[handwritten: Sierra GOLD & Green Venture Fund (Bros...)]

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**PROJECT DESIGN DOCUMENT FORM
FOR AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES (CDM-AR-PDD) - Version 04**

**CLEAN DEVELOPMENT MECHANISM
PROJECT DESIGN DOCUMENT FORM FOR AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION
PROJECT ACTIVITIES (CDM-AR-PDD) Version 04**

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[handwritten note, lower right:]
SIERRA GOLD CORPORATION
Carbon Credit CDM
proposal
(relationship ō Green
Venture Fund since
ended according to
Sierra Gold website).

1/24

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SECTION A. General description of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

A.1. Title of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

Afforestation of Kiri tree on degraded lands in Sierra Leone

Version number of the document: 1

Date: 17th of November, 2009

A.2. Description of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

Summary

The Afforestation of Kiri tree on degraded lands in Sierra Leone CDM project (hereafter referred to as the project) involves establishment of Kiri tree (*Paulownia tomentosa*) plantations on 42,500 acres of degraded lands located in Makeni region, Tonkalili district in Sierra Leone. The purposes of the project are as follows:

- generation of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks through afforestation of Kiri tree on degraded lands;
- production of charcoal obtained from harvested trees from plantations established by the project in order to substitute fossil fuels and non-renewable biomass used in Africa's pig iron production; and
- reduction of methane emissions in the charcoal production.

The PDD will focus on afforestation component only.

Within the afforestation component, Kiri plantations will be established in a degraded area of 42,500 acres. The land use under the plantations is expected to cover a 50 years period, with the first harvest taking place after 3-4 years, followed by two successive periods of 7-years rotations through coppicing. Taking into account the annual planting over the first 7-year period starting from 2010, the project will have duration of approximately 50 years (2010-2060). Estimated value of the project is 73,500,000 Euro[1] for the first 7 year accounting period excluding timber sales. Total project value over the 50 year period is valued at 514,500,000 Euro not including timber sales or adjusted increase of the CERs.

The total annual net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks are estimated as 3,000,000 tCO$_2$eq/year[2].

Contribution to sustainable development

Apart from generation of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks and production of charcoal the proposed project contributes to sustainable development in the following ways:

- The project will create local and regional employment both during construction phase and operational phase. Approximately 10 villages and 3500 people will benefit from the project.

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[1] A conservative value of 3.5 Euro per CER has been applied for estimation. This value has been calculated as an average of the following assumptions: tCER price = 10% CER price and lCER price = 60% CER price. The price of 13 Euro per CER is used for calculations according to the 16/11/2009 ECX price.

[2] Estimation based on Australian Kiri tree plantation model – plantation with area of 1000 acres and 225 trees generates 500,000 tCO$_2$eq of GHG removals by sinks during 7 years (round off to the nearest whole million is applied)

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- The project will help to enhance the skill level of employees through a job training provided by the project participants.
- The project will implement sustainable and environmentally friendly practices at the plantation.
- The project will use easy-to-replicate techniques, which allow implementation of similar activities within Sierra Leone and other African countries.
- The project will reduce Africa's pig iron production dependence on fossil fuels and non-renewable biomass by producing charcoal.

A.3. Project participants:

Name of Party involved (*) ((host) indicates a host Party)	Private and/or public entity(ies) project participants (*) (as applicable)	Indicate if the Party involved wishes to be considered as a project participant (Yes/No)
Republic of Sierra Leone (host)	● Sierra Corporation (private entity)	No
Brazil	● Green Giant Venture Fund (private entity)	No

Full contact information for the project participants is provided in Annex 1.

A.4. Description of location and boundaries of the A/R CDM project activity:

A.4.1. Location of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

A.4.1.1. Host Party(ies):

Republic of Sierra Leone

A.4.1.2. Region/State/Province etc.:

Tonkalili District

A.4.1.3. City/Town/Community etc:

Makeni city, Bilafu village

A.4.2 Detailed geographic delineation of the project boundary, including information allowing the unique identification(s) of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

The project activity is located in Sierra Leone, Tonkalili District. The nearest city is Makeni, located approximately 30 km in north-east direction from the project site.

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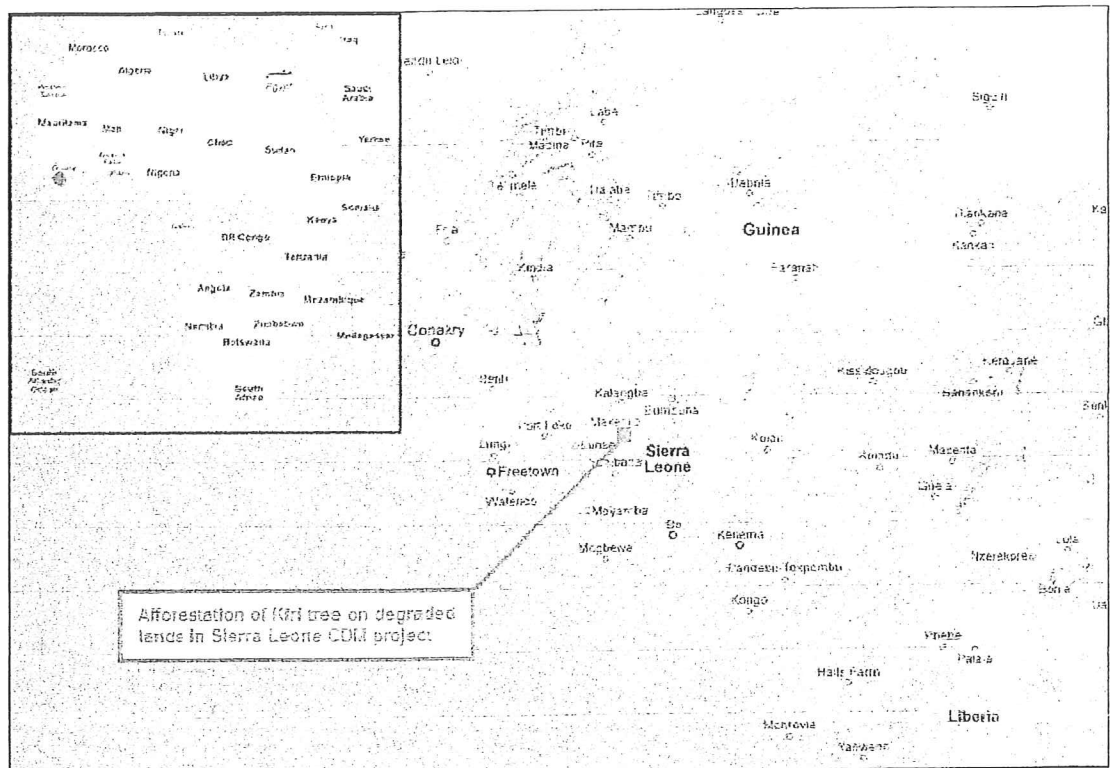

Figure 1. Map of Sierra Leone and location of the project area (Source: Google Earth)

The project boundaries of the land where afforestation is planned are delineated using UMT geographic positions and are presented below. The detailed maps will be included as soon as available.

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UTM CO-ORDINATES FIELD INFORMATION FOR S.G.C.P PROJECT

PLOT 1 PROPERTY MABANSOR VILLAGE

N	E	REMARKS
960 837	803 073	Mabansor Village
961 233	802 536	Along the River Rokel or Seli
961 901	802 622	" " " " "
962 484	803 366	
963 202	802 867	
963 560	802 466	Boundry Btw. Bilafu &
963 146	803 609	Mabansor along the river rokel
962 054	804 386	End of the river to Bilafu
961 904	804 992	Along the road to Bilafu
961 881	806 250	Along Makoteh Stream
961 093	806 511	
960 095	806 854	
959 726	807 701	
958 812	806 029	Junction to Mabansor
959 008	805 018	Main Mara Road
959 299	804 304	Makay Village
959 196	803 482	Boundary btw. Makay & Mara
959 586	802 956	End of Plot 1 survey.

Figure 2. Coordinates of the project site (plot 1)

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SIERRA GOLD CO-OPERATION PROJECT
(SGCP)
PLOT 2 – PROPERTY OF ROCHEN AND BEYOND

NO	X	Y	REMARKS
1	962 955	802 555	Along the River Rokel or Seli to Tongbai.
2	960 825	802 252	
3	960 130	803 146	" " "
4	960 157	800 409	" " "
5	959 232	800 150	" " "
6	958 753	799 000	Along the River to Rochen
7	958 018	798 861	" " "
8	956 854	799 230	Along the River to Pulun
9	956 857	801 922	" " "
10	955 720	801 030	Along the River to Masuba.
11	953 300	801 850	Along the River to Boso
12	950 261	797 334	Along the road from Masugbe
13	952 056	792 204	Along Sunka
14	955 205	792 822	To Petifu
15	958 600	793 650	To Rofunk
16	960 321	794 430	The foot of Kati – Kant hills.
17	963 352	794 950	Petifu
18	963 810	799 150	Along Malal
1	962 955	802 555	

Figure 3. Coordinates of the project site (plot 2)

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A.5. Technical description of the A/R CDM project activity:

A.5.1. Description of the present environmental conditions of the area planned for the proposed A/R CDM project activity, including a concise description of climate, hydrology, soils, ecosystems (including land use):

Sierra Leone is located in West Africa between about 10° and 13° W and 7° to 10° N. The country's total area is 71,740 km² and it has a north-south extent of about 340 km and a maximum east-west extent of about 300 km. Sierra Leone is bordered by Guinea in the north and east, and by Liberia in the south-east. Its Atlantic Ocean coastline in the south and west is about 400 km long. The country's highest point is Loma Mansa (Bintimani) reaching 1,948 m above see level. There are four main physical regions:
- Coastal plains (covering 14% of the country's area);
- Interior plains (43%);
- Plateau (22%);
- Hills and mountains (21%).

Climate
The project region is located at the northern limit of the equatorial rainforest zone, with a hot and humid tropical climate. There are two distinct seasons:
- the dry season, from November to April, which is characterized by the harmattan, a hot, dry wind that blows from the Sahara. The average temperatures in this season varies from 27°C to 30°C[3]. The average precipitation in Makeni area is between 106.7 mm and 198.1 mm[4].
- the rainy season, from May to October, when humid air masses from the Atlantic dominate. The sky is cloudy, the winds are southwesterly, sunshine is minimal, and rain falls almost daily, especially during July and August. The average temperatures in this season varies from 25°C to 28°C. The average precipitation in Makeni area is between 226.1 mm and 627.4 mm.

Hydrology
The project site is located in the vicinity of the Rokel river (also known as Seli), and the Makoteh stream, which is periodically fed by rainfalls.

Soils and relief
The soils where the project site is located belong to mineral hydromorphic soils[5]. The relief of the project site is plain, as presented on the pictures on the next page.

Ecosystems
The project site is partly located (20,000 acres) in the former agricultural ecosystem and has a form of open grasslands with a few trees (see pictures on the next page). The grasslands area prior to the war was used for rice farming, cattle and chicken ranches. The remaining part (22,500 acres) is located on natural

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[3] Average one-year temperatures have been obtain from WeatherReports.com website for Makeni area, Sierra Leone (website accessed on the 13.11.2009)

[4] Average over 32-year average precipitation values have been obtained from WeatherReports.com website for Makeni area, Sierra Leone (website accessed on the 13.11.2009)

[5] Information based on the map obtained from European Soil Portal, the European Soil Data Centre established by the European Commission and the Environmental European Agency (website accessed on 13.11.2009)

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forest area covered by trees with average age of 20 years where logging takes place. The existing trees belong to two types of mahogany trees and five types of palm trees.

During the war the region where the project site is located was destroyed by rebels. The local population was killed, captured or people fled the area in face of war. Presently logging and hard rock mining is observed causing loss of remaining forest and soil erosion. Without the project the land degradation would continue.
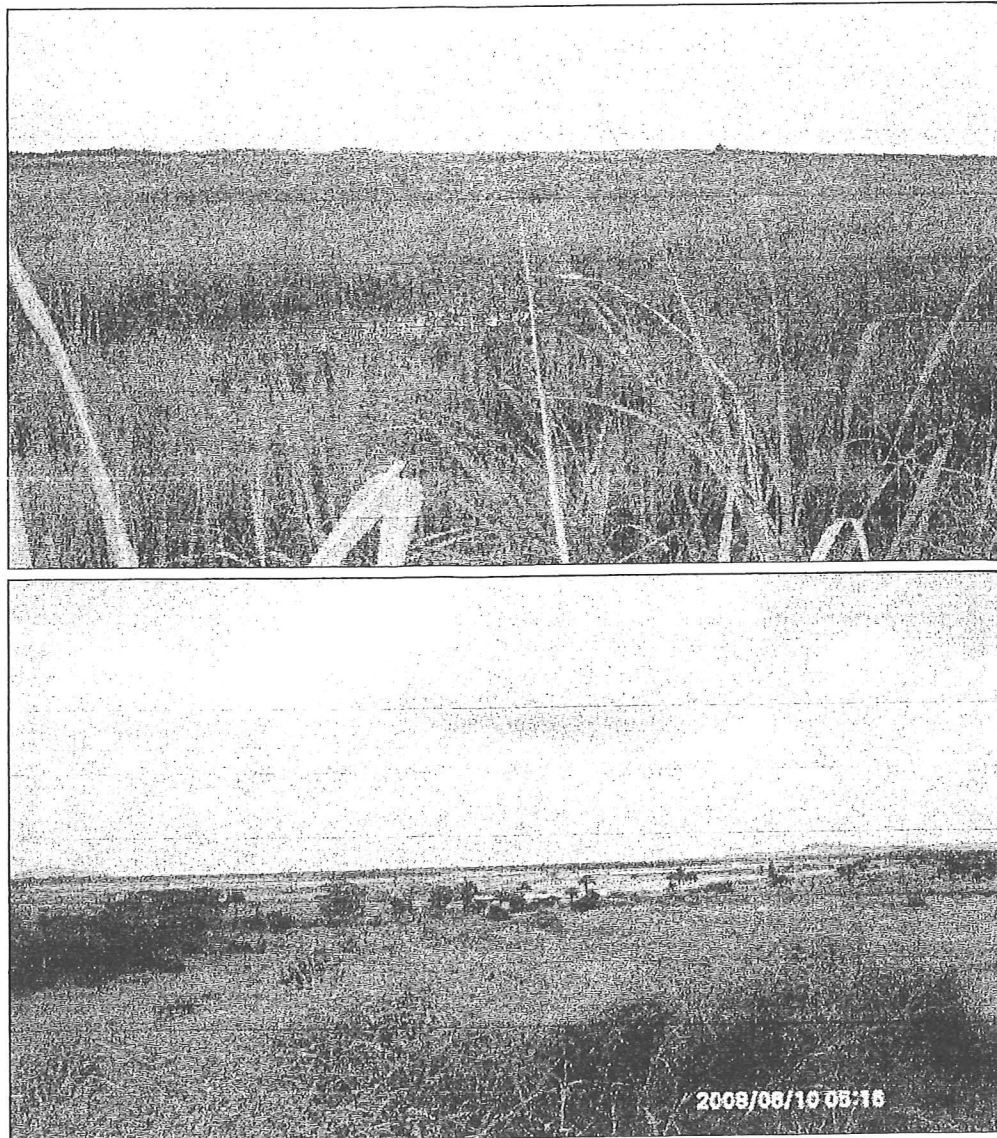

Figure 4. Pictures of the project area

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A.5.2. Description of the presence, if any, of rare or endangered species and their habitats:

No rare or endangered species and their habitats occur at the project site.

A.5.3. Species and varieties selected for the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

The selection of the appropriate tree species for plantation has been done taking into account, among others, natural conditions in the project region, adaptability, carbon sequestration potential, growth rate and productivity of biomass of the tree species. For the project activity *Paulownia tomentosa* (also known as Kiri tree or Empress tree) has been selected. The detailed description of the species is presented in the attachment to the PDD.

A.5.4. Technology to be employed by the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

The project participants intends to implement the project using sustainable production and plantation practices and environmentally friendly techniques. The best spacing for plantations of Kiri trees is 5 x 12-20 m with approximately 40-50 trees per hectare. The detailed plan of site preparation, planting works, distribution of trees and harvesting will be included in the PDD as soon as available.

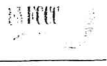| **A.5.5. Transfer of technology/know-how, if applicable:** |
|---|

Since the proposed project activity will be the "first of its kind" in Sierra Leone, the transfer of technology will occur. The project participants will deliver appropriate know-how at the time of project's implementation.

A.5.6. Proposed measures to be implemented to minimize potential leakage:

The potential leakage could occur in case when any present activates (e.g. grazing, farming) on the proposed land would be displaced. Due to the fact that the land is degraded, the potential leakage from displacing activities shall be neglected.

The "market leakage" will be also neglected based on the EB 28 report, paragraph 33[6], which states that "market leakage", which may include the increase in GHG emissions occurring outside the project boundary, attributable to effects of price, supply or demand of goods affected by the market impact of the CDM A/R project activity (for example the manufacture and sale of wood based products produced from wood harvested from the CDM A/R project activity), which is measurable and attributable to the CDM A/R project activity, shall not be accounted for in afforestation/reforestation baseline and monitoring methodologies."

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[6] http://cdm.unfccc.int/EB/028/eb28rep.pdf (website accessed on the 15.11.2009)

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A.6. Description of legal title to the land, current land tenure and rights to tCERs / lCERs issued for the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

The land within the project boundaries is owned by local land owners, who have signed a 50 years lease agreement with the Sierra Gold Corporation. The Sierra Gold Corporation will be responsible for implementation and maintenance of the Kiri tree plantation established on the project site.

A.7. Assessment of the eligibility of the land:

The assessment of the eligibility of the land where the project will be implemented is based on the "Tool for the identification of degraded or degrading lands for consideration in implementing CDM A/R project activities" (version 1)[7]. Prior to the civil war the grasslands part of the proposed land was used for rice farming, cattle and chicken ranching while logging was occurring in the forest area. During the civil war, which broke out in 1991 and lasted till the 05/01/2002[8], rebel forces degraded the proposed land. After the war the proposed land lied fallow. Presently hard rock mining and logging take place causing loss of forest and land erosion. The current state of the land is presented on pictures on the page 7 of the PDD. Taking into account the above, the proposed land is deemed as degraded and therefore is eligible for the implementation of the project activity.

A.8. Approach for addressing non-permanence:

The project activity uses tCERs approach to account for the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks.

A.9. Estimated amount of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks over the chosen crediting period:

Summary of results obtained in Sections C.7., D.1., and D.2.				
Year	**Estimation of baseline net GHG removals by sinks (tonnes of CO_2 e)**	**Estimation of actual net GHG removals by sinks (tonnes of CO_2 e)**	**Estimation of leakage (tonnes of CO_2 e)**	**Estimation of net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks (tonnes of CO_2 e)**
Year 1	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Year 2	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Year 3	0	3,000,000	0	3,000,000
Year 4-7	0	12,000,000	0	12,000,000
Total (tonnes of CO2 e)	0	21,250,000	0	21,250,000

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[7] http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf (website accessed on the 13.11.2009)

[8] Encyclopaedia Britannica, Sierra Leone Civil War, http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/543356/Sierra-Leone/274792/Civil-war (website accessed on the 14.11.2009)

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A.10. Public funding of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

The project does not obtain public funding.

SECTION B.   Duration of the project activity / crediting period

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B.1 Starting date of the proposed A/R CDM project activity and of the crediting period:

2010 (to be determined)

B. 2. Expected operational lifetime of the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

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50 years

B.3 Choice of crediting period:

B.3.1. Length of the renewable crediting period (in years and months), if selected:

2x 20 years and 1x 10 years (to be determined)

B.3.2. Length of the fixed crediting period (in years and months), if selected:

N/A

SECTION C. Application of an approved baseline and monitoring methodology

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C.1. Title and reference of the approved baseline and monitoring methodology applied to the proposed A/R CDM project activity:

Afforestation of degraded land
The approved afforestation and reforestation baseline methodology AR-AM0005 "Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses" (version 4)[9].
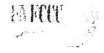
Applied methodological tools
"Tool for the identification of degraded or degrading lands for consideration in implementing CDM A/R project activities" (version 1)[10].

"Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (version 1)[11].

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[9] http://cdm.unfccc.int/UserManagement/FileStorage/78APDGB43WLE2VIOJFCYU5HKX1M6SQ (website accessed on the 13/11/2009)

[10] http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-13-v1.pdf (website accessed on the 13/11/2009)

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C.2. Assessment of the applicability of the selected approved methodology to the proposed A/R CDM project activity and justification of the choice of the methodology:

The methodology AR-AM0005 "Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses" (version 4) is applicable to the proposed project activity because it fulfils the following criteria:

- Land cover within the project boundary is degraded grasslands, which are expected to remain degraded without human intervention. The afforestation and/or reforestation has been not observed prior to the proposed project activity;
- Encroachment of natural tree vegetation does not lead to the establishment of forests according to the Sierra Leone definition of forest for CDM purposes;
- Soil organic carbon pool are conservatively neglected in the proposed project activity;
- Flooding irrigation will not be applied in the project activity;
- Roots of the harvested trees will not be removed from the soil;
- The project activity will not be implemented on organic soils.

C.3. Assessment of the selected carbon pools and emission sources of the approved methodology to the proposed CDM project activity:

In accordance with the methodology AR-AM0005 "Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented for industrial and/or commercial uses" (version 4), the carbon pools included and excluded from the project boundaries are shown in the table 1 below.

Table 1. Selection and justification of carbon pools

Carbon Pools	Selected	Justification / Explanation
Above-ground	Yes	Major carbon pool subjected to the project activity
Below-ground	Yes	Major carbon pool subjected to the project activity
Dead wood	No	Conservative approach under applicability condition
Litter	No	Conservative approach under applicability condition
Soil organic carbon (SOC)	No	Conservative approach under applicability condition

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[11] http://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/ARmethodologies/tools/ar-am-tool-02-v1.pdf (website accessed on the 13/11/2009)

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The emission sources are presented in the table 2 below.

Table 2. Gases considered from emissions by sources other than resulting from changes in stocks in carbon pools

Sources	Gas	Included/ excluded	Justification / Explanation of choice
Combustion of fossil fuels by machinery & vehicles	CO_2	Included	
	CH_4	Excluded	Potential emission is negligibly small
	N_2O	Excluded	Potential emission is negligibly small
Biomass burning from fires	CO_2	Excluded	Not applicable
	CH_4	Included	
	N_2O	Included	
Use of fertilizers	CO_2	Excluded	Not applicable
	CH_4	Excluded	Not applicable
	N_2O	Included	
Removal of pre-existing non-tree vegetation	CO_2	Included	
	CH_4	Excluded	Not applicable
	N_2O	Excluded	Not applicable

C.4. Description of strata identified using the *ex ante* stratification:

The project area is not homogenous and therefore stratification is necessary for the purpose of accurate baseline and project emissions calculations. For the calculation purposes the following strata have been selected:
  a) forest area
  b) grasslands

C.5. Identification of the baseline scenario:

C.5.1. Description of the application of the procedure to identify the most plausible baseline scenario (separately for each stratum defined in C.4.):

For each stratum the most plausible baseline scenario will be the same, since the project site is degraded and would remain degraded without the implementation of the project activity.

C.5.2. Description of the identified baseline scenario (separately for each stratum defined in Section C.4.):

With reference to the "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (version 1) the baseline scenario has been determined using analysis in section C.6 of the PDD. For the proposed project activity scenario A, the continuation of the pre-project land use is identified as the baseline scenario.

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C.6. Assessment and demonstration of additionality:

To demonstrate additionality of the project and to identify the baseline scenario, the "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (version 1) is applied and assessed through the following steps:

Step 0. Preliminary screening based on the starting date of the A/R project activity

The starting date of the proposed project activity is not set exactly yet, however the project's implementation will start in 2010. The contract between the project participants regarding realization of the afforestation of the Kiri tree on degraded lands in Sierra Leone as the CDM project has been signed in 2009 and will be available to the DOE.

Step 1. Identification of alternative land use scenarios to the proposed A/R project activity

Sub-step 1a. Identify credible alternative land use scenarios to the proposed CDM project activity

Three realistic alternatives land use of the proposed land have been identified and are presented in the table 3 below.

Table 3. Alternative land use scenarios for the proposed land

Scenario A	Continuation of the pre-project land use, i.e. continue degradation of land through hard rock mining and logging
Scenario B	Forestation of the land within the project boundary performed without being registered as the A/R CDM project activity
Scenario C	Forestation of the land within the project boundary performed with being registered as the A/R CDM project activity

Sub-step 1b. Consistency of credible alternative land use scenarios with enforced mandatory laws and regulations

All three alternatives are consistent with the above mentioned legislation and will be used for the demonstration of additionality.

Step 2. Barrier analysis

Step 2a. Identification of barriers that would prevent the implementation of at least one alternative land use scenarios

Implementation of the project without the CER revenues (scenario B defined under sub-step 1a) faces barriers that prevent the realisation of this alternative. An overview of the barriers is shown in table 4. Each barrier is described in more detail in the section below.

Table 4. Identified barriers for development of the project activity

Type of barrier	Identified barrier
Technological	Lack of technology and experience in Sierra Leone

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Prevailing practice	No similar projects developed in Sierra Leone
Social	Lack of skilled and trained labour force

Technological barrier
Lack of technology and experience in Sierra Leone: The project participants will have deliver plants from abroad, since Kiri tree is not present in Africa. Additionally, all specialist technology for seeding and reproduction is not available in Sierra Leone. Since, the project is the "first of its kind", the project participants have very little experience in developing such afforestation project.

Prevailing practice barrier
No similar projects developed in Sierra Leone: The proposed project will be the "first of its kind" in Sierra Leone and Africa. The forest-based industries in Sierra Leone have not accomplished sufficient plantation stocks over the past decades. This trend is expected to continue at least, over the next fifteen years. The legislation though recognizes the need to alleviate the renewable biomass deficit through plantations. However prevailing barriers continue to prevent the establishment of plantation supplies leading to a large burgeoning gap between the supply and demand for the plantation produced wood.

Social barriers
Lack of skilled and trained labour force: The project's implementation will require labour force. However, local people are not familiar with new technologies and therefore they will have to be trained in the scope of proper ground preparation, planting and maintenance.

Sub-step 2b. Elimination of land use scenarios that are prevented by the identified barriers

The barriers described in sub-step 2a are valid for the scenario B, forestation of the land within the project boundary performed without being registered as the A/R CDM project activity. The continuation of the pre-project scenario, scenario A, is not hindered by the identified barriers.

Sub-step 2c. Determination of baseline scenario

The outcome of the sub-step 2c decision tree is that the scenario B, forestation of the land within the project boundary performed without being registered as the A/R CDM project activity, is not included on the list of land use scenarios prevented by any barrier. Since the list includes only the scenario A, continuation of the pre-project land use, therefore the common practice test is applied.

Step 3. Investment analysis

This step is not applied.

Step 4. Common practice analysis

According to the latest CDM Pipeline overview[12], no similar or any CDM project in Sierra Leone has been observed. In total, there is 1 afforestation CDM project and 17 reforestation CDM projects in Africa on different stage of realization.

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[12] http://cdmpipeline.org/publications/CDMpipeline.xls, updated 01/11/2009 (website accessed on 15/11/2009)

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From the above additionality analysis, it can be concluded that the project would not have occurred without support from CDM. It can be concluded that currently the project activity faces significant barriers that prevent its implementation. Therefore, the proposed project activity can be deemed "additional to the baseline scenario".

| **C.7. Estimation of the *ex ante* baseline net GHG removals by sinks:** |

>>

ID number [13]	Data variable	Data unit	Value applied	Data Source	Comment

Please present final results of your calculations using the following tabular format.	
Year	**Annual estimation of baseline net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks in tonnes of CO_2 e**
Year 1	3,000,000
Year 2	3,000,000
Year 3	3,000,000
Year 4-7	12,000,000
Total estimated baseline net GHG removals by sinks (tonnes of CO2 e)	21,250,000
Total number of crediting years	7
Annual average over the crediting period of estimated baseline net GHG removals by sinks (tonnes of CO2 e)	3,000,000

| **C.8. Date of completion of the baseline study and the name of person(s)/entity(ies) determining the baseline:** |

The final draft of this baseline section has been completed on 17/11/2009.

The baseline has been prepared by Janusz Mizerny in consultation with Green Giant Venture Fund. Janusz Mizerny should not be considered as a project participant.

Contact Person:	Mr. Janusz Mizerny
Telephone number:	+48 605 121 603
e-mail:	j.mizerny@greengiantventurefund.com

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[13] Please provide ID number for cross-referencing in the PDD.

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Annex 2

INFORMATION REGARDING PUBLIC FUNDING

Annex 3

BASELINE INFORMATION

Annex 4

MONITORING PLAN

- - - - -

History of the document

Version	Date	Nature of revision
04	EB35, Annex 20 19 October 2007	• Restructuring of section A; • Section "Monitoring of forest establishment and management" replaces sections: "Monitoring of the project boundary", and "Monitoring of forest management"; • Introduced a new section allowing for explicit description of SOPs and quality control/quality assurance (QA/QC) procedures if required by the selected approved methodology; • Change in design of the section "Monitoring of the baseline net GHG removals by sinks" allowing for more efficient presentation of data.
03	EB26, Annex 19 29 September 2006	Revisions in different sections to reflect equivalent forms used by the Meth Panel and assist in making more transparent the selection of an approved methodology for a proposed A/R CDM project activity.
02	EB23, Annex 15a/b 24 February 2006	Inclusion of a section on the assessment of the eligibility of land and the Sampling design and stratification during monitoring
01	EB15, Annex 6 03 September 2004	Initial adoption