# ASSESSMENT PLATFORM TEMPLATE

# PROGRAM LEVEL – NON-CORSIA APPROVED PATHWAY

# Disclaimer language

The CCPs and Assessment Framework were developed following broad public and multistakeholder consultation, with input from the Expert Panel, under the guidance of the Standards Oversight Committee, a sub-committee of the Governing Board of the Integrity Council, and were adopted by the Governing Board.

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The ICVCM has reserved the right to make necessary changes and revisions to Part I (Program Level), as required, and including when Part II (Category Level) of the Assessment Framework is published.

# Landing Page [seen on the log-in page]

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (Integrity Council or ICVCM) is an independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market (VCM).

Its mission is to ensure that voluntary carbon markets accelerate action to combat climate change. It will set and enforce a global threshold standard for carbon credit quality, drawing on the latest science and expertise available. It aims to build trust, reduce confusion, and ensure that high-integrity carbon credits efficiently mobilise finance for climate projects that would not otherwise be viable.

# Introduction area

The Integrity Council's threshold standard is based on its Core Carbon Principles (CCPs). The CCPs are implemented through an Assessment Framework applied at the level of both the carbon-crediting program and the category of carbon credits, to define which carbon-crediting programs are CCP-Eligible and which categories are CCP-Approved. The result is a threshold standard and label that provides a credible, rigorous, and readily accessible means of identifying high-quality carbon credits.  
  
This Assessment Platform contains the March 2023 requirements for the Program-level criteria of the Assessment Framework and the Assessment Procedure. This will guide carbon-crediting programs on understanding the Integrity Council process and the operational requirements against which they will be assessed when they apply to the Integrity Council via this Platform. Applying carbon-crediting programs will be assessed on whether they meet the requirements, and successful programs will become CCP-Eligible.

The mid-2023 release of the Assessment Framework’s Category-level criteria and requirements by Integrity Council, will be Part II of the Assessment Framework. The Integrity Council will initiate its assessment of carbon-crediting programs shortly thereafter. It expects to begin announcing CCP-Eligible programs and CCP-Approved Categories later in 2023, enabling approved carbon-crediting programs to issue the first CCP-labelled carbon credits to the market. Approval of additional carbon-crediting programs and categories eligible under the CCPs will be announced on a rolling basis thereafter.

Following the publication of the Assessment Framework’s Category-level criteria and requirements, carbon-crediting programs will have the ability to start their application to the ICVCM, via this Application Platform, to be assessed against the program-level criteria in the Assessment Framework for CCP Eligibility. Carbon-crediting programs will have the ability to opt out of any methodologies they wish to have excluded from assessment at the Category Level. Applications will be assessed in accordance with the process set out in the Assessment Procedure, with the accompanying Terms and Conditions specifying how the relationship between the ICVCM and eligible carbon-crediting programs will be managed.

Effective governance requires that normative program documents relevant to decision-making are publicly available, subject to compelling confidentiality constraints, including data protection and privacy. Normative program documents include standards, methodologies, procedures, tools, guidelines, supplementary information, and project documentation. In the event a carbon-crediting program applying for assessment via this Platform needs to upload supporting documentation instead of or in addition to sharing the URL associated with any one criterion, the Document Upload feature on this Assessment Platform should be used.

On receipt of an Application submitted through this Application Platform, the Integrity Council will perform an initial completeness review of documentation submitted. The Secretariat will notify the carbon-crediting program of any apparent gaps in information, documentation or evidence submitted through the Application Platform, which must be resolved by the carbon-crediting program in order for the assessment to proceed. When the information, documentation and evidence are complete, the Secretariat will notify the carbon crediting program that the Application is complete and that the Application will proceed to the assessment stage. Complete Applications will be processed in the order in which they are confirmed as complete, prioritising the Applications that are received by the initial application deadline as indicated on the Application Platform.

Following its completion by a carbon-crediting program, the Application will be made public (in pdf format), on the ICVCM website, subject to any redactions agreed between the Integrity Council and the carbon-crediting program where there is a compelling rationale for confidentiality. The Integrity Council’s carbon-crediting program assessment will be treated as confidential during the assessment. The Integrity Council will publish Decisions of the Governing Board relating to carbon-crediting program applications on the website, including reasons for the decisions (see Assessment Procedure).

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

# A – Governance

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

Governance includes four of the CCPs: Effective Governance, Tracking, Transparency, and Robust Independent Third-party Validation and Verification. Taken together, these CCPs identify strong governance provisions at the program-level. These provisions are critical to ensuring the overall quality of carbon credits issued by the carbon-crediting programs and maintaining and strengthening an environment of trust that supports the long-term integrity and growth of the VCM.

The listed Program-level provisions are all important for ensuring effective governance. Many of those have also been addressed in the requirements by the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSIA), developed and adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO). In order to minimise the burden on the carbon-crediting programs operating in the VCM, the ICVCM has determined that programs already eligible under CORSIA shall also be eligible under the current version of the Assessment Framework provided that they meet the additional requirements detailed in the Application Platform.

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 the requirements of CORSIA, as set out in this ICVCM Application Platform. They will also have to demonstrate that they meet the additional requirements detailed in the Assessment Framework and reflected 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.   
  
Changes in CORSIA requirements, and/or changes in relation to the carbon-crediting programs and carbon credits listed as eligible in the CORSIA Eligible Emission Units will be addressed, to the extent required, at the discretion of the ICVCM, through the Assessment Procedure.

## Effective Governance

### Context

Effective governance is a core feature of well-operated carbon-crediting programs. Effective governance requirements on public availability of documents and information enables transparent decision-making, effective and inclusive participation, and feedback to support continuous improvement.

In addition to meeting governance requirements set out in CORSIA, the carbon-crediting program needs to meet

requirements that demonstrate effective governance through a transparent and robust corporate governance framework for their organisations, including reporting and disclosure, and risk management policies and controls such as anti-bribery and anticorruption.

The Integrity Council’s requirements on effective governance ensure processes are in place that support an organisation’s long-term resilience and provide a framework of checks and balances to guide the organisation’s governing body and staff. The criteria under this CCP requires carbon-crediting programs to have an independent board, publish annual reports and have robust processes relating to corporate social and environmental responsibility, and effective anti-money laundering rules.

Effective governance requires that normative program documents relevant to decision-making are publicly available, subject to compelling confidentiality constraints, including data protection and privacy. Normative program documents include standards, methodologies, procedures, tools, guidelines, supplementary information, and project documentation. Carbon-crediting programs must also have processes in place that provide for public engagement

through local and global stakeholder consultation and for independently addressing grievances.

CRITERION 1.1: EFFECTIVE GOVERNANCE

**Question(s)**

1. CORSIA requirements related to governance framework:

1) Programme Senior Staff / Leadership (e.g., President / CEO, board members)

List the names and titles of programme’s senior staff and leadership, including board members.

Leadership URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Provide an organizational chart that illustrates or otherwise describes the functional relationship a) among the individuals listed in D; b) among those individuals and programme staff / employees; and c) the functions of each organizational unit and interlinkages with other units.

Organizational Chart URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Provide a summary description of your programme (300 – 500 words)

Programme Summary URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

4) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses who is responsible for the administration of the programme [Y/N]

Administrative oversight provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses how decisions are made [Y/N]

Decision making process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

6) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has been continuously governed for at least the last two years Y/N]

Governance tenure URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

7) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has been continuously operational for at least the last two years [Y/N]

Operational tenure URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

8) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has a plan for the long-term administration of multi-decadal programme elements [Y/N]

Long-term administration provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

9) Confirm that your programme can demonstrate that it has a plan for possible responses to the dissolution of the programme in its current form [Y/N]

Dissolution plan approach URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

10) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to prevent the programme staff, board members, and management from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of programme services [Y/N]

Fiduciary conflict of interest provisions and policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

11) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to ensure that, where such conflicts arise, they are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated [Yes/No]

Procedures to address identified fiduciary conflicts of interest URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

12) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to prevent the programme registry administrators from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of registry services [Yes/No]

Procedures to address registry services conflicts of interests URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

13) Confirm your programme has policies and robust procedures in place to ensure that, where such conflicts arise, they are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated [Y/N]

Procedures to address identified registry conflicts of interest URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. In addition to CORSIA requirements related to governance framework, confirm that your organisation:

1) has a board comprised of independent board members who assume fiduciary responsibility for the organisation and operate according to robust bylaws. [Y/N]

Board members URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) publishes 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. [Y/N]  
  
Annual report URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Has processes in place to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility. [Y/N]  
  
Social and Environmental policy(ies) URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

14) Has robust anti-money laundering processes in place. [Y/N]

Anti-money laundering policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) follow practices consistent with robust anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance and regulation. [Y/N]

Anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy/controls URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 1.2: PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT, CONSULTATION, AND GRIEVANCES

**Questions(s)**

a) CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances:

1) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses what information is captured and made available to different stakeholders [Y/N]

Stakeholder disclosure process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses its local stakeholder consultation requirements (if applicable) [Y/N/NA]

Disclosure of stakeholder consultation requirements URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Confirm that your programme publicly discloses its public comments provisions and requirements, and how they are considered (if applicable) [Y/N/NA]

Disclosure of public comment provisions and considerations URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

4) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to methodologies, protocols, or frameworks under development [Y/N]

Public comment engagement on methodology development process/policy URL:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to activities seeking registration or approval [Y/N]

Public comment engagement on activities process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

6) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to operational activities (e.g., ongoing stakeholder feedback)

Public comment engagement on operational activities process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

7) Confirm that your programme conducts public comment periods relating to additions or revisions to programme procedures or rulesets [Y/N]

Public comment engagement on programme procedures process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

8) Summarize the level at which activities are allowed under the programme (e.g., project based, programme of activities, jurisdiction-scale). Provide evidence of the Programme information defining this and confirm it is made availability to the public. [Y/N]

Summary of programme activities URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

9) Summarize the eligibility criteria for each type of offset activity (e.g., which sectors, project types, and geographic locations are covered). Provide evidence of the Programme information defining this and confirm its availability to the public.

Public comment engagement on eligibility criteria for types of offset activity approach URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances, confirm your organisation has processes for:

1) robust and transparent local and global stakeholder consultation processes, which provide for public comment and issue resolution. [Y/N]

Stakeholder consultation policy/controls URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. [Y/N]

Stakeholder grievances policy/controls URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

## Tracking

### Context

A registry is an information technology system used by a carbon-crediting program to identify mitigation activities and track each carbon credit from its issuance through subsequent transactions to its retirement or cancellation.

Registries, therefore, play a critical role in ensuring high integrity by providing a transparent and secure platform to track and verify carbon credits. The criterion and requirements ensure that a carbon-crediting program has processes and procedures in place to provide clarity with respect to the issuance and retirement of carbon credits.

Specifically, the carbon-crediting program’s registry should identify by whom and on whose behalf a carbon credit was retired, identify the purpose of retirement, have procedures to address erroneous issuance of carbon credits

and procedures and requirements to ensure no more than one carbon credit is issued per tonne of CO2 equivalent.

CRITERION 2.1: EFFECTIVE REGISTRIES (retirement and addressing erroneous issuance)

**Question(s)**  
a) CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in your carbon-crediting program registry:

1) Confirm that your programme defines and ensures the underlying attributes of a unit [Yes/No]

Definition of underlying attributes policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Confirm that your programme defines and ensures the underlying property aspects of a unit [Yes/No]

Definition of underlying property aspects policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Confirm that your programme utilises an electronic registry or registries [Yes/No]

Programme registry URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

4) Confirm that the registry is administered by your programme [Y/N]

If outsourced to a third party, provide entity URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries have the capability to transparently identify emissions units that are deemed CCP-approved, in all account types [Y/N]

CCP-identification of emissions units policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

6) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify, and facilitate tracking and transfer of, unit ownership/holding from issuance to cancellation/retirement [Y/N]

Tracking of units policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

7) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify unit status, including retirement / cancellation, and issuance status [Y/N]

Emissions units status identification procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

8) Confirm that your the programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries assigns unique serial numbers to issued units [Y/N]

Assigning unique serial number to issued emission units procedures URL:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

9) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries identify in serialization, or designate on a public platform, each unique unit’s country and sector of origin, vintage, and original (and, if relevant, revised) project registration date [Y/N]

Identification of emission unit origin, vintage, and project registration date procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

10) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that the programme registry or registries are secure (i.e. that robust security provisions are in place) [Y/N]

Registry security policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

11) Confirm that your programme’s registry(ies) conform to international data exchange standards [Y/N]

International data exchange standards URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

12) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to ensure the screening of requests for registry accounts [Y/N]

New registry account screening policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

13) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to restrict the programme registry (or registries) accounts to registered businesses and individuals [Y/N]

New registry account screening policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

14) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to ensure the periodic audit or evaluation of registry compliance with security provisions [Y/N]

Registry compliance with security provisions approach/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to carbon credits in your carbon-crediting program registry, confirm that your organisation:

1) requires identification of the entity on whose behalf the carbon credit was retired [Y/N]  
  
Retirement entity identification policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) requires the identification of the purpose of retirement [Y/N]

Retirement purpose identification policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) has 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. [Y/N]

Erroneous issuance policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

## Transparency

### Context

The design and implementation of a mitigation activity is an intensive process requiring significant qualitative and quantitative documentation. Making this information publicly available through a registry is key to promoting transparency. The Assessment Framework’s criterion on Transparency requires public disclosure of all relevant project documentation. To meet the requirements under this criterion, the carbon-crediting program needs to ensure the registry contains detailed information about each mitigation activity and is searchable by the general public.

By making this information publicly available interested stakeholders will be able to understand how the GHG emission reductions or removals are calculated, including how additionality is assessed, GHG emissions

reductions or removals are quantified, and the environmental and social impacts of the mitigation activity.

Information about the activity should be publicly available electronically, subject to compelling confidentiality constraints. It is also important that information requests from stakeholders are appropriately addressed, and that stakeholders are provided with and directed to that information on the program’s website, including on information from its website.

CRITERION 3.1: INFORMATION

**Question(s)**

a) CORSIA requirements related to transparency:

1) Confirm that your programme has the procedures in place to ensure that the results of validation and verification are made publicly available [Y/N]

Public disclosure of validation and verification results policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) In addition to CORSIA requirements, confirm that your organisation ensures 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. [Y/N]

Information disclosure policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) a mitigation activity design document that includes: [Y/N]

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.

Mitigation activity design document provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

c) Confirm that your organisation has processes to ensure that where requests are made in relation to information that is missing from your 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. [Y/N]

Information request policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

## Robust Independent Third-party Validation and Verification

### Context

Third-party auditing of the design of mitigation activities and monitoring of GHG emission reductions or removals is critical to ensuring that each mitigation activity meets all of the relevant program rules specified in the normative program documents. To meet the criterion and requirements under Robust Independent Third-party Validation and

Verification, the carbon-crediting program’s normative documents must set out the rules for how VVBs become and remain accredited in relation to the carbon-crediting program, review the performance of VVBs, and set standards and develop procedures that guide VVBs in their work. These rules include provisions on VVB organisational structure

and management, organisational resources, validation and verification processes, and information requirements, penalties for rule breaches and rules ensuring the impartiality of the VVB and the avoidance of conflicts of interest.

CRITERION 4.1: ROBUST INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION

**Question(s):**a) CORSIA requirements related to robust independent third-party validation and verification:

1) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the validation of activities? [Y/N]

Validation of activities policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ In addition to CORSIA requirements,

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the verification of emissions reductions [Y/N]

Verification of emission reductions policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the accreditation of validators [Y/N]

Accreditation of validators policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

4) Confirm that your programme has standards, requirements, and procedures in place for the accreditation of verifiers [Y/N]

Accreditation of verifiers policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) Confirm that your program has procedures in place to ensure that validation occurs prior to or in tandem with verification [Y/N]

Validation timing policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

6) Confirm that your program has procedures in place to ensure that mitigation is measured and verified by an accredited and independent third-party verification entity [Y/N]

Measurement and verification requirements using independent third-party entities URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

7) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place to ensure that ex-post verification of mitigation is required in advance of issuance of emissions units [Y/N]

Verification and issuance of emission units policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

8) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to manage and/or prevent conflicts of interest between accredited third-party(ies) performing the validation and/or verification procedures, and the programme and the activities it supports [Y/N]

Third-party verification entity conflict of interest policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

9) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place requiring accredited third-party(ies) to disclose whether they or any of their family members are dealing in, promoting, or otherwise have a fiduciary relationship with anyone promoting or dealing in, the offset credits being evaluated [Y/N]

Fiduciary disclosure for verifiers policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

10) Confirm that your programme has provisions in place to address and isolate such conflicts, should they arise [Y/N]

Resolution of fiduciary conflicts for verifiers policy/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

11) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place requiring that the renewal of any activity at the end of its crediting period includes a re-evaluation of its baselines, and procedures and assumptions for quantifying, monitoring, and verifying mitigation, including the baseline scenario [Y/N]

Renewal of mitigation activities requirements/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

12) Confirm that your programme has procedures in place requiring that the same procedures apply to activities that wish to undergo verification but have not done so within the programme’s allowable number of years between verification events [Y/N] (If yes, provide evidence, including identifying the allowable number of years between verification events)

Verification of mitigation activities outside of the allowable number of years between verification events requirements/procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

13) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. If your organisation supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, confirm it has procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and are thus eligible under the ICVCM. [Y/N]

Ex-ante and ex-post credit identification procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) In addition to CORSIA requirements, in relation to validation of mitigation activities and verification

of GHG emission reductions and removals, confirm your organisation:

1. requires 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). [Y/N]  
     
   VVB accreditation requirements URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) has 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. [Y/N]

VVB management policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

# B – Emissions Impact

## Robust Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals (Program-Level)

### Context

A crucial consideration in strengthening the integrity of the VCM is ensuring that GHG emission reductions or removals are robustly quantified so that their levels are not overstated. Carbon-crediting programs must, inter alia, address the level of uncertainty of emission reductions or removals and ensure the conservativeness of quantification

methodologies. It is critical for carbon crediting programs to understand the level of uncertainty associated with the data and the assumptions used for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals to ensure they are estimated conservatively.

Ensuring robust quantification requires that carbon-crediting programs have a thorough methodology approval process that includes public stakeholder consultations and reviews by independent experts. Moreover, carbon-crediting programs must have robust requirements and principles governing the quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals. In addition, robust quantification requires that carbon-crediting programs ensure that GHG emission reductions or removals are verified ex-post. Some carbon-crediting programs also issue carbon credits ex-ante. In such instances, only carbon credits issued ex-post may be CCP-Eligible.

CRITERION 5.1: METHODOLOGY APPROVAL PROCESS

**Question(s):**

a) CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process:

1) Confirm that your programme has qualification, quantification methodologies, and protocols in place, available for use, and are publicly disclosed. [Y/N]

Qualification, quantification, and protocol disclosure URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Summarize the programme’s process for developing further methodologies and protocols, including the timing and process for revision of existing methodologies.

Summary of development of methodologies and protocols approach URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Provide evidence of the public availability of the programme’s process for developing further methodologies and protocols.

Development of methodologies and protocols process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process:

1. please confirm that your organisation has a process for developing updates/ adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies. [Y/N]  
     
   Quantification methodology update policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) Confirm your organisation’s approved methodologies or general carbon-crediting program provisions address the following essential components: [Y/N]

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.  
  
Methodology provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) Confirm that your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Methodology approval policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

4) Confirm that your organisation has 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. [Y/N]

Methodology review/suspension policy/process URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 5.2: REQUIREMENTS FOR QUANTIFYING GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS OR REMOVALS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm that your organisation does:

1) clearly define a carbon credit as one metric tonne of CO2 equivalent of GHG emission reductions or removals. [Y/N]

Carbon Credit definition URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. disclose the global warming potential (GWP) values used to calculate the CO2 equivalence. [Y/N]

GWP values used URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. define the length of crediting periods, including the total length of combined crediting periods. [Y/N]

Definition for length of crediting periods URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. 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. [Y/N]

Guidance on crediting period renewal URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. 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. [Y/N]

Assessment of uncertainty URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. have a systematic approach to ensuring the conservativeness of quantification methodologies it approves for use. [Y/N]

Conservativeness provisions/processes URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. Your organisation may have provisions to consider the level of enforcement of such policies and legal requirements as well as any associated grace periods. [Y/N]

Policy and legal provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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

**Question(s):**

a) Carbon credits that are issued ex-ante are not CCP eligible. If your organisation supports both ex-ante and ex-post issuance, confirm it has procedures in place to transparently identify units that are issued ex-post and are thus eligible under the ICVCM. [Y/N]  
  
Ex-ante and ex-post credit identification procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

## No Double Counting

### Context

Double counting of carbon credits and/or GHG emission reductions or removals undermines the integrity of the VCM on reducing or removing GHG emissions. Double counting can manifest in a number of ways and the ICVCM

requirements ensure that the carbon-crediting programs manage the risks of double counting.

Double issuance: This occurs when two or more carbon credits co-exist at the same time for one GHG emission reduction or removal, under the same or different carbon-crediting or other programs. Double issuance can also occur where two or more mitigation activities have overlapping GHG accounting boundaries, and carbon-crediting programs need to have provisions avoiding issuance of more than one credit in relation to the same GHG emission reduction or removal in such cases.   
  
Double use: This occurs when one carbon credit is claimed towards multiple mitigation targets/goals (e.g., once each by two different entities or twice by one entity).

Double claiming with mandatory domestic mitigation schemes: This occurs when a carbon crediting program issues a carbon credit in respect of GHG emission reductions or removals that are covered by a mandatory domestic mitigation scheme (e.g., emissions trading system). In the context of the ICVCM, it is considered that a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement does not constitute a mandatory domestic mitigation scheme. While a NDC may be put into effect through a variety of instruments, including mandatory domestic mitigation schemes, it is considered to be separate from the latter.

The Integrity Council has established a CCP Attribute in relation to host country authorization for use towards ‘other international mitigation purposes’ pursuant to Article 6 of the Paris Agreement. The question of how to manage double counting in all its forms in the context of Article 6, and whether double claiming with NDCs should be avoided on the basis of a corresponding adjustment as set out in Article 6 implementing guidance, will be addressed in the ICVCM work program.

Double claiming with mitigation incentivisation schemes: This occurs when a carbon-crediting program issues a carbon credit for a GHG emission reduction or removal for which another environmental credit is being issued and traded under a different environmental market (such as Renewable Energy Certificates).

CRITERION 6.1: NO DOUBLE ISSUANCE (DOUBLE REGISTRATION)

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation has provisions in place 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 [Y/N]

No double registration procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. [Y/N]

No double issuance procedures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 6.2: NO DOUBLE ISSUANCE (OVERLAPPING CLAIMS)

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation has 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. [Y/N]

Disallowing mitigation activity overlap provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. [Y/N]

Disallowing carbon credits of another mitigation activity under the same program provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation also has 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, that have GHG accounting boundaries that overlap with mitigation activities that are registered with your program. [Y/N]

Overlapping claims application provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 6.3: NO DOUBLE USE

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation has registry provisions that prevent the further transfer, retirement or cancellation of a carbon credit once it has been cancelled or retired. [Y/N]

No Double Use provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 6.4: NO DOUBLE CLAIMING WITH MANDATORY DOMESTIC

MITIGATION SCHEMES

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation has 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; [Y/N]  
  
**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). [Y/N]

No Double Claiming with Mandatory Schemes provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 6.5: NO DOUBLE CLAIMING OF GHG MITIGATION ARISING FROM

OTHER ENVIRONMENTAL CREDITS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation has 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). [Y/N]

No Double Claiming with Other Environmental Markets provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

# C - Sustainable Development

## Sustainable Development Benefits and Safeguards

### Context

In a high-integrity VCM, carbon-crediting programs take steps to ensure that mitigation activities adhere to environmental and social safeguards and contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Carbon-crediting

programs have measures in place to ensure that in the context of the host country, mitigation activity proponents inform how SDG impacts are consistent with SDG objectives of the country, respect human rights and comply with relevant safeguards. Program level processes ensure that mitigation activity proponents assess environmental and social risks associated with proposed mitigation activities, taking into account the size and scale of the relevant mitigation activity.

Where the context requires, mitigation activities are required to ensure free, prior and informed consent (FPIC) processes with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPs & LCs), protect and improve livelihoods, protect and restore biodiversity and ecosystem services, enhance climate resilience and adaptation, reduce pollution, and be transparent about the sharing of benefits from the mitigation activity with IPs and LCs. Carbon-crediting programs must also ensure compliance with relevant national requirements, applicable laws and rules of the relevant jurisdiction.

CRITERION 7.1: ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL

AND SOCIAL RISKS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to:

1. abide by national and local laws, objectives, programs and regulations and where relevant, international conventions and agreements. [Y/N]

Provisions to abide by national and local laws URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. 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. [Y/N]

Assessment of negative environmental and social impacts policy/processes URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. 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. [Y/N]

FPIC IPs and LCs provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Where, pursuant to 7.1 a) 2), 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) confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Assessment of mitigation requirements URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) include information on the measures implemented pursuant to 1), commensurate with the identified risks in the monitoring report. [Y/N]

Measures implemented commensurate with identified risks URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.2: LABOUR RIGHTS AND WORKING CONDITIONS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) provides safe and healthy working conditions for employees. [Y/N]

Health & safety policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) provides fair treatment of all employees, avoiding discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities. [Y/N]

Fair treatment policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties. [Y/N]

Measured to protect against forced/child/trafficked labour URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation requires 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). [Y/N]

Adherence to safeguards provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.3: RESOURCE EFFICIENCY AND POLLUTION PREVENTION

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity minimises:

1) pollutant emissions to air [Y/N]

2) pollutant discharges to water, noise and vibration [Y/N]

3) generation of waste and release of hazardous materials, chemical pesticides and fertilisers [Y/N]

Pollution and hazardous materials policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

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). [Y/N]

Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.4: LAND ACQUISITION AND INVOLUNTARY RESETTLEMENT

**Question(s):**

1. Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity avoids, or where this is not feasible, minimises forced physical and/or economic displacement. [Y/N]

Avoidance of forced physical and/or economic displacement policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation requires that mitigation activity proponents confirm in validated design documents:

1) whether the mitigation activity results in forced physical and/or economic displacement. [Y/N]

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). [Y/N]

Physical and Economic Displacement policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.5: BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION AND SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT

OF LIVING NATURAL RESOURCES

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Terrestrial and marine biodiversity mitigation policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) protects the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity. [Y/N]

Endangered species policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) does not convert natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, or high conservation value habitats. [Y/N]

Preservation of high conservation value habitats policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. minimises soil degradation and soil erosion. [Y/N]

Soil degradation and soil erosion policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

1. minimises water consumption and stress in the mitigation activity. [Y/N]

Water conservation policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

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). [Y/N]

Biodiversity conservation and sustainable management of living natural resources policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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

**Question(s):**

a) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Protection of rights of Ips & LCs URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) identifies the rights-holders possibly affected by the mitigation activity (including customary rights of local rights holders). [Y/N]

Identification of rights-holders provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) when relevant to circumstances, has applied the FPIC process. [Y/N / N/A]

FPIC process/policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. [Y/N]

Prevention of eviction or economic displacement provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

5) preserves and protects cultural heritage consistent with IPs & LCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of cultural heritage or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions. [Y/N]

Preservation of culture heritage provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Where the mitigation activity directly or indirectly impacts IPs & LCs, including livelihoods, ancestral knowledge and cultural heritage, confirm your organisation requires 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). [Y/N]

IPs & LCs provisions in design documents URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.7: RESPECT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS, STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) avoids discrimination and respects human rights. [Y/N]

Discrimination & human rights policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) abides by the International Bill of Human Rights and universal instruments ratified by the host country. [Y/N]

International Bill of Human Rights and host country provisions policy URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) takes into account and responds to local stakeholders’ views. [Y/N]

Engagement and response to stakeholders approach URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

b) Confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Design document measures URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.8: GENDER EQUALITY

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires mitigation activity proponents to ensure that the mitigation activity:

1) provides for equal opportunities in the context of gender. [Y/N]

2) protects against and appropriately responds to violence against women and girls. [Y/N]

3) provides equal pay for equal work. [Y/N]

b) Confirm your organisation requires 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). [Y/N]

Gender Equality policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.9: ROBUST BENEFIT-SHARING

**Question(s):**

a) If your organisation requires arrangements for benefit-sharing with IPs & LCs, confirm that you 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. [Y/N]

Benefit sharing proponent requirements URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

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. [Y/N]

Benefit sharing dissemination requirements URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) make benefit-sharing outcomes that result from the benefit-sharing plan publicly available, subject to applicable legal restrictions. [Y/N]

Benefit-Sharing results policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.10: CANCUN SAFEGUARDS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires for all REDD+ mitigation activities 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. [Y/N]

Cancun Safeguards policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

CRITERION 7.11: ENSURING POSITIVE SDG IMPACTS

**Question(s):**

a) Confirm your organisation requires 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. [Y/N]

Proponent SDG objectives policy/provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

2) demonstrate, if applicable, through qualitative assessment how the mitigation activity delivers positive SDG impacts for certain SDGs (excluding SDG 13), if any. [Y/N / N/A]

Requirement of proponent demonstration of positive SDGs provisions URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*

3) provide information on any standardised tools and methods that were used to assess the SDG impacts. [Y/N]

Requirement of proponent methods provision URL: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*Indicate relevant sections in URL link pertinent to this criterion, add additional URL links, and any clarifying information…..*