

**PROGRAM NAME:** SOCIALCARBON  
**ORGANIZATION:** Social Carbon Foundation  
**ASSESSMENT TYPE:** CORSIA Approved – Program Level Assessment  
**DATE OF SUBMISSION:** OCTOBER 10, 2023  
**EXPORTED ON:** January 26, 2024  
**STATUS:** IN REVIEW

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## **BACKGROUND**

### **Must Read**

Please acknowledge that you have reviewed the details provided in the "Background" section.

**We have reviewed the Assessment Framework background materials.**

Yes

### **CORSIA Eligibility**

Please provide the following details in regards to your programme's CORSIA eligibility.

**Our programme has been approved for CORSIA-eligibility.**

Yes

[https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB%202022/TAB%20recommendations\\_September%202022/TAB%20Recommendations\\_En.pdf](https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB%202022/TAB%20recommendations_September%202022/TAB%20Recommendations_En.pdf)

SOCIALCARBON is conditionally approved. We submitted our Material Change Document in February 2023 and had a Q&A session with the TAB on the 31st July 2023. We received three clarification questions and believe we have sufficiently clarified these queries to obtain CORSIA eligibility for Phase 1. We expect to hear back from TAB in November.

### **Methodologies for Exclusion**

Please list any methodologies (name and URL) that your programme would like to have excluded from Category-level assessment by the ICVCM team.

**If none, please enter "None" or N/A.**

None

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## **A – GOVERNANCE**

### **1.1 Effective Governance**

**a) 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/governance>

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/Social-Carbon-Articles-of-Association.pdf>

The Social Carbon Foundation utilises a board of trustees with independent board members to promote accountability, transparency, and good governance. All board members have no direct financial interest in the organization, such as current or former employees or executives. Several robust bylaws exist to ensure that the board of trustees operates in an independent and unbiased manner. Many of which are documented in the Articles of Association (<https://www.socialcarbon.org/governance>).

These bylaws address the following key areas:

- Composition of the board: specifies the minimum and maximum number of board members, the qualifications required for board membership, and the process for electing and removing board members.
- Responsibilities of the board: clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the board, including its oversight of management, its responsibility for setting corporate strategy, and its accountability to shareholders.
- Meetings of the board: set forth the requirements for holding board meetings, including the number of meetings required per year, the notice requirements for meetings, and the quorum requirements for conducting business.
- Fiduciary duties of directors: includes a statement of the fiduciary duties that directors owe to the corporation and its shareholders, such as the duty of care and the duty of loyalty.

In addition to these formal requirements, there are a number of informal practices that help to promote independence on the board. These practices include:

- A culture of openness and transparency: The board encourages open communication and transparency within the organization, and provides board members with access to all relevant information.
- Diverse perspectives on the board: The board is composed of members with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives, to ensure that all viewpoints are considered.
- Regular training for board members: Board members receive regular training on their fiduciary duties and on the latest governance practices.
- Independent advisors: The board has access to independent advisors, such as legal counsel, accountants, and compensation consultants, to assist them in their decision-making.

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-2022-Annual-Report.pdf>

Annual reports shall be published to meet the requirements of the ICVCM. The annual report for 2023 shall include the addition of revenues, expenses and net assets. See the previous year’s annual report here:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-2022-Annual-Report.pdf>

**3) Has processes in place to ensure corporate social and environmental responsibility.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Environmental-and-Social-Policy.pdf>

See policy attached.

**4) Has robust anti-money laundering processes in place.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/Social-Carbon-Foundation-AML-CFT-Policies-and-Procedures-Manual-xg6t.pdf>

SOCIALCARBON's technology provider (Wilder Earth) manages all AML/CTF risks. As the registry provider, Wilder Earth conduct AML/CTF checks on all users of the registry prior to gaining access. In addition, they conduct ongoing monitoring of transactions (e.g. transfers) to manage Money Laundering risks. Their Anti Money Laundering Policy and Manual has been attached.

SOCIALCARBON also has Anti-Money Laundering requirements that all projects must comply with. As per the SOCIALCARBON Registration and Issuance requirements document:

"3.1.14 Project Proponents are required to conduct due diligence on all landowners and stakeholders of their project. In doing so, they must provide evidence that none of the landowners or stakeholders pose a risk to Money Laundering or Terrorist Financing. Project Developers are required to align with industry best practice for KYC / KYB checks and must provide evidence to the SOCIALCARBON team that these checks have been completed. This evidence should be uploaded as 'Confidential Documents' on the registry. This evidence must provide sufficient details to enable the SOCIALCARBON team to conduct their own independent due diligence. If the SOCIALCARBON team deems a project to pose a risk to Money Laundering or Terrorist Financing, or any stakeholder is found to have a criminal record related to environmental abuses (e.g., illegal logging), the project will be delisted, and the project developer will be given a warning. Two warnings will result in the permanent banning of a project developer from using the SOCIALCARBON Standard."

"3.1.15 Where the SOCIALCARBON team has reason to believe that false or misleading project information has been submitted, the SOCIALCARBON team will seek clarification from the project proponent. Where the project proponent cannot satisfactorily justify the information provided for the pipeline project, the Social Carbon Foundation reserves the right to delist the project."

All projects and their stakeholders are assessed for Money Laundering risk by a member of the SOCIALCARBON team to verify no risk exists.

This goes above the assessments conducted by Wilder Earth on the Project Proponent and looks at project-specific stakeholders.

The Social Carbon Foundation has a number of AML & CFT procedures in place to manage risks related to donations and facilitating illicit activities through the standard (see our AML & CFT Manual for further details). In summary, due diligence is conducted on all project stakeholders and project developers must also provide evidence that they have conducted their own independent due diligence as part of the project registration process.

**5) follow practices consistent with robust anti-bribery and anti-corruption guidance and regulation.**

Yes

[https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Anti-Fraud-and-Corruption-Policy\\_v10.pdf](https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Anti-Fraud-and-Corruption-Policy_v10.pdf)

See attached the SOCIALCARBON anti-bribery and anti-corruption policy.

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

[www.socialcarbon.org](http://www.socialcarbon.org)

SOCIALCARBON is a holistic carbon standard, ensuring projects are embedded in local communities and biodiversity, to foster true permanence. Our custom-built approach looks at nature-based projects in the round through robust GHG methodologies and at least 18 indicators.

We believe that nature-based projects can only be truly long-lasting when they are grounded locally.

This belief is the fruit of 15 years experience of working on nature-based projects, and informs everything that we do.

SOCIALCARBON was founded by Dr Rezende, a pioneer of the carbon markets who developed the first carbon sequestration project in Brazil. SOCIALCARBON was historically a Co-Benefits standard has used the knowledge gathered over 15 years facilitating carbon projects to launch a full carbon standard in 2022.

As of this application we have 8 Nature-Based Solution methodologies live. All projects must monitor co-benefits of their project by default, tracking at least 18 indicators for 6 sustainable livelihood resources. In addition, projects must demonstrate continuous improvement across all indicators to maintain compliance with our programme.

## 1.2 Public Engagement, Consultation and Grievances

**a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to public engagement, consultation and grievances, confirm your organisation:**

**1) has processes for robust and transparent local and global stakeholder consultation processes, which provide for public comment and issue resolution.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See Section 3.17 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1: "3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design. "

We promote continuous feedback on projects through our "feedback" webpages (<https://www.socialcarbon.org/feedback-project>). Where feedback required clarification from the project developer, the comments received will be publicly uploaded onto the project's registry page.

New methodologies must also go through a minimum 30-day public consultation period. See our document: SOCIALCARBON Methodology Approval Process.

Section 2.5 "Public Stakeholder Consultation":

"2.5.1 The Social Carbon Foundation posts the methodology documentation on the SOCIALCARBON website for a period of 30 days, for the purpose of inviting public comment. As part of the consultation process, the Social Carbon Foundation may also host a presentation of the methodology. Any comments shall be submitted to the Social Carbon Foundation at [operations@socialcarbon.org](mailto:operations@socialcarbon.org) and respondents shall provide their name, organisation, country and email address."

"2.5.2 At the end of the public comment period, the Social Carbon Foundation provides all and any comments received to the developer. The developer shall take due account of such comments, which means it will need to either update the methodology or demonstrate the insignificance or irrelevance of the comment. It shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken."

"2.5.3 All and any comments received are posted by the Social Carbon Foundation on the SOCIALCARBON website, alongside the methodology information."

All major updates to the SOCIALCARBON Standard will also result in a 30 day public consultation period prior to going live.

Grievances can be reported via our website: <https://www.socialcarbon.org/grievances>

The SOCIALCARBON Grievance Approval Procedure Document outline the procedures for reviewing and resolving grievances. <https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Grievance-Approval-Procedure.pdf>

2) has processes for 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.

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/grievances>

Our grievance approval procedure document below, provides a detailed overview of our Grievance mechanism. This is publicly accessible and demonstrates a process that is clear, transparent, impartial and where appropriate confidential in how it files and resolves grievances.

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Grievance-Approval-Procedure.pdf>

## 2.1 Effective Registries (Retirement and Addressing Erroneous Issuance)

a) 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

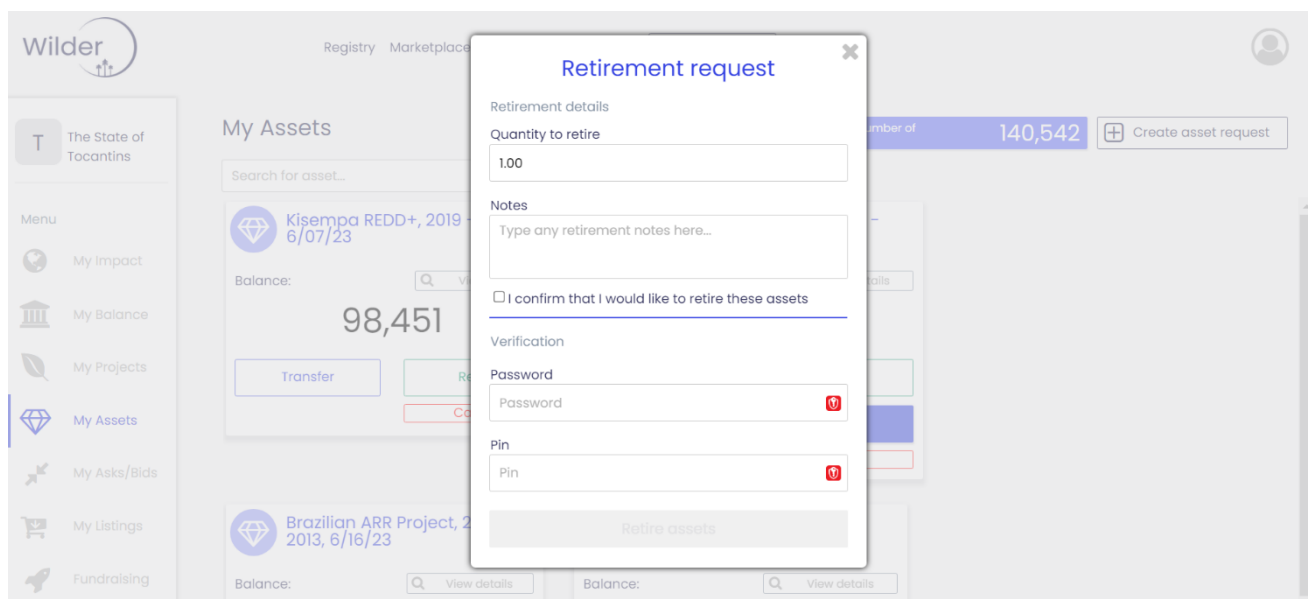
No

N/a

This is not a requirement under our Standard at present. There is current functionality to do this and organisations can voluntarily identify on whose behalf the carbon credit was retired when completing their retirement request.

Project developers that wish to have CCP eligible credits will be able to disclose this information on the registry to ensure compliance with the CCPs.

Evidence of demo retirements below:



The screenshot shows the 'Retirement details' page in the Wilder Registry. The main information is as follows:

Field	Value
Name	Kisempa REDD+, 6/07/23
Retiree	The State of Tocantins
Project	Kisempa REDD+ <a href="#">View</a>
Notes	On behalf of Demo Org x
Number of units retired	9
Asset type	VER - Reduction
Vintage	2019 - 2020
Retirement date	8/03/23
Serial number	01bb2612beafa98d946af4d4945 e291bb189f80eedba360b96a8ce 4bbddb76ca15f49946e2957c47 3a2f23ef5b929b5343d6d323de2 98386b2c368a24b082c52

## 2) requires the identification of the purpose of retirement

No

N/a


This is not a requirement under our Standard at present. There is current functionality to do this and organisations can voluntarily identify the purpose of the retirement when completing their retirement request.

Project developers that wish to have CCP eligible credits will be able to disclose this information on the registry to ensure compliance with the CCPs.

Evidence of demo retirements below:


The screenshot shows the 'My Assets' page in the Wilder Registry. A 'Retirement request' modal is open over the 'Kisempa REDD+, 2019, 6/07/23' asset. The modal contains the following fields and options:

- Retirement details**
- Quantity to retire:** 1.00
- Notes:** Type any retirement notes here...
- I confirm that I would like to retire these assets
- Verification**
- Password:** Password
- Pin:** Pin
- Retire assets** (button)



[Registry](#)
[Marketplace](#)
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Book a meeting



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### Retirement details

Name **Kisempa REDD+, , 6/07/23**

Retiree  
**The State of Tocantins**

Project  
**Kisempa REDD+** View

Notes  
**On behalf of Demo Org x**

Number of units retired	Asset type	Vintage	Retirement date	Serial number
<b>9</b>	<b>VER - Reduction</b>	<b>2019 - 2020</b>	<b>8/03/23</b>	01bb2612beafa98d946af4d4945 e291bb189f80eede360b96a8ce 4bbddbb76a15f49946e2957c47 3a2f23ef5b929b5343d6d323de2 98386b2c368a24b082c52

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Registration-and-Issuance-Process-v11.pdf>

See section 5 of the SOCIALCARBON Registration and Issuance Process:

"5.1.5 Where SOCIALCARBON determines that SCUs have been issued in excess of the correct amount, the following applies:

1. The project proponent is responsible for compensating for excess SCU issuance where SOCIALCARBON deems, acting reasonably, that there has been a material erroneous issuance of SCUs in respect of the project, as a result of the fraudulent conduct, negligence, intentional act, recklessness, misrepresentation or mistake of the project proponent, as set out further in the issuance representation.
2. Any compensation for excess SCU issuance shall be through the following, with SOCIALCARBON using reasonable efforts to work with the project proponent to ensure that any adverse impacts on the project proponent are minimised to the extent possible.
3. Where the excess SCUs remain in the project proponent's SOCIALCARBON registry account and it can be demonstrated that they have not been used for offsetting purposes, immediate cancellation of the SCUs.
4. Replacement of SCUs through immediate cancellation from subsequent issuances of SCUs to the project.
5. Purchase by the project proponent of an equivalent number of replacement SCUs, and cancellation of same, within 60 business days of receiving formal SOCIALCARBON notification of such required action.
6. Where the project proponent fails to compensate for excess SCU issuance, SOCIALCARBON may take action against the project proponent, including applying sanctions with respect to its registry account activities until such time as the excess issuance has been compensated."

### 3.1 Information

**a) 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.**

Yes

N/a

Project proponents are required to provide all the documentation and evidence required for a VVB to successfully completed a validation/verification. This includes spreadsheets used to calculate the GHG emission reduction or removals calculations.

[The SOCIALCARBON Validation & Verification Manual](#), outlines the level assurances VVBs must obtain to successful audit a project. Page 40 provides an example on the information a VVB may request from a project proponent.

The SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1, section 4.1 also outlines the requirements for the Validation / verification of a project.

"4.1.1 Validation and verification is a risk-based process and shall be carried out in conformance with ISO 14064-3 and ISO 14065. Additional requirements with respect to validation and verification are set out in this Section 4 and shall be adhered to."

"4.1.2 The validation/verification body shall gather evidence to:

- 1) Validate a project to determine conformance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules and evaluate the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods that support a statement about the outcome of future activities, and/or;
- 2) Verify a statement of historical data and information of a project to a reasonable level of assurance and ensure that the project meets the relevant materiality requirements."

The ISO Standards VVBs must comply with also require the auditor to obtain the relevant information needed 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.

This is not a mandatory action for projects under the current version of the standard, however has been added to our latest version of the standard that is expected to be released in January 2024.

All projects requesting CCP labelling will be assessed to confirm that all non-confidential documentation and spreadsheets by the project are publicly accessible on the registry to support third party access and analysis.

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

The SOCIALCARBON Project Description Document Template required projects to provide details on the following:



1. Project Details
  - 1.1 Summary Description of the Project
  - 1.2 Sectoral Scope and Project Type
  - 1.3 Project Eligibility
  - 1.4 Project Design
  - 1.5 Project Proponent
  - 1.6 Other Entities Involved in the Project
  - 1.7 Ownership
  - 1.8 Project Start Date
  - 1.9 Project Crediting Period
  - 1.10 Project Scale and Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals
  - 1.11 Description of the Project Activity
  - 1.12 Project Location
  - 1.13 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation
  - 1.14 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks
  - 1.15 Participation under Other GHG Programs
  - 1.16 Other Forms of Credit 8
  - 1.17 Additional Information Relevant to the Project
2. Safeguards
  - 2.1 Local Stakeholder Consultation
  - 2.2 Summary of Safeguarding Assessment
3. Application of Methodology
  - 3.1 Title and Reference of Methodology
  - 3.2 Applicability of Methodology
  - 3.3 Project Boundary
  - 3.4 Social, Economic and Environmental Impacts
  - 3.5 Baseline Scenario
  - 3.6 Additionality
  - 3.7 Methodology Deviations
4. Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals
  - 4.1 Baseline Emissions
  - 4.2 Project Emissions
  - 4.3 Leakage
  - 4.4 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals
5. Monitoring
  - 5.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation
  - 5.2 Data and Parameters Monitored for Verification
  - 5.3 Data Monitored for Broader Sustainability Components
  - 5.4 Monitoring Plan

## 6. SOCIALCARBON Indicators

### 6.1 Indicators at Point Zero

### 6.2 Performance at Point Zero

### 6.3 Performance Hexagon

### Appendix 1: Safeguarding Assessment

### **3) For Categories listed in 9.1 b) 1, information relating to the monitoring and compensation period. URL:**

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/Social-Carbon-Non-Permanence-Risk-Report-Template-v10-h9z9.docx>

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All AFOLU projects that pose a non-permanence risk must quantify this risk using the latest version of our Non-Permanence Risk tool. As part of the process all Projects must complete a non-permanence risk report including their risk calculations and the justifications behind their non-permanence risk score. This must be publicly accessible as an appendix in the PDD or Monitoring Report submitted by the project. The calculated non-permanence risk is then used to discount the number of credits eligible for issuance during a monitoring period.

See sections 2.7, 3.2.9, 3.2.12, 3.2.13, 3.2.14, 3.2.15, 3.4.19, 3.13.9, 4.1.28, 4.1.29 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard

### **b) 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Registration-and-Issuance-Process-v11.pdf>

As per the SOCIALCARBON Standard Registration and Issuance Process (see section 3), for projects to register and issue credits they must submit the minimum accepted program documents. Where this threshold is not met, the project's registration / verification is rejected unless they can provide the documentation to a member of the SOCIALCARBON team. In the event where a project registration / verification request is rejected the project will need to submit a new request with all the program documentation required.

Program documents shared via email will be uploaded onto the registry and made publicly accessible by a member of the Social Carbon Foundation team.

All program documents are made publicly accessible on the registry. If a document contains confidential information, the project proponent is required to upload two versions of the same document, one that includes the confidential information (and remains confidential on the registry) and a redacted version which is publicly accessible.

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## **4.1 Robust Independent Third-Party Validation and Verification**

### **a) 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).**

Yes

[https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard\\_Guide\\_v12-bsjs.pdf](https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard_Guide_v12-bsjs.pdf)

Page 19 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide Document:

Validation/verification bodies are eligible to provide validation and verification services under the SOCIALCARBON Standard if they have signed the required agreement with Social Carbon Foundation and are:

- 1) Accredited under ISO 14064-3 and ISO 14065 by an accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum; or
- 2) Approved under a SOCIALCARBON-approved GHG program such as the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a Designated Operational Entity (DOE).

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/Social-Carbon-Foundation-VVB-Agreement-Template-v10-2r79.docx>

SOCIALCARBON Agreement template attached.

Page 6, Clause 4.1:

"If Social Carbon Foundation becomes aware, whether in the course of a review in accordance with Clause 4.1 or otherwise, of any evidence that the Service Provider may not have complied in any respect with the rules or principles of any Accreditation Program for which the Service Provider is accredited, as relevant, Social Carbon Foundation may, at its discretion, provide such evidence of non-compliance to the relevant Accreditation Program or body recognized by the respective SOCIALCARBON Standard Rules, as relevant, without the prior approval of or notification to the Service Provider"

Page 6, Clause 4.2:

"If Social Carbon Foundation becomes aware, whether in the course of a review in accordance with Clause 4.1 or otherwise, of any evidence that the Service Provider may not have complied in any respect with the rules or principles of any Accreditation Program for which the Service Provider is accredited, as relevant, Social Carbon Foundation may, at its discretion, provide such evidence of non-compliance to the relevant Accreditation Program or body recognized by the respective SOCIALCARBON Standard Rules, as relevant, without the prior approval of or notification to the Service Provider"

Page 7, Clause 5:

"If, at any time during the Service Period, the relevant accreditation of the Service Provider expires or is withdrawn, suspended or cancelled, then the Service Period for that Service shall be immediately suspended. Where such expiry, withdrawal, suspension or cancellation relates to a subset of the Services, the Service Period shall be automatically suspended only for the same subset of the Services, though Social Carbon Foundation reserves the right to suspend the Service Period in relation to all Services. For the avoidance of doubt, where the Service Provider holds multiple relevant accreditations, the expiry, withdrawal, suspension or cancellation of any one of such accreditations shall result in such automatic full or partial suspension of the Service Period, as appropriate and as contemplated in this Clause 5.1."

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## B – EMISSIONS IMPACT

### 5.1 Methodology Approval

**a) In addition to CORSIA requirements related to Clear Methodologies and Protocols and their Development Process, please confirm that your organisation has a process for developing and adopting updates to existing quantification methodologies.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Methodology-Approval-Process-v12.pdf>

The SOCIALCARBON Methodology Approval Process document outlines the procedures for developing new methodologies and adapting existing methodologies. This is evidenced throughout the document.

**b) Confirm your organisation’s approved methodologies or general carbon-crediting program provisions address the following essential components:**

- 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Methodology-Approval-Process-v12.pdf>

Scope 3.1 of the SOCIALCARBON Methodology Approval Process details the scope of methodology assessment, including (at a minimum):

- 1) Relationship to approved or pending methodologies: Assessment of whether any existing methodology could reasonably be revised to meet the objective of the proposed methodology, determined in accordance with Section 3.2.
- 2) Stakeholder consultation: Assessment of whether the developer has taken due account of all stakeholder comments.
- 3) Structure and clarity of methodology: Assessment of whether the methodology is written in a clear, logical, concise and precise manner.
- 4) Definitions: Assessment of whether the key terms in the methodology are defined clearly and appropriately, and are consistently used in the methodology.
- 5) Applicability conditions: Assessment of whether the proposed methodology’s applicability conditions are appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 6) Project boundary: Assessment of whether an appropriate and adequate approach is provided for the definition of the project’s physical boundary and sources and types of GHGs included.
- 7) Baseline scenario: Assessment of whether the approach for determining the baseline scenario is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 8) Additionality: Assessment of whether the approach/tools for determining whether the project is additional are appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 9) Baseline emissions: Assessment of whether the approach for calculating baseline emissions is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 10) Project emissions: Assessment of whether the approach for calculating project emissions is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.

- 11) Leakage: Assessment of whether the approach for calculating leakage is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 12) Net GHG emission reductions and/or removals: Assessment of whether the approach for calculating the net GHG benefit of the project is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 13) Monitoring: Assessment of whether the monitoring approach is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
- 14) Data and parameters: Assessment of whether the specification for data and parameters (available at validation, and monitored) is appropriate, adequate and in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.

**c) 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Methodology-Approval-Process-v12.pdf>

Section 2.6 outlines the VVB Review process, whereby the VVB must independently review the methodology. Only VVBs with the sectoral scope of the methodology are eligible to review it.

Section 2.5, details the public consultation required in the process. "The Social Carbon Foundation posts the methodology documentation on the SOCIALCARBON website for a period of 30 days, for the purpose of inviting public comment."

**d) 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Methodology-Approval-Process-v12.pdf>

Page 12, Section 2.11 Ongoing Management:

"In order to ensure all methodologies approved under the SOCIALCARBON Standard continue to reflect best practice and scientific consensus, Social Carbon Foundation may review any approved methodology at any time. The results of a review may determine that no further action is necessary, limited modifications are necessary, substantive revisions are required, or the methodology is fundamentally flawed. Where limited modifications or substantive revisions are required, Social Carbon Foundation will contact the methodology developer to update the methodology. Where it is determined the methodology is fundamentally flawed, the methodology will be withdrawn."

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## 5.2 Requirements for Quantifying GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

**a) In addition to CORSIA requirements, confirm that your organization does:**

**1) clearly define a carbon credit as one metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent of GHG emission reductions or removals.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Definitions-v12.pdf>

Page 20, definition of SOCIALCARBON Unit (the name of Carbon Credit issued under our program):

"Social Carbon Unit (SCU)

A unit issued by and held in the SOCIALCARBON registry representing the right of an accountholder in whose account the unit is recorded to claim the achievement of a GHG emission reduction or removal in an amount of one (1) metric tonne of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent that has been verified by a validation/verification body in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. Recordation of a SCU in the account of the holder at the SOCIALCARBON registry is prima facie evidence of that holder's entitlement to that SCU. "

## **2) disclose the global warming potential (GWP) values used to calculate the CO<sub>2</sub> equivalence.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 39, Section 3.12 Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals:

"All GHG emission reductions shall be converted to CO<sub>2</sub>e using 100-year global warming potential (GWP) values from the IPCC Fifth. See the following table for the GWP values for methane and nitrous oxide established in AR5."

This chapter includes a table which outlined the GWP values for different greenhouse gases.

## **3) define the length of crediting periods, including the total length of combined crediting periods**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 32, Section 3.7 Project Crediting Period:

"Non-AFOLU Projects

3.7.1 For non-AFOLU projects, the project crediting period shall be either seven years, twice renewable for a total of 21 years, or ten years fixed.

AFOLU Projects

3.7.2 For ALM focusing exclusively on reducing N<sub>2</sub>O, CH<sub>4</sub> and/or fossil-derived CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, the project crediting period shall be either seven years, twice renewable for a total of 21 years, or ten years fixed. For all other AFOLU projects the project crediting period shall be 10 years, which may be renewed at most ten times with a total project crediting period not to exceed 100 years.

3.7.3 AFOLU projects shall have a credible and robust plan for managing and implementing the project over the project crediting period.

3.7.4 The earliest project crediting period start date for AFOLU projects shall be 3 January 2015."

This section also outlines additional requirements for 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 33, Section 3.7 - Renewable of Crediting Periods

"3.7.6 If a project fails to renew the project crediting period, the project crediting period shall end and the project shall be ineligible for further crediting in the future.

3.7.7 With respect to the renewal of the project crediting period, the following shall apply to the SOCIALCARBON Standard:

1. A full reassessment of Additionality is not required when renewing the project crediting period. However, regulatory surplus shall be demonstrated and the project must demonstrate that it is in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON rules and requirements, with the Project description being updated accordingly.
2. The validity of the original GHG emission baseline scenario shall be demonstrated, and if invalid a new GHG emission baseline scenario shall be determined. When renewing the project crediting period, the following will apply:
  - a. The point zero SOCIALCARBON indicators shall be reassessed to ensure that projects are continually improving the broader sustainability impacts delivered.
  - b. The original GHG Emission baseline scenario's validity shall be assessed, including the evaluation of the impact of relevant new national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances on the validity of the baseline scenario.
  - c. Where it is determined that the original GHG emission baseline scenario is still valid, the original GHG emission baseline scenario shall be reassessed using the latest version of the CDM Tool to assess the validity of the original/current baseline and to update the baseline at the renewal of a crediting period.
  - d. Where it is determined that the original GHG emission baseline scenario is no longer valid, the current baseline scenario shall be established in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.
  - e. The project description, containing updated information with respect to the baseline, the estimated GHG emission reductions or removals and the monitoring plan, shall be submitted for validation. Such updates shall be based upon the latest approved version of the methodology or its replacement. Where the project does not meet the requirements of the latest approved version of the methodology or its replacement, the project proponent shall select another applicable approved methodology (which may be a new methodology or methodology revision it has had approved via the methodology approval process), or shall apply a methodology deviation (where a methodology deviation is appropriate). Failing this, the project shall not be eligible for renewal of its project crediting period.
3. The updated project description shall be validated in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. In addition, the project shall be validated against the most recent scope of the SOCIALCARBON Standard. Such validation report shall be issued after the end of the (previous) project crediting period but within two years after the end of the (previous) project crediting period."

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 45, Section 3.16.2:

"3.16.2 Quality management procedures to manage data and information shall be applied and established. Where applicable, procedures to account for uncertainty in data and parameters shall be applied in accordance with the requirements set out in the methodology."

**6) have a systematic approach to ensuring the conservativeness of quantification methodologies it approves for use.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 9, Section 2.3 GHG-Information Principles:

"Conservativeness - Use conservative assumptions, values and procedures to ensure that net GHG emission reductions or removals are not overestimated."

Conservativeness is a key foundation of our program.

**7) require in its program documents 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must assess the baseline scenario, including but not limited to regulatory surplus and common practice. It should be noted that SOCIALCARBON is primarily focused on Nature-Based Solutions. Whilst renewable energy projects are permitted if they are small scale, in a host country with a Human Development Index (HDI) of 0.7 or lower, and align to our accepted methodologies, we do not expect many (if any) renewable energy projects to use our program.

Page 27, Section 3.4.15:

"Where factors relevant to the determination of the baseline scenario or demonstration of additionality require assessment across a given area, the area shall be, at a minimum, the grouped project geographic area. Examples of such factors include, inter alia, common practice; laws, statutes, regulatory frameworks or policies relevant to demonstration of regulatory surplus; determination of regional grid emission factors; and historical deforestation and degradation rates"

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### 5.3 Ex-Post Determination of Emission Reductions or Removals

**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.**

No

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Registration-and-Issuance-Process-v11.pdf>

We only accept ex-post credits.

All Social Carbon Units must be backed by a monitoring report and Verification report for the results achieved over a period of time. This must be retrospective, not forecasted results.

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### 6.1 No Double Issuance (Double Registration)

**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**

Yes



<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 59, Section 3.21 Participation under other GHG Programs

**3.21.1** Project proponents shall not seek credit for the same GHG emission reduction or removal under the SOCIALCARBON Standard and another GHG program. Projects issuing GHG credits under both the SOCIALCARBON Standard and another GHG program shall also comply with the rules and requirements set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document Registration and Issuance Process.

**3.21.2** Projects registered under other GHG programs are not eligible for SCU issuance beyond the end of the total project crediting period under those programs, or the accepted total project crediting period for the selected project type under the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

**3.21.3** Projects registered under a GHG program that is not an approved GHG program may also register with the SOCIALCARBON Standard where a validation or verification report has been issued under such program (by an entity approved under the program to issue such reports). For such projects, the following applies:

1. The project crediting period start shall be on or after 3 January 2015.
2. A new SOCIALCARBON Project Description Template shall be completed (using a methodology eligible under the SOCIALCARBON Standard) and a validation/verification body shall undertake a full validation of same in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. The validation report shall be accompanied by a validation representation.
3. The validation or verification that is submitted to request registration under the other GHG program shall be completed. Validation or verification is deemed to have been completed when the validation or verification report that is submitted to the other GHG program to request registration has been issued.

**3.21.4** All and any (SOCIALCARBON) monitoring and verification reports shall state the total amount of credits (GHG credits and, where applicable, buffer credits) issued under the other GHG program.

**3.21.5** Projects rejected by other GHG programs due to procedural or eligibility requirements can be considered under the SOCIALCARBON Standard, but the following conditions shall be met:

1. The project description (where the other GHG program has rejected the project before SOCIALCARBON validation) or monitoring report (where the other GHG program has rejected the project after SOCIALCARBON validation) shall clearly state all GHG programs to which the project has applied for registration and the reason(s) for rejection. Such information shall not be deemed as commercially sensitive information.
2. The validation/verification body shall be provided with the rejection document(s), including any additional explanations.
3. The project shall be validated against the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. For projects where the other GHG program has rejected the project after SOCIALCARBON validation, this means a complete revalidation of the project against the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules.

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Page 61, Section 3.22 Other Forms of Environmental Credit (in addition to section 3.21)

**3.22.3** Where projects reduce GHG emissions from activities that are included in an emissions trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading, evidence shall be provided that the GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project have not and will not be otherwise counted or used under the program or mechanism. Such evidence may include:

1. A letter from the program operator, designated national authority or other relevant regulatory authority that emissions allowances (or other GHG credits used in the program) equivalent to the reductions or removals generated by the project have been cancelled from the program or national cap, as applicable.

2. Evidence of the purchase and cancellation of GHG allowances equivalent to the GHG emissions reductions or removals generated by the project related to the program or national cap.
3. Evidence from the program operator, designated national authority or other relevant regulatory authority stating that the specific GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project or type of project are not within the scope of the program or national cap.

In addition, our program conducts reviews of registered projects and has procedures in the event of over-crediting. See section 5 of the SOCIALCARBON Registration and Issuance process: <https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Registration-and-Issuance-Process-v11.pdf>

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## 6.2 No Double Use

### **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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Definitions-v11.pdf>

The retirement / cancellation is permanent - it results in the "burning" of the SCU token on the SOCIALCARBON Registry's blockchain. This action cannot be undone and is cryptographically enforced with associated transaction hashes to prove the retirement/cancellation of the credits on the Blockchain. All retirements / cancellations are publicly visible, including the transaction hash which can be input into our registry provider's Blockchain Explorer to view proof of the action on the Blockchain. We are open to giving ICVCM a live demo of the registry to provide evidence of this.

Our definitions as per our SOCIALCARBON Definitions document:

**"Retirement:** The permanent removal of a SCU from circulation in the SOCIALCARBON registry system which represents an offset of one metric tonne of CO2 equivalent.

**Cancellation:** The permanent removal of a SCU from circulation in the SOCIALCARBON registry system for purposes other than retirement (e.g., converting SCUs into another form of GHG credit, compensating for excess SCU issuance)."

In addition to this, we have specific requirements to prevent double counting of credits in relation to NDCs and host countries. Details on our procedures to avoid double counting in the ICAO's CORSIA (and other relevant frameworks) can be found in the document "*SOCIALCARBON Requirements for Avoiding Double Counting in ICAOs CORSIA and Other Frameworks*" below:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Requirements-for-Avoiding-Double-Counting-in-ICAOs-CORSIA-and-other-Frameworks-v11.pdf>

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## C – SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

### 7.1 Assessment and Management of Environmental and Social Risks

a) In addition to CORSIA requirements relating to Safeguards System and Sustainable Development Criteria, 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.

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Clause 3.1.4, page 14 "Projects and the implementation of project activities shall not lead to the violation of any applicable law, regardless of whether or not the law is enforced."

Clause 3.5.1, page 31 " The project description shall be accompanied by one or more of the following types of evidence establishing project and carbon ownership accorded to the project proponent(s). The following list provides a summary of eligible evidence of project and carbon ownership:

1. Project and carbon ownership arising or granted under statute, regulation or decree by a competent authority.
2. Project and carbon ownership arising under law.
3. Project and carbon ownership arising by virtue of a statutory, property or contractual right in the plant, equipment or process that generates GHG emission reductions and/or removals (where the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).
4. Project and carbon ownership arising by virtue of a statutory, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or conservational or management process that generates GHG emission reductions and/or removals (where the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).
5. An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutory, property or contractual right in the plant, equipment or process that generates GHG emission reductions and/or removals which declares project and carbon ownership in the name of the project proponent.
6. An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutory, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or conservational or management process that generates GHG emission reductions or removals which vests project and carbon ownership in the project proponent.
7. Project and carbon ownership arising from the implementation or enforcement of laws, statutes or regulatory frameworks that require activities be undertaken or incentivize activities that generate GHG emission reductions or removals.

Section 3.17 Safeguards:

"3.17.12 Where a Project proposes to utilise Cultural Heritage, including the knowledge, innovations, or practices of local communities, the affected communities shall be informed of:

- a) Their rights under Applicable Law,
- b) The scope and nature of the proposed commercial development; and
- c) The potential consequences of such development."

"3.17.22 The project proponent shall ensure that there is no forced labour and that all employment is in compliance with national labour and occupational health and safety laws, with obligations under international law, and consistency with the principles and standards embodied in the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions. This applies to both the project and the supply chain that the project is dependent upon."

"3.17.45 The Project shall avoid the release of pollutants . This applies to the release of pollutants to air, water, and land due to routine, non-routine and accidental circumstances, and shall abide to local laws and regulations or IFC performance standard #38 (whichever the higher)."

"3.17.50 The Project shall promote more sustainable use of resources, including energy and water by abiding to local laws and regulations or IFC performance standard #3 (whichever the higher)."

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

The SOCIALCARBON Standard has a number of safeguards to ensure that negative environmental and social impacts of projects are assessed and managed. Section 3.17 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 details these safeguards in full.

Section 3.17 Safeguards:

"3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design"

"3.17.3 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation."

"3.17.10 The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community."

"3.17.19 The Project Developer shall respect, protect, conserve and shall not take the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)."

"3.17.27 Projects shall not increase greenhouse gas emissions over the Baseline Scenario unless this is specifically allowed within Activity Requirements or the applied Methodology."

"3.17.28 The Project shall ensure that surface water resources are conserved. This includes maintaining credible environmental flows, demonstrated by providing a verifiable calculation that shows conservation is maintained at a level, and ensuring that any discharged wastewater is of a high enough standard to allow beneficial reuse."

"3.17.29 The Project shall provide verifiable evidence of water stress experienced in the basin(s) in which the Project is active, and demonstrate that consumption of water by the Project (over Baseline) is negligible or will bring positive impacts or, at a minimum, not increase the overall annual basin stress."

"3.17.30 Where the Project is involved in abstraction from water resources required to support biodiversity and other ecosystem services, an environmental flow assessment consistent with good practice, including a modern method outlined in one of the key references listed below must be undertaken."

"3.17.31 Where environmental flow assessments are impractical, the Project is required to demonstrate that the flow rate and variability is maintained from the abstracted water resource. A verifiable calculation shall be provided for each water source demonstrating total flow rates do not fall below levels that are contextually appropriate."

"3.17.32 The Project shall demonstrate that measures to ensure soil protection and minimised erosion are in place prior to the commencement of the Project."

"3.17.36 The Project shall avoid and, if this is not possible, minimise, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services including the production of living natural resources."

"3.17.37 The Project shall require that mitigation actions avoid the introduction of invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting biodiversity."

"3.17.38 For mitigation activities that involve restoration, the Project shall use a species mix that is dominated by native species that are fit for the ecosystem under a changing climate."

"3.17.39 Projects that involve the production, harvesting, and/or management of living natural resources by small-scale landholders and/or local communities shall adopt the appropriate and culturally sensitive sustainable resource management practices."

"3.17.40 Projects shall maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functionality in the project area"

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

The SOCIALCARBON Standard has specific safeguards for indigenous people and local community consultation. Section 3.17 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 details these safeguards in full.

Section 3.17 Safeguards:

"3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design."

"3.17.3 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation."

"3.17.4 The project proponent shall take due account of all and any input received during the local stakeholder consultation and through ongoing communications, which means it will need to either update the project design or justify why updates are not appropriate. The project proponent shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in respect of the local stakeholder consultation as part of validation, and in respect of ongoing communications as part of each subsequent verification."

"3.17.18 The project proponent shall recognise and respect the indigenous people's collective rights to own, use, and develop and control the lands, resources and territories that they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired, including lands and territories for which they do not yet possess title."

"3.17.19 The Project Developer shall respect, protect, conserve and shall not take the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)."

"3.17.20 Project Developer shall ensure that the indigenous people are provided with the equitable sharing of benefits to be derived from utilisation and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories or use of their traditional knowledge and practices by the Project. This shall be done in a manner that is culturally appropriate and inclusive and that does not impede land rights or equal access to basic services including health services, clean water, energy, education, safe and decent working conditions and housing."

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

The SOCIALCARBON Standard requires projects to conduct a safeguard risk assessment as part of the project design document (registration process). These risks must be monitored and actively managed. Section 3.17 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 details these safeguards in full.

Section 3.17 Safeguards:

"3.17.1 Projects shall undertake an upfront safeguarding assessment and implement their Project in accordance with the stated SOCIALCARBON Safeguard requirements. The safeguarding assessment shall be documented in the Project Description, and monitored periodically with an assessment documented in each monitoring report submitted."

See Project Description Template, Appendix 1 for the mandatory safeguarding assessment.

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

**2) include information on the measures implemented pursuant to 1), commensurate with the identified risks in the monitoring report.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

See section 2.2 of the Monitoring Report Template "SOCIALCARBON Safeguards"

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## 7.2 Labour Rights and Working Conditions

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

**1) provides safe and healthy working conditions for employees.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.10 The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community."

"3.17.22 The project proponent shall ensure that there is no forced labour and that all employment is in compliance with national labour and occupational health and safety laws, with obligations under international law, and consistency with the principles and standards embodied in the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions. This applies to both the project and the supply chain that the project is dependent upon."

"3.17.23 The project proponent shall use adequate and verifiable mechanisms for age verification in recruitment procedures in order to prevent child labour as defined by the ILO Minimum Age Convention. Exceptions are children for work on their families' property as long as the following requirements are met:

a) Their compulsory schooling (minimum of 6 schooling years) is not hindered, AND

b) The tasks they perform do not harm their physical and mental development, AND

c) They are provided appropriate equipment, training of workers, documentation and reporting of accidents and incidents, and emergency preparedness and response measures. "

"3.17.24 The project proponent shall allow workers to join or form workers' organisations or participate in collective bargaining and shall avoid retaliation against workers who organize."

"3.17.25 The project proponent shall make appropriate efforts to ensure that contracted workers employed by third parties are protected and the third parties comply with national labour and occupational health and safety laws, with obligations under international law, and consistency with the principles and standards embodied in the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions."

**2) provides fair treatment of all employees, avoiding discrimination and ensuring equal opportunities.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.7 The Project shall not directly or indirectly reinforce gender-based discrimination and shall not lead to or contribute to adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women. Specifically, this shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) Sexual harassment and/or any forms of violence against women – address the multiple risks of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.
- b) Slavery, imprisonment, physical and mental drudgery, punishment or coercion of women and girls.
- c) Restriction of women’s rights or access to resources (natural or economic).
- d) Recognise women’s ownership rights regardless of marital status – adopt project measures where possible to support to women’s access to inherit and own land, homes, and other assets or natural resources.

"3.17.8 Projects shall apply the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work, specifically:

- a) Where appropriate for the implementation of a Project, paid, volunteer work or community contributions will be organised to provide the conditions for equitable participation of men and women in the identified tasks/activities. Introduce conditions that ensure the participation of women or men in Project activities and benefits based on pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, or marital status.
- b) Ensure that these conditions do not limit the access of women or men, as the case may be, to Project participation and benefits."

"3.17.9 Project proponents shall align with the national gender policy frameworks of the project’s host country."

**3) prohibits the use of forced labour, child labour, or trafficked persons, and protects contracted workers employed by third parties.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

Section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.10 The Project shall avoid community exposure to increased health risks and shall not adversely affect the health of the workers and the community."

"3.17.22 The project proponent shall ensure that there is no forced labour and that all employment is in compliance with national labour and occupational health and safety laws, with obligations under international law, and consistency with the principles and standards embodied in the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions. This applies to both the project and the supply chain that the project is dependent upon."

"3.17.23 The project proponent shall use adequate and verifiable mechanisms for age verification in recruitment procedures in order to prevent child labour as defined by the ILO Minimum Age Convention. Exceptions are children for work on their families’ property as long as the following requirements are met:

- a) Their compulsory schooling (minimum of 6 schooling years) is not hindered, AND
- b) The tasks they perform do not harm their physical and mental development, AND
- c) They are provided appropriate equipment, training of workers, documentation and reporting of accidents and incidents, and emergency preparedness and response measures. "

"3.17.25 The project proponent shall make appropriate efforts to ensure that contracted workers employed by third parties are protected and the third parties comply with national labour and occupational health and safety laws, with obligations under international law, and consistency with the principles and standards embodied in the International Labour Organization (ILO) fundamental conventions."

**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).**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

Project Description Document, see section 2 and Appendix 1:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

Monitoring Report Template, see section 2.2:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

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### **7.3 Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention**

**a) Your organisation requires 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

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards:

"3.17.45 The Project shall avoid the release of pollutants . This applies to the release of pollutants to air, water, and land due to routine, non-routine and accidental circumstances, and shall abide to local laws and regulations or IFC performance standard #38 (whichever the higher)."

"3.17.46 All potential pollution sources that may result from the Project that cause the degradation of the quality of soil, air, surface and groundwater within the Project's area of influence shall be identified. Appropriate mitigation measures and monitoring shall be implemented to ensure the protection of resources."

"3.17.47 Projects shall avoid or, when avoidance is not feasible, minimise and control release of hazardous materials resulting from their production, transportation, handling, storage and use in the Project. Where avoidance is not possible, the health risks, including potential differentiated effects on men, women and children, of the potential use of hazardous materials shall be addressed appropriately."

"3.17.48 Projects shall consider the use of less hazardous substitutes for such chemicals and materials and will avoid the manufacture, trade, and use of chemicals and hazardous materials subject to international bans or phase-outs due to their high toxicity to living organisms, environmental persistence, potential for bio-accumulation, or potential for depletion of the ozone layer."

"3.17.49 Where waste may not be recovered or reused, it shall be treated, destroyed, or disposed of in an environmentally sound manner that includes the appropriate control of emissions and residues resulting from the handling and processing of the waste material."

"3.17.50 The Project shall promote more sustainable use of resources, including energy and water by abiding to local laws and regulations or IFC performance standard #3 (whichever the higher)."

"3.17.51 Projects involving pest management, the integrated pest management (IPM) and /or integrated vector management (IVM) approaches shall be adopted and aim to reduce reliance on chemical pesticides."

"3.17.52 When Projects include pest management or the use of pesticides, pesticides that are low in human toxicity, known to be effective against the target species and have minimal effects on non-target species and the environment shall be selected."



"3.17.53 Fertilisers shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified. If the aerial application of fertiliser is used, then measures shall be put in place to prevent drift."

**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.
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).

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

Project Description Document, see section 2 and Appendix 1:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

Monitoring Report Template, see section 2.2:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

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## 7.4 Land Acquisition and Involuntary Resettlement

**a) 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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.14 The Project shall not involve and shall not be complicit in the involuntary relocation of people. Any displacement is to occur only with the consent of affected parties, with full justification provided as well as appropriate forms of legal protection and compensation support."

"3.17.15 In the event of displacement that aligns with clause 3.17.14, Projects shall ensure a meaningful and informed participation of affected individuals and communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of resettlement activities."

**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;
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)

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

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## **7.5 Biodiversity Conservation**

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.36 The Project shall avoid and, if this is not possible, minimise, impacts on biodiversity and ecosystem services including the production of living natural resources."

"3.17.37 The Project shall require that mitigation actions avoid the introduction of invasive alien species of flora and fauna affecting biodiversity."

"3.17.38 For mitigation activities that involve restoration, the Project shall use a species mix that is dominated by native species that are fit for the ecosystem under a changing climate."

"3.17.39 Projects that involve the production, harvesting, and/or management of living natural resources by small-scale landholders and/or local communities shall adopt the appropriate and culturally sensitive sustainable resource management practices."

"3.17.40 Projects shall maintain or enhance biodiversity and ecosystem functionality in the project area."

**2) protects the habitats of rare, threatened, and endangered species, including areas needed for habitat connectivity.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.41 No Project that potentially negatively impacts identified high conservation value areas and critical habitats shall be implemented unless all of the following are demonstrated:

- a) The risk of the Project negatively impacting the catchment and risks impacting project success shall be assessed and addressed to ensure its ongoing, long-term viability and impact on surrounding HCV and ecological assets.
- b) No measurable adverse impacts on the criteria or biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated, and on the ecological processes supporting those biodiversity values;
- c) A robust, appropriately designed, and long-term Habitats and Biodiversity Action Plan is in place to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated."

"3.17.42 If the Project is located in such habitats; the Project Proponent shall:

- a) Minimise unwarranted conversion or degradation of the habitat.
- b) Identify opportunities to enhance the habitat as part of the Project. For Projects applying the Land Use & Forest Activity Requirements Projects, a minimum 10% of the Project area shall be identified and managed to protect or enhance the biological diversity of native ecosystems. For this, the HCV approach should be followed ([www.HCVnetwork.org](http://www.HCVnetwork.org)). This area has to be located within the project region and managed by the Project proponent. The area may also include the areas of the requirement (for example, buffer zones for water bodies in the case of Land Use & Forests)."

"3.17.43 Under no circumstances shall the Project lead to the reduction or negative impact of any recognised Endangered, Vulnerable or Critically Endangered species."

"3.17.44 Habitats of endangered species shall be specifically identified and managed to protect or enhance them."

### **3) does not convert natural forests, grasslands, wetlands, or high conservation value habitats.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.41 No Project that potentially negatively impacts identified high conservation value areas and critical habitats shall be implemented unless all of the following are demonstrated:

- a) The risk of the Project negatively impacting the catchment and risks impacting project success shall be assessed and addressed to ensure its ongoing, long-term viability and impact on surrounding HCV and ecological assets.
- b) No measurable adverse impacts on the criteria or biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated, and on the ecological processes supporting those biodiversity values;
- c) A robust, appropriately designed, and long-term Habitats and Biodiversity Action Plan is in place to achieve net gains of those biodiversity values for which the critical habitat was designated."

"3.17.42 If the Project is located in such habitats; the Project Proponent shall:

- a) Minimise unwarranted conversion or degradation of the habitat.
- b) Identify opportunities to enhance the habitat as part of the Project. For Projects applying the Land Use & Forest Activity Requirements Projects, a minimum 10% of the Project area shall be identified and managed to protect or enhance the biological diversity of native ecosystems. For this, the HCV approach should be followed ([www.HCVnetwork.org](http://www.HCVnetwork.org)). This area has to be located within the project region and managed by the Project proponent. The area may also include the areas of the requirement (for example, buffer zones for water bodies in the case of Land Use & Forests)."

"3.17.43 Under no circumstances shall the Project lead to the reduction or negative impact of any recognised Endangered, Vulnerable or Critically Endangered species."

"3.17.44 Habitats of endangered species shall be specifically identified and managed to protect or enhance them."

### **4) minimises soil degradation and soil erosion.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.32 The Project shall demonstrate that measures to ensure soil protection and minimised erosion are in place prior to the commencement of the Project."

"3.17.35 Measures shall be incorporated to minimise soil degradation (e.g., through crop rotation, composting, no use of heavy machinery, reduced tillage, no use of ecologically harmful substances)."

**5) minimises water consumption and stress in the mitigation activity.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.28 The Project shall ensure that surface water resources are conserved. This includes maintaining credible environmental flows, demonstrated by providing a verifiable calculation that shows conservation is maintained at a level, and ensuring that any discharged wastewater is of a high enough standard to allow beneficial reuse."

"3.17.29 The Project shall provide verifiable evidence of water stress experienced in the basin(s) in which the Project is active, and demonstrate that consumption of water by the Project (over Baseline) is negligible or will bring positive impacts or, at a minimum, not increase the overall annual basin stress."

"3.17.30 Where the Project is involved in abstraction from water resources required to support biodiversity and other ecosystem services, an environmental flow assessment consistent with good practice, including a modern method outlined in one of the key references listed below must be undertaken."

"3.17.31 Where environmental flow assessments are impractical, the Project is required to demonstrate that the flow rate and variability is maintained from the abstracted water resource. A verifiable calculation shall be provided for each water source demonstrating total flow rates do not fall below levels that are contextually appropriate."

"3.17.33 The Project shall demonstrate that measures will be undertaken to ensure that surface and ground waters are protected from erosion and that these measures are in place prior to the commencement of the Project."

**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.**
- 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).**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

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## 7.6 Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities and Cultural Heritage

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.11 The Project shall not involve or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any sites, objects or structures of significant cultural heritage."

"3.17.12 Where a Project proposes to utilise Cultural Heritage, including the knowledge, innovations, or practices of local communities, the affected communities shall be informed of:

- a) Their rights under Applicable Law,
- b) The scope and nature of the proposed commercial development; and
- c) The potential consequences of such development."

"3.17.13 The Project shall provide for equitable sharing of benefits from commercialisation of such knowledge, innovation, or practice, consistent with their customs and traditions."

"3.17.16 The project proponent shall identify all such sites/matters potentially affected by the Project. For all such sites/matters identified the Project shall respect and safeguard: a) Legal rights, or b) Customary rights, or c) Carbon rights"

"3.17.17 The project proponent must hold uncontested project and carbon rights for the entire Project Boundary.

"3.17.18 The project proponent shall recognise and respect the indigenous people's collective rights to own, use, and develop and control the lands, resources and territories that they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired, including lands and territories for which they do not yet possess title."

3.17.19 The Project Developer shall respect, protect, conserve and shall not take the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)."

"3.17.20 Project Developer shall ensure that the indigenous people are provided with the equitable sharing of benefits to be derived from utilisation and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories or use of their traditional knowledge and practices by the Project. This shall be done in a manner that is culturally appropriate and inclusive and that does not impede land rights or equal access to basic services including health services, clean water, energy, education, safe and decent working conditions and housing. "

**2) identifies the rights-holders possibly affected by the mitigation activity (including customary rights of local rights holders).**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.16 The project proponent shall identify all such sites/matters potentially affected by the Project. For all such sites/matters identified the Project shall respect and safeguard: a) Legal rights, or b) Customary rights, or c) Carbon rights"

"3.17.17 The project proponent must hold uncontested project and carbon rights for the entire Project Boundary.

"3.17.18 The project proponent shall recognise and respect the indigenous people's collective rights to own, use, and develop and control the lands, resources and territories that they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired, including lands and territories for which they do not yet possess title."

"3.17.19 The Project Developer shall respect, protect, conserve and shall not take the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)."

"3.17.20 Project Developer shall ensure that the indigenous people are provided with the equitable sharing of benefits to be derived from utilisation and/or commercial development of natural resources on lands and territories or use of their traditional knowledge and practices by the Project. This shall be done in a manner that is culturally appropriate and inclusive and that does not impede land rights or equal access to basic services including health services, clean water, energy, education, safe and decent working conditions and housing."

**3) when relevant to circumstances, has applied the FPIC process.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.19 The Project Developer shall respect, protect, conserve and shall not take the cultural, intellectual, religious and spiritual property of indigenous peoples without their free, prior and informed consent (FPIC)."

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.14 The Project shall not involve and shall not be complicit in the involuntary relocation of people. Any displacement is to occur only with the consent of affected parties, with full justification provided as well as appropriate forms of legal protection and compensation support."

"3.17.15 In the event of displacement that aligns with clause 3.17.14, Projects shall ensure a meaningful and informed participation of affected individuals and communities in the planning, implementation and monitoring of resettlement activities."

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

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.11 The Project shall not involve or be complicit in the alteration, damage or removal of any sites, objects or structures of significant cultural heritage."

"3.17.12 Where a Project proposes to utilise Cultural Heritage, including the knowledge, innovations, or practices of local communities, the affected communities shall be informed of:

- a) Their rights under Applicable Law,
- b) The scope and nature of the proposed commercial development; and
- c) The potential consequences of such development."

"3.17.13 The Project shall provide for equitable sharing of benefits from commercialisation of such knowledge, innovation, or practice, consistent with their customs and traditions."

**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).**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

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<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

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## 7.7 Respect for Human Rights, Stakeholder Engagement

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

**1) avoids discrimination and respects human rights.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.5 The Project proponent and the Project shall respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

"3.17.6 The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion."

"3.17.7 The Project shall not directly or indirectly reinforce gender-based discrimination and shall not lead to or contribute to adverse impacts on gender equality and/or the situation of women. Specifically, this shall include, but is not limited to:

- a) Sexual harassment and/or any forms of violence against women – address the multiple risks of gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation or human trafficking.
- b) Slavery, imprisonment, physical and mental drudgery, punishment or coercion of women and girls.
- c) Restriction of women's rights or access to resources (natural or economic).
- d) Recognise women's ownership rights regardless of marital status – adopt project measures where possible to support to women's access to inherit and own land, homes, and other assets or natural resources.

"3.17.8 Projects shall apply the principles of non-discrimination, equal treatment, and equal pay for equal work, specifically:

- a) Where appropriate for the implementation of a Project, paid, volunteer work or community contributions will be organised to provide the conditions for equitable participation of men and women in the identified tasks/activities. Introduce conditions that ensure the participation of women or men in Project activities and benefits based on pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, or marital status.

b) Ensure that these conditions do not limit the access of women or men, as the case may be, to Project participation and benefits."

"3.17.9 Project proponents shall align with the national gender policy frameworks of the project's host country."

**2) abides by the International Bill of Human Rights and universal instruments ratified by the host country.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.5 The Project proponent and the Project shall respect internationally proclaimed human rights and shall not be complicit in violence or human rights abuses of any kind as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

"3.17.6 The Project shall not discriminate with regards to participation and inclusion."

**3) takes into account and responds to local stakeholders' views.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17 Safeguards

"3.17.1 Projects shall undertake an upfront safeguarding assessment and implement their Project in accordance with the stated SOCIALCARBON Safeguard requirements. The safeguarding assessment shall be documented in the Project Description, and monitored periodically with an assessment documented in each monitoring report submitted."

"3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design."

"3.17.3 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation."

"3.17.4 The project proponent shall take due account of all and any input received during the local stakeholder consultation and through ongoing communications, which means it will need to either update the project design or justify why updates are not appropriate. The project proponent shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in respect of the local stakeholder consultation as part of validation, and in respect of ongoing communications as part of each subsequent verification."

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

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<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>



## 7.8 Gender Equality

**a) Confirm your organisation requires 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**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17, "Gender Equality" in the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

Project Description Document, see section 2 and Appendix 1:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

Monitoring Report Template, see section 2.2: <https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

**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).**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.17, "Gender Equality" in the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1

All projects must complete a Safeguard assessment as part of the Project Description Document and Monitoring Report. This includes validated their compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Safeguards.

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Monitoring Report Template, see section 2.2:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

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## 7.9 Robust Benefit-Sharing

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

The SOCIALCARBON Standard requires benefit sharing to obtain certification; all projects must monitor co-benefits and track at least 6 indicators per Sustainable Livelihood Resource. See section 3.14 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1.

The SOCIALCARBON Resources include:

- Natural
- Social
- Human
- Financial
- Biodiversity
- Carbon

By default, projects will deliver co-benefits and benefit sharing with the local community because they must monitor and track their progress on the indicators selected. These indicators include details on the % of carbon revenues shared with the local stakeholders. A list of the current SOCIALCARBON Approved Co-Benefit indicators can be found here:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Indicators-v10.pdf>

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 section 3.17:

"3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design."

"3.17.3 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation."

"3.17.4 The project proponent shall take due account of all and any input received during the local stakeholder consultation and through ongoing communications, which means it will need to either update the project design or justify why updates are not appropriate. The project proponent shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in respect of the local stakeholder consultation as part of validation, and in respect of ongoing communications as part of each subsequent verification."

All projects must deliver co-benefits (see section 3.14). This information will be disclosed to the local stakeholders during the consultation period.

Section 3.14:

"3.14.6 Data used to score the indicators shall be collected through interviews, questionnaires and/or meetings with stakeholders (ex: working groups). Therefore, a selection of stakeholders who will be involved and/or impacted by the project shall be identified. Data collection for the indicators shall be as follows:

- Interviews: Key informants are interviewed in a semi-structured form, aiming to indirectly obtain information about the six resources approached by the methodology.
- Questionnaires: Questionnaires applied by qualified personnel to involved community members as well as to key informants of the organization in order to collect information.
- Working groups: Participatory stakeholder meetings with representatives of the organization and/or community members involved in the project. The meeting is coordinated by a responsible professional, who must orient participants to discuss the indicators."

**3) make benefit-sharing outcomes that result from the benefit-sharing plan publicly available, subject to applicable legal restrictions.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 section 3.14

"3.14.1 SOCIALCARBON indicators shall be outlined in both the project description and monitoring reports. These are used to detail the benefits and impacts generated by the project, encompassing: Social, Human, Financial, Natural, Biodiversity and Carbon."

"3.14.6 Data used to score the indicators shall be collected through interviews, questionnaires and/or meetings with stakeholders (ex: working groups). Therefore, a selection of stakeholders who will be involved and/or impacted by the project shall be identified. Data collection for the indicators shall be as follows:

- Interviews: Key informants are interviewed in a semi-structured form, aiming to indirectly obtain information about the six resources approached by the methodology.
- Questionnaires: Questionnaires applied by qualified personnel to involved community members as well as to key informants of the organization in order to collect information.
- Working groups: Participatory stakeholder meetings with representatives of the organization and/or community members involved in the project. The meeting is coordinated by a responsible professional, who must orient participants to discuss the indicators."

These co-benefits must be publicly documented in the PDD and monitoring reports.

See templates below:

PDD - <https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

Monitoring report - <https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Monitoring-Report-Template-v10.docx>

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## 7.10 Cancun Safeguards

**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.**

No

N/A

We do not operate REDD+ mitigation activities

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## 7.11 Ensuring Positive SDG Impacts

**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.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

"3.15.1 Projects shall undertake an upfront assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact of the project."

3.15.2 The Project shall document which SDGs are delivered by the project, along with justifications that are quantifiable and can be validated by a validator/verifier."

"3.15.3 The SDG assessment shall be documented as part of the SOCIALCARBON Indicators component of the Project Description and monitored periodically in each monitoring report submitted."

PDD Template, page 9:

"Describe how the project contributes to achieving any nationally stated sustainable development priorities, including any provisions for monitoring and reporting same."

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

All projects must also monitor co-benefits from their project. At least 18 indicators must be used, with each indicator aligning to at least one SDG.

See section 3.14 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 "Broader Sustainability Assessments"

**2) demonstrate, if applicable, through qualitative assessment how the mitigation activity delivers positive SDG impacts for certain SDGs (excluding SDG 13), if any.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

"3.15.1 Projects shall undertake an upfront assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact of the project."

3.15.2 The Project shall document which SDGs are delivered by the project, along with justifications that are quantifiable and can be validated by a validator/verifier."

"3.15.3 The SDG assessment shall be documented as part of the SOCIALCARBON Indicators component of the Project Description and monitored periodically in each monitoring report submitted."

PDD Template, page 9:

"Describe how the project contributes to achieving any nationally stated sustainable development priorities, including any provisions for monitoring and reporting same."

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Project-Description-Template-v11.docx>

All projects must also monitor co-benefits from their project. At least 18 indicators must be used, with each indicator aligning to at least one SDG.

See section 3.14 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 "Broader Sustainability Assessments"

**3) provide information on any standardised tools and methods that were used to assess the SDG impacts.**

Yes

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Standard-v61.pdf>

See section 3.15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

"3.15.1 Projects shall undertake an upfront assessment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) impact of the project."

3.15.2 The Project shall document which SDGs are delivered by the project, along with justifications that are quantifiable and can be validated by a validator/verifier."

"3.15.3 The SDG assessment shall be documented as part of the SOCIALCARBON Indicators component of the Project Description and monitored periodically in each monitoring report submitted."

All projects must also monitor co-benefits from their project. At least 18 indicators must be used, with each indicator aligning to at least one SDG.

See section 3.14 of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1 "Broader Sustainability Assessments". Projects must use Approved SOCIALCARBON Indicators. Each indicator provides details on how the value can be measured and monitored.

The current list of approved SOCIALCARBON Indicators can be found here:

<https://www.socialcarbon.org/s/SOCIALCARBON-Indicators-v10.pdf>

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*End of Application*