

Additional information on Proposed Methodology – Selection of carbon pools
“Reducing deforestation and forest degradation through forest conservation in Cambodia”

Dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon pools are excluded from project reference level and project net emission in the proposed methodology. These pools are not included in the Cambodia’s official forest reference level (FRL), and this document provides additional information supporting exclusion of these pools.

The project area is forest land under threat of conversion to cropland due to activities of small-scale agricultural encroachment and logging. As cited below from 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, carbon stocks in dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon pools are smaller in cropland than forest. Carbon stocks in these pools would have decreased in the absence of the project, and therefore, it is conservative to exclude those pools.

Dead wood and litter (dead organic matter) pools in 5.3.2, Volume 4

In general, croplands will have little or no dead wood or litter, and therefore these pools can often be assumed to approach zero after conversion.

Soil carbon in 5.3.3, Volume 4

Regardless of soil type (i.e., mineral or organic), the conversion of land to Cropland will, in most cases, result in a loss of soil C for some years following conversion (Mann, 1986; Armentano and Menges, 1986; Davidson and Ackerman, 1993). Possible exceptions are irrigation of formerly arid lands and conversion of degraded lands to Cropland.