BioCarbon Standard

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS)

Participation, quantification, issuance, and use of BioCredits

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

Frequently Asked Questions

These frequently asked questions explain participation in the program, the quantification and issuance of BioCredits, and their use. They are organized by topic for initiative holders, communities, specialists, conformity assessment bodies, and buyers.

> The program currently offers BBS0001 for terrestrial ecosystem conservation activities and is developing new methodologies for other components of biodiversity and conservation contexts. Applicable requirements are set out in the standard, methodologies, and other normative program documents. These FAQs help explain those requirements and do not replace them.

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01

The program and BioCredits



1.1 What is the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard?

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) establishes the requirements for assessing the conformity of biodiversity conservation initiatives, registering them, and issuing BioCredits for eligible outcomes. Initiatives must apply the standard, an approved methodology, and other applicable normative documents. The program includes technical, social, environmental, audit, and traceability requirements.

1.2 What is a BioCredit?

A BioCredit is a unit representing a biodiversity conservation outcome quantified under an approved methodology, independently audited, and authorized for issuance by BioCarbon. It is linked to a specific initiative, spatial scope, and monitoring period, and is identified by a unique serial number in the registry.

1.3 Are BioCredits carbon credits?

No. BioCredits represent biodiversity conservation outcomes, whereas carbon credits represent greenhouse gas mitigation outcomes. Carbon project activities may also benefit biodiversity, but those benefits do not automatically constitute certified outcomes under the BBS. The biodiversity program's requirements must be met independently for BioCredits to be issued.

1.4 Does one BioCredit equal one hectare conserved?

No. The quantity of BioCredits is determined using the metrics in the applicable methodology and the eligible outcomes demonstrated during the monitoring period. BBS0001 uses a minimum spatial unit of one hectare and allows outcomes to be expressed per hectare, but does not establish a fixed equivalence between conserved area and BioCredits. Purchasing BioCredits does not transfer ownership rights over land or biodiversity.

1.5 What outcomes can the program recognize?

The BBS recognizes three outcome pathways, meaning three ways in which an initiative can generate a biodiversity conservation outcome: biodiversity enhancement or recovery relative to its initial condition; prevention or reduction of a loss that would reasonably be expected without the initiative; and maintenance of biodiversity conditions where continued conservation actions are necessary to sustain them. In all cases, additionality, the causal relationship with the initiative, and compliance with the applicable methodology must be demonstrated.

1.6 What does demonstrating additionality mean?

It means substantiating, through objective and verifiable evidence, that the enhancement, avoided loss, or maintenance attributed to the initiative would not have occurred or been sustained to the same extent, quality, or duration without its actions.

The assessment considers the baseline, which is the biodiversity condition before or at the start of the quantification period and serves as a reference for measuring outcomes, or the counterfactual scenario, which represents what would most plausibly occur without the initiative. It also considers drivers of biodiversity loss, legal obligations, and the causal contribution of the activities. Additionality must be demonstrated for every period for which issuance is requested.

1.7 Who can participate in the program?

Individuals, communities, companies, organizations, and public entities developing eligible initiatives can participate. The initiative holder must demonstrate the rights and authorizations needed to implement the activities and substantiate ownership of the BioCredits. The program also provides for the participation of conformity assessment bodies, specialists, investors, and buyers.

> **NORMATIVE REFERENCES**
> BBS v5.0, Sections 4, 5, 9.2.1, 15, 17, 25, and Annex A; BBS0001 v4.1, Sections 10.1 and 14.3.2.

02

How to obtain BioCredits



2.1 What are the main steps to obtain BioCredits?

The process comprises the following activities, in accordance with the applicable registration, assessment, and issuance procedures:

1. **Define the initiative and check its eligibility.** Delineate the area, identify conservation objectives, substantiate the necessary rights and authorizations, and confirm the applicability of an approved methodology.
2. **Prepare the technical documentation.** Develop the Conservation Initiative Document and monitoring plan, establish the baseline, demonstrate additionality, and define activities, indicators, quantification methods, and risk management measures.
3. **Apply safeguards and participation processes.** Document stakeholder participation, free, prior and informed consent where applicable, and benefit-sharing agreements. The initiative must undergo public consultation and address the comments received.
4. **Monitor and quantify outcomes.** Implement activities, collect evidence, and prepare the Monitoring Report, including biodiversity outcomes, contributions to the SDGs, and compliance with safeguards.
5. **Apply for initiative registration.** Submit the application and required documentation in accordance with the applicable procedures. Initiative registration and BioCredit issuance are separate actions.
6. **Submit the initiative and its outcomes to an independent audit.** An eligible CAB assesses compliance with applicable requirements and documents its findings and conclusions. Required corrective actions must be addressed.
7. **Obtain the determination of conformity and issuance authorization.** BioCarbon reviews the evidence and, where requirements are met, authorizes the issuance of BioCredits for the audited period. Units are issued and recorded with unique serial numbers in Global Carbon Trace.

2.2 Who performs the audit and who decides on issuance?

The audit is performed by an independent Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) eligible under the BBS. It must hold valid accreditation to ISO/IEC 17065 with a relevant scope, have a team with technical competence in biodiversity, and maintain arrangements that ensure impartiality and the absence of conflicts of interest.

The CAB assesses the conformity of the initiative and its claimed outcomes with the standard, methodology, and other applicable requirements. It examines technical evidence, safeguards, and stakeholder participation, and presents its findings and conclusions in the Audit Report.

BioCarbon determines conformity and authorizes issuance. To do so, it reviews the report and supporting evidence and may request additional information or corrective actions. The Statement of Conformity is

issued only once the required corrective actions have been satisfactorily closed. A favorable CAB report does not, by itself, constitute issuance authorization or issued BioCredits.

BioCredits are issued exclusively for outcomes already demonstrated, audited, and approved.

2.3 What is the role of Global Carbon Trace?

Global Carbon Trace (GCT) is the independent operator of the registry used by BioCarbon to register initiatives and manage the issuance, holding, transfer, and retirement of BioCredits.

BioCarbon establishes program requirements, determines conformity, and authorizes issuance. GCT performs registry operations in accordance with those authorizations and the applicable rules.

Each BioCredit receives a unique serial number linking it to the initiative, methodology, monitoring period, conservation outcomes, and documents supporting its issuance. The registry tracks its status and traceability and, once it is retired, prevents further transfer or use.

2.4 Are BioCredits issued before or after outcomes are demonstrated?

BioCredits are issued exclusively after conservation outcomes have been demonstrated, through ex post issuance. Each issuance must be supported by monitoring data for the relevant period, an independent audit, BioCarbon's determination of conformity, and issuance authorization.

Estimates of potential outcomes and projections can support initiative planning and financing, but do not guarantee the quantity ultimately issued. This depends on demonstrated outcomes and compliance with applicable requirements.

Advance purchase agreements do not constitute issued BioCredits either. Future or estimated outcomes cannot be presented, transferred, or used as units already issued.

2.5 Does registering an initiative guarantee BioCredit issuance?

No. Registering an initiative does not guarantee issuance or a specific quantity of BioCredits. Each issuance depends on eligible outcomes demonstrated for the relevant monitoring period, their quantification under the applicable methodology, an independent audit, and BioCarbon's determination of conformity and issuance authorization.

Estimates included in the documentation of a registered initiative do not constitute issued BioCredits or guarantee their future availability.

2.6 What documents support an issuance?

Each issuance must have a supporting file that allows verification of the origin, quantification, and conformity of conservation outcomes. It includes:

- **Conservation Initiative Document and monitoring plan:** describe the area, objectives, activities, baseline, additionality, and measurement and monitoring procedures.
- **Monitoring Report and supporting evidence:** present outcomes for the period and the data, calculations, maps, and records used to substantiate them.

- **Social and environmental documentation:** substantiates rights and authorizations, compliance with safeguards, contributions to the SDGs, participation and public consultation, consent where applicable, and benefit-sharing agreements.
- **Audit Report:** documents the CAB's independent assessment, findings, and conclusions.
- **BioCarbon Statements of Conformity and Issuance:** confirm compliance with requirements and authorize the quantity of BioCredits for the audited period.

BioCarbon checks consistency between these documents, demonstrated outcomes, and the authorized quantity. Public documentation is linked to the issuance in the registry, respecting provisions on confidentiality and the protection of sensitive information.

2.7 How long does it take to register an initiative and obtain the first issuance?

The time required depends on initiative preparation, data availability and quality, participation and public consultation processes, the independent audit, and the resolution of any observations or corrective actions identified.

Public consultation on the initiative requires at least thirty calendar days, but this is not the total duration of the process. The first issuance also requires conservation outcomes already demonstrated and supported by monitoring, an independent audit, and BioCfarbon's authorization.

When planning the schedule, documentation preparation, monitoring, public consultation, auditing, and conformity review must be considered separately. Submitting an application does not guarantee a registration or issuance date.

2.8 Where can program fees be found?

BioCarbon's fees are available in the Fees section of our website. Before starting an application, applicants should review the applicable fee items and current terms.

Independent audit costs are agreed directly with the Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) and are additional to BioCarbon's fees.

> **NORMATIVE REFERENCES**
> BBS v5.0, Sections 10.3, 10.4.2, and 26–29; BBS0001 v4.1, Section 15.

03

Eligible initiatives and available methodology



3.1 How can I determine whether my initiative is eligible and get started?

The first step is to check whether an approved methodology covers the proposed ecosystems, activities, and conservation outcomes. The area, rights holders, legal obligations, funding sources, and information available to establish the baseline and demonstrate additionality must also be identified.

BBS0001 currently provides for the assessment of terrestrial ecosystem conservation initiatives. Interested individuals or entities can contact BioCarbon through its official channels for guidance on the applicable documents and procedures.

Initial guidance does not constitute approval of the initiative or guarantee BioCredit issuance. Eligibility and conformity must be substantiated through the required documentation and assessment.

3.2 Which methodology is currently available?

The program currently offers BBS0001, Terrestrial Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities, version 4.1. It applies exclusively to terrestrial ecosystems and covers preservation, ecological restoration, and sustainable use initiatives at the landscape scale.

Activities may include protecting native vegetation fragments, surveillance, reducing disturbances, restoring degraded areas, and implementing sustainable practices for the use of terrestrial resources. In situ conservation must be the primary objective, and activities must address more than one species and habitat at the landscape scale.

The methodology sets out how to characterize biodiversity, define the baseline, demonstrate additionality, monitor outcomes, and quantify BioCredits. It must be applied together with the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard and other program requirements, using the version required under the applicable provisions.

3.3 Can marine or freshwater initiatives be certified?

The BBS covers different conservation contexts, including terrestrial, freshwater, coastal, and marine ecosystems. However, eligibility for outcome certification depends on an approved methodology covering the relevant ecosystem and activities. BBS0001 has a terrestrial scope; its procedures cannot automatically be extended to marine or aquatic initiatives.

3.4 What new biodiversity methodologies are under development?

BioCarbon is working on new methodologies to expand opportunities for certifying conservation outcomes in the following areas:

- **Soil biodiversity:** conservation and recovery of soil organism communities, considering their diversity, composition, and ecological functions.
- **Marine biodiversity:** conservation, restoration, and sustainable use of marine habitats and communities.
- **Freshwater biodiversity:** conservation and recovery of biodiversity in rivers, lakes, and inland wetlands.
- **Species and population recovery:** conservation outcomes associated with the recovery of populations, their habitats, and ecological interactions.

These methodologies will be released for public consultation as part of their development. Their use for certification and BioCredit issuance will require formal approval and publication by BioCarbon.

3.5 Can an initiative generate BioCredits by conserving existing biodiversity?

Yes, where it demonstrates an eligible maintenance or avoided-loss outcome. The presence of biodiversity or stable conditions within an area is not sufficient. The initiative must demonstrate that continued protection, management, governance, or financing actions contribute materially to the outcome and that it would not have been sustained to the same extent, quality, or duration without the initiative.

3.6 Are threatened species or High Conservation Values required?

No. Their presence is not a mandatory eligibility condition under BBS0001. However, the initiative must assess and document species conservation status and High Conservation Values in accordance with the methodology. Where no High Conservation Value category is identified, the prescribed neutral factor applies. Relevant legal protection categories must also be identified, and applicable safeguards must be met.

3.7 Can initiatives located in protected areas participate?

Yes. Initiatives located in protected areas can participate if they meet the requirements of the BBS and the applicable methodology. They must demonstrate that their activities generate additional biodiversity enhancement, avoided-loss, or maintenance outcomes. The assessment considers legal obligations, the effective management of the area, and what would reasonably occur without the initiative. Protected-area designation alone neither demonstrates nor rules out additionality.

3.8 Can an initiative that already receives funding participate?

Yes. Prior or complementary funding does not automatically exclude participation. The initiative must identify its funding sources and demonstrate their relationship to conservation outcomes. The assessment must establish whether the claimed outcomes would have occurred or been maintained at the same magnitude, quality, and duration without the initiative, and prevent double counting or double claiming.

3.9 How long must an initiative last?

The minimum duration under the BBS is ten years, with the possibility of an additional ten-year extension, subject to justification and reassessment of the baseline, additionality, and other applicable requirements.

Where national regulations or the mechanism in which the initiative participates require a longer conservation commitment, the initiative must undertake that commitment from the outset. An extension

under the BBS must follow the program's requirements; the legal commitment does not imply automatic renewal of certification.

3.10 Can activities undertaken before registration be recognized?

Yes. The BBS allows recognition of activities that began up to five years before registration, provided the retroactivity requirements are met. A valid baseline for the relevant period, complete and auditable monitoring data, and evidence of timely compliance with safeguards and free, prior and informed consent, where applicable, must be available.

Outcomes for that period must demonstrate additionality, undergo an independent audit, and receive BioCarbon's determination of conformity before issuance. Retroactivity allows recognition of outcomes already demonstrated; it does not authorize the issuance of BioCredits for future outcomes.

> **NORMATIVE REFERENCES**
> BBS v5.0, Sections 4, 9, 10, and 15; BBS0001 v4.1, Sections 3–5 and 14.2.

04

Outcome measurement and monitoring



4.1 How is the biodiversity baseline established?

The baseline is established using information that characterizes biodiversity conditions at the start of the quantification period. Under BBS0001, it covers ecosystem structure and composition, land cover and land use types, relevant physical and biotic components, and the assessment of High Conservation Values.

Depending on the outcome pathway, the scenario that would reasonably occur without the initiative must also be substantiated, considering relevant pressures and drivers of loss or degradation. The initial characterization of the area does not, by itself, demonstrate avoided loss or the additionality of maintenance.

Data, methods, and assumptions must be appropriate, verifiable, and consistent with the outcome to be demonstrated. Their validity must be reassessed in accordance with program requirements.

4.2 How are BioCredits calculated under BBS0001?

BBS0001 uses a multi-metric model integrating information on biological communities and landscape characteristics. It considers the diversity, relative abundance, and evenness of biological communities, species conservation status, High Conservation Values, and landscape characteristics. The calculation relates to a defined monitoring period. Measuring biodiversity condition does not replace the need to demonstrate additionality, causal attribution, and outcome eligibility.

4.3 Can the quantity of BioCredits be calculated from area alone?

No. Area is used to delineate the initiative and express outcomes per spatial unit, but does not determine the quantity of BioCredits on its own. The calculation requires applying BBS0001 metrics using sufficient and consistent data. A larger area, a species list, or a satellite image alone does not replace application of the model or the conservation and monitoring requirements.

4.4 How frequently are outcomes monitored?

BBS0001 establishes monitoring periods of one to five years. The measurement frequency for each indicator must be justified based on conservation objectives, indicator sensitivity, ecological dynamics, risks, and uncertainty. The plan must enable detection of ecologically significant changes and comparison of outcomes across periods. Annual issuance does not occur automatically through the passage of time.

4.5 How is it verified that changes are not due to differences in sampling?

BBS0001 requires sampling effort to be documented and comparability to be maintained across periods, including comparable seasonal windows where feasible. It establishes standardization rules and a

minimum sampling completeness of 85% per taxonomic group and period. If that threshold is not reached, additional sampling is required before the corresponding metrics can be used to calculate BioCredits.

4.6 Can the same area generate BioCredits in successive periods?

Yes. Each issuance must correspond to eligible outcomes demonstrated for a distinct monitoring period, without temporal duplication. Additionality must be demonstrated again, outcomes must be quantified and audited, and BioCarbon's authorization must be obtained. Keeping the same area within an initiative does not prevent further issuances, but does not guarantee them either.

4.7 How are uncertainty, leakage, and biodiversity deterioration managed?

The initiative must identify and document uncertainty and apply conservative treatments to avoid overstating outcomes. It must also assess whether its activities displace pressures on biodiversity beyond its boundaries, establish prevention and mitigation measures, and monitor their effectiveness. Significant unmitigated leakage may affect BioCredit quantification or issuance.

It must also assess the risks of losing conservation outcomes, implement preventive measures, and establish indicators to detect early signs of deterioration.

If a significant loss of outcomes is demonstrated, the initiative holder must transparently report it in the Monitoring Report and implement corrective actions aimed at restoring or compensating for the affected outcomes, where feasible. Risks, measures taken, and their follow-up must be documented and made available for audit.

NORMATIVE REFERENCES
BBS v5.0, Sections 10, 13–19, and 27; BBS0001 v4.1, Sections 10 and 12–18.

05

Participant rights and safeguards



5.1 Is land ownership required and what rights must be demonstrated?

Land ownership is not essential. The initiative holder must demonstrate the legal, customary, tenure, access, management, or use rights needed to implement conservation activities, meet the initiative's commitments throughout the applicable period, and request the issuance of BioCredits for the corresponding outcomes. Where the holder does not hold those rights directly, valid agreements or authorizations from the relevant rights holders are required.

Land ownership does not, by itself, demonstrate all the rights needed to develop the initiative or dispose of the BioCredits. Existing individual and collective rights, including third-party rights, must be respected, and the required authorizations, agreements, and consent processes must be documented.

These rights may be substantiated through titles, contracts, community agreements, authorizations, or other valid instruments appropriate to the legal and customary context. The documentation must identify the rights holders, the area and activities covered, the duration of the agreements, and each party's responsibilities.

Ownership of the BioCredits must be substantiated through clear documentation and auditable agreements that establish who may request issuance and dispose of the units, while respecting benefit-sharing agreements.

5.2 How are the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities protected?

Initiatives must respect their individual and collective rights, governance systems, cultural values, traditional knowledge, and rights over lands, territories, and resources, including customary rights.

Where applicable, initiatives must obtain and document free, prior and informed consent before implementing activities that affect those rights. This process must respect the timeframes, procedures, and representatives chosen by the rights holders, and provide understandable and culturally appropriate information. Consent must be maintained throughout the initiative and reaffirmed in response to material changes that may affect their rights or the agreed conditions.

Participation must be effective and inclusive during design, implementation, and monitoring, facilitating the involvement of women and groups in vulnerable situations. Transparent and equitable benefit-sharing agreements must also be established, culturally sensitive information protected, and accessible mechanisms provided for raising and resolving grievances without retaliation.

5.3 How are benefits shared?

Initiatives must establish transparent, fair, and equitable benefit-sharing agreements with the relevant participants. The agreements must define the parties' rights, obligations, and responsibilities, be communicated in a culturally appropriate manner, and reflect the outcome of negotiations.

The BBS requires the agreed share to be submitted to BioCarbon as a percentage, but does not establish a universal percentage for all initiatives. Agreements must be documented and allow verification of how the parties participated, what distribution was agreed, and how it is implemented throughout the initiative.

5.4 What safeguards must an initiative meet?

Safeguards are a mandatory component of the program and must be integrated from the design stage and maintained throughout implementation. Compliance is assessed using BioCarbon's Sustainable Development Safeguards Tool, which requires the identification, prevention, and management of environmental, social, economic, and governance risks and impacts.

The assessment covers resource use and pollution prevention; protection of water, biodiversity, and ecosystems; climate risks; human and labor rights; gender equality; community health and safety; rights over lands and resources; cultural heritage; equitable benefit sharing; and prevention of corruption and conflicts of interest.

Initiatives must respect the rights and governance systems of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, obtain and maintain free, prior and informed consent where applicable, facilitate effective participation, and provide accessible, culturally appropriate grievance mechanisms with protection against retaliation.

Impact management must prioritize prevention and avoidance. Where minimization, mitigation, or compensation measures are applicable, they must meet the Tool's conditions. Mitigation or compensation cannot replace the obligation to avoid significant adverse impacts on critical habitats, rare, threatened, or endangered species, and areas necessary for habitat connectivity.

Identified risks, management measures, responsible parties, indicators, and follow-up must be documented and integrated into the monitoring plan. The assessment must be updated in response to relevant changes, and the CAB must examine both the implementation and effectiveness of measures during audits.

Positive contributions to conservation do not offset non-compliance with safeguards. Ongoing compliance forms part of the conformity assessment and the requirements for BioCredit issuance.

5.5 How many Sustainable Development Goals must an initiative contribute to?

The initiative must demonstrate contributions to at least three distinct SDGs by the end of the first monitoring period and in every subsequent period, using BioCarbon's Sustainable Development Goals Contribution Tool.

Contributions must be linked to relevant targets and indicators, identify baseline conditions, and be supported by verifiable evidence. The initiative must explain how its activities generate the reported outcomes, distinguish contributions for the period from cumulative contributions, and consider applicable national or subnational priorities.

Potential negative effects on other SDGs must also be assessed and managed. A conceptual association with a goal does not demonstrate a contribution, and reported outcomes do not replace biodiversity quantification or compliance with safeguards.

5.6 How can stakeholders participate or submit a grievance?

BioCarbon promotes stakeholder participation both in the development of program documents and in the design, implementation, and monitoring of biodiversity conservation initiatives.

Public consultation on program documents. Methodologies, tools, and procedures undergo public consultation before approval. Revisions to the standard that introduce substantive changes to its requirements are also subject to consultation. Stakeholders can review proposals and submit comments using the forms and channels specified in each consultation notice. Approved documents and their version histories are published to facilitate access and traceability.

Public consultation on initiatives. All initiatives must undergo a public consultation period of at least thirty calendar days, with their documentation available in the registry. Any stakeholder may submit comments or observations. The initiative holder must examine and respond to them and, where appropriate, amend the documentation or explain why a change is not warranted. The CAB assesses how comments have been addressed as part of the audit.

Ongoing participation. Participation is not limited to the public consultation period. Holders must provide opportunities for dialogue and participation throughout the initiative, using accessible information and culturally appropriate processes. Public consultation does not replace free, prior and informed consent where required.

Grievances and complaints. Each initiative must maintain an accessible, culturally appropriate mechanism with clear timeframes, the option of confidential submissions, and protection against retaliation. Stakeholders may also submit petitions, complaints, and claims through BioCarbon's PQR mechanism, using the channels provided for their receipt and handling.

5.7 How does the program incorporate the High-Level Principles for biodiversity credits?

BioCarbon's biodiversity program is consistent with the three pillars of the High-Level Principles (HLP), jointly published by the Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA), the International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB), and the World Economic Forum: verified positive outcomes for nature; equity and fairness for people; and good governance.

These pillars are reflected in the requirements for additionality, baselines, monitoring, independent audits, and BioCredit traceability; in the protection of rights, participation, and benefit sharing; and in provisions for transparency, grievance handling, and the protection of data and knowledge. Evidence of their implementation must be provided during the assessment and ongoing monitoring of each initiative.

> **NORMATIVE REFERENCES**
> BBS v5.0, Sections 6, 9.1, 11.1, 20–23, 25, 26.4, 26.5, and 26.8; SDS Tool v2.1.1; SDG Tool v2.0; High-Level Principles (BCA, IAPB, and World Economic Forum).

06

Purchasing and using BioCredits



6.1 Who sets the price of BioCredits and who markets them?

The sale price is agreed between the parties to each transaction. It must be distinguished from BioCarbon's fees for program services and any applicable audit and registry costs.

Marketing is the responsibility of the BioCredit holder or parties duly authorized to act on its behalf. Commercial agreements must identify the units or future outcomes covered by the transaction, delivery terms, and applicable restrictions on use.

Certification and registration do not guarantee buyers, a sale price, or a specific income. Agreements for future units do not guarantee issuance either, which depends on demonstrated outcomes and compliance with program requirements.

6.2 What should a buyer review before purchasing BioCredits?

Buyers must check that BioCredits correspond to conservation outcomes demonstrated, audited, and authorized for issuance by BioCarbon. They should review:

- **The initiative:** its identity, holder, location, conservation objectives, and activities.
- **The outcomes:** what the BioCredits represent, the methodology applied, monitoring period, and evidence supporting quantification.
- **The independent assessment:** the Audit Report and BioCarbon Statements of Conformity and Issuance.
- **Safeguards and rights:** public information on participation, consent where applicable, benefit sharing, and risk management.
- **The units:** quantity, serial numbers, registry status, and availability for transfer or retirement.
- **Conditions of use:** applicable restrictions and the compatibility of the intended environmental claim with the outcomes represented.

Where multi-program participation applies, buyers must identify which units are included in the purchase and which outcomes are credited separately. BioCredits subject to the Multi-Program Framework cannot be used to offset biodiversity damage (see Question 6.9).

Buyers must also distinguish issued BioCredits from agreements to purchase future units. The latter are subject to demonstrated outcomes and compliance with issuance requirements; they cannot be used as if they were units already issued.

6.3 What information can a buyer access in the registry?

Public information must allow identification of the initiative, methodology, outcome pathway, monitoring period, issued quantity, date, serial numbers, and audit and conformity documentation.

The registry provides access to public initiative information and BioCredit traceability. Buyers can review:

- **Initiative identification:** holder, location, boundaries, and conservation activities.
- **Technical basis:** methodology applied, conservation outcome pathway, monitoring period, and documentation supporting quantification.
- **Conformity assessment:** Audit Report and BioCarbon Statements of Conformity and Issuance.
- **Issued units:** quantity, issuance date, serial numbers, and BioCredit status, including retirements that prevent further use.
- **Social and environmental information:** public documentation on safeguards, contributions to the SDGs, stakeholder participation, and public consultation.

This information distinguishes units actually issued from estimates of potential outcomes and allows buyers to check which outcomes and periods they represent. Where applicable, registry records must also identify links with projects under other BioCarbon programs, keeping their outcomes and units distinct.

Public access respects legal restrictions, justified confidentiality, and the protection of personal data, traditional knowledge, and culturally sensitive information.

6.4 Does purchasing BioCredits immediately entitle a buyer to claim the outcomes?

No. Purchasing BioCredits allows the buyer to hold, transfer, sell, or retire them in accordance with the applicable rules. To support an environmental claim with the certified outcomes represented by those units, the corresponding BioCredits must be retired in the registry.

The claim must be specific, verifiable, and traceable to the retired units and the outcomes they represent. It must respect the scope of the buyer's involvement, without presenting the buyer as having carried out conservation activities it did not perform. The same BioCredit cannot be used again to support another claim.

6.5 What does retiring a BioCredit mean?

Retirement permanently identifies the unit as used for the corresponding claim and excludes it from further transfers or uses. The registry must preserve the traceability of retirement. Purchasing and retirement are separate operations: holding a unit in an account does not mean it has been used to support an environmental claim.

6.6 Does purchasing BioCredits alone demonstrate that a company is nature positive?

No. BioCredits support claims linked to specific outcomes and retired units. Retirement does not, by itself, demonstrate the performance of an entire company or the neutralization of all its biodiversity impacts. Claims must respect the actual scope of the certified outcome, be verifiable, and avoid double claiming or materially misleading messages.

6.7 Can BioCredits offset any biodiversity loss?

No. BioCredits represent specific conservation outcomes and do not establish automatic equivalence with biodiversity losses elsewhere.

The BBS provides for their participation in offsetting mechanisms where the relevant legal and technical requirements are met. Certification of outcomes under the program does not, by itself, determine their

suitability for offsetting a specific impact. That assessment must consider ecological equivalence and other conditions required by the applicable mechanism, and obtain the relevant authorizations.

Any offsetting claim must be substantiated and traceable to the retired BioCredits and the outcomes they represent.

Under no circumstances may the issuance, transfer, purchase, or retirement of BioCredits be interpreted as authorization or justification to destroy or degrade biodiversity, ecosystems, or their biotic and abiotic components.

For initiatives participating in BioCarbon's Multi-Program Framework, see the specific restrictions described in Question 6.9.

6.8 Can habitat bank outcomes also be marketed as BioCredits?

Conservation outcomes committed to meeting offsetting obligations through a habitat bank cannot be marketed again as BioCredits representing additional and independent outcomes.

Registration of a habitat bank with the environmental authority does not constitute BBS certification or authorize BioCredit issuance. Nor does it allow the automatic conversion of its units or certificates into BioCredits.

BioCarbon requires disclosure of previously committed obligations, contracts, and outcomes, and demonstration of the additionality of the proposed outcomes. The same conservation outcome cannot simultaneously support the fulfillment of an offsetting obligation and an independent claim through BioCredits.

6.9 Can an initiative share an area or activities with carbon or water projects?

Yes, provided it complies with BioCarbon's Multi-Program Framework and the requirements of each program. A biodiversity initiative may share all or part of its area with a carbon or water project through two distinct projects or initiatives, each with its own methodology, documentation, assessment, issuance, and registration.

Participation is subject to specific conditions:

- **BioCarbon origin:** both projects must have been originally developed and submitted under BioCarbon programs. Projects migrated from other environmental crediting programs are not eligible under this framework.
- **Two programs and one methodology per project:** carbon, biodiversity, and water cannot be combined simultaneously over the same area and overlapping periods.
- **Compatible activities:** the framework applies exclusively to nature-based solutions and authorized methodology combinations. REDD+ projects are excluded from its initial scope.
- **Independent outcomes:** each project must demonstrate eligibility and additionality, quantify sufficiently differentiated outcomes, and prevent double counting, issuance, use, or claiming.

Sharing activities, data, or funding does not, by itself, constitute double counting, but does not guarantee entitlement to a second issuance either. BioCarbon must assess and admit the combination, and registry records must be linked while maintaining the identity of each project and its units.

BioCredits corresponding to the shared area and periods of multi-program participation cannot be used to offset biodiversity damage or fulfill offsetting obligations. This restriction must be communicated before sale and retained in contracts and registry records.

6.10 Can biodiversity outcomes and outcomes from other programs be sold together?

Yes. Where two projects or initiatives comply with BioCarbon's Multi-Program Framework, their units may be sold together to the same buyer or separately to different buyers. For example, a transaction may include BioCredits and carbon credits from projects that share an area and generate different environmental outcomes.

A joint sale is a commercial package containing independent units. For each component, the contract must identify the program, initiative or project, unit type and quantity, corresponding period, and restrictions on use. Each unit retains its identification and transfer and retirement records.

Buyers may only support claims about outcomes corresponding to the units purchased and retired. Purchasing carbon credits alone does not confer rights over separately credited biodiversity outcomes, even where both projects share activities or territory.

A joint offering does not create a combined credit, allow units from different programs to be interchanged, or permit the same outcome to be sold twice. BioCredits subject to the Multi-Program Framework remain prohibited from being used to offset biodiversity damage, including when sold together with other units.

NORMATIVE REFERENCES
BBS v5.0, Sections 4, 10.3, 11, 17, 25.1, 26.2, 26.7, 29, and Annex A; BioCarbon Multi-Program Framework, version 1.0.

SOURCES

Reference documents

- Biodiversity Credit Alliance (BCA), International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (IAPB), and World Economic Forum. High-Level Principles to Guide the Biodiversity Credit Market. May 2025.
- BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard, version 5.0, September 2026. Spanish and English versions.
- BBS0001 Terrestrial Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities, version 4.1, September 11, 2026.
- Sustainable Development Safeguards, version 2.1.1. Spanish and English versions.
- Sustainable Development Goals Contribution Tool, version 2.0, March 16, 2026.
- Multi-Program Framework (MPF), version 1.0, September 11, 2026.