THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL
FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

CCP

Connecting Carbon Markets: A Guide to the Core Carbon Principles

MODULE 2:
Executive Summary

High-Integrity Carbon Markets – a guide for policymakers

November 2026, Version 1.0

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An action pathway for governments, grounded in the Core Carbon Principles (CCPs)

The Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) establish a global threshold for high-integrity carbon credits, providing a common foundation for credit integrity across different buyers and uses.

Governments can draw on the CCPs when developing carbon market frameworks, including requirements for credits purchased by corporate buyers, used in emissions trading systems and carbon tax schemes, or transferred under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.

Government-administered crediting programs can also seek assessment against the CCPs. This common threshold can support greater consistency and interoperability across the carbon market, while governments retain responsibility for determining additional eligibility, authorisation and accounting requirements appropriate to national climate objectives.

The Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) are 10 fundamental, science-based principles for identifying high-quality carbon credits, organised around three pillars:

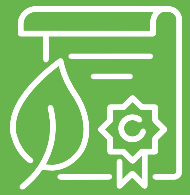
Governance	Emissions impact	Sustainable development
Effective governance, tracking, transparency and independent third-party validation and verification.	Ensuring that credits represent additional, robustly quantified emission reductions or removals, with appropriate safeguards for permanence and against double counting.	Environmental and social safeguards, sustainable development benefits and contribution to the transition to net zero.

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Making defensible choices in the carbon market

Corporate buyers are increasingly incorporating the CCPs into procurement criteria, contributing to more consistent demand signals for high-integrity credits. The CCPs also provide a common integrity threshold that governments can reference when establishing quality requirements for credits used by different buyers, including regulated entities.



The market wants high quality

Recent research indicates growing buyer recognition and uptake of CCP-labelled carbon credits. A Morgan Stanley survey published in January 2026 found that 61% of current corporate buyers and 57% of prospective buyers viewed the concept of the CCP label positively.[1] Allied Offsets also reported that retirements of CCP-labelled credits increased by more than 100% between 2024 and 2025, reflecting growing demand for independently assessed high-integrity credits.[2]



High integrity has a premium

Market data indicates that CCP-labelled credits can command higher prices. MSCI reported an average price premium of 19% for CCP-labelled credits compared with credits without the label in June 2026. Actual premiums vary by project type, methodology and market conditions.[3]

1 Morgan Stanley, Voluntary Carbon Markets: surveying current and future corporate participants, 2026
2 Allied Offsets, Voluntary Carbon Market in 2025: Bigger Deals, Buyer Concentration, and a Shift to Removals, 20253
3 MSCI, Global CCP Carbon Credit Price statistics, June 2026

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Opportunities in high-integrity carbon markets

High-integrity carbon markets can support a range of climate and development objectives when governed effectively and used to complement domestic emissions reduction efforts. By establishing a common threshold for credit quality, the CCPs can help build confidence among different buyers and support greater investment in high-integrity mitigation activities.



Enable additional and cost-effective global emissions reductions.

Carbon markets can direct finance towards mitigation opportunities where marginal abatement costs are lower, helping increase the cost-effectiveness of climate action.

According to the World Bank, international carbon trading could facilitate up to 50% more global emissions reductions - equivalent to around 5 $GtCO_2e$ per year by 2030 - at no additional cost, compared to purely domestic approaches.[4]



Mobilise public and private climate finance at scale.

Demand for carbon credits from corporate buyers, governments and regulated entities can generate additional revenue for climate action, particularly in countries where access to finance is constrained.[5] The United Nations Environment Program estimates that global adaptation finance needs are currently around 12–14 times higher than existing flows, and that rapid scaling of private sector finance could address up to approximately 20% of these needs by 2035.[6] Well-designed international carbon markets can help channel finance towards mitigation and resilience-building activities on the ground.



Support development and diffusion of innovative

By creating demand for mitigation outcomes, carbon markets can help bring forward technologies that may later become part of broader decarbonisation pathways, particularly in sectors and regions where regulatory or financial barriers remain high.

4 World Bank, What you need to know about Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, 2022.
5 OECD, Scaling up the mobilisation of private finance for climate action in developing countries, 2023.
6 UNEP, Adaptation Gap Report, 2025.

Opportunities in high-integrity carbon markets (cont.)



Support ecosystem protection and climate resilience.

Carbon-crediting activities, particularly in land use and agriculture sectors, can support ecosystem protection, restoration, and global climate resilience.



Deliver direct and indirect benefit-sharing outcomes for host countries.

When aligned with robust safeguards such as those set out in the CCPs, benefit-sharing arrangements can help support mitigation activities to generate context-appropriate benefits, including for Indigenous Peoples and local communities, alongside national-level climate objectives. This can include investment flows, local employment, infrastructure, and improved climate adaptation and resilience. Transparency around benefit-sharing plans and outcomes helps build trust and supports equitable participation.



Build capacity for broader carbon pricing policies.

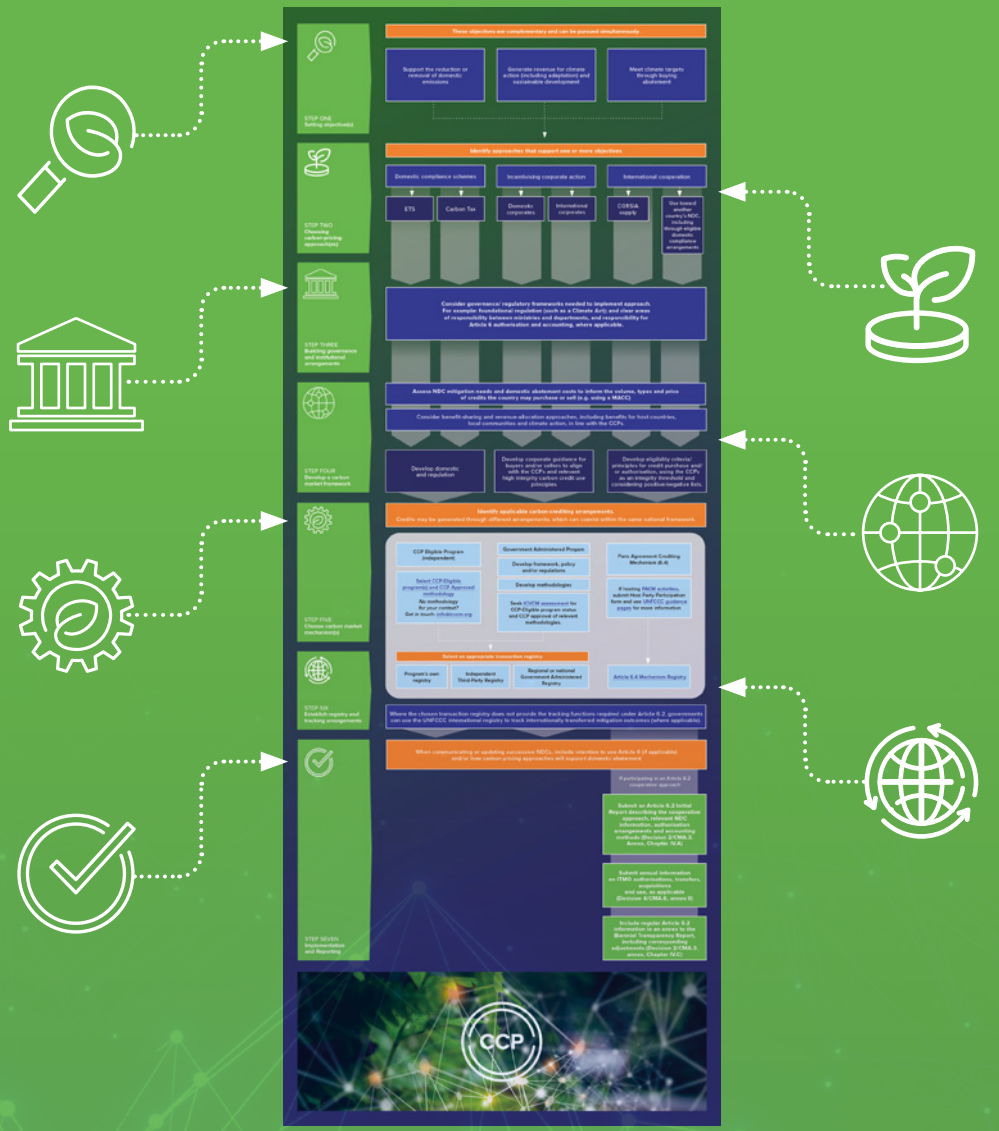
Participation in carbon-crediting activities can help governments and market participants develop monitoring, reporting and verification systems, technical expertise and institutional capacity that can support the introduction of other carbon-pricing instruments. For example, Mexico's experience with Clean Development Mechanism projects in the early 2000s laid the groundwork for its national emissions trading system by establishing monitoring, reporting and verification systems, developing skills and market readiness.[7]

7 International Partnership on Mitigation and MRV, Building a comprehensive national MRV framework, 2015.

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Decision Map: from objectives to implementation

The following Decision Map outlines seven steps governments can consider when developing high-integrity carbon market frameworks. It illustrates how governments can use the CCPs as a common threshold for carbon-credit integrity while tailoring their approach to national climate objectives, institutional capacity and the different types of buyers and uses of credits. The steps are flexible and may be undertaken in parallel.



Decision Map: from objectives to implementation

Steps may overlap and multiple pathways may be pursued simultaneously

STEP ONE
Setting objective(s)

These objectives are complementary and can be pursued simultaneously.

- Support the reduction or removal of domestic emissions
- Generate revenue for climate action (including adaptation) and sustainable development
- Meet climate targets through buying abatement

STEP TWO
Choosing carbon-pricing approach(es)

Identify approaches that support one or more objectives

- Domestic compliance schemes
- Incentivising corporate action
- International cooperation

- ETS
- Carbon Tax
- Domestic corporates
- International corporates
- CORSIA supply
- Use toward another country's NDC, including through eligible domestic compliance arrangements

STEP THREE
Building governance and institutional arrangements

Consider governance/ regulatory frameworks needed to implement approach. For example: foundational regulation (such as a Climate Act); and clear areas of responsibility between ministries and departments, and responsibility for Article 6 authorisation and accounting, where applicable.

STEP FOUR
Develop a carbon market framework

Assess NDC mitigation needs and domestic abatement costs to inform the volume, types and price of credits the country may purchase or sell (e.g. using a MACC)

Consider benefit-sharing and revenue-allocation approaches, including benefits for host countries, local communities and climate action, in line with the CCPs.

- Develop domestic and regulation
- Develop corporate guidance for buyers and/or sellers to align with the CCPs and relevant high integrity carbon credit use principles
- Develop eligibility criteria/ principles for credit purchase and/ or authorisation, using the CCPs as an integrity threshold and considering positive/negative lists.

STEP FIVE
Choose carbon market mechanism(s)

Identify applicable carbon-crediting arrangements.
Credits may be generated through different arrangements, which can coexist within the same national framework.

- CCP Eligible Program (independent)
- Select CCP-Eligible program(s) and CCP Approved methodology
  No methodology for your context? Get in touch: info@icvcm.org
- Government Administered Progam
- Develop framework, policy and/or regulations
- Develop methodologies
- Seek ICVCM assessment for CCP-Eligible program status and CCP approval of relevant methodologies.
- Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (6.4)
- If hosting PACM activities, submit Host Party Participation form and see UNFCCC guidance pages for more information

Select an appropriate transaction registry

- Program's own registry
- Independent Third-Party Registry
- Regional or national Government Administered Registry
- Article 6.4 Mechanism Registry

STEP SIX
Establish registry and tracking arrangements

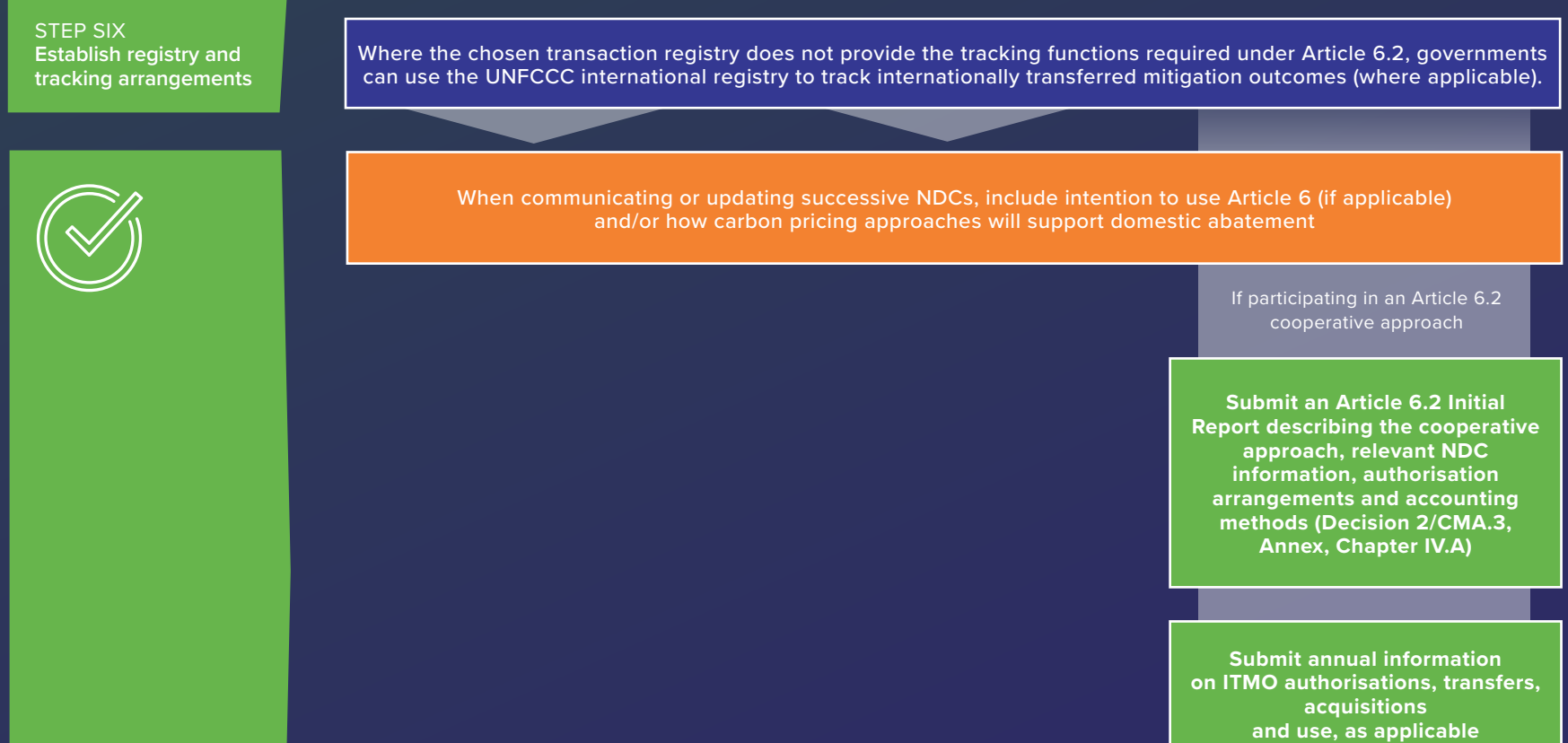
Where the chosen transaction registry does not provide the tracking functions required under Article 6.2, governments can use the UNFCCC international registry to track internationally transferred mitigation outcomes (where applicable).

STEP SEVEN
Implementation and Reporting

When communicating or updating successive NDCs, include intention to use Article 6 (if applicable) and/or how carbon pricing approaches will support domestic abatement

If participating in an Article 6.2 cooperative approach

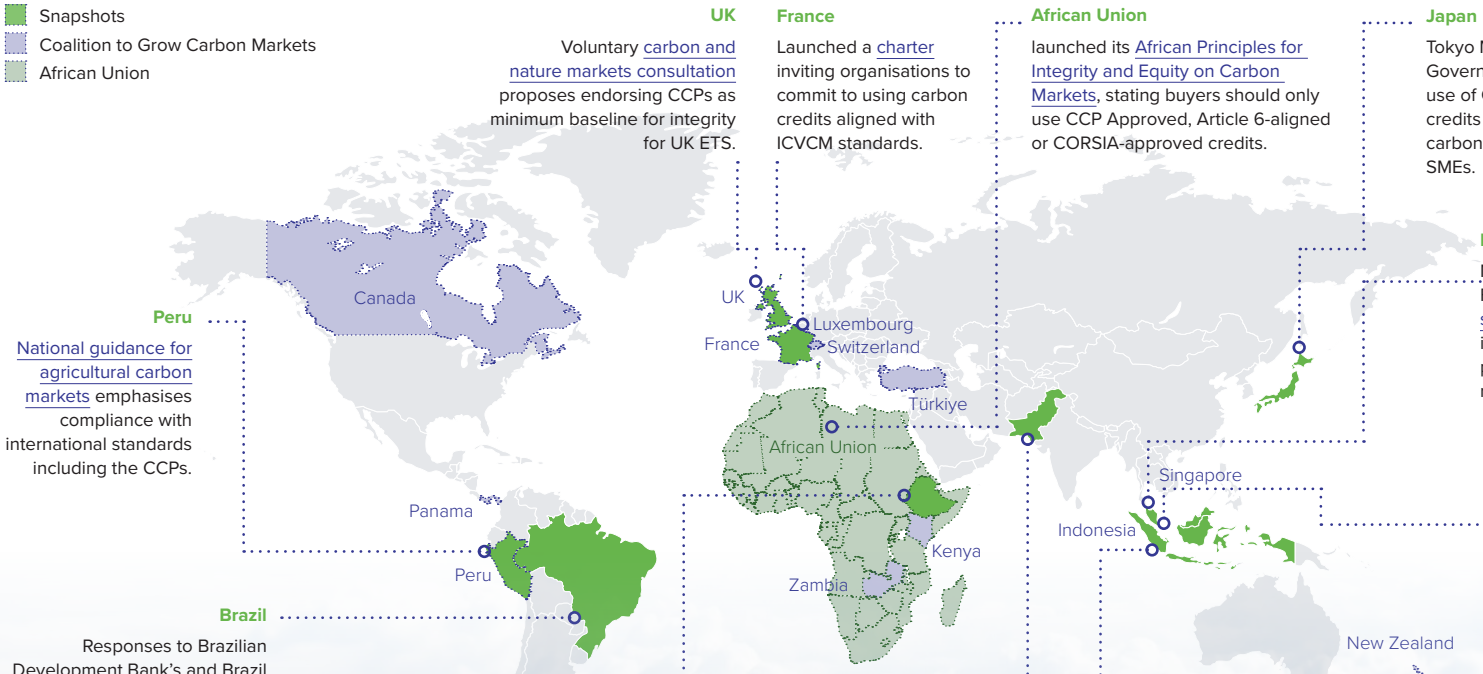
- **Submit an Article 6.2 Initial Report describing the cooperative approach, relevant NDC information, authorisation arrangements and accounting methods (Decision 2/CMA.3, Annex, Chapter IV.A)**
- **Submit annual information on ITMO authorisations, transfers, acquisitions and use, as applicable (Decision 4/CMA.6, annex II)**
- **Include regular Article 6.2 information in an annex to the Biennial Transparency Report, including corresponding adjustments (Decision 2/CMA.3, annex, Chapter IV.C)**



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How governments can use this guide

Governments and public institutions are increasingly referencing the CCPs when establishing carbon market policies, eligibility requirements and guidance for carbon-credit use. These examples demonstrate how a common global integrity threshold can inform different national approaches, supporting consistency in credit quality while allowing governments to establish additional requirements reflecting their own policy objectives.



UK

Voluntary carbon and nature markets consultation proposes endorsing CCPs as minimum baseline for integrity for UK ETS.

France

Launched a charter inviting organisations to commit to using carbon credits aligned with ICVCM standards.

African Union

launched its African Principles for Integrity and Equity on Carbon Markets, stating buyers should only use CCP Approved, Article 6-aligned or CORSIA-approved credits.

Japan

Tokyo Metropolitan Government promotes use of CCP-labelled credits as part of its carbon marketplace for SMEs.

Malaysia

Malaysia Forest Fund's Forest Carbon Offset standard follows international best practices, including ICVCM requirements.

Peru

National guidance for agricultural carbon markets emphasises compliance with international standards including the CCPs.

Brazil

Responses to Brazilian Development Bank's and Brazil Ministry of Environment's public consultation on voluntary carbon credit certification system highlighted importance of alignment to international standards such as the CCPs.

Ethiopia

National Carbon Market Strategy informed by international best practice including the CCPs.

Pakistan

Policy Guidelines for Trading in Carbon Markets state commitment to transparency obligations in Article 6 and CCPs.

Indonesia

Ministry of Forestry and ICVCM have a strategic partnership to support alignment of forestry carbon credits with CCPs.

Singapore

MAS has made CCP-alignment a requirement for transition credits.

NCCS, Ministry of Trade and Industry, and Enterprise SG have launched draft guidance on voluntary use of carbon credits proposing that corporates refer to the CCPs.

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The Decision Map: Each step presents the options and considerations for governments when integrating carbon markets.

STEP ONE Setting objectives

Define what the government intends to achieve through carbon markets, considering national climate and development priorities.

Objectives may include supporting domestic emissions reductions, mobilising climate finance, generating economic and community benefits, or purchasing mitigation outcomes to support climate targets.

Governments should consider the different sources of demand for credits, including corporate buyers, regulated entities and other governments, and determine how carbon market participation will support their NDC and long-term decarbonisation objectives. [i]

STEP TWO Choosing carbon-pricing approach(es)

Consider how carbon markets can support national objectives, including through domestic emissions trading systems or carbon taxes that allow the use of credits, policies that encourage corporate demand, and international cooperation under Article 6 or CORSIA.

The CCPs establish a common threshold for carbon-credit integrity that can inform credit eligibility across different buyers and uses, while governments may apply additional requirements reflecting national policy priorities and applicable rules. [ii]

STEP THREE Building institutional readiness

Establish clear responsibilities for carbon market policy, regulatory oversight, credit eligibility, project authorisation, registry management and NDC accounting, as relevant.

Governments should establish structures for coordination between ministries, agencies and international partners, supported by transparent decision-making and stakeholder engagement.

Governments can take reference from the CCP Assessment Framework's requirements for effective governance, stakeholder consultation, transparent tracking and information disclosure (Criteria 1.1, 1.2, 2.1 and 3.1) to inform national approaches.[iii]

STEP FOUR Develop a carbon market framework

Establish policies, rules and safeguards governing participation in carbon markets, ensuring alignment with national mitigation and development objectives.

Key considerations include the economic cost of abatement, eligibility criteria for carbon-credit activities, environmental and social safeguards, benefit-sharing arrangements, protection of domestic NDC achievement (where applicable) and potential contributions to adaptation finance.

Governments can use the CCPs as a threshold for carbon-credit integrity, while applying additional country-specific requirements to reflect national circumstances and policy priorities.[iv]

The Decision Map: Each step presents the options and considerations for governments when integrating carbon markets.

STEP FIVE
Choose carbon market mechanism(s)

Decide which mechanism(s) will issue credits that can be used by different types of buyers, considering independent crediting programs, government-administered programs and international mechanisms such as the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (Article 6.4).

Governments can use existing infrastructure through CCP-Eligible programs and CCP-Approved methodologies. Government-administered programs and methodologies can also seek assessment against the CCPs, providing an opportunity to demonstrate that their eligible credits meet the international integrity threshold.[v]

STEP SIX
Establish registry and tracking arrangements

Determine how carbon credits will be uniquely identified, issued, tracked, transferred and retired or cancelled, ensuring transparency and preventing double issuance and double use.

Governments may establish national registries or use existing systems, depending on their objectives and institutional capacity. The CCP Assessment Framework's requirements for effective registries (Criterion 2.1) and information disclosure (Criterion 3.1) can inform registry design and oversight, supporting consistent tracking and transparency across different types of buyers and uses. Additional accounting arrangements may be required for international transfers under Article 6.[vi]

STEP SEVEN
Reporting and review

Establish monitoring, reporting and review arrangements appropriate to the government's carbon market participation and national climate objectives.

Where relevant, countries should reflect carbon market policies and activities in their NDC implementation planning and Biennial Transparency Reports. International transfers under Article 6 require additional authorisation, accounting and reporting arrangements, while credits used for CORSIA purposes must meet applicable ICAO requirements. The Integrity Council's annotated Article 6.2 Initial Report template can support governments in demonstrating relevant program- and methodology-level integrity requirements, complementing formal UNFCCC reporting obligations.[vii]



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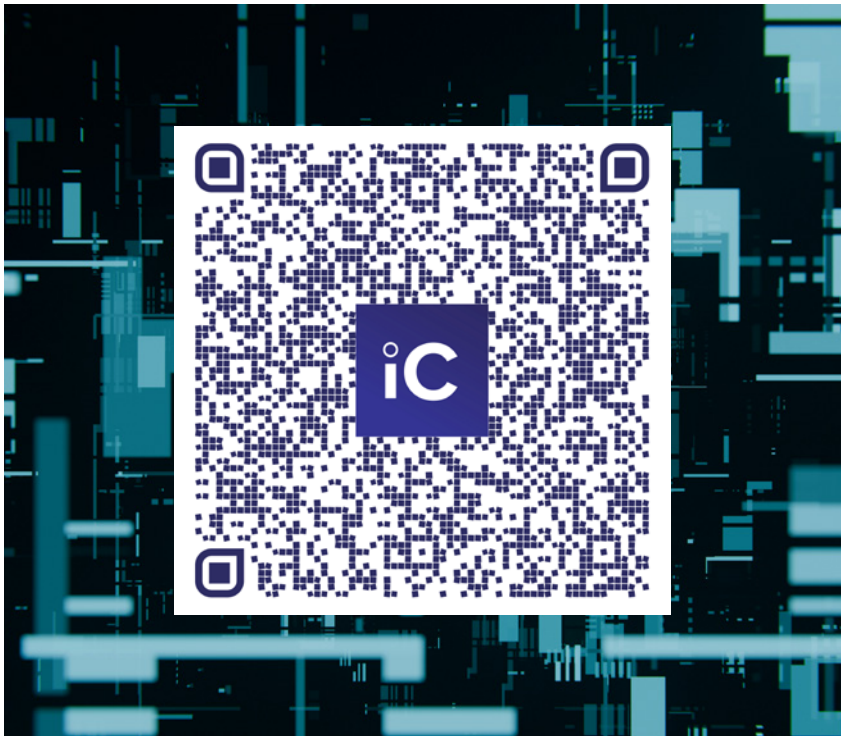
Annex I: Article 6 reporting with the CCPs: annotated initial report template

The Integrity Council has included annotations to demonstrate how CCP-eligibility could be used by Parties to complement the reporting of program- and methodology-level requirements.

This supports participating countries in demonstrating the integrity of cooperative approaches, underlying frameworks and traded credits (mitigation outcomes).

Governments will need to supplement the information below with information specific to their national context. Further guidance can be found in the Results of the Article 6 technical expert review of the reports submitted by Parties participating in cooperative approaches referred to in Article 6, paragraph 2, of the Paris Agreement.

The initial report template as published on the UNFCCC website is linked here.



Annex 2: Resources and support

Governments can draw on existing international guidance, technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives when developing carbon market frameworks. The resources below provide support across the seven steps outlined in this guide, from setting policy objectives to implementing crediting mechanisms, registries and reporting arrangements.

i **Setting objectives,** support available:

- United Nations Development Program's Climate Promise initiative has a network of experts that advise countries on various issues related to climate action and can support countries with identifying objectives in line with national contexts.
- The International Climate Initiative (IKI) provides support to countries in promoting climate action and biodiversity conservation, including objectives of Improving the enabling environment for cross-sectoral or sector-transformative climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and/or climate change adaptation.
- The UK Partnering for Accelerated Climate Transitions (UK PACT) supports partner countries to implement and increase their ambitions for carbon emissions reductions in line with their NDCs.
- The Green Climate Fund Readiness Programme helps countries strengthen institutional capacity, advance climate planning, and develop investment pipelines that can attract financing from GCF and other sources. This can include support to understand and implement carbon market instruments in alignment with national goals.
- The World Bank's Guidance for Policymakers on the Role of Domestic Carbon Pricing and International Carbon Credit Markets in Achieving LTSs and NDCs provides a framework for policymakers for developing NDCs and Long-Term Strategies and sets out how carbon pricing can be integrated into these strategies. Section 6 (p43) focuses on tools and guidance for exploring the role of Carbon Pricing and Carbon Credit markets in Long Term Strategies and Nationally Determined Contributions.
- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH's Global Carbon Markets initiative supports policymakers with using carbon market instruments, including through capacity building and workshops. The initiative has supported various regions with carbon markets, including the Caribbean.

ii **Choose carbon-pricing approach(es),** support available:

Support on choosing carbon pricing approach(es)

- The World Bank Partnership for Market Readiness (PMR)'s Guide to Adopting a Carbon Price help policymakers build the case for carbon pricing and choose an appropriate carbon pricing instrument.
- Policymakers can reach out to their respective UNFCCC regional collaboration centre for support in choosing carbon pricing approach and other climate action needs.

Support for developing domestic carbon pricing schemes

- The Partnership for Market Implementation Country Engagement programme supports countries with the design and implementation of carbon pricing policies and carbon market readiness.
- The Guide to Developing Domestic Carbon Crediting Mechanisms by the Partnership for Market Readiness provides guidance on how policymakers can design and undertake governance and assurance for domestic crediting mechanisms.
- The International Carbon Action Partnership (ICAP)'s capacity building programme for policymakers on emissions trading and carbon pricing, with an expertise in ETS.
- The Global Carbon Pricing Challenge (GCPC) is an informal partnership of carbon pricing champions to support efforts to expand and develop new pricing systems around the world. The initiative aims to expand carbon-pricing coverage to 60% of global GHG emissions by 2030.
- The UK Government has a UK ETS international co-operation team which delivers specific support and skill-share on emission trading and lessons learnt from running the UK ETS.
- GIZ can support countries with developing MRV systems for domestic carbon pricing schemes, including with Türkiye.

Support for incentivising corporate action

- VCMI's Carbon Markets Access Toolkit and Government Strategies to Mobilize Domestic Carbon Credit Markets provide recommendations on how governments can design policies that facilitate corporate demand for carbon credits.
- The World Bank's Legal and Regulatory Reform Toolkit for High-Integrity Carbon Markets offers guidance to policymakers on developing legal instruments and institutions for carbon markets. Policymakers can also use the online chatbot alongside the Toolkit.

Support for participation in international cooperation

- UNFCCC's Regional Collaboration Centres support governments with implementation of the Paris Agreement, including technical assistance on carbon pricing instruments and Article 6 – these include Regional Workshops on Article 6 and Carbon Pricing.
- In addition, UNFCCC has published Article 6 knowledge products including an e-learning module on unlocking Article 6 potential; e-learning module on Article 6.4; and video explainer of Article 6.
- UNEP-CCC's Integrated Assessment for Article 6: The IAA6 Approach supports countries with integrating Article 6 into national planning; and UNEP-CCC's Article 6 Pipeline tool tracks countries NDCs and long-term targets.
- ICAO's Assistance, Capacity-building and Training on CORSIA (ACT-CORSIA) Programme provides capacity building tailored to country needs.
- The ICAO-EU Assistance Project provides capacity building assistance to its member States.

Support for development and implementation of NDCs

- Policymakers can refer to UNFCCC's webpage that consolidates resources and platforms to support NDC 3.0 produced by the UNFCCC secretariat and by other organisations.
- The NDC 3.0 Navigator tool can support policymakers with identifying potential direction, strategies and opportunities when developing the next round of NDCs.
- The NDC Partnership offers support to countries towards advancing their climate goals.
- The Implementing Nationally Determined Contributions document supports the development of implementation strategies for NDCs.

iii **Build institutional readiness,** support available:

- The World Bank's Legal and Regulatory Reform Toolkit for High-Integrity Carbon Markets offers guidance to policymakers, including decision steps for defining responsible authorities (pg. 35 – 42).
- Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)'s Carbon Transaction Facility can provide support with institutional arrangements, carbon market strategies, as well as project level and registry support.
- The GGGI Country Programs also supports partner countries with building institutional readiness for climate action, including carbon markets. Chapter 3 of GGGI's Building Article 6 Readiness reports: the Knowledge Gap and the Capacity Gap can provide policymakers insight into key skills and knowledge needs required to implement Article 6.
- While developed for the Article 6 context, GGGI's SPAR6C Article 6 toolbox Guide 3 - Developing an Article 6 host party institutional framework details the process by which governments can set up institutional arrangements for carbon markets, including for participation in Article 6.
- The East Africa Alliance on Carbon Markets and Climate Finance supports member countries in East Africa to develop pathways to carbon markets.
- The PMI's Mitigation Action Assessment Protocol for International Transfer Readiness (MAAP-ITR) tool guides the development of the institutional frameworks and market infrastructure needed for effective participation in carbon markets.
- The UNFCCC RCC MENA South Asia's Article 6 Operationalization in Iraq – Institutional Setup Guidelines provides a case study of the institutional set up for Article 6 in Iraq.
- UNEP-CCC is developing an online and interactive toolbox under the IAA6 project.

iv Develop carbon market framework, support available:

Support on understanding economic cost of abatement

- UNEP-CCC has supported governments with developing MAC curves to better understand decarbonisation pathways and policy options.
- World Bank has resources regarding MAC curves, and has helped countries interpret and implement MAC curves. For example, Romania's Green Growth study used a MAC curve analysis to identify cost-efficient options for abatement across various sectors.

Support on benefit sharing through carbon markets

- Grassroot Justice Network's policy toolkit How National Legislation can Advance Carbon Justice provides policy recommendations for how carbon justice principles can be built into national law and policy.
- While developed based on lessons from REDD+, the REDD+ Academy Learning Journal on Fair and Equitable Benefit Sharing identifies guiding principles and key elements of a fair and equitable benefit-sharing arrangement.
- The Equitable Benefit Sharing: Lessons learned from REDD+ and other conservation strategies paper illustrates how equitable benefit sharing is implemented for conservation activities.

Support on sustainable development benefits and safeguards

- The Integrity Council's CIWP on Sustainable Development Benefits and Safeguards provides broad considerations on how carbon markets can continue to deliver sustainable development benefits and strengthening safeguards.
- Question 7.3 (pg. 126) of the Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets details considerations for host countries to ensure carbon crediting activities generate high social value and comply with robust environmental standards.
- Beyond Beneficiaries: Fairer Carbon Market Frameworks (pg. 13) by The Nature Conservancy identifies and reviews current approaches to benefit sharing.
- The Integrating gender into the design, implementation and monitoring of carbon credit projects guidance document can support policymakers in considering how gender can be built into carbon market policies.
- UNEP-CCC's Article 6 Pipeline tracks the sustainable development priorities by Parties.

Support on Rights and interests of Indigenous Peoples and local communities

- The Forest Peoples Programme (FPP) and Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact (AIPP)'s multilingual Carbon Markets: An Introductory Series of Animations for Indigenous Peoples and Forest Peoples is an introductory resource on carbon market literacy, rights, safeguards and consent.
- The Voluntary Carbon Market Decision-Making Guide for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (in Spanish) by Climate Focus and UNDP supports Indigenous Peoples and local communities with understanding carbon markets to support informed decision making.

Support for integrating host government benefits

- Corresponding Adjustment and Pricing of Mitigation Outcomes by the World Bank and Climate Warehouse presents key considerations on pricing carbon credits, including linkages with mitigation costs and opportunity costs.
- Question 2.2 (pg. 53) of the Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets details options for how host governments can build in tangible benefits
- Pg. 58 of GGGI's Making Article 6 Work for Host Countries provides an objective-tool mapping including capturing benefits for host governments.

Support on contributions from carbon markets towards adaptation

- Question 3.7 (pg. 85) of the Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets details considerations whether to require contributions from carbon markets towards adaptation.
- Pg. 32 of GGGI's Making Article 6 Work for Host Countries includes policy considerations regarding adaptation and resilience.

Support on establishing positive lists

- SPAR6C's Guide 2 – Developing an Article 6 host party strategy, pg. 28 elaborates on establishing positive and negative lists.
- Question 2.1 (pg. 50) of the Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets details further considerations in establishing positive lists.

Support for integrating carbon credits into domestic compliance schemes

- Guidance on developing an ETS can be found in ICAP's Emissions Trading in Practice: A handbook on design and implementation.
- Chapter 3.2 (pg. 11) of VCMI's Government Strategies to Mobilize Domestic Carbon Credit Markets presents policy options and case studies on measures that link carbon markets to domestic compliance schemes.
- Chapter 1 (Pg. 3) of SPAR6C Article 6 toolbox Guide 4 - Using Article 6 with carbon pricing instruments: three key policy issues sets out how carbon markets can relate to domestic compliance schemes.

Support on designing policies that enable carbon markets

- VCMI's Claims Code of Practice provides a blueprint for government policy to incentivise credible private sector investment in carbon credits.
- The UNFCCC Secretariat has a reference manual that supports countries with the accounting, reporting and review requirements for Article 6.2 cooperative approaches
- The A6IP's Global Support Package provides tailored support for countries on Article 6 arrangements and provides capacity building tools. Part IV of A6IP's Article 6 Introductory Guide details corresponding adjustments and how various countries apply corresponding adjustments. The A6IP's annual Article 6 Implementation Status Report provides a snapshot of the global status of implementation of Article 6
- The Article 6 Implementation Checklist Tool for Host Countries by Climate Focus and GIZ GmbH provides a checklist that can help countries assess institutional readiness for participation in Article 6.
- The Article 6 Senior Officials' Handbook, developed by the Climate Vulnerable Forum's Vulnerable Twenty Group (CVF-V20) in partnership with VCMI, provides a checklist and corresponding resources for policymakers developing a carbon market framework.
- Chapters 1 & 2 (pg. 9-23) of Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI)'s Making Article 6 work for Host Countries sets out key considerations for host countries when designing Article 6 policy.
- Policymakers can use UNEP-CCC's NDC Tracking and Corresponding Adjustment Tool (NDC-CAT) to support the tracking of progress in implementing and achieving NDC targets, accounting for use of ITMOs.

Article 6: Authorisation

- The UNFCCC has a voluntary standardised template for the authorisation of the use of internationally transferred mitigation outcomes from a cooperative approach.

Article 6: First transfer

- The UNFCCC guidance on Application of First Transfer document provides more detail on first transfer.
- Question 3.5 (pg. 80) of the Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets provides some considerations for host countries when deciding on the point of first transfer.

CORSIA

- The ICAO ACT-CORSIA Programme helps countries put in place the monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) for CORSIA.

v **Choose carbon market mechanism(s),** support available:

- Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets Module 3, Questions 3.3–3.4 (pp. 70–75): Credit-generation approaches and government versus existing mechanisms. Module 5, Questions 5.2–5.4 (pp. 103–107): PACM and national or independent approaches for non-authorised credits. Module 6, Questions 6.1–6.2 (pp. 112–115): Crediting mechanisms used within domestic carbon pricing instruments.
- VCMI's Carbon Markets Access Toolkit and Government Strategies to Mobilize Domestic Carbon Credit Markets provide recommendations on how governments can design policies that facilitate corporate demand for carbon credits.
- The Government of Singapore, Gold Standard and VERRA's Article 6.2 Crediting Protocol provide considerations on the use of independent crediting mechanisms to facilitate Article 6.2 transactions. These include procedures and key interactions between government users and the independent carbon crediting program.
- Chapter 2 (pg. 7) of SPAR6C Article 6 toolbox Guide 4 - Using Article 6 with carbon pricing instruments: three key policy issues presents considerations for countries in whether to develop a government administered crediting program.
- UNEP-CCC's upcoming Methodology Selection Tool as part of the Article 6 Pipeline can support policymakers with considering what methodologies would be relevant to national priorities.

vi **Establish registry and tracking arrangements,** support available:

- Country Guidance for Navigating Carbon Markets: Question 3.6, pp. 82–85, explains registry requirements and options.
- UNFCCC — International Registry and Additional Registry Services: Updates on available services and steps for requesting access.
- World Bank — A Roadmap for Safe, Efficient and Interoperable Carbon Markets Infrastructure: Recommendations from the Carbon Markets Infrastructure Working Group to inform system design and interoperability.
- Climate Focus details core Registry Requirements for Article 6 Transactions.
- The Climate Data Steering Committee has developed the Common Carbon Credit Data Model (CCCDM) to support standardisation of key data fields across the carbon credit lifecycle and carbon market segments.
- Guide 3 of SPAR6C's Article 6 Toolbox explores different registry options.
- Technical support for Connecting a Registry to the Climate Action Data Trust
- The Carbon Data Open Protocol guidance for common data templates Our Work — Carbon Data Open Protocol.

vii **Reporting and review,** support available:

Article 6

- Policymakers may find it useful to review the existing A6TER reports to reduce inconsistencies when doing Article 6 reporting.
- Part IV of A6IP's Article 6 Introductory Guide provides an overview of Article 6 reporting requirements.
- Policymakers can reach out to their respective UNFCCC regional collaboration centre for support in conducting Article 6 reporting.

THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL
FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM) is an independent, global, non-profit governance body for carbon markets. The Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) set an independent global threshold for what a high-integrity carbon credit looks like.

The Integrity Council assesses carbon-crediting programs and methodologies against the requirements set out in its Assessment Framework, with ongoing oversight to ensure they continue to meet its criteria. By providing a common, credible threshold for high integrity, the CCPs help build confidence and greater consistency across carbon markets, supporting finance for climate action, sustainable development and the protection of nature.

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