

Updated Methodology Revision for AR-ACM0001 Version 5, under the American Carbon Standard (ACR) to include "Long-Term Wood Products" as a significant carbon pool

Considerations of the ACR AFOLU Technical Committees questions to the submitted methodology revision:

(Committee quotes from "ACR AFOLU Technical Committee Recommendation 2011-001.pdf")

Committee: "On page 4, there is a question about the explanation given in the table. The explanation says "The methodology provides an approach for accounting for this pool, but it allows also for exclusion of the wood products pool if transparent and verifiable information can be provided that carbon stocks in wood products are rising faster in the project case than in the baseline or are decreasing faster in the baseline than in the project case". Since carbon stock changes in long-term wood products in the baseline = 0 (page 9); long-term wood products will always increase faster in the project scenario, if harvesting occurs, and there could never be a decrease in the zero baseline. So, maybe the best way to explain this pool is simply to say that the choice is optional."

Response: Pool was changed to "Optional" in Table 1 (Section 1) and description adapted accordingly. Also, first paragraph in Section 5.1.5 was adapted to match definition.

Committee: "We believe the Program Participant should have the option to use specific values in the Winjum et al. method if they have local or national sources that can be validated by peer-reviewed literature. In the absence of such sources, the default values of the methodology should apply."

Response: Option to use other sources was added in Section 5.1.5.B, Step 2.

Committee: "Editorial suggestion: Section 5.1.5, page 20, first sentence: "...from [the] project scenario..."."

Response: Text was changed accordingly.

Committee: "In most of the equations, including the existing methodology as well as the proposed addition, it appears that they apply only to one inventory stratum, and there appears to be no step that sums all strata into a project-wide total. This could be exceptionally difficult in terms of harvested wood products, since the inventory strata and the harvesting boundaries are unlikely to be the same. The proponent may wish to clarify that in Section 5.15."

Response: Project wide sum of all carbon stock changes is calculated in Equation 11 (Section 5.1). Concerning the allocation of harvesting volumes to strata: In our opinion, management units in a sustainably managed AR project should generally be attributable to a specific inventory stratum. This also makes sense for forest management purposes as within a

management unit species composition, growth etc. should be homogeneous to facilitate planning and treatment. Harvesting volumes should thus be directly attributable to a specific management unit and stratum, making it possible to calculate "volume of timber extracted from stratum i" as stated in Formulas 25b and 25d. However, in case harvesting units can not be directly allocated to a stratum, an instruction has been added to Section 5.1.5 that volumes from harvesting areas across boundaries should be allocated to the strata proportionally to the area harvested in each stratum. If harvesting areas are not documented or cannot be allocated to the management units, accounting for harvested wood should be refused by the verifier.

General description of the updated methodology documents:

As requested by ACR, two versions of the updated revised methodology are submitted:

ACR-ACM0001 v5 ACR Updated.doc:

A commented version including all changes from the original AR-ACM0001 Version 5.0.0. Unchanged from the original submitted revision, text changed in or added to AR-ACM0001 is marked **yellow** (changes for the integration of long-term wood products pool) or **green** (changes according to ACR clarifications for AR-ACM0001 v5). In addition, text changed or added in response to the ACR AFOLU Technical Committee recommendations is marked **pink**.

ACR-ACM0001 v5 ACR Updated Clean.doc:

A "clean" version above commented document without markings and deleted text.

Note: A title page and header was added to both documents to resemble ACR methodology template and registered methodologies. Also, the "Source" paragraph (Section I.1) was shortened from the original version in response to ACR communication that the methodology is to be published as an ACR methodology. However, the overall structure of AR-ACM0001 was maintained.