II.1	Tables 1 and 2 shall be followed in determining the GHG assessment boundary, along with the guidance in the <i>ACR Forest Carbon Project Standard</i> , Chapter 2. Exclusion of carbon pools and emission sources is allowed, subject to considerations of conservativeness and significance testing. Pools or sources may always be excluded if conservative, i.e. exclusion will tend to underestimate net GHG emission reductions/removal enhancements. Pools or sources may also be excluded if application of the most recent version of the CDM “Tool for testing significance of GHG emissions in A/R CDM project activities” ¹ leads to the conclusion that a particular pool or source is insignificant. Pools and sources deemed significant and/or selected for accounting in the baseline scenario shall also be accounted in the project scenario.
II.2	Project Proponents shall demonstrate additionality through the ACR three-prong test.

¹ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-04-v1.pdf>.

	<p>The CDM “Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities,”² required by ACM0001, is required; this amplifies but does not conflict with ACR’s three-prong test.</p>
II.5.1.4	<p>Some AR activities will require removal of existing vegetation, and/or ploughing/ripping/scarification, on significant portions of the project area in order to establish conditions for survival and growth of planted trees. In ACM0001 Version 4, removal of existing vegetation or ploughing/ripping/scarification on more than 10% of the project area required Project Proponents to conservatively exclude Soil Organic Carbon (SOC) from project accounting, meaning that no credit could be given for potential SOC increase over time vs. the baseline in an AR activity.</p> <p>ACM0001 Version 5 instead provides for the use of a SOC tool as long as applicability conditions are met. These include that ploughing/ripping/scarification must be done in accordance with appropriate soil conservation practices, e.g. following the land contour; must be limited to the first five years from the year of initial site preparation; and may not be repeated, if at all, within a period of 20 years.</p> <p>If these conditions are met, the methodology allows Proponents to calculate changes in SOC using the “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities”,³ approved at Executive Board meeting 55. This tool provides guidance for stratifying the project area, and for strata with ploughing/ripping/scarification, provides a carbon loss factor. The SOC tool thus provides Project Proponents an option to calculate SOC increases attributable to the AR project activity, rather than requiring such changes to be conservatively neglected.</p>
II.5.2	<p>The methodology requires non-CO₂ GHG emissions due to burning of biomass of existing woody vegetation as part of site preparation to be estimated using the tool “Estimation of GHG emissions due to clearing, burning and decay of existing vegetation attributable to a CDM A/R project activity.”⁴</p> <p>Emissions from <i>herbaceous</i> vegetation removed in site preparation do not need to be considered.⁵ Woody brush removed in site preparation will likely not be considered herbaceous vegetation but rather “shrub” vegetation as used in the CDM tool cited. Those non-CO₂ emissions shall be estimated, if burning is used for disposal of brush in site preparation. However note that N₂O emissions from biomass burning are excluded as insignificant per Table 2 of the methodology, and CO₂ emissions from biomass burning are accounted as a change in carbon stock.</p>
II.7	<p>Equation (28) shall be used to calculate net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks (C_{AR-ACR}) as actual net GHG removals, minus baseline net GHG removals, minus</p>

² <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-02-v1.pdf>.

³ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/65FZ0A4LVQHNCYEDG9M7RBK1S3JXTP>.

⁴ <http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-08-v3.pdf>.

⁵ In accordance with guidance contained in paragraph 35 of EB 42 meeting report, GHG emissions due to removal (loss) of herbaceous vegetation as a component of non-tree biomass are neglected. Hence, all references to GHG emission from removal of non-tree vegetation (or non-tree biomass) do not include GHG emissions from removal of herbaceous vegetation.

	<p>leakage.</p> <p>In addition an uncertainty deduction, if required per the <i>Forest Carbon Project Standard</i> (i.e. if the precision target of $\pm 10\%$ of the mean at 90% confidence, applied to the final calculation of emission reductions/removal enhancements, is not achieved), must be applied to give an adjusted value of C_{AR-ACR} accounting for uncertainty.</p>
<p>II.7.1</p>	<p>The calculation of tCERs and ICERs is not relevant to ACR, which uses a buffer pool and other approved mechanisms to mitigate the risk of reversals. In lieu of Equations (29) and (30), ERTs shall be calculated by applying the buffer deduction, if applicable:</p> $ERT_t = (C_{AR-ACR,t_2} - C_{AR-ACR,t_1}) * (1 - BUF)$ <p>Where:</p> <p>ERT_t Number of Emission Reduction Tonnes at time $t = t_2 - t_1$</p> <p>C_{AR-ACR,t_2} Cumulative total net GHG emission reductions up to time t_2</p> <p>C_{AR-ACR,t_1} Cumulative total net GHG emission reductions up to time t_1</p> <p>BUF Percentage of project ERTs contributed to the ACR buffer pool, if applicable</p> <p>Per the <i>Forest Carbon Project Standard</i>, BUF is determined using an ACR-approved risk assessment tool. If the Project Proponent elects to make the buffer contribution in non-project ERTs, or elects to mitigate the assessed reversal risk using an alternate risk mitigation mechanism approved by ACR, BUF shall be set equal to zero.</p>