Activity Based Monitoring

What, Why and How?

Plan Vivo Stakeholder Meeting, 2015
Sigtuna, Sweden

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What is Activity Based Monitoring?

5.9. A monitoring plan must be developed for each project intervention which specifies:

5.9.1. Performance indicators and targets to be used and how they demonstrate if ecosystem services are being delivered.

Performance targets may be directly or indirectly linked to the delivery of ecosystem services, e.g. based on successful implementation of management activities or other improvements but must serve to motivate participants to sustain the project intervention.
What is Activity Based Monitoring?

Monitoring the implementation of management activities so that an indirect assessment of expected climate benefits can be made

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project design</th>
<th>Plan Vivo review</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Management plan</td>
<td>If activities are carried out as described, will the expected climate benefits be realised?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expected climate benefit</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Monitoring plan</td>
<td>Are the monitoring indicators and thresholds sufficient to determine whether activities have been carried out as planned?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Risk assessment</td>
<td>Is the risk of non-delivery of climate benefits if activities are carried out as planned factored into the risk buffer?</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Why use Activity Based Monitoring?

- If climate benefits accrue gradually
- If climate benefits are difficult to observe directly
- To reducing monitoring costs
- To ensure that monitoring directly contributes to effective management

BUT

- More conservative?
- Higher risk buffers?
- Fewer credits?

SO

- Need to find a balance that works for the project
How to use ABM?

Expected climate benefits
• Modelling
• Simple assumptions

Indicators
• Linked to management plan
• Simple performance based

Thresholds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Performance</th>
<th>Climate benefit</th>
<th>Corrective actions</th>
<th>Payments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Green</td>
<td>On track</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>Full</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Orange</td>
<td>Falling short</td>
<td>Maybe required</td>
<td>Partial</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Red</td>
<td>Far short</td>
<td>Required</td>
<td>Withheld</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
How to use ABM?

Small-scale agroforestry SOCIETREES

- *Parkia biglobosa* plantations in Burkina Faso
- Expected climate benefit 8.75 tCO$_2$e/ha/year
- Indicators
  - Project area marked and fire breaks maintained
  - Management group meets regularly and has capacity to implement management plan
  - Management activities have been carried out as planned
  - >80% survival of planted seedlings
How to use ABM?

Natural forest regeneration STEWARD

• Community forest management in Sierra Leone and Guinea
• Expected climate benefit 18.2 tCO$_2$e/ha/year
• Indicators
  • Community forest boundary marked
  • Rights and tenure recognized
  • Management groups meet regularly and have capacity to implement management plan
  • Management activities have been carried out as planned
How to use ABM?

Rangeland regeneration

- Grazing management in Mongolia
- Expected climate benefit ~1 tCO$_2$e/ha/year
- Indicators
  - Ongoing support from herder groups
  - Herder groups meet regularly and have capacity to implement management plan
  - Management activities have been carried out as planned
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5.3. Technical specifications must be updated at least every 5 years where they are still being used to sign new PES Agreements, by reviewing both available data from project monitoring results, e.g. species growth data, and new available data from outside the project.
Technical Specification Revision

• Adjust for under delivery?
• Additional credits for over delivery?
• No adjustment?