Decision

on the eligibility

of an applicant carbon-crediting program

GB/P-BCS/2026-11

NAME OF PROGRAM: BioCarbon Standard

1. The Governing Board considered the Draft Assessment Report and the recommendation from the Standards Oversight Committee for a draft Decision and decides to:

   a) Approve the carbon-crediting program as CCP-Eligible[1]

   Where the following condition is met:

   - BCR Standard v4.1 or later is applied.

[1] *Note: In accordance with Section 2.17 of the Assessment Procedure, where the Integrity Council identifies issues that require changes to the carbon-crediting program's program documents, or other carbon-crediting program processes in order to meet the CCPs and the criteria and requirements of the Assessment Framework, the Secretariat will notify the carbon-crediting program of the required changes. These may be classified as minor changes, such that approval is not subject to completion of those changes.*

Rationale for Decision

In accordance with the Assessment Procedure, the Integrity Council has considered the Application by the carbon-crediting program, BioCarbon Standard (BioCarbon), the **BioCarbon Standard Rules v4.1** and related documentation and the draft Assessment Report for adherence to part I and to CORSIA requirements of part II of the Assessment Framework.[2]

Following a thorough review of the application and supporting documentation, additional information was sought from and provided by the Program in order to determine adherence with the requirements.

During the assessment and clarification process, the Program has introduced amendments to its rules in order to align with the requirements of the Assessment Framework. These include the following:

1. On requirement 1.1 8) BioCarbon updated its Long-Term Management Plan to include a strict 10-year implementation timeline, an explicit 20-year minimum operational commitment for issued credits, and a detailed, phased financial roadmap designed to achieve self-sustainability by 2027.
2. On requirement 1.1 9) BioCarbon updated its Long-Term Management Plan to explicitly guarantee that all buffer pools and risk-management reserves will remain strictly ring-fenced, used solely for their intended environmental purposes, and securely transferred to a successor administrator.
3. On requirement 1.1 12) BioCarbon updated its registry administration contract to explicitly prohibit financial, commercial, and fiduciary conflicts of interest, expanded its Corporate Governance policy to expressly apply these rules to independent registry providers, and clarified that its comprehensive Conflict-of-Interest Framework is a consolidation of its existing corporate ethics policies.
4. On requirement 1.1 13) BioCarbon updated its registry administration contract and Corporate Governance policy to mandate that independent registry providers submit annual conflict-of-interest declarations, guaranteeing that any potential financial, commercial, or fiduciary conflicts are formally reported, mitigated, and isolated through immediate recusal and information barriers.
5. On requirement 1.1 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its Corporate Governance document to version 5.1 and its Code of Ethics to version 5.0 to explicitly define "misuse of authority," introduce a new definition for "independent fiduciary," and establish formal prohibitions against using governance power to interfere with independent functions.
6. On requirement 1.1 a) 2) BioCarbon updated and republished its 2025 Annual Report on its website to publicly disclose a summary of the program's revenues and operating expenses alongside its previously disclosed assets, liabilities, and equity.
7. On requirement 1.2 3) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards to Version 2.1 and its Standard Operating Procedures to Version 2.01 to explicitly mandate alternative, non-web-based public consultation channels, such as in-person community sessions and local-language summaries, for affected Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
8. On requirement 1.2 5) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards to Version 2.1 and its Standard Operating Procedures to Version 2.01 to explicitly mandate alternative, non-web-based public consultation channels, such as in-person engagement and local-

[2] See Part I of the Assessment Framework. The carbon-crediting program application can be found here.

language summaries, for affected Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities during the 30-day public comment periods for projects seeking registration or approval.

9. On requirement 1.2 7) BioCarbon updated its Standard Operating Procedures to Version 2.01 to mandate a minimum 30-day public comment period for additions or revisions to standards, methodologies, and program rules, and to explicitly require alternative, non-web-based consultation channels, such as in-person engagement and local-language summaries, for affected Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.
10. On requirement 1.2 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its guidelines to mandate accessible, in-person, and local-language consultation channels for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities who lack internet access.
11. On requirement 2.1 12) BioCarbon updated Section 16.1 of its Standard Operating Procedures (SOP v2.01) to explicitly restrict registry accounts to legally registered natural persons and incorporated legal entities, strictly banning anonymous or unregistered applicants.
12. On requirement 2.1 13) BioCarbon introduced a Registry Audit and Integrity Assurance Framework and formalized contractual provisions that mandate at least annual independent technical and cybersecurity audits of its registry platform.
13. On requirement 2.1 a) 3) BioCarbon updated its Standard Operating Procedures (SOP v2.02) to make the cancellation or replacement of overestimated credits mandatory, separate these corrections from permanence buffer pools, and extend remedial measures to all confirmed cases of erroneous issuance.
14. On requirement 3.1 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its BCR Standard (v4.1) to mandate the public disclosure of complete project-level additionality assessments and introduced a "Public Replication Annex" mechanism to provide third parties with the structured data required to replicate GHG calculations.
15. On requirement 3.1 a) 3) BioCarbon updated its Project Documentation Template (v4.0) to include a dedicated section that explicitly requires project holders to define the duration, start date, and end date of the monitoring and compensation period for activities subject to reversal risks.
16. On requirement 4.1 9) BioCarbon updated its Anti-Corruption Policy and Procedures to explicitly require all Conformity Assessment Bodies to submit an annual declaration disclosing whether their personnel or immediate family members hold any financial, advisory, or fiduciary relationships with entities promoting or dealing in the evaluated offset credits.
17. On requirement 4.1 10) BioCarbon updated its BCR Standard (v4.1) to clarify its sequential baseline reassessment framework for crediting period renewals, explicitly stating that while every renewal requires a validity assessment, a full baseline re-identification is only necessary if the original baseline is no longer valid, whereas valid baselines must still undergo an updated emissions assessment and demonstrate regulatory surplus.
18. On requirement 4.1 12) BioCarbon updated Section 16.5 of its Standard Operating Procedures (v2.03) to explicitly mandate that projects exceeding the maximum allowable verification interval must undergo a "full verification," which expressly includes a comprehensive reassessment of baseline validity, quantification procedures, and all monitoring assumptions relevant to the determination of mitigation outcomes.
19. On requirement 4.1 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its BCR Standard (v4.1) and Validation and Verification Manual (v4.0) to remove all alternative recognition pathways, explicitly mandating

that all validation and verification bodies hold and maintain valid accreditation under ISO/IEC 17029 and ISO 14065.

20. On requirement 4.1 a) 2) BioCarbon updated Section 9.5 of its CAB Oversight and Performance Evaluation Framework (v2.01) to mandate the reporting of poor VVB performance, fraud, or systematic non-conformity to the relevant accreditation body, alongside its existing systematic review and disciplinary procedures for suspension and revocation.
21. On requirement 5.1 2) BioCarbon updated its Methodology Development & Approval Procedure (v2.01) to formalize a five-year mandatory comprehensive technical review cycle for all approved methodologies and explicitly mandated that all "major" revisions, those affecting core components like baseline identification, additionality, or quantification, must follow the same rigorous approval pathway as new methodologies, including public consultation and independent external review.
22. On requirement 5.1 a) BioCarbon updated its Methodology Development & Approval Procedure (v2.01) to formalize the process for revising quantification methodologies. The updated procedure establishes clear definitions and distinct pathways for revisions: major revisions, those affecting core elements like baseline identification, additionality, or quantification, must undergo the same rigorous approval pathway as new methodologies (including public consultation and independent external review), while minor revisions are restricted to editorial or clarificatory changes. Furthermore, the procedure mandates that all approved methodologies must undergo a comprehensive technical review at least once every five years.
23. On requirement 5.1 b) BioCarbon updated its BCR0009 (Soil Organic Carbon) methodology to Version 2.0, incorporating a comprehensive section on the quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals to address previous gaps. This update, combined with the existing mandates in the BCR Standard (v4.0) and the Methodology Development & Approval Procedure (v2.0), ensures that all methodologies explicitly address the six essential components: applicability/eligibility, accounting boundaries, additionality, baseline scenarios, quantification of GHG outcomes, and monitoring practices.
24. On requirement 5.1 c) Methodology Procedure (v2.01) updated to mandate that major methodology revisions undergo a 30-day public consultation and independent external expert review.
25. On requirement 5.1 d) Methodology Procedure (v2.01) updated to allow "extraordinary reviews" and the suspension/cancellation of methodologies if additionality concerns or overestimation risks arise.
26. On requirement 5.2 5) Published Leakage Management Tool (v1.0) mapping specific emission sectors and activity types to their respective leakage risk levels for consistent assessment.
27. On requirement 5.2 7) BioCarbon updated the BCR Standard (v4.1) to explicitly mandate national or subnational implementation for any activity where project-level leakage risks are deemed structurally unmanageable and cannot be adequately mitigated.
28. On requirement 5.2 9) BioCarbon mandates that all projects must quantify and deduct emissions from any identified material leakage from their net mitigation accounting, as explicitly required at the program level by Section 12.3.1 of the BCR Standard.
29. On requirement 5.2 a) 1) BioCarbon has updated the BCR Standard (v4.1) to ensure its terminology aligns with CCP and CORSIA requirements, explicitly defining the carbon credit as a unit of GHG emission reductions or removals.

30. On requirement 5.2 a) 6) BioCarbon updated the Methodology Development & Approval (MD&A) Procedure (v2.01) to include an explicit, systematic evaluation process for all new and revised methodologies.
31. On requirement 7.1 a) 2) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, explicitly mandating that project holders employ a risk-based, proportionate approach that requires environmental and social impact assessments to be tailored to the specific scope, scale, and context of each mitigation activity.
32. On requirement 7.2 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, explicitly mandating that project holders provide safe and healthy working conditions for all workers, including direct employees, contractors, and third parties, in alignment with ILO Conventions 155 and 187.
33. On requirement 7.2 a) 3) BioCarbon updated Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool (v2.1.1) to ensure third-party contracted workers receive labor protections equivalent to direct employees, enforced through mandatory independent verification and binding contractual agreements.
34. On requirement 7.3 a) 1-3) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, replacing advisory language with mandatory requirements that explicitly compel project holders to avoid or minimize pollutant emissions to air, water discharges, noise and vibration, waste generation, and the release of hazardous materials, chemicals, and fertilizers.
35. On requirement 7.5 a) 1) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, explicitly mandating that project holders avoid or, where not feasible, minimize negative impacts on all terrestrial and marine biodiversity, while maintaining stricter "no-impact" protections for critical habitats and threatened species.
36. On requirement 7.5 a) 4) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, establishing an explicit, binding mandate for project holders to minimize soil degradation and erosion that operates as a standalone obligation alongside the program's mandatory risk assessment and mitigation framework.
37. On requirement 7.5 a) 5) BioCarbon updated its Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool to Version 2.1, establishing an explicit, binding mandate for project holders to minimize water consumption and stress while ensuring that project activities do not negatively impact the access, availability, or quality of water resources for people, ecosystems, and downstream users.
38. On requirement 7.8 a) SDS Tool (v2.1) updated to enforce equal pay/opportunities and mandate robust protection mechanisms against gender-based violence.
39. On requirement 7.9 a) 2) SDS Tool (v2.1.1) and Project Template (v4.0) updated to mandate sharing draft/final benefit-sharing plans with IPLCs in accessible formats.
40. On requirement 7.10 a) BioCarbon updated its REDD+ Safeguards Compliance Tool to Version 2.0 to explicitly incorporate and operationalize the requirements of paragraph 71 of Decision 1/CP.16, ensuring that all REDD+ activities are consistent with the full scope of the Cancun Safeguards.
41. On requirement 7.11 a) 1) Project Template updated to mandate describing how project SDG contributions align with national/subnational development strategies.

42. On requirement 9.1 1) Risk Management Tool (v2.1) updated to identify reversal-susceptible sectors, mandating quantitative risk assessments for AFOLU activities.
43. On requirement 9.1 8) Risk Management Tool (v2.1) updated to mandate project holders notify BioCarbon of any material reversal within 30 days.

After assessing the supplemental information and the amendments introduced, Biocarbon Standard was found to satisfy the requirements of the Assessment Framework.

Biocarbon Standard is recommended for approval as a CCP-Eligible program for mitigation activities that are registered under Rainbow Standard Rules v7.0 or later.

Decision Timeline

Date of Application Submission	31 July 2025
Date of Completeness Check	15 September 2025
Date Assessment Complete	09 July 2026

Date of Standards Oversight Committee Recommendation for Decision	14 July 2026

Date of Board Decision	23 July 2026