



THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL
FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

SECTION

ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

SECTION 4

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PART I

REQUIREMENTS

FOR CARBON-

CREDITING

PROGRAMS

This Part I of the Assessment Framework contains the requirements for carbon-crediting programs. Part II, which will be published later in 2023, addresses requirements for categories of carbon credits (Categories).

The Assessment Framework should be read in conjunction with the Summary for Decision Makers, the Definitions, and the Assessment Procedure.

The ICVCM may make necessary changes and revisions to Part I, as required, and including when Part II is published.

The Integrity Council has also identified within this Assessment Framework a limited number of issues, for information only, in respect of which it anticipates there will be new requirements in the next version of the Assessment Framework. These issues are clearly distinguished from the criteria and requirements and do not form part of them. However, they are included in tables at the end of the relevant sections of the Assessment Framework in order to indicate a direction of travel for the next version. In certain cases, the Integrity Council may seek input from stakeholders on such issues, in due course.

A. GOVERNANCE

CORSIA-eligible programs are required to provide information on their CORSIA eligibility. Carbon-crediting programs that are CORSIA-eligible will not be required to demonstrate that they meet CORSIA requirements related to effective governance, tracking, transparency and robust validation and verification. CORSIA-eligible programs will have to provide relevant information for the additional requirements detailed in the Assessment Framework and included in the ICVCM Application Platform.

Carbon-crediting programs that have not yet applied for CORSIA-eligibility will be required to demonstrate to the Integrity Council that they meet all of the requirements of CORSIA, through their application to the ICVCM, as set out in the ICVCM Application Platform. They will also have to demonstrate that they meet the additional requirements detailed in the Assessment Framework and included in the ICVCM Application Platform.

Carbon-crediting programs that have applied to CORSIA but have not achieved CORSIA-eligibility should contact the [ICVCM](#) before applying, as set out in the Assessment Procedure.

1. EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE



The carbon-crediting program shall have effective program governance to ensure transparency, accountability, continuous improvement and the overall quality of carbon credits.



CRITERION 1.1: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

Table 1.1
Effective Governance

Requirements
<p>a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to governance framework, the carbon-crediting program shall:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) have a board comprised of independent board members who assume fiduciary responsibility for the organisation and operate according to robust bylaws. 2) publish an annual report that contains the organisation's revenues, expenses, and net assets over the past year and provides an overview of the organisation's mission, major programs and activities, and governance. 3) have processes in place to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility. 4) have robust anti-money laundering processes in place. 5) follow practices consistent with robust anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance and regulation.

CRITERION 1.2: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND GRIEVANCES

Table 1.2
Public engagement, consultation, and grievances¹

Requirements
<p>a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances, the carbon-crediting program shall have a process for:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) robust and transparent local and global stakeholder consultation, which provide for public comment and issue resolution. 2) addressing grievances. The process shall be clear and transparent, ensure impartiality and where appropriate confidentiality, in the filing and resolution of grievances. Any applicable fees shall not impede legitimate access to the grievance process by civil society organisations or IPs & LCs.

¹ See Criteria 7 in relation to safeguards relating to IPs and LCs.

2. TRACKING

“

The carbon-crediting program shall operate or make use of a registry to uniquely identify, record and track mitigation activities and carbon credits issued to ensure credits can be identified securely and unambiguously.

”

CRITERION 2.1: EFFECTIVE REGISTRIES

Table 2.1

Effective registries (retirement and addressing erroneous issuance)

Requirements

- a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in the carbon-crediting program registry, the carbon-crediting program shall:
 - 1) require identification of the entity on whose behalf the carbon credit was retired.
 - 2) require the identification of the purpose of retirement.
 - 3) have procedures to address erroneous issuance of carbon credits that identify remedial measures (e.g., cancellation, compensation through replacement) and the entities responsible for implementing these.

3. TRANSPARENCY



The carbon-crediting program shall provide comprehensive and transparent information on all credited mitigation activities. The information shall be publicly available in electronic format, and shall be accessible to non-specialised audiences, to enable scrutiny of mitigation activities.



CRITERION 3.1: INFORMATION

Table 3.1
Information

Requirements

- a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, the carbon-crediting program shall ensure that in relation to each mitigation activity that requests registration or that is registered, all relevant documentation relating to the mitigation activity is made publicly available (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) including:
 - 1) all necessary information, such as spreadsheets used for calculations, to enable third parties to assess the social and environmental impacts of the mitigation activity and to replicate the GHG emission reduction or removal calculations (including baseline quantification), and assessment of additionality.
 - 2) a mitigation activity design document that includes:
 - i. a non-technical summary.
 - ii. detailed information on the mitigation activity, including its location and proponents.
 - iii. a description of the technology or practices applied.
 - iv. the environmental and social impacts.
 - v. the methodology used.
 - vi. information on how the methodology is and has been applied for the purpose of determining the baseline, demonstrating additionality and quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall have processes to ensure that where requests are made in relation to information that is missing from its website and/or registry, that information is provided (subject to confidentiality and proprietary, privacy and data protection restrictions) and made public alongside other relevant public information.

4. ROBUST INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

“

The carbon-crediting program shall have program-level requirements for robust independent third-party validation and verification of mitigation activities.

”

CRITERION 4.1: ROBUST INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

Table 4.1

Robust independent third-party validation and verification

Requirements

- a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, in relation to validation of mitigation activities and verification of GHG emission reductions and removals, the carbon-crediting program shall:
 - 1) require VVBs to be accredited by a recognised international accreditation standard (e.g., according to the current edition of ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, or per rules relating to the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism or Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4 Supervisory Body).
 - 2) have a process for managing VVB performance, including systematic review of validation and verification activities, reports and remedial measures to address performance issues including measures to ensure that poor VVB performance is reported to the relevant accreditation body, and provisions to suspend or revoke the participation of a VVB in the program.

B. EMISSIONS IMPACT

5. ROBUST QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS²

“

The GHG emission reductions or removals from the mitigation activity shall be robustly quantified, based on conservative approaches, completeness and sound scientific methods.

”

² Release 2 (Q2 2023) will contain Robust Quantification assessment requirements for Categories.

CRITERION 5.1: METHODOLOGY APPROVAL PROCESS

Table 5.1
Methodology approval process

Requirements
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process, the carbon-crediting program shall have a process for developing updates/adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies. b) Approved methodologies or general carbon-crediting program provisions shall address the following essential components: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1) applicability or eligibility criteria. 2) determination of the accounting boundary. 3) determination of additionality (to the extent this is not covered in other general carbon-crediting program provisions). 4) establishing the baseline scenario. 5) quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals. 6) monitoring practices. c) The carbon-crediting program shall require that, prior to approval, new methodologies and major revisions of existing methodologies undergo review by a group of independent experts and a public stakeholder consultation. d) The carbon-crediting program shall have procedures to review, suspend and/or withdraw the use of methodologies where the carbon-crediting program has determined, based on evidence, that GHG emission reductions or removals are being overestimated or that additionality might not be ensured.

CRITERION 5.2: REQUIREMENTS FOR QUANTIFYING GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS OR REMOVALS

Table 5.2
Quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall:
 - 1) clearly define a carbon credit as one metric tonne of CO₂ equivalent of GHG emission reductions or removals.
 - 2) disclose the global warming potential (GWP) values used to calculate the CO₂ equivalence.
 - 3) define the length of crediting periods, including the total length of combined crediting periods.
 - 4) provide guidance on steps and requirements for renewal of the crediting periods. Any renewal of the crediting period shall include a reassessment of the baseline scenario, including whether the conditions and barriers at the start of the mitigation activity still prevail, and an update of relevant parameters used to calculate emissions reductions and removals.
 - 5) assess the overall uncertainty of emission reductions or removals associated with an activity type and/or require that the mitigation activity proponent assess the overall uncertainty in accordance with an approved methodology. In estimating overall uncertainty all causes of uncertainty shall be considered, including assumptions (e.g., baseline scenario), estimation equations or models, parameters (e.g., representativeness of default values), and measurements (e.g., the accuracy of measurement methods). The overall uncertainty shall be assessed as the combined uncertainty from individual causes.
 - 6) have a systematic approach to ensuring the conservativeness of quantification methodologies it approves for use.
 - 7) require in its general program provisions that existing government policies and legal requirements that lower GHG emissions (e.g., feed-in tariffs for renewable energy, minimum product efficiency standards, air quality requirements, or carbon taxes) be included when determining the baseline emissions. The carbon-crediting program may have provisions to consider the level of enforcement of such policies and legal requirements as well as any associated grace periods.

CRITERION 5.3: EX-POST DETERMINATION OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS OR REMOVALS

Table 5.3

Ex-post determination of emissions reductions or removals

Requirements

- a) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. Where a carbon-crediting program supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, it shall have procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-ante and are thus ineligible under the ICVCM.

Table 5.4

Next iteration of the Assessment Framework

Threshold

Requirements

Relating to
Criterion 5.1

Carbon-crediting programs should regularly review and update their quantification methodologies to ensure continued environmental integrity. In the next iteration of the Assessment Framework, the ICVCM will include a minimum elapsed time (e.g., every 5 years) for this review and update. The ICVCM will consult with relevant stakeholders to understand existing practice and the best frequency for this review cycle.

Relating to
Criterion 5.2

The ICVCM understands the importance of a consistent approach to calculating CO₂ equivalence and will introduce requirements in the next version of the Assessment Framework to align approaches used by carbon-crediting programs with the agreed values used internationally (e.g., 100-year GWP values from the 5th IPCC assessment report).³

³ Or such other values as Parties to the UNFCCC may adopt as GWP values for use in national GHG inventories and for accounting for NDCs.

6. NO DOUBLE-COUNTING



The GHG emission reductions or removals from the mitigation activity shall not be double counted, i.e., they shall only be counted once towards achieving mitigation targets or goals. Double counting covers double issuance, double claiming, and double use.



CRITERION 6.1: NO DOUBLE ISSUANCE (DOUBLE REGISTRATION)

Table 6.1

No double issuance (double registration)

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have provisions to:
 - 1) prevent the registration of any mitigation activity that has been registered under another carbon-crediting program and is still active under that program; and
 - 2) ensure that it does not issue carbon credits for GHG emission reductions or removals where another program has issued credits to the same mitigation activity and/or for the same GHG emission reductions or removals and has not cancelled those credits for the purpose of avoiding double issuance.

CRITERION 6.2: NO DOUBLE ISSUANCE (OVERLAPPING CLAIMS)

Table 6.2

No double-issuance (overlapping claims)

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have provisions to identify potential overlaps between different mitigation activities and ensure that where there are overlapping GHG accounting boundaries between mitigation activities, it will only issue one carbon credit for the GHG emission reductions or removals that occur within the GHG accounting boundaries of more than one mitigation activity, including by:
 - 1) disallowing registration of any mitigation activity whose GHG accounting boundaries overlap with the GHG accounting boundaries for carbon crediting of another mitigation activity.
 - 2) disallowing carbon credits for GHG emission reductions or removals that occur within the GHG accounting boundaries of another mitigation activity, under the same program.
- b) The carbon-crediting program ('program A') shall also have provisions in place to apply, where practicable, the requirements set out in a) above in respect of mitigation activities registered under another carbon-crediting program ('program B'), that have GHG accounting boundaries that overlap with mitigation activities that are registered with the carbon-crediting program (program A).

CRITERION 6.3: NO DOUBLE USE

Table 6.3

No double use

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have registry provisions that prevent the further transfer, retirement or cancellation of a carbon credit once it has been cancelled or retired.

CRITERION 6.4: NO DOUBLE CLAIMING WITH MANDATORY DOMESTIC MITIGATION SCHEMES

Table 6.4

No double claiming with mandatory domestic mitigation schemes

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have provisions to ensure either that:
 - 1) mitigation activities that generate GHG emission reductions or removals that overlap with mandatory domestic mitigation schemes (e.g., emissions trading systems or renewable energy quotas) are not registered and/or carbon credits are not issued; or
 - 2) when carbon credits are associated with GHG emission reductions or removals that are also covered by the mandatory domestic mitigation scheme, the mandatory domestic mitigation scheme has measures in place to ensure that any relevant impacts of the mitigation activity (e.g., the GHG emission reductions achieved or the kilowatt-hours of renewable electricity produced) are not counted towards the achievement of targets or obligations under the mandatory domestic mitigation scheme (e.g., by cancelling allowances from the emissions trading system before issuing carbon credits).

CRITERION 6.5: NO DOUBLE CLAIMING OF GHG MITIGATION ARISING FROM OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CREDITS

Table 6.5

No double claiming of GHG mitigation arising from other environmental credits

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have provisions in place to ensure that carbon credits are not issued for GHG emission reductions or removals achieved by a mitigation activity where units related to the same climate impacts of the mitigation activity are traded in other environmental markets or accounting frameworks (e.g., Renewable Energy Certificates (RECs) generated from renewable energy projects).

C. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS AND SAFEGUARDS⁴

“

The carbon-crediting program shall have clear guidance, tools and compliance procedures to ensure mitigation activities conform with or go beyond widely established industry best practices on social and environmental safeguards while delivering positive sustainable development impacts.

”

⁴ Release 2 (expected Q2 2023) will contain Sustainable Development Benefits and Safeguards for Categories.

CRITERION 7.1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL RISKS

Table 7.1

Assessment and management of environmental and social risks

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to:
 - 1) abide by national and local laws, objectives, programs and regulations and where relevant, international conventions and agreements.⁵
 - 2) assess associated risks of negative environmental and social impacts with regard to the safeguards contained in criteria 7.2 to 7.8 (inclusive), taking into account the scope and scale of the mitigation activity.
 - 3) ensures FPIC processes for IPs and LCs, where applicable; and conduct stakeholder consultations, including local stakeholders as part of project design and implementation in a manner that is inclusive, culturally appropriate, and respectful of local knowledge, take these consultations into account and respond to local stakeholders' views.
- b) Where, pursuant to 7.1 a) 2) above, the mitigation activity proponents have assessed that the mitigation activity poses risks of negative environmental and/or social impacts with regard to any of criteria 7.2 - 7.8 (inclusive) the carbon-crediting program shall require the mitigation activity proponents to:
 - 1) include measures, commensurate with the identified risks, to minimise and address such negative environmental and/or social impacts, in validated design documents prior to registration.
 - 2) include information on the measures implemented pursuant to 1) above, commensurate with the identified risks in the monitoring report.

⁵ https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights/international-bill-human-rights>

CRITERION 7.2: LABOUR RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

Table 7.2
Labour rights and working conditions

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
 - 1) provides safe and healthy working conditions for employees.
 - 2) provides fair treatment of all employees, avoiding discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities.
 - 3) prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

Table 7.3
Resource efficiency and pollution prevention

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity minimises:
 - 1) pollutant emissions to air.
 - 2) pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration.
 - 3) generation of waste and release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:
 - 1) whether the mitigation activity results in pollutant emissions to air, pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration, the generation of waste, the release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers.
 - 2) where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.4: LAND ACQUISITION AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT

Table 7.4
Land acquisition and involuntary resettlement

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises forced physical and or economic displacement.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:
 - 1) whether the mitigation activity results in forced physical and/or economic displacement.
 - 2) where the mitigation activity results in the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.5: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES

Table 7.5
Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
 - 1) avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems.
 - 2) protects the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity.
 - 3) does not convert natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, or high conservation value habitats.
 - 4) minimises soil degradation and soil erosion.
 - 5) minimises water consumption and stress in the mitigation activity.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:
 - 1) whether the mitigation activity has negative impacts on terrestrial and marine biodiversity and ecosystems, on habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, on soil degradation and soil erosion, and on water consumption and water stress.
 - 2) where the mitigation activity results in any of the impacts listed in 1) above, that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.6: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES, LOCAL COMMUNITIES, AND CULTURAL HERITAGE

Table 7.6

Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and cultural heritage

Requirements

- a) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, the carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
 - 1) recognises, respects and promotes the protection of the rights of IPs & LCs in line with applicable international human rights law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.⁶
 - 2) identifies the rights-holders possibly affected by the mitigation activity (including customary rights of local rights holders).
 - 3) when relevant to circumstances, has applied the FPIC process.
 - 4) does not force eviction or any physical or economic displacement of IPs & LCs, including through access restrictions to lands, territories, or resources, unless agreed upon with IPs & LCs during the FPIC process.
 - 5) preserves and protects cultural heritage consistent with IPs & LCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of cultural heritage or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions.
- b) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, the carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.7: RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Table 7.7

Respect for human rights, stakeholder engagement

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
 - 1) avoids discrimination and respects human rights.
 - 2) abides by the International Bill of Human Rights⁷ and universal instruments ratified by the host country.
 - 3) takes into account and responds to local stakeholders' views.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards, or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

⁶ https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

⁷ <https://www.ohchr.org/en/what-are-human-rights/international-bill-human-rights>

CRITERION 7.8: GENDER EQUALITY

Table 7.8
Gender equality

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:
 - 1) provides for equal opportunities in the context of gender.
 - 2) protects against and appropriately responds to violence against women and girls.
 - 3) provides equal pay for equal work.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents that the mitigation activity adheres to the above safeguards or that it has put in place the measures referred to in 7.1 b) 1) above.

CRITERION 7.9: ROBUST BENEFIT-SHARING

Table 7.9
Robust benefit-sharing

Requirements

- a) Where the carbon-crediting program requires arrangements for benefit-sharing with IPs & LCs, the carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents:
 - 1) include in validated design documents information on how benefit-sharing arrangements that are appropriate to the context and consistent with applicable national rules and regulations will be designed and implemented through a benefit-sharing plan.
 - 2) confirm in validated design documents that the draft and final benefit-sharing plan have been shared with the affected IPs & LCs in a form, manner, and language understandable to them.
 - 3) make benefit-sharing outcomes that result from the benefit-sharing plan publicly available, subject to applicable legal restrictions.

CRITERION 7.10: CANCUN SAFEGUARDS

Table 7.10
Cancun Safeguards

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall, for all REDD+ mitigation activities, require that the mitigation activity is consistent with all relevant Cancun Safeguards as set out in paragraph 71 of decision 1/CP.16 of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.⁸

CRITERION 7.11: ENSURING POSITIVE SDG IMPACTS

Table 7.11
Ensuring positive SDG impacts

Requirements

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall require that mitigation activity proponents, in validated design documents:
 - 1) provide information on how the mitigation activity is consistent with the SDG objectives of the host country, where the SDG objectives are relevant, and such is feasible.
 - 2) demonstrate, if applicable, through qualitative assessment how the mitigation activity delivers positive SDG impacts for certain SDGs (excluding SDG 13), if any.
 - 3) provide information on any standardised tools and methods that were used to assess the SDG impacts.

⁸ <https://unfccc.int/decsions?f%5B0%5D=symboldec%3A1cp16>

CRITERION 7.12: NEXT ITERATION OF THE ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORKS

Table 7.12
Next iteration of the Assessment Framework

Threshold	Requirements
<i>Relating to Criterion 7 in general</i>	The ICVCM Framework recognises that approaches to environmental and social safeguards are currently evolving and that this is a clear area for improvement in the VCM. The ICVCM will consult with relevant stakeholders to understand how current practice can be improved (see section E of the Summary for Decision Makers) and how best to incorporate the requirements in the table below, into the next iteration of the Assessment Framework.
<i>In relation to criterion 7.1</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> assessment by the carbon-crediting program of the environmental and social risks associated with the mitigation activity, activity type, or host country, which take into account the scope and scale of a mitigation activity. validation and verification requirements related to environmental and social safeguards. best practice with regard to local stakeholder consultations and FPIC processes for IPs & LCs, in particular how these can be designed to be more inclusive and reflect the views of women and vulnerable and/or marginalised groups.
<i>In relation to criterion 7.3</i>	Requirements ensuring that the mitigation activity promotes more sustainable use of resources, including energy and water.
<i>In relation to criterion 7.4</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the meaningful and informed participation of affected individuals and communities in the planning, implementation, and monitoring of resettlement activities, including, where applicable, FPIC. that where avoidance of displacement is not feasible, displacement only occurs with the consent of affected parties, with full justification and appropriate legal protection and compensation and is accepted by affected communities.
<i>In relation to criterion 7.5</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> consistency with conservation objectives for terrestrial and marine habitats. compliance with international, national and local laws regulating the introduction of invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting biodiversity. no conversion of natural forests, grasslands, wetlands or high conservation value habitats. the protection of habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered terrestrial and marine species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity. the minimisation of soil degradation, soil erosion, water consumption, and water stress in the mitigation activity area.

Table 7.12 [continued]
Next iteration of the Assessment Framework

Threshold	Requirements
<i>In relation to criterion 7.6</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • avoidance of negative impacts on land, territories, and resources protected under relevant laws and regulations concerning IPs & LCs. • avoidance of negative impacts on the self-determined climate, conservation, and sustainable development priorities, decision-making mechanisms, and forms of self-government of IPs & LCs as defined by them in alignment with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP)⁹ and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.¹⁰ • respect for areas inhabited by or believed to be inhabited by uncontacted or isolated IPs & LCs. • translation of relevant documents into relevant and appropriate languages(s) including with regard to Article 13 of the UNDRIP
<i>In relation to criterion 7.8</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a gender assessment and gender action plan. • use of gender disaggregated data to monitor, assess and report on gender impacts.
<i>In relation to criterion 7.9</i>	<p>Requirements ensuring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • transparency on use and management of revenues for benefit sharing.

⁹ https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

¹⁰ https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:12100:0::NO::P12100_ILO_CODE:C169

PART II

REQUIREMENTS

RELATING TO

CATEGORIES

(Category-level – Release 2,
Expected Q2 2023)

B. EMISSIONS IMPACT

8. ADDITIONALITY

“

The GHG emission reductions or removals from the mitigation activity shall be additional, i.e., they would not have occurred in the absence of the incentive created by carbon credit revenues.

”

9. PERMANENCE

“

The GHG emission reductions or removals from the mitigation activity shall be permanent or, where there is a risk of reversal, there shall be measures in place to address those risks and compensate reversals.

”

10. ROBUST QUANTIFICATION

“

The GHG emission reductions or removals from the mitigation activity shall be robustly quantified, based on conservative approaches and sound scientific methods.

”

C. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

11. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS AND SAFEGUARDS

The carbon-crediting program shall have clear guidance, tools and compliance procedures to ensure mitigation activities conform with or go beyond widely established industry best practices on social and environmental safeguards while delivering positive sustainable development impacts.

12. CONTRIBUTION TO NET ZERO TRANSITION

The mitigation activity shall avoid locking-in levels of emissions, technologies or carbon-intensive practices that are incompatible with the objective of achieving net zero GHG emissions by mid-century.

PART III

REQUIREMENTS RELATING TO CCP ATTRIBUTES

CCP ATTRIBUTE 1: HOST COUNTRY AUTHORIZATION PURSUANT TO ARTICLE 6 OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT

Table 1

CCP Attribute 1: Host country authorization pursuant to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement

Requirements for the CCP Attribute

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have a unique tag for this CCP Attribute that shall be different from other CCP Attributes.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall ensure an Article 6 authorization associated with the carbon credits has been provided by the host country before it grants the carbon credits the Attribute of Article 6 authorization and marks the carbon credits accordingly in the carbon-crediting program registry.
- c) The carbon-crediting program shall make the information received in relation to Article 6 authorizations publicly available and ensure the information is kept up to date on its website.
- d) The carbon-crediting program shall prepare regular reports on the status of carbon credits associated with Article 6 authorizations and make these reports publicly available, including data disaggregated by host country, mitigation activity and vintage. The carbon-crediting program shall provide each host country with information relating to carbon credits associated with Article 6 authorizations by that country, including information relating to mitigation activities and vintages.¹¹
- e) The carbon-crediting program shall regularly seek evidence of the appropriate application of corresponding adjustments pursuant to Article 6 authorization by the host country. If such evidence cannot be obtained within 2 years of the required application of corresponding adjustments pursuant to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, the carbon-crediting program shall withdraw this Attribute from carbon credits in its registry and inform the relevant account holders.

¹¹ This provision facilitates the application of corresponding adjustments by host countries in cases where the “first international transfer” for OIMP has been defined as the “use or cancellation”, in accordance with paragraph 2b of the Article 6.2 guidance.

CCP ATTRIBUTE 2: SHARE OF PROCEEDS FOR ADAPTATION

Table 2

CCP Attribute 2: Share of Proceeds for Adaptation

Requirements for the CCP Attribute

- a) The carbon-crediting program shall have a unique tag for this CCP Attribute that shall be different from other CCP Attributes.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall ensure that the following requirement has been satisfied before it grants the carbon credits the Attribute of a Share of Proceeds for Adaptation and marks the carbon credits accordingly in the carbon-crediting program registry:
 - 1) the mitigation activity proponents have provided satisfactory information to demonstrate that:
 - i. a monetary contribution that the mitigation activity proponents have confirmed is equivalent to 5% of the revenue associated with the issued carbon credits has been made to the Adaptation Fund; and/or
 - ii. at least 5% of issued carbon credits have been forwarded to a dedicated registry account managed by or on behalf of the Adaptation Fund.
- c) The carbon-crediting program shall make the information in relation to monetary contributions and/or carbon credits forwarded to the Adaptation Fund publicly available on its website and ensure the information is kept up-to-date.

CCP ATTRIBUTE 3: QUANTIFIED POSITIVE SDG IMPACTS

Table 3

CCP Attribute 3 Quantified positive SDG impacts

Requirements for the CCP Attribute

- a) The carbon crediting program shall have a unique tag for this CCP Attribute that shall be different from other CCP Attributes.
- b) The carbon-crediting program shall ensure the following requirements have been satisfied before it grants the carbon credits the Attribute of quantified positive SDG impacts, and marks the carbon credits accordingly in the carbon-crediting program registry:
 - 1) the SDG impacts of the mitigation activity have been monitored and quantified ex-post using a method, tool or standard recognised by a CCP-Eligible carbon-crediting program.
 - 2) the application of the method, tool or standard¹² demonstrates quantified positive impact for one or more SDGs (other than SDG 13).
 - 3) the quantification of the positive SDG impacts according to the method, tool or standard has been verified by a VVB.

¹² Programs can refer to or be guided by existing methods of quantification including Gold Standard SDG Impact Tool (operated by the Gold Standard), Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD Vista) (operated by Verra), Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCB) (operated by Verra) or other relevant programs.