

**Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Developing Proposed Methodology for
Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of
Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon
Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and Afforestation/Reforestation**

CONTENTS

1. Scope and applicability	2
2. Terms and definitions	2
3. Key concepts	3
3.1. Project emission reductions or removals to be credited in a JCM project for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation	3
3.2. Scope and criteria for afforestation/reforestation under the JCM	4
3.3. Eligibility criteria	5
4. Requirements for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation under the JCM	6
4.1. Period of time	6
4.2. Forest Definition	6
4.3. Geographical Boundaries	6
4.4. Carbon pools and GHG sources	7
4.5. Estimation and accounting of net emission/removals	7
4.6. Project reference level	9
4.7. Project net emissions or removals	10
4.8. Project emission reductions or removals to be credited	10
5. General Guidelines	11
6. Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Form	13
7. Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet	21
Attachment I. Guidance on the long-term average GHG benefit for A/R project	28
Attachment II. National definition of forest under the JCM of Philippines	30
Attachment III. Guidance on buffer approach to address reversals	32

1. Scope and applicability

1. Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Developing Proposed Methodology for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation (hereinafter referred to as “these Guidelines”) are intended to assist methodology proponents in preparing proposed methodologies for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation under the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM).
2. These Guidelines are to be referred to by the Joint Committee in developing and assessing proposed methodologies. These Guidelines are also to be referred to throughout the entire project cycle of a JCM project for REDD-plus (hereinafter referred to as "a REDD-plus project") and for afforestation/reforestation (hereinafter referred to as "an A/R project").
3. These Guidelines describe standards which are requirements to be met, except guidance indicated with terms “should” and “may” as defined in paragraph 7 below.
4. Submission and subsequent assessment of a proposed methodology are conducted in line with the procedure delineated in Joint Crediting Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation.
5. These Guidelines aim to assist the development of methodologies to quantify emissions reductions or removals from the five REDD-plus activities listed in the Cancun Agreements (UNFCCC, Decision 1/CP.16 paragraph 70), i.e. (a) reducing emissions from deforestation; (b) reducing emissions from forest degradation; (c) conservation of forest carbon stocks; (d) sustainable management of forests; and (e) enhancement of forest carbon stocks, and from afforestation/reforestation. Detailed scope of afforestation/reforestation under the JCM is described in the section 3.2 of these guidelines.
6. For REDD-plus, these guidelines are applied to in developing proposed methodology for projects which are to be implemented under the national REDD-plus strategy and with respect to the national or any relevant sub-national reference level and forest monitoring system established by Philippines.

2. Terms and definitions

7. The following terms apply in this Guidelines:
 - (a) “Should” is used to indicate that among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable;
 - (b) “May” is used to indicate what is permitted.
8. Terms in these guidelines are defined in JCM Glossary of Terms available on the JCM website.

3. Key concepts

3.1. Project emission reductions or removals to be credited in a JCM project for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation

9. In a JCM project for REDD-plus or afforestation/reforestation, the project emission reductions or removals to be credited are defined as the sum of the annual emission reductions or removals resulting from project activities during a crediting period. A certain portion of the JCM credits issued from the REDD-plus project and the A/R project is deposited as buffer credits in the buffer account in order to ensure the permanence of the JCM credit issued from the project.
10. The annual emission reductions or removals are a conservative estimate of the difference between the project reference level and project net emissions or removals in each year.
11. The project reference level is an estimate of the anticipated annual net emissions/removals in the project area during the crediting period without the project being implemented. Guidelines for methodologies on setting out the procedures for establishing project reference levels are provided in paragraphs 47 to 51 in these Guidelines.
12. The project net emissions or removals is the sum of actual emissions and removals in the project area, emissions and removals from the project activities and emissions displaced to outside of the project area by the project activities during the crediting period. Guidelines for methodologies on setting out the procedures to estimate the project net emissions or removals are provided in paragraphs 52 to 56 in these Guidelines.

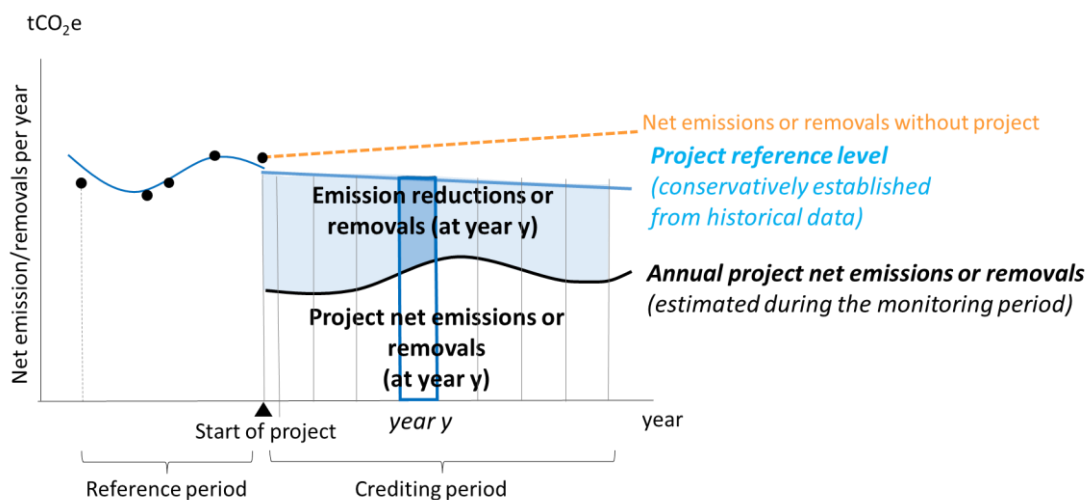


Figure 1: Relationship between the project reference level, annual project net emissions or removals, annual emission reductions or removals for REDD-plus project

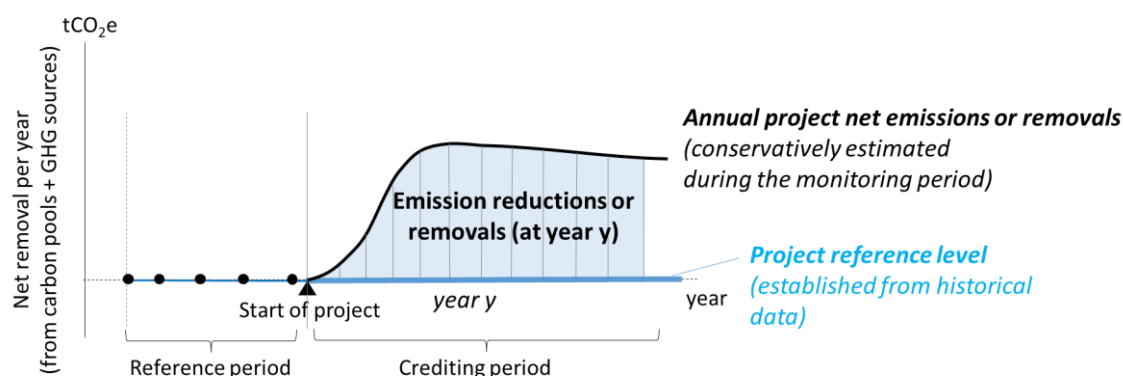


Figure 2: Relationship between the project reference level, annual project net emissions or removals, annual emission reductions or removals for A/R project

3.2. Scope and criteria for afforestation/reforestation under the JCM

13. Eligible afforestation/reforestation activities under the JCM are those that convert from non-forest, including those in denuded forest and previously forested areas to forest through the planting, sowing and human-assisted natural regeneration of woody vegetation.
14. Regarding implementation of an A/R project, project participants should submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) that:
 - (a) that activity is to convert land use or land cover from non-forest to forest
 - (b) that afforestation/reforestation will be implemented for the project.
15. The DENR Regional Office should issue a Letter of Acceptance (LOA) as proof of approval of the proposed A/R project.
16. Project participants demonstrate that the project area has not been cleared of native ecosystems within the 10 year period before the project start date. In the case when the project area has been cleared during the last 10 years prior to the project start date, the eligibility of the A/R project is determined by the Joint Committee. Project participants provide evidence that such land clearance has not taken place with an intention to implement project activities.
17. Project Participants should conduct species-site matching¹ on the project area. If the project area is under/covered by tenure contracts, project participants ensure that the planting activity and tree species are in line with the approved management plan.
18. Eligible A/R project is to increase carbon stock and/or reduce emissions in the project area by the project activities during the crediting period and to ensure the permanence of the JCM

¹ The following guide may be referred to for the conduct of species-site matching: Forest Management Bureau-Department of Environment and Natural Resources. 2007. Greenbook 2: Procedures and Techniques in Planting. Visayas Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City 1100 Philippines. 93 pp.
(<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1D2Wq2PQkGxQyPUYF8VwpnE5CjHRKULp0/preview>)

credit issued from the project. The definition of the types of period including crediting period, observation period and project period is provided in the section 4.1 of these guidelines and in the JCM Glossary of Terms.

19. Project participants maintain forest in the project area after the crediting period. Project participants observe the status of forest to the JCM secretariat during the observation period.
20. Eligible A/R project is to implement the project activities referred to in paragraph 13 above, and to aim for mitigation of climate change as one of the main objectives. Where the A/R project is not economically feasible only by issuance of the JCM credits, such in case investment barriers prevent the implementation of the project, project participants may implement commercial activities (such as timber production) in the project area. In this case, project participants demonstrate economical additionality that commercial activities other than credit issuance implemented during the crediting period is not to be implemented without the project.
21. Planting activity and tree species are in line with requirements in Philippine's national biodiversity strategy, the Nationally Determined Contributions and published document provided by national or regional government including national/regional strategy and/or plan. In case there is no source of information described above, project participants confirm no objection of planting activity and tree species through consultation with government of Philippines.
22. For an A/R project with harvesting, the total amount of JCM credits issued does not exceed the cumulative net emission reductions or removals during the entire crediting period. To ensure that, upper limit of the amount of credit issuance is applied based on future harvesting plans. One of approaches to set the upper limit is the long-term average GHG benefit. Details of the approach applying the long-term average GHG benefit are provided in Attachment I of these guidelines. Project participants may set their own upper limit of the amount of credit issuance, which is more conservative than the long-term average GHG benefit. In this case, the method to set the conservative upper limit is described in the proposed methodology. In case that the total amount of JCM credits issued is above the cumulative net emission reductions or removals in the project area, it is regarded as a reversal, and project participants compensate the difference between total amount of JCM credits issued and the cumulative net emission reductions or removals by cancellation of their buffer credits.

3.3. Eligibility criteria

23. Eligibility criteria in proposed methodologies contain the following:
 - (a) Requirements for the project in order to be registered as a JCM project.
 - (b) Requirements for the project to be able to apply the approved methodology.

4. Requirements for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation under the JCM

4.1. Period of time

24. Project period consists of the total crediting period and the observation period.
25. Crediting period is the period in which verified emission reductions or removals attributable to a JCM project can result in the issuance of JCM credits from that JCM project. The crediting period for REDD-plus and A/R is a renewable period of a maximum of fifteen (15) years which may be renewed twice at the maximum. Where possible, the total crediting period for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation including renewal of the period should be more than 20 years.
26. Observation period is the period in which project participants observe whether verified emission reductions or removals are ensured and whether loss events happen, as one of means to ensure the permanence of issued JCM credits. The observation period begins at the end of the crediting period.
27. Project participants apply the project period in the way that observation period is at least 10 years, or that project period is at least 30 years, whichever the project period is longer.
28. During the observation period, project participants implement “observation activities”, described in para 29. In case a loss event occurs, project participants report the event and risk of non-permanence. Buffer credits are cancelled to compensate the loss in line with relevant procedures to be determined by Japanese government or the Joint Committee.
29. Observation activities is implemented to observe the status of the project area during the observation period by using satellite images, remote sensing and/or others specified in a proposed methodology.
30. Project participants ensure that the project areas under/covered by tenure instruments (e.g. IFMA, SIFMA) meet the required minimum period of time for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation under the JCM. Tenure instruments has a maximum period of twenty-five years and may renew for not more than twenty-five years.

4.2. Forest Definition

31. The definition of forest used for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation methodologies should follow the national definition of forest designated by Philippines, as specified in Attachment II of these Guidelines. If there is a difference between the national definition of forest and the definition used in a proposed methodology, the reason for selecting the forest definition is explained.
32. Non-forest is the land which does not meet the definition of forest.

4.3. Geographical Boundaries

33. For REDD-plus project, the project area and the reference area for the project are identified.

Also, a displacement belt and/or activity area are also identified, when necessary. The project area and the activity area are delineated taking into account forest management units and other administrative boundaries as well as local land management customs.

34. For A/R project, the project area for the project is identified. Also, a reference area, displacement belt and/or activity area are also identified, when necessary. The project area and the activity area are delineated taking into account forest management units and other administrative boundaries as well as local land management customs.
35. The project area is the area targeted for reducing emissions and/or enhancing removals.
36. The reference area is the area used to establish the project reference level. The reference area is similar to the project area with respect to landscape configuration and ecological condition, and socio-economic and cultural conditions.
37. The displacement belt is the area outside the project area where emissions displaced through activity shifting by implementation of the project will be monitored. Guidelines for accounting for displaced emissions are provided in paragraph 53 below.
38. The activity area is the area where project activities are implemented to reduce emissions and/or increase removals in the project area and to reduce the risk of the displacement of emissions to other areas.
39. At the time of validation, at least 80 percent of the project area is under the control of the project, and acquisition of the rights of use of the project area to the extent necessary for the project is demonstrated by the project participants with documentary evidence. By the time of the first verification event, the entire project area is under the control of the project, and acquisition of the entire rights of use of the project area to the extent necessary for the project is demonstrated as such by the project participants with documentary evidence.

4.4. Carbon pools and GHG sources

40. The carbon stocks to be considered includes each of the following five carbon pools: above ground biomass, below-ground biomass, dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon.
41. GHG sources to be considered are sources such as biomass burning, enteric fermentations of livestock, rice cultivation, and nitrogen fertilization for CH₄ and N₂O and fuel consumed by project activities for CO₂.

4.5. Estimation and accounting of net emission/removals²

42. The approach and procedures used for the national or any relevant sub-national reference

² The following guides may be referred to for the estimation of net emissions or removals: “REDD-plus Cookbook: How to measure and monitor forest carbon,” Forestry and Forest Products Research Institute, 2012: www.ffpri.affrc.go.jp/redd-rc/ja/reference/cookbook.html

level or forest monitoring system developed by Philippines are respected when developing the project reference level and estimating net emissions or removals of the project. The guidelines in paragraphs 44 to 45 are followed when alternative or additional approaches and procedures are used. The methodology proponents communicate with the government of Japan and the government of Philippines (hereinafter referred to as “both governments”) for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation under the JCM to explain the proposed approach and procedures to develop the project reference level and estimate project net emissions or removals, consider any comments and other feedback they receive, and keep records of the communications.

43. When estimating net emissions or removals, the most recent IPCC guidelines, such as *2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories*, *2019 Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories* or the *IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry*, are principally used.
44. The monitoring of net emissions or removals from the carbon pools in a crediting period should be conducted using a combination of remote sensing and ground-based survey. The best available technology, including novel satellite observation technologies, may be employed to build effective monitoring systems for net emissions or removals.
 - (a) Remote sensing: Forest/non-forest, land cover types and forest type should be classified through remote sensing analysis using satellite imageries whose spatial resolution is 30 meters or higher. For the classification of land cover and forest types, classification to reflect the amount of carbon stock per hectare is encouraged and the classification should reflect each country’s forest designations. The accuracy of imagery analyses of forest/non-forest classification for each forest type is 80 percent or higher.
 - (b) Ground-based survey: Emission factors, or carbon stocks per hectare, of each carbon pool in each class, should be obtained through on-the-ground measurements. If ground measurements are not used, a reasonable explanation is provided, and the IPCC’s Emission Factor Database (EFDB), national forest inventories or other internationally recognized data may be used as alternative data sources for the emission factors, with an explanation of the rational for and validity of the data provided.
45. To establish the project reference level, carbon pools and GHG sources can be excluded if their exclusion leads to conservative estimates of emission reductions or removals.
46. To estimate project net emissions or removals, net emissions or removals from all carbon pools and GHG sources should be estimated. However, if the net emission or removals from

“A sourcebook of methods and procedures for monitoring and reporting anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals associated with deforestation, gains and losses of carbon stocks in forests remaining forests, and forestation”, GOF-C-GOLD, 2015:
http://www.gofcgold.wur.nl/redd/sourcebook/GOF-C-GOLD_Sourcebook.pdf

any carbon pool or any single GHG source due to project activities is estimated to amount to less than five percent of the cumulative net emissions or removals according to measured values or data from the IPCC's guidelines, Emission Factor Database (EFDB), national forest inventories or other internationally recognized sources, a simple but conservative procedure may be used to estimate the amount, and ex post monitoring is not necessary.

4.6. Project reference level

47. The project reference level is a projection of the sum of the annual net emissions or removals in the project area in the absence of the project. Project reference levels should be established based on the net emissions or removals from the project area or the reference area during the reference period unless otherwise specified in the proposed methodologies to be conservative.
48. For REDD-plus project, the project reference level applies the approach and procedures used for the national or any relevant sub-national reference level established by Philippines. The guidelines in paragraphs 49 to 50 are followed when alternative or additional approaches and procedures are used.
49. The start of the reference period dates back at least 10 years from the start of the project. The methodology proponents may designate a maximum date back period of the historical data to be used for developing the reference levels that is appropriate for the methodology. For REDD-plus project, the data of net emissions or removals to establish the project reference level should be obtained for at least four point of times. This means that carbon stock data from at least five points in time are required when using the stock-change method to estimate net emissions or removals.
50. Three approaches for establishing the project reference level are recognized:
 - (a) Average of annual net emissions or removals during the reference period;
 - (b) Single regression models of the historical trends of annual net emissions or removals;
 - (c) Other sophisticated models, including multiple regression analysis of annual net emissions or removals, taking into account possible changes in drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, such as changes in demography, agricultural, forestry and other land use activities, and national and/or sub-national circumstances such as land development policies and programs.
51. For REDD-plus project, if a national or relevant sub-national reference level is established or changed after the project start date, the project reference level is reestablished in a consistent manner with the national or relevant sub-national reference level. However, the newly established project reference level cannot be applied retroactively to evaluate net emission reductions or removals. If there is no national or relevant sub-national reference level, the project reference level is reassessed by project participants within five years to ensure that it adequately reflects the actual circumstances of the project area, such as drivers

of deforestation and/or forest degradation, activities that lead to land-use changes, and changes of forest management methods. If the result of reassessment shows that the project reference level no longer adequately reflects actual circumstances, the project reference level is reestablished.

4.7. Project net emissions or removals

52. Project net emissions or removals include (a) the net emissions or removals in the project area, (b) emissions due to the project activities inside and outside the project area including safeguards activities, and (c) displaced emissions in each year during the crediting period.
53. Displaced emissions are emissions displaced from inside to outside the project area as a result of the project activities. The two types of displaced emissions are:
 - (a) Displaced emissions through activity shifting occurs when the activities with GHG emissions which had been implemented in the project area before the project start date move to an area outside of the project area and continue its emissions elsewhere.
 - (b) Displaced emissions through change in market occurs when projects reduce the production of a commodity causing a change in the supply and market demand equilibrium that results in a shift of production elsewhere to make up for the lost supply.
54. Displaced emissions through activity shifting is monitored in displacement belt and accounted. Displaced emissions through change in market is encouraged to be accounted. Any decrease in carbon stocks and increase of emissions outside the project area that are reasonably attributable to the project activities are quantified and accounted as displaced emissions. Any increase in carbon stocks and decrease of emissions compared to the situation without the project outside the project area due to the project activities are excluded from the accounting. The ways and means to identify and quantify displaced emissions are explained in the proposed methodologies.
55. For REDD-plus, the approach and procedures used in any national or sub-national forest monitoring system relevant to the project area established by Philippines are considered when establishing the monitoring system for project net emissions or removals.
56. Monitoring is implemented at least just prior to verifications.

4.8. Project emission reductions or removals to be credited

57. The methodology proponents demonstrate that the method to estimate annual emission reductions or removals is conservative.
58. As provided in the figure 1 in the section 3, annual project emission reductions or removals to be credited are calculated for each year from the project reference level and the project net emissions or removals. Their sum is the project emission reductions or removals to be credited during a monitoring period.

59. In order to ensure that reversals are addressed in full when reversals of emission reductions or removals occur, a portion of issued JCM credits is deposited as buffer credits in the buffer account of the JCM registry. Details of this buffer approach are provided in Attachment III of these guidelines.
60. The project participants reduce, as far as is practical, uncertainties related to the quantification of emission reductions or removals. Project participants quantitatively estimate uncertainties. Procedures to estimate uncertainties are described in the proposed methodology, in line with the most recent IPCC guidelines. Deductions of emission reductions or removals by using conservative factors are applied if the estimation of uncertainties exceeds a certain percentage, in line with the method specified in the proposed methodology, depending on the result of quantitative estimation of uncertainties.

5. General Guidelines

61. Methodology proponents prepare the proposed methodology by filling in the Proposed Methodology Form and the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet, attached to these Guidelines.
62. These Guidelines, the Proposed Methodology Form and the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet may be obtained electronically from the JCM website.
63. The Proposed Methodology Form and the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet are completed in English language.
64. Methodology proponents provide supporting documents to justify key logical and quantitative assumptions regarding the choice of eligibility criteria, default values and establishment of reference emissions.
65. The Joint Committee develops the Proposed Methodology Form and the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet and may revise them if necessary.
66. The Proposed Methodology Form is not altered, that is, is completed without modifying its format, font, headings. If sections of the Proposed Methodology Form are not applicable, it is explicitly stated that the section is left blank on purpose.
67. The Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet enables calculation of project emission reductions or removals to be credited automatically through inputting values by project participants. The Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet consists of the following:
 - (a) An Input Sheet containing all the parameters to be monitored *ex post*, project-specific parameters to be fixed *ex ante* by the project participants (e.g. historical data) as well as the default factors which can be changed by the project participants. For each parameter, the methodology proponents fill in all the required fields, except for those of the inputted values;
 - (b) A Calculation Process Sheet containing all the default values which cannot be changed

by the project participant, calculation process to derive project reference level and project net emissions or removals, and the resulting project emission reductions or removals to be credited.

68. The proposed methodology:
 - (a) Describes the procedures in a manner that is sufficiently explicit to enable the methodology to be used, be applied to projects unambiguously, and be reproduced by a third party;
 - (b) Is possible for projects following the methodology to be subjected to JCM validation and/or verification;
 - (c) Includes all algorithms, formulae, and step-by-step procedures needed to apply the methodology and validate the project, i.e. calculating project reference level, project net emissions or removals and project emission reductions or removals to be credited;
 - (d) Provides instructions for making any logical or quantitative assumptions that are not provided in the methodology and is made by the methodology user;
 - (e) Avoids the intentional increase of credits caused by perverse incentives (e.g. when an increase in output is triggered by incentive to increase credits).
69. The presentation of values in the Proposed Methodology Form and the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet should be in international standard format (e.g. 1,000 representing one thousand and 1.0 representing one). The units used should be accompanied by their equivalent S.I. units/norms (thousand/million) as part of the requirement to ensure transparency and clarity.
70. Projects may deviate from the procedures set out in methodologies in certain cases, where alternative methods may be more efficient for project-specific circumstances, and where the deviation will achieve the same level of accuracy or is more conservative than what is set out in the methodology.
71. Deviations from the approved methodology are permitted where they represent a deviation from the procedures relating to monitoring, measurement and/or calculation set out in the section F. to J. of the approved methodology (e.g., data, parameters and equations available at validation, data and parameters monitored, or the monitoring plan). Deviations relating to any other part of the methodology are not permitted. Methodology deviations do not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of the project emission reductions or removals, except where they result in increased accuracy of such quantification.
72. Methodology deviations are permitted at validation or verification and their consequences are reported in the validation or verification report, as applicable, and all subsequent verification reports.

6. Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Form

Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Form are provided below. A hypothetical proposed methodology is inserted to enhance the clarity of these Guidelines. This methodology is purely indicative and does not imply that the methodology is to be adopted.

Cover sheet of the Proposed Methodology Form

Form for submitting the proposed methodology

Partner Country	
Name of the methodology proponents submitting this form	
Title of the proposed methodology, and version number	
List of documents to be attached to this form (please check):	☐ The attached draft JCM-PDD: ☐ Additional information
Date of completion	

- Provide an unambiguous title for the proposed methodology. The title should reflect the types of REDD-plus and/or afforestation/reforestation activities to which the methodology is applicable and include the approach or activity(ies) for achieving emission reductions or removals.
- Provide a list of any additional documents to be attached to this form.
- Provide the date of submission in DD/MM/YYYY.

History of the proposed methodology

Version	Date	Contents revised

- Provide the version number and date of submission in DD/MM/YYYY.
- If a previously submitted methodology has been revised, provide the date of revision in DD/MM/YYYY as well as a brief summary of the revision.

A. Title of the methodology

--

- *Provide an unambiguous title for the proposed methodology and the version number of the proposed methodology. The title should reflect the types of REDD-plus and/or afforestation/reforestation activities to which the methodology is applicable and include the approach or activity(ies) for achieving emission reductions or removals.*

B. Terms and definitions

Terms	Definitions

- *Please provide definitions of key terms that are used in the proposed methodology.*

C. Summary of the methodology

Items	Summary
<i>Project activities (emission reduction or removal enhancement measures)</i>	
<i>Establishment of project reference level</i>	
<i>Calculation of project net emissions or removals</i>	
<i>Monitoring parameters and methods</i>	
<i>Calculation of project emission reductions or removals to be credited</i>	

- *Summarize the key elements of the proposed methodology, including brief descriptions of:*
 - *Project activities (i.e. emission reduction and/or removal enhancement measures);*
 - *Establishment of the project reference level;*
 - *Estimation of project net emissions or removals;*
 - *Key monitoring parameters and methods;*
 - *Determination of the buffer ratio for risk of reversals.*

D. Eligibility criteria

This methodology is applicable to projects that satisfy all of the following criteria.

Criterion 1	
Criterion 2	
Criterion 3	
Criterion 4	
Criterion 5	
Criterion 6	
Criterion 7	

- *Eligibility criteria are requirements for the project in order for it to be able to apply the approved methodology and registered as a JCM project for REDD-plus and/or afforestation/reforestation.*
- *Eligibility criteria are those that can be examined objectively.*
- *Eligibility criteria include:*
 - *Characteristics to identify the measures applied to the methodology;*
 - *Conditions that are necessary in order to enable robust calculation of emission reductions or removals by the methodology, e.g. the situation before the implementation of the activity;*
- *Eligibility criteria should be, to the extent possible, those that can be ascertained upon validation, i.e. eligibility criteria should avoid those which need to be monitored ex post. For example, actual performance of a measure should not be included as eligibility criteria, since it is not certain at validation whether the stated performance can be achieved. On the other hand, performance as defined by scientifically referenced figures can be included as eligibility criteria since it can be readily checked upon validation.*

E. Geographical Boundaries

Geographical boundary	Required (Y/N/TBD)	Additional requirements / Remarks
Project area		
Reference area		
Activity area		

Displacement belt		
-------------------	--	--

TBD: to be decided by the project proponent

- Describe any requirements additional to those described in paragraphs 33 to 39 of these guidelines for the establishment of the geographical boundaries.
- Identify whether a reference area, activity area and/or displacement belt are required in the methodology, or whether the project participants are left to decide (to be decided – TBD) whether the project design includes these areas.

F. Carbon pools and GHG sources

The net emission sources to be considered include all the following Carbon pools and GHG sources.

Project reference level			
Carbon pools and GHG sources		Included (Y/N)	Explanation
Carbon pools	Above ground biomass		
	Below ground biomass		
	Dead wood		
	Litter		
	Soil organic carbon		
GHG sources			
Project net emissions or removals			
Carbon pools and GHG sources		Included (Y/N)	Explanation
Carbon pools	Above ground biomass		
	Below ground biomass		
	Dead wood		
	Litter		
	Soil organic carbon		

	carbon		
GHG sources			

- *Identify which of the five carbon pools are included in the establishment of the project reference level and the estimation of project net emissions or removals.*
- *Identify GHG sources that are reasonably attributable to the methodology.*

G. Establishment and calculation of project reference level

G.1. Establishment of project reference level

Approach for estimation of project reference level

--

G.2. Calculation of project reference level

--

- *Provide a qualitative explanation of the procedure to establish the project reference level referring to paragraphs 47 to 51 of these Guidelines.*
- *Provide the equations to establish the project reference level.*
- *For REDD-plus, provide a description of how the approach and procedures used in any national or sub-national reference level relevant to the project area are considered.*
- *Elaborate the method to calculate the project reference level. Be specific and complete, so that the procedure can be carried out in an unambiguous way, replicated, and subjected to assessment and verification:*
 - *Use consistent variables, equation formats, subscripts, etc.;*
 - *Number all equations in the Proposed Methodology Form;*
 - *Define all variables, with units indicated;*
 - *Justify the conservativeness of the calculation method, e.g. discounting the result of calculation and applying conservative parameters.*
- *Elaborate all parameters, coefficients, and variables used in the calculation of the project*

reference level:

- *For those values that are provided in the methodology:*
 - *Clearly indicate the precise references from which these values are taken (e.g. official statistics, IPCC Guidelines, commercial and scientific literature).*
 - *Justify the conservativeness of the values provided.*
- *For those values that are to be provided by the project participants, clearly indicate how the values are to be selected and justified, for example, by explaining:*
 - *What types of sources are suitable (official statistics, expert judgment, proprietary data, IPCC Guidelines, commercial and scientific literature, etc.);*
 - *The vintage of data that is suitable;*
 - *What spatial level of data is suitable (local, regional, national, international);*
 - *How conservativeness of the values is to be ensured.*
- *For all data to be used by the project participants, specify the procedures to be followed if the site-specific historical data are unavailable. For instance, the methodology could point to a preferred data source, and indicate a priority order for use of additional data and/or fall back data sources to preferred sources (e.g. private, international statistics, etc.).*
- *Note any parameters, coefficients, variables, etc. that are used to calculate the project reference level and that should be obtained by project proponent.*
- *Explain any parts of the calculation method that are not self-evident. Provide references as necessary. Explain implicit and explicit key assumptions in a transparent manner.*
- *For methodologies requiring sampling, clearly indicate the sampling method and the statistical treatment of the sampled data.*

H. Calculation of project net emissions or removals

- *Provide a qualitative explanation of the procedure to calculate the project net emissions or removals referring to paragraph 52 to 56 of these Guidelines.*
- *Provide the equations to calculate the project net emissions or removals.*
- *For REDD-plus, provide a description of how the approach and procedures used in any national or sub-national forest monitoring system to the project area are considered.*
- *Where applicable, the method to calculate project net emissions or removals should adhere to the instructions provided in the section on project reference level.*
- *Explain the method to estimate the displaced emissions, including the method to determine*

the displacement belt, if necessary.

- *Explain the method to quantitatively estimate uncertainties. Explain the method of deductions of emission reductions or removals by using conservative factors, depending on the result of quantitative estimation of uncertainties, where necessary.*

I. Calculation of project emissions reductions or removals to be credited

--

- *Provide a description of how estimation of the emission reductions or removals is conservative.*
- *Elaborate the calculation method used to estimate, measure or calculate annual project emission reductions or removals to be credited. In most cases, this will be simple equation with two terms: project reference level and project net emissions or removals.*

J. Data and parameters fixed *ex ante*

The source of each data and parameter fixed *ex ante* is listed as below.

Parameter	Description of data	Source

- *Identify sources of default values, where default values are applied to the proposed methodology.*

7. Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet

Instructions for completing the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet are provided below. The Input Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet is completed. A hypothetical Input Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet is inserted to enhance the clarity of these Guidelines. This is purely indicative and does not imply that the Input Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet is adopted.

Proposed methodology spread sheet (input sheet) [Attachment to Proposed Methodology Form]

Table 1: Parameters to be monitored ex post

(a) Monitoring point No.	(b) Parameters	(c) Description of data	(d) Estimated Values	(e) Units	(f) Monitoring option	(g) Source of data	(h) Measurement methods and procedures	(i) Monitoring frequency	(j) Other comments

Table 1-a. Area of stratum *i* and area burnt in stratum *i* at year *ym* during monitoring period

Year during the monitoring period						
...						

Table 1-b. Project fuel consumption

Year	
....	

Table 2: Project-specific parameters to be fixed ex ante

(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)	(f)
Parameters	Description of data	Estimated value	Units	Source of data	Other comments

[Monitoring option]

Option A	Based on public data which is measured by entities other than the project participants (Data used: publicly recognized data such as statistical data and specifications)
Option B	Based on the amount of transaction which is measured directly using measuring equipment (Data used: commercial evidence such as invoices)
Option C	Based on the actual measurement using measuring equipment (Data used: measured values)

The Calculation Process Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet is completed. A hypothetical Calculation Process Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet is provided below to enhance the clarity of these Guidelines. This is purely indicative and does not imply that the Calculation Process Sheet is adopted.

JCM Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet (Calculation Process Sheet)

1. Calculations for project emission reductions or removals to be credited		Pool / Sources	Value	Units	Parameter
Project emission reductions or removals to be credited during the period <i>p</i>				tCO ₂ e	
2. Basic data of the project					
Size of project area		Carbon stock and biomass burning			
Monitoring start date					
Monitoring end date					
3. Selected default values					
4. Calculations for project reference level					
Project reference level at year <i>y</i>				tCO ₂ e	
Year during reference period					

[illegible]

Carbon stock changes at year ym			tC	
Non-CO ₂ emissions from forest fires at year ym			tCO ₂ e	
CO ₂ emissions from transport and machinery use during year y				
Displacement of emissions during the period y			tCO ₂ e	DE _{y}

[List of Default Values]

Mean annual change in above-ground biomass per tree species <i>i</i>				
Ratio to below-ground biomass, all types of forest.				

Average mass of fuel available for combustion per hectare				
Emission factor for forest fire				
Global Warming Potential				

Carbon content of oil (Gasoline)			
Oxidized during use factor			

- *The Input Sheet of the Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet consists of a table of parameters to be monitored ex post, and parameters to be fixed ex ante, which, combined, should provide a complete listing of the data that needs to be collected for the application of the methodology. The tables may include data that is collected from other sources (e.g. official statistics, expert judgment, proprietary data, IPCC Guidelines, commercial and scientific literature, etc.), measured, or sampled. Parameters that are calculated with equations provided in the methodology should not be included in this section.*

For the “Parameters to be monitored ex post”(table 1), the following items are filled:

Parameter: the variable used in equations in the proposed methodology;

Description of data: a clear and unambiguous description of the parameter;

Estimated value: this field is for the project participants to fill in to calculate emission reductions or removals, and may be left blank in the proposed methodology.

Unit: The International System Unit (SI units – refer to

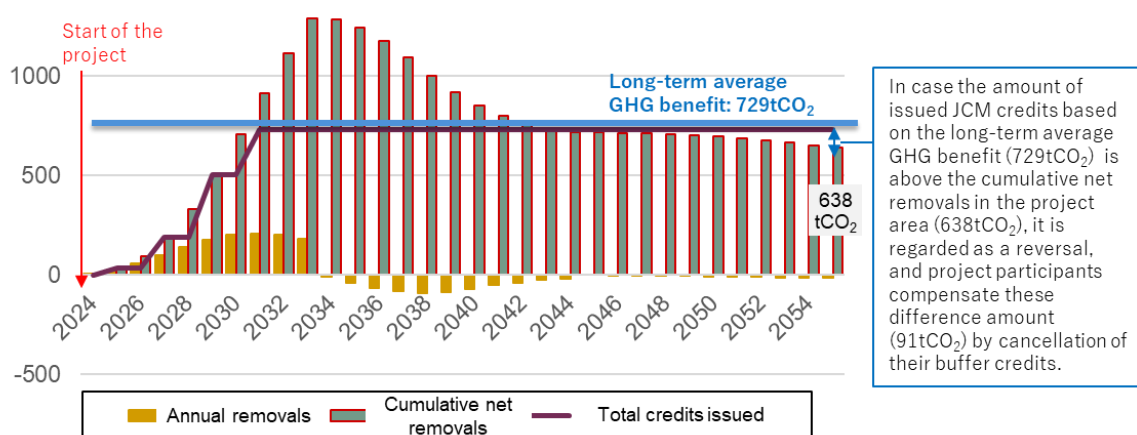
<<https://www.bipm.org/en/measurement-units>>)

- *Monitoring option: please select option(s) from below. If appropriate, please provide the order of priority and the conditions when the options are chosen.*
 - Option A: Based on public data which is measured by entities other than the project participants (Data used: publicly recognized data such as statistical data and specifications)*
 - Option B: Based on the amount of transaction which is measured directly using measuring equipment (Data used: commercial evidence such as invoices)*
 - *Option C: Based on the actual measurement using measuring equipment (Data used: measured values)*
- *Source of data: A description which data sources should be used to determine this parameter. Clearly indicate how the values are to be selected and justified, for example, by explaining:*
 - *What types of sources are suitable (official statistics, expert judgment, proprietary data, IPCC, commercial and scientific literature, etc.);*
 - *What spatial level of data is suitable (local, regional, national, international).*
- *Measurement methods and procedures: For option B and C, a description of the measurement procedures or reference to appropriate standards. Provide also QA/QC procedures.*
- *Monitoring frequency: A description of the frequency of monitoring (e.g. continuously, annually, etc.).*
- *Other Comments: Other input not covered by the items above.*
- *Where applicable, the table “Parameters to be fixed ex ante”(table 2), should also adhere to the instruction provided above. Data that is determined only once and remains fixed should be considered under “J. Data and parameters fixed ex ante”.*

Attachment I. Guidance on the long-term average GHG benefit for A/R project

I.1. Objective and procedures of the long-term average GHG benefit

1. A/R projects with harvesting under the JCM cannot issue the JCM credits above the upper limit of credits issuance applied by the project participants. Applying the long-term average GHG benefit ensures that the amount of JCM credits issued from the project does not exceed the cumulative net removals in the project area during the entire crediting period. In case that the amount of JCM credits issued is above the cumulative net removals in the project area, it is regarded as a reversal, and project participants compensate these difference amount by cancellation of their buffer credits.
2. The long-term average GHG benefit is reassessed by project participants at the timing of each verification. If the result of reassessment shows that the long-term average GHG benefit no longer adequately reflects actual circumstances of the project, the long-term average GHG benefit is reestablished.
3. For A/R projects with harvesting, the sustainable forest management plans, in which project participants describe that the long-term average GHG benefit can be maintained after the project end for a certain period, are submitted with the PDD to the secretariat. In the year in which harvesting is implemented, a report, including information of estimated cumulative net removals in the project area after the harvesting, amount of harvesting and amount of issued credit, is submitted to the secretariat as soon as possible. In case the amount of issued credit is expected to exceed the estimated cumulative net removals, the project participants will apply the requirements in Attachment III.



I.2. Calculation method of the long-term average GHG benefit

4. The long-term average GHG benefit is calculated using the following procedure:
 - (a) Establish the period over which the long-term average GHG benefit is calculated as the following:
 - i) For afforestation/reforestation projects undertaking even-aged management, the time period over which the long-term GHG benefit is calculated includes at minimum one full harvesting cycle, including the last harvest of the rotation cycle included in the crediting period. For example, where a crediting period is 20 years and has a harvest cycle of 12 years, the long-term average GHG benefit will be determined for a period of 24 years.
 - ii) For afforestation/reforestation with selective harvesting, the time period over which the long-term average is calculated is the length of the crediting period.

In both cases, the period is no less than the crediting period.
 - (b) Determine the expected cumulative GHG benefit of the project for each year of the established time period. For each year, the cumulative GHG benefit is the difference between the project net removals and project reference level.
 - (c) Sum the cumulative GHG benefit of each year over the established time period.
 - (d) Calculate the average GHG benefit of the project over the established time period.
5. Use the following equation to calculate the long-term average GHG benefit, based procedures shown in (a) to (d) above:

$$LA = \frac{\sum_{t=1}^n (PE_t - RE_t)}{n}$$

Where:

- | | |
|--------|--|
| LA | The long-term average GHG benefit [tCO ₂ e] |
| PE_t | The cumulative to-date GHG emission reductions and removals generated during the project, including CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O emissions reasonably attributable to the project activities, and displaced emissions [tCO ₂ e] |
| RE_t | The cumulative to-date project reference level [tCO ₂ e] |
| t | Year |
| n | Total number of years in the established time period |

Attachment II. National definition of forest under the JCM of Philippines

1. The official definition of forest in the Philippines based on FAO's (2001) forest definition, formalized through DENR Memorandum Circular (DMC) 2005-05 and NSCB Resolution No. 12 Series of 2004 will be adopted as the definition of forest under JCM.
2. Forest is described as "land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 meters and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land that is predominantly under agricultural or urban land use".
3. Forest consists either of closed forest formations where trees of various storeys and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest formations with a continuous vegetation cover in which tree crown cover exceeds 10 percent. Young natural stands and all plantations established for forestry purposes, which have yet to reach a crown density of more than 10 percent or tree height of 5 meters are included under forest. These are normally forming parts of the forest area, which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention or natural causes but which are expected to revert to forest. It includes forest nurseries and seed orchards that constitute an integral part of the forest; forest roads, cleared tracts, firebreaks, and other small open areas; forest within protected areas; windbreaks and shelterbelts of trees with an area of more than 0.5 hectare and width of more than 20 meters; plantations primarily used for forestry purposes, including rubberwood plantations. It also includes bamboo, palm, and fern formations (except coconut and oil palm).
4. The land cover data in the Philippines are produced in 2003, 2010, and 2015 with different methods and land cover classes in each time period. It was then classified to suit the reporting in REDD+. Hence, forest and non-forest should be classified based on the list below:

RA 21 Land Cover Classes (2003 Land Cover Map)	Aggregated to 14 Classes (2010 Land Cover Map)	Aggregated to 12 Classes (2015 Land Cover Map)	6 IPCC Land Use	2 classes (FRL Construction Land cover Map)
Closed forest, broadleaved	Closed forest	Closed Forest	Forest	Forest
Closed forest, mixed				
Closed forest, coniferous				
Other wooded land, fallow	Fallow	Open Forest		
Open forest, broadleaved	Open Forest			

Open forest, mixed						
Open forest, coniferous						
Forest plantation, broadleaved					Closed or Open Forest	Closed or Open Forest
Forest plantation, coniferous						
Mangrove forest	Mangrove Forest	Mangrove Forest				
Other wooded land, shrubs	Shrubs	Brush/Shrubs	Grassland	Non-forest		
Other wooded land, wooded grassland	Wooded grassland					
Other land, natural, grassland	Grassland	Grassland				
Other land, cultivated, pastures						
Other land, cultivated, annual crop	Annual Crop	Annual Crop	Cropland			
Other land, cultivated, perennial crop	Perennial Crop	Perennial Crop				
Other land, natural, barren land	Open/ Barren	Open/ Barren	Other land			
Other land, built-up area	Built-up	Built-up	Settlements			
Other land, natural marshland	Marshland/ Swamp	Marshland/ Swamp	Wetland			
Other land, fishpond	Fishpond	Fishpond				
Inland water	Inland water	Inland water				

Attachment III. Guidance on buffer approach to address reversals

1. A reversal is a situation that occurs if project emission reductions or removals to be credited (as referred to paragraph 58) in any monitoring period is negative. The amount of the reversal is the difference between the current total to-date project emission reductions or removals to be credited compared to the total (to-date) project emission reductions or removals to be credited at the previous verification.
2. When a reversal is occurred during the crediting period, credits are cancelled to compensate for the reversal and ensure the permanence of issued JCM credits. The amount of credits to be cancelled is equal to the lower of (a) or (b):
 - (a) The amount of the reversal,
 - (b) The total amount of credits previously issued.
3. To compensate for the reversal, the buffer credits, deposited from the project where the reversal has occurred, are cancelled at first. If the amount of buffer credits is insufficient, the deficit is to be replenished by the project participants, cancelling the credits of (a) to (c) below, and project participants describe the information of the credits, which will be compensated, such as project name, reference number, account name, account number, the amounts of the credits to be compensated in the “JCM Compensation Plan Form”. Other way for compensation (referred to (d)) may be used only when Joint Committee deems it difficult to compensate by (a)~(c). In case that the reversal is not compensated entirely-within the certain time period, or the Joint Committee deems that the project participants aren’t addressing the reversal appropriately in line with Project Cycle Procedure for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation and Methodology Guidelines for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation, measures to be taken are determined by the Joint Committee.
 - (a) JCM credits issued by JCM projects (e.g., JCM credits previously issued from the project where the reversal has occurred, JCM credits issued from other JCM projects),
 - (b) Buffer credits from other JCM projects for which the crediting period has ended (in this case, the project participants ultimately have to deposit the equivalent amount of the credits to the buffer account),
 - (c) JCM Credits to be issued in the future, e.g. by continuing the JCM project where the reversal has occurred.
 - (d) Other way for compensation (This option may be used only when Joint Committee deems it difficult to compensate by (a)~(c))
4. The share of the compensation between project participants from Japan and Philippines is specified based on the allocation of credits in a project design document.
5. Until the full amount of the credits referred to paragraph 2 has been cancelled, the project participants continue to observe the project, and cannot earn JCM credits from the project

that reversal occurred unless otherwise approved by the Joint Committee. This observation is not intended to calculate the net removals but simply to check the continuation of the project. Project participants may request the Joint Committee to issue JCM credits from the projects that the reversal occurred while the compensation for the reversal has not been completed.

6. For REDD-plus, after a reversal occurred, the project participants review the entire project, including the long-term average GHG benefit, project reference levels and buffer rates, and revise if necessary. For afforestation/reforestation, after a reversal occurred, the project participants may review the entire project, including the long-term average GHG benefit, project reference levels and buffer rates, and revise if necessary.
7. The buffer credits unused during the crediting period are kept in the buffer account in case of addressing the reversal occurred in the project area after the crediting period or in other projects.
8. The buffer rate is more than or equal to 15 %. Project participants set the rate based on the project's reversal risk.
9. Each JCM registry of Japan and Philippines has one buffer account, in which buffer credits are managed.