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AFOLU Guidance: Additional guidance for VCS Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation projects using CDM Afforestation/Reforestation Methodologies

Under the VCS program, Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR) is an eligible AFOLU project category. There are currently no ARR methodologies developed and approved under the VCS Program and project proponents are able to use the CDM Afforestation/Reforestation (A/R) methodologies to develop such projects. This document provides additional guidance for VCS ARR projects using CDM A/R methodologies.

As set out in the *VCS Standard*, where the rules and requirements under an approved GHG program conflict with the rules and requirements of the VCS Program, the rules and requirements of the VCS Program shall take precedence. For example, the VCS rules and requirements take precedence over the CDM requirement for reforestation projects to be implemented on land that was not forested on 31 December 1989, and the requirements related to the definition of forest.

VCS revegetation projects may use CDM afforestation/reforestation methodologies, where:

1) The methodology is followed in full, other than requirements related to the definition of forest, and its application shall not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emissions reductions or removals; and
2) Project activities meet the VCS definition of revegetation (noting that it is not required for such projects to result in the creation of a forest).

VCS ARR projects using CDM afforestation/reforestation methodologies may use allometric equations that are specific for a given species or forest type, and are based on other allometric parameters (such as diameter at stump height, total height (eg, for palm trees) or number of stems in a clump (eg, for bamboo)) in place of diameter at breast height, provided the principle of conservativeness is maintained.