

Decision
on the eligibility
of an applicant carbon-crediting program
GB/P-CERCARBONO/2026-12

NAME OF PROGRAM: CERCARBONO

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 conditions are met:

- For mitigation activities registered under Cercarbono's Protocol for Voluntary Carbon Certification v4.5.2 or later

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, [Cercarbono](#), and its standard and documentation related to **Procedures of Cercarbono's Certification Programme v2.3.2**, and the draft Assessment Report for adherence to part I of the Assessment Framework.²

At the time of application to the ICVCM, Cercarbono had been granted conditional eligibility under CORSIA. During the course of the assessment, stakeholder input was also received and considered alongside the program's submission and supporting evidence. Following a thorough review, additional information was requested from and provided by the program to assess compliance with the relevant requirements. The assessment, therefore, incorporated consideration of both CORSIA-related conditions, where relevant, and [stakeholder input](#).

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) Cercarbono revised and expanded its long-term operational planning documents in response to TAB recommendations, incorporating measures for the management of multi-decadal program elements.
2. On requirement 1.1 a) 1) Cercarbono ensured clearer roles for governing bodies and advisory committees. Reinforced conflict-of-interest and oversight provisions for VVBs including:
 - Introduction of mandatory conflict of interest declarations for Board members and senior management.
 - Publication of governance information (e.g. board minutes, structure, and roles) and provision of third-party evidence (including auditor certification and registry governance documentation).
3. On requirement 1.2 a) 2) Cercarbono has implemented the following in response to the issues raised around the Baka Rokarire project, focused on strengthening grievance accessibility, Indigenous representation, FPIC, and due diligence.
4. On requirement 3.1 a) 1) Cercarbono updated its procedures to make validation and verification calculations publicly available. Specifically:
 - Revised Table 13 in Section 12 of its Procedures v2.3.2 document to reclassify validation and verification calculation documents (including spreadsheets) from private to public.
 - Ensured that both ex-ante and ex-post calculation data are now accessible, enabling third parties to replicate GHG calculations and assess projects transparently.
5. On requirement 3.1 a) 3) Cercarbono:
 - Updated the Safeguards Principles v3.0 (Section 4.3.2) to explicitly require that the compensation period be included in the PDD and referenced in monitoring reports.
 - Introduced and strengthened long-term monitoring and compensation requirements, particularly in AFOLU methodologies (e.g. minimum 40-year monitoring for reversals).
 - Ensured that ongoing obligations (e.g. reversal risk management and safeguards monitoring) extend beyond credit issuance and are publicly documented and reported.
6. On requirement 3.1b) Cercarbono:

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

- Updated the wording of the grievance mechanism to explicitly state that it can be used to submit requests for additional or missing information, not just complaints.
 - Added a direct link to the grievance mechanism on the website homepage, improving visibility and ease of access.
7. On requirement 4.1 a) 2) in response to the concerns raised in the stakeholder input Cercarbono strengthened geospatial verification processes including using a mandatory Standardised Mapping Tool that requires uniform geospatial data formats, enables automatic cross-checking against internal and external datasets, and allows earlier detection of potential overlaps.
 8. On requirement 5.2 a) 3) Cercarbono revised the Guidance on the Use of Global Warming Potential Values to align with current practices and confirm the use of IPCC AR5 100-year GWP values.
 9. On requirement 5.3 a) Cercarbono updated its Protocol v4.5.2 (Section 7.4) to clearly distinguish between ex-ante estimates and ex-post quantification.
 10. On requirement 6.1 a) 1): Cercarbono clarified prohibitions on double issuance, double use, and double claiming.
 11. On requirement 7.1 a) 3): Cercarbono strengthened FPIC requirements in safeguards framework (v3.0) with clearer, more detailed provisions requiring documented evidence of consent, including community resolutions, mandate contracts, meeting records, and benefit-sharing agreements.
 12. On requirement 7.2 a) 1) Cercarbono updated its Safeguarding Principles and Procedures (Version 3.0) to require that include clear, explicit provisions covering contracted workers employed by third parties.
 13. On requirement 7.4 a) Cercarbono strengthened requirements to alignment with Cancún Safeguards, UNFCCC requirements, and national legal frameworks.
 14. On requirement 7.5 a) 1) Cercarbono expanded and clarified safeguards (Section 4.3 and 4.3.1–4.3.2) to require Identification and management of impacts on ecosystems, and implementation of risk prevention, mitigation, and restoration measures.
 15. On requirement 7.6 a) 1) Cercarbono updated of the safeguards framework (v3.0, October 2024): Introduction of more detailed, explicit, and enforceable requirements on FPIC processes, Community participation, Protection of Indigenous rights, Governance and representativity
 16. On requirement 7.9 a) 1) Cercarbono updated its Safeguarding Principles and Procedures v3.0 to explicitly require that benefit-sharing plans are developed, included in the PDD, and validated, and both draft and final benefit-sharing arrangements, as well as outcomes, are publicly disclosed.
 17. On requirement 7.9 a) 2) Cercarbono updated its Safeguarding Principles and Procedures v3.0 to require that draft benefit-sharing plans are developed and agreed during FPIC, included in the PDD for public consultation, and final benefit-sharing plans are validated and embedded in approved project documentation, with any modifications requiring renewed FPIC. The Safeguarding Principles and Procedures v3.0 is yet to be published and has been marked as a minor action.
 18. On requirement 7.9. a) 3) Cercarbono updated its Safeguarding Principles and Procedures v3.0 to explicitly require that benefit-sharing plans are developed and agreed during the FPIC process, and included in the PDD for public consultation and that final benefit-sharing plans are validated and form part of the approved project documentation, with any changes requiring renewed FPIC.
 19. On requirement 9.1 3) Cercarbono clarified and strengthened its regulatory framework to explicitly enforce legal additionality requirements and introduced procedures that require detection and analysis of overlaps during validation, registration, and certification, mediation processes to determine legitimate ownership or authority over disputed areas and defined steps for resolving

conflicts. Cercarbono also enhanced reversal risk assessment, buffer pool rules, and cancellation procedures.

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

Cercarbono is recommended for approval as a CCP-Eligible program.

Decision Timeline

Date of Application Submission	10 September 2024
Date of Completeness Check	27 September 2024
Date Assessment Complete	24 March 2026

Date of Standards Oversight Committee Recommendation for Decision	16 July 2026
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Date of Board Decision	23 July 2026
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