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Work Plan for 2013

October 2012

WINROCK INTERNATIONAL

Putting Ideas to Work

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1. Background

During this cooperative agreement we have made progress in developing what is now referred to as the AFOLU (Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Uses) Carbon Calculator (AFOLU-CC) that is composed of several tools to estimate the carbon impacts of different types of US AID project activities in the AFOLU sector. It has been active for three years and has been used to varying extents by USAID partners. This use has brought to light several areas that could be improved and identified new tools that could be added to improve its functionality. Here we describe the proposed additional effort to take place in 2013 to improve the AFOLUC-CC's usefulness to US AID and its partners to better estimate the impact of US AID portfolio of projects in the land use sector.

2. Activities for Year 6

Task 1: Collect data to populate the database

Under this area of work, our efforts to-date have used existing data, where available, with collaboration with locals experts, but we and others have determined that there are significant data gaps in terms of on-the-ground measurement of emissions from activities in the agriculture, forestry and other land use sector. We want to be able to respond to user-feedback and make sure that the AFOLU-CC incorporates the latest data. The data currently used in some of the tools are based on defaults published by IPCC or small numbers of samples, introducing uncertainties into the calculations. Conducting original research is necessary to fill the data gaps and to improve the accuracy of the AFOLU-CC. In addition, the data in each given Tool need to align with individual country data sets being created by our partner governments as much as possible, and thus we need to incorporate those data sets as they are developed. Specifically, we will accomplish the following subtasks:

<u>Subtask 1a. Data collection for emission factors</u>

Agroforestry
During Yr 6 of the work, we had two consultancies that generated a large data set on agroforestry practices in all three major tropical regions –the synthesis of these data and the development of new models for estimating carbon sequestration by such practices will be completed early this year. A report will be prepared that describe the data set and the resulting models developed. The leading experts in the field proposed that agroforestry practices can be divided into about 4-5 classes, resulting in the requirement of an extra substep at level A –the classes will be displayed and the user can select from a drop down menu. This data set will be finalized and uploaded to the AFOLU-CC—the calculator will be modified to accommodate an extra substep in level A. We also plan to produce one to two papers that summarize this work for a peer reviewed journal.

Reforestation
Late in Yr 6 we also compiled an extensive data set on regrowth of secondary forests—we were able to take advantage of some recent meta-analyses of such data. These data have been synthesized, new models of rates of C accumulation in regrowing secondary forests developed, and a fully documented report developed. We plan to have this report peer-reviewed before finalizing and adding to the AFOLU-CC.

Other data gaps
We propose to collect new field and literature data, in collaboration with our network of in-country institutions and consultants, with a focus on obtaining data to estimate emission factors for main forest types not well covered in the existing tool. The data collection efforts will be a combination of literature searches of unpublished sources often residing with many research institutions and with US AID partners. New field data for carbon stock estimation to fill the identified gaps will be collected with local partners under Winrock supervision and training.

Data collected will be on:

- carbon stocks and/or rates of carbon sequestration for more unique forests such as mangroves and peatswamp forest—accomplished mostly with a literature review and existing data from partners in appropriate countries (e.g. from partners on US AID LEAF project and other US Government programs). A great head start has been made on this subtask—recently we were able to obtain new spatial data sets the area of mangroves and their C stocks and other key papers so that we can provide estimates mangrove forest carbon stocks, area of mangrove forests, and estimates of both deforestation and reforestation in key areas
- timber harvesting rates — collected by a combination of literature review of country's Forest Code of Practice and consultancies in key countries
- community forest management—practice and emission factors;
- forest harvesting rates in temperate regions of US AID countries — from a data compilation from the literature (e.g. FAO 2010 country reports)
- changes in agricultural land and grazing land management (to increase soil carbon content plus calculation of emissions from use of fertilizer and handling of manure) — from existing data and literature reviews and other work by Winrock and its partners.

Products and dates

1. Drafts of peer reviewed papers on agroforestry systems, including the models used in the AFOLU-CC, submitted to journals—March 2013
2. Upload agroforestry data base and modify AFOLU-CC –March 2013
3. Finalize papers on agroforestry for publication—June 2013
4. Prepare report to document data collected in Yr 6 on carbon sequestration in secondary forests and send report our to two peer-reviewers—December 2012
5. Finalize data base and models for secondary forests module and upload to the AFOLU-CC—February 2013
6. Synthesize data on mangrove C stock and area and area change from published literature, prepare documentation and upload to the AFOLU-CC—February 2013
7. Complete data base for tropical and temperate timber harvesting rates, prepare documentation, modify forest management tool as needed—January 2013
8. Update, modify and document, as needed tools, on agricultural and grazing land management – July 2013

Implementation and staffing

Felipe Casarim will be the technical lead on this task, including establishing peer-review process, set up of consultancies to obtain needed data, contribute to peer-reviewed papers, prepare the documentation for each tool, and ensure the data bases and modifications are programmed into the AFOLU-CC; Sandra Brown and Tim Pearson will oversee the work.

<u>Subtask 1b. Finalizing updating and validation of global forest carbon stock map</u>

The work from Yr6 on updating a new global forest carbon stock map is almost complete with an expected final product by February 2013. This map is at 250 m resolution and we plan to leverage the US AID LEAF project validate the forest C stock map in SE Asia through collaboration with our national partners and collaborators (associated with national forestry departments). Other data sets may be used as they become available, particularly ones produced under support and direction of national governments for REDD+ (e.g. Guyana has developing a forest C stock product at the national scale with assistance from Winrock).

Products and dates

1. Final version of the validated C stock map, a report including all documentation, and a peer review ; February 2013
2. Upload to the AFOLU C Calculator for full functionality; March 2013

Implementation and staffing

Nancy Harris and Felipe Casarim co-lead this task in coordination with Dr Sassan Saatchi (consultant). Silvia Petrova will coordinate and oversee the data transfer to the tool. Sandra Brown will oversee the work.

Subtask 1c. Refining estimates of deforestation rates

At present the tool uses deforestation rates applied to a whole administrative unit based on MODIS data for the period 2001 to 2009. We propose to improve the data through a two step approach. First, newer products exist that have calibrated MODIS data with Landsat data effectively producing higher resolution products[1] –we propose to work with the developers of these products to obtain updated, higher resolution, estimates of deforestation. Dr. Hansen has recently produced a global forest cover change product based on Landsat data for the period 2005-2010 and it is expected that will be available late in 2012.

Products and dates

1. Acquisition and analysis of remote-sensing-based data bases (MODIS 250-500 m resolution and Landsat) for estimating forest cover and deforestation rates at a medium resolution scale and more recent period; March 2013
2. Incorporation into the AFOLU Carbon Calculator; April 2013.

Implementation and staffing

Felipe Casarim and Nancy Harris will coordinate this task. Applied GeoSolutions (AGS, subawardee) and Dr Bill Salas (Remote sensing expert) will acquire and analyze the data to produce the desired products. Nancy Harris and Sandra Brown will coordinate reviews against selected national sources and peer review.

Task 2: Build and test tools

Under this area of work, our efforts to-date have created a user friendly web calculator that covers a broad range of types of USAID activities. However, as the calculators are used, areas for improvements are discovered and enhancements are thus needed to meet the full range of USAID project situations. Specifically, we will accomplish the following subtasks:

Subtask 2a. Modification of the forest management tool

At present the forest management tool is designed to estimate emissions from selective harvesting practices as is typical in most tropical humid forests. However, in some tropical montane regions as well as in more temperate US AID countries where forests tend to be less diverse, activities in the forestry sector could be focused on those that change clear cut practices, change rotation lengths, or improve community forest management – in other words new emission factors are needed. In this subtask we will modify the tool to accommodate those practices that can reduce emissions and compile the data needed to generate emission factors for these activity types. It is envisaged that the present forest management tool will be revised and expanded to contain project types that can: (1) stop harvesting or change to RIL practices in tropical humid forests under selective logging, (2) stop harvesting, extend rotation time, or change to sustainable forest management in more temperate or montane forests, and (3) improve community forestry practices.

[1] Hansen, M.C., et al. 2008. Humid tropical forest clearing from 2000 to 2005 quantified by using multi-temporal and multi-resolution remotely sensed data. PNAS. 105: 9439-9444. Hansen, M.C., Stehman, S.V., Potapov, P.V. 2010. Quantification of global gross forest cover loss. PNAS. 107: 8650-8655.

Products and dates

1. Develop draft methodology, documentation and data base for improved community forest management (where this activity is not part of forest protection) and temperate forest management activities; April 2013
2. Peer review of draft document of Product 1; June 2013
3. Finalize tool and data base in response to peer review, add to functionality to the AFOLU-CC, and test the tool; July 2013

Implementation and staffing

Tim Pearson and Sandra Brown will co-lead this task with assistance from other team members. Felipe Casarim will provide the technical support and coordinate consultancies as needed.

Subtask 2b. Adding capability to add geographic specific details

Currently, the AFOLU Carbon Calculator functions at the level of the administrative unit. Under Level A, two projects in the same administrative unit will draw upon the same default data parameters, even though the situation on the ground between the two sites may be very different. We will add the capability to upload shapefiles to the calculator and/or allow users to draw a polygon representing the 'area of interest" (AOI) for each given project.

The advantage of building capabilities for allow selection of spatially discrete areas into the functionality of the AFOLU-CC is that default parameters that vary spatially (e.g., forest carbon stocks, rates of C accumulation, agroforestry practices) can be estimated/area-weighted according to the boundaries of the project, rather than applied at a generic administrative unit scale—this will be particularly useful for large administration units where, e.g., climatic zones vary across the admin unit.

We will also explore the potential to provide add-on tools that can be used off line in a GIS to produce the more spatially specific estimates of key parameters (e.g. threat for deforestation). It is possible for large projects whose aim is to protect a forest area from deforestation that the whole project area is not under threat and the off-line tools would provide a simple method by which the proportion of the total area actually under threat could be better identified—this would lead to an improved estimate of the emission reductions by applying the admin unit's deforestation rate to the area likely to undergo the change. We would provide GIS layers and detailed procedures on how the layers should be used and the affected area that should be input into the tool[2]. If we pursue this avenue, user manuals will be prepared on how to use the off-line tool to arrive at the more spatially specific data.

Products and dates

1. A report in collaboration with the web-developer (AGS) of the technical needs and steps for incorporating shapefiles and/or allowing users to draw the area of the project in the AFOLU-CC; December 2012.
2. Add geographic specific details (i.e. upload of shapefiles and/or map-drawing of AOI) to the AFOLU-CC and testing; July 2013
3. User-manual of instructions for adding the geographic specific details/shapefiles to the AFOLU-CC; July 2013.
4. Development of a peer reviewed simple GIS-based off-line tool and data bases for improving the identification of the area of protected areas likely to be under threat from deforestation and user manual; September 2013

[2] Pearson, T., N Harris, D. Shoch, and S. Brown. 2011. Estimation of aboveground carbon stocks. In GOFC-GOLD, A sourcebook of methods and procedures for monitoring and reporting anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions and removals caused by deforestation, gains and losses of carbon stocks in forests remaining forests, and forestation. GOFC-GOLD Report version COP17-1, (GOFC-GOLD Project Office, Natural Resources Canada, Alberta, Canada).

Implementation and staffing

Nancy Harris and Silvia Petrova will co-lead this task and coordinate with the AGS team; AGS has experience with adding such capabilities to web-based tools.

Subtask 2c. Add an effectiveness calculation component

In Yr 6, a new effectiveness calculation tool was developed and peer reviewed (Deliverable Yr6-1: Estimating Effectiveness in the USAID AFOLU Carbon Calculator). This year this tool will be programmed into the AFOLU-CC by AGS by December 2012.

Subtask 2d. Policy and capacity building impacts

A significant proportion of USAID development funding is not targeted at implementing specific activities but instead is focused on policy support and capacity building activities. The current iteration of the tool has no direct way of determining a greenhouse gas impact of such funding.

Calculation of such impact is complex as cause and effect cannot be directly linked. There are two potential approaches available to use in the tool with varying responsibility and effort needed from the user. The first step would be to assess the types of projects USAID supports in policy support and capacity building area and develop a simple project typology. We will investigate the use of both approaches described below to determine which one (or could be both depending on the project typology) is suited to the AFOLU Carbon Calculator:

1. Direct tool approach – Under a direct approach a series of case studies would be analyzed by Winrock. The case studies would be past USAID funded policy and capacity building projects. Compared to historic emissions and normalizing for confounding factors, a greenhouse gas emission reduction could be calculated per $ or per $1,000 of investment in policy or capacity building. Winrock will examine two case studies in each of Asia, Latin America and Africa.

2. Indirect approach – Under the indirect approach the onus would be on the user to derive the impact. Winrock will develop a protocol and the user would follow the protocol to calculate values that would feed into the existing calculator. So for example for a forest management policy project, the protocol might require users to conduct a spatial analysis of impacted concession area and impact on volumes removed per area of concession. The output would be entered into the calculator for management and a greenhouse gas number would be returned.

   The protocols could be relatively complex in that a different set of instructions would be needed for each funding scenario. So that the impact of policy funding for REDD would be calculated differently to the impact of capacity building funding for REDD to the impact of policy funding for agricultural adaptation etc.

In Yr6, a report was developed that laid out in more detail the approaches discussed above (Deliverable July 2012, Analysis document of approaches for the calculation of greenhouse gas impacts of development funding for policy work and capacity building). This year we will develop the approaches further and draft the models for how the emission factors can be estimated. We propose to brainstorm possible models for estimating the emission factors with other USAID project staff e.g. LEAF, VND, ICAA)

Products and dates

1. Draft calculation approach for policy and capacity building and peer review by 3-5US USAID partners implementing or completed related project activities ; September 2013
2. Finalize calculation approach and test with about 2-3 USAID partners who are implementing such a project type (e.g. testing with the USAID LEAF project in Asia, USAID ICAA in Latin America, etc.); December 2013

3. Finalized approach estimating carbon benefits from policy and capacity building projects and make functional on the web site; January 2014

Implementation and staffing

Tim Pearson, Nancy Harris, and Sandra Brown will co-lead this task with assistance from other team members.

Subtask 2e. Develop a new bioenergy tool for accounting for indirect effects on forests.

We will develop a new tool targeting the use of biogas and improved-efficiency cook-stoves. The use of these technologies is becoming widespread and they have an indirect effect in reducing the collection of fuel wood from forests in developing countries, thereby decreasing the extent of forest degradation and eventual deforestation.

To perform this task, we will need to conduct original analyses based on places where such technologies were/are implemented and the potential positive effects on carbon stocks in the nearby forests where wood was removed. Winrock's Clean Energy Unit that has implemented many project activities related to use of biogas and clean cook-stoves in developing countries in Latin America, Asia and Africa. The location of these projects is known and a first step in the analysis will be to conduct a field survey with local populations in such areas to define the extent of fuel-wood collection pre- and post-implementation of such technologies. Concurrently we will obtain remote sensing data for a selection of these areas at the time of project initiation and after several years of successful adoption of the technology by local communities. We will analyze the imagery to see if the forest cover in the fuelwood-collection areas has become denser or not. It will not necessarily show a cause an effect but at least a first step is to determine if indeed forest cover does recover.

In its simplest form, the tool would require the project partners to input the likely area of forest that was used for supplying fuelwood and the quantity of fuelwood used or the size of the population using fuelwood. We will investigate several approaches based on results of research and surveys, and expertise to develop a tool to estimate the likely enhanced carbon sequestration in the forests supplying the fuel. We expect to develop a draft approach and models needed to estimate emission reduction factors based on the field surveys and research and develop a methodology for the new tool ready for peer review this year (Yr7). The final methodology and the population of data into the tool will occur in Yr8 of the agreement.

Products and dates

1. Implementation of field surveys, collection of remote sensing data and field research; completed by June 2013
2. First draft of methodology and list of data needed for the bioenergy and land use tool; July 2013
3. Peer review of the draft methodology and list of data needed; September 2013
4. *Collection of needed data to populate the tool; June 2014*
5. *Functional tool added to the carbon calculator; August 2014*

Implementation and staffing

Tim Pearson and Nancy Harris will co-lead this task; Felipe Casarim will coordinate the implementation of the field surveys and work with the remote sensing Winrock staff to obtain and interpret the remote sensing data.

Task 3: Train USAID GCC Team and mission staff (extension of Task 9 of Year 5)

Under this area of work, our training efforts have just begun (in previous year 4, 5 and 6), as most work to date have focused on building the AFOLU Carbon Calculator and associated tools. We have also

discovered that in reality it is USAID's implementing partners that will enter much of the data. Thus the training also needs to target partners. Furthermore, two sets of training are needed—for using the tool as it currently exists, along with presentation of improvements and revisions and feedbacks (trainings in 2012-2013) and again when all the modification and revisions are fully functional (mid to late 2014) Specifically, we will provide training and guidance on the following topics :

1. Identification and evaluation of data needed for the AFOLU-CC. It is clear that users will need to do some calculations, collect data, and/or manipulate data in order to generate the required Level A and/or Level B inputs to the Calculator. Given the levels of generalities and estimation required, there may also be important assumptions made. It will be important to capture such information about data collection, estimations, and assumptions used. To do this a “calculation notes” text field has been added to each tool so they can record how they obtained or generated the Level A and/or Level B data. The new field will have a “what’s this” description to explain the types of information they should note — further training will be provided on identifying the more important types of information needed.

2. Guidance documents will be developed for the training sessions. The guidelines and manuals will be prepared that outline minimum standards for generating and applying Level A and Level B data for each tool, as well as suggestions for design of data collection and processing systems such as systematic documentation of project locations and activity attributes in geospatial layers (need improved documentation of location and area of specific activities in AID projects). The guidance documents will build upon manuals that Winrock has developed in the past, e.g. the BioCarbon Fund Sourcebook and the GOFC-GOLD Sourcebook, and we will also ensure that they are in line with the IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidance and IPCC 2006 AFOLU reports. These guidance documents will result in better output values from the calculators when using both Level A and Level B. It will also provide guidance to inform users on the quality of the data and the data collection systems that would be needed for a potential project funded by carbon finance.

3. In response to feedback from users, Winrock will develop a set of call-out notes to guide users through the calculator functions so that for example, a user can click on an information type note (icon will be developed) that explains what to enter in a given Level A or B box.

4. Winrock will conduct regional trainings on the use of the AFOLU-CC in each of these areas: Central Africa, Asia, Latin America. The trainings will be targeted to US AID partners. Many of the partners hold regional meetings of their members for other purposes and we will plan to coordinate our trainings at this time. These would be two-day carbon estimation and monitoring workshops that present basic concepts of carbon measurement and accounting, walk users through how to use the calculator, and actually have users fill out the calculator with real data from their projects. Participants would also create action plans for developing the systems for collecting the Level A and level B data they need. Prior to the workshop, participants would be provided with a data worksheet that they fill out in advance of the workshop so they have real data they can enter in the calculator.

5. Winrock will also develop guidance document highlighting the difference between the carbon benefits estimated using the AFOLU-CC and marketable offsets estimated for REDD+ project. Clarity regarding the data used to generate estimates provided by the AFOLU-CC and REDD+ project level carbon accounting will be provided. Issues of uncertainty, leakage, and non-permanence will also be detailed for additional clarity on the use of the Calculator.

Products and dates

1. Draft guidance document/manual for the training session for generating and applying Level A and B data for each tool; June 2013
2. Review of draft manual by 2-3 experts; July 2013

3. Final manual (revised based on peer review and user comments) and uploaded to documents page on web site; August 2013
4. Training materials that can be used by people trained by Winrock to pass on training to partners (training of the trainers concept):August 2013
5. Guidance document highlighting difference between carbon benefits estimated by AFOLU Carbon Calculator and REDD+ project carbon offsets; March 2013
6. Conduct two types of training sessions: (1) onsite training missions directly with engaged USAID projects and (2) regional training workshops for USAID staff and partners; TBD

Implementation and staffing

Sandra Brown will oversee this task and Nancy Harris will coordinate it with assistance from Felipe Casarim and junior forest carbon analysts.

Task 4: Complete Decision Making Tool

In year 6, one task did not get fully completed—the completion of a decision maing tool (Task 4 in Year 6 workplan). This incomplete task will be completed in Year 7. The existing tool has some planning capability added to it at the request of AID — it is not a stand-alone calculator but it can be used as such as the calculations can be made without saving for reporting. Also the calculator makes projections and outputs the data as follows: benefits to date, current year, next year, and next 5 years, 10 years and 30 years. The current calculator also outputs two graphics: the summed total benefits for all admin units by activity type and the total quantity per admin unit by activity type. So much of the calculator has been converted to a planning tool. However, based on discussion during Yr6, it was decided that a decision making tool would be beneficial and this would be a stand-alone — it would be based on the current calculator but have a different interface and some extra functionality. At the end of Yr6, a decision making tool was developed using Microsoft Excel, however it is not yet implemented online. We propose to implement an online decision making tool allowing more interactive selection of multiple scenarios that the user could use for assessing which interventions would generate the greatest carbon benefits in a given admin unit or across several admin units.

Products and dates

1. Conceptual plan of the online decision making tool (DMT); December 2012
2. Develop a beta version of the DMT, with new interface, for testing by stakeholders; May 2013
3. Final version of DMT will follow final version of AFOLU C calculator (underlying data bases and most calculations will be based on the calculator); September 2013.

Implementation and staffing

Nancy Harris and Tim Pearson will co-lead the development of this task.

Task 5: Management and implementation

Under this task we will accomplish several subtasks related to managing and implementing the various tasks as follows:

<u>Subtask 5a: Develop a detailed workplan</u>

This serves as completion of this task.

<u>Subtask 5b. Host website.</u>

Applied Geosolutions will be hosting the AFOLU C Calculator in 2013. As well, AGS will be working on the programming and web-developing new features of the AFOLU-CC along with Winrock as described above.

Subtask 5c. Production of progress reports

The progress reports will be produced on the following schedule for year 6 with subsequent years on the same schedule:

- Progress report 1 — January 2013
- Progress report 2 — April 2013
- Progress report 3 — July 2013
- Annual report — October 2013

3. Estimated Timeline

The schedule for achieving this work and timing of expected products is given in the Gantt chart below—this chart shows only the subtasks that will be implemented in year 6.

Task	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S
Task 1: Collect data to populate the database												
S-T 1a: Data collection for emission factors												
1. Draft of peer review agroforestry papers												
2. Upload modified Agroforestry data base and models to AFOLU-CC												
3. Finalize publications on Agroforestry												
4. Report on data collected on carbon sequestration in secondary forests to peer reviewers												
5. Finalize models and upload data base of secondary forests carbon sequestration into AFOLU-CC												
6. Data on Mangrove C stocks and area of change and upload into AFOLU-CC												
7. Data base and methods for tropical and temperate timber harvesting												
8. Update and document Agricultural and Grazing land management Tools												
S-T 1b: Updating and validating C stock map												
1. Finalized version of C stock map												
2. Upload into AFOLU-CC												
S-T 1c: Refining estimates of deforestation rates												
1. Acquire and process remote sensing data												
2. Incorporate new data into Calculator												
Task 2: Build and test tools												
S-T 2a: Modification of Forest Management Tool												
1. Draft methodology, and data base for community forest management												
2. Peer review of community forest management document												
3. Incorporate modified tool in AFOLU-CC												
S-T 2b: Add geographic specific details												
1. Assessment of technical challenges for uploading shapefiles into AFOLU-CC												
2. Adding geographic specific details to the AFOLU-CC and testing												

3. Documentation describing addition of geographic specific details												
S-T 2c: Effectiveness calculation component												
S-T 2d: Policy and capacity building impacts												
1. Draft approach and peer review it by 3-5 USAID partners												
S-T 2e: Develop a new bioenergy and land use tool												
1. Implementation of field surveys												
2. Draft methodology and data needs												
3. Peer review of draft methodology and data needs												
Task 3: Train USAID GCC team and mission staff												
1. Document highlighting difference in carbon benefits from AFOL-CC and REDD+ project carbon offsets												
2. Draft guidance document/manual for the training session												
3. Expert review of training manual												
4. Final version of training manual documentation uploaded to AFOLU-CC												
5. Onsite training missions												
Task 4: Decision Making Tool												
1. Conceptual plan of decision making tool (DMT)												
2. Development of Beta version of DMT												
3. Final version of DMT												
Task 5: Management and implementation												
S-T 5a: Workplan												
S-T 5b: Host website												
S-T 5c: Progress reports												