

BIOCARBON BIODIVERSITY STANDARD (BBS)

ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

BIOCARBON CERT®

DRAFT FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION VERSION 5.0 | AUGUST 7, 2026

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BIOCARBON CERT. 2026. BIOCARBON BIODIVERSITY STANDARD. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities. Draft for public consultation Version 5.0. August 7, 2026. 101 p. <http://www.biocarbonstandard.com>

Draft for public consultation

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) establishes robust criteria for measurable, verifiable, and transparent biodiversity conservation, ensuring scientific integrity and equitable participation.



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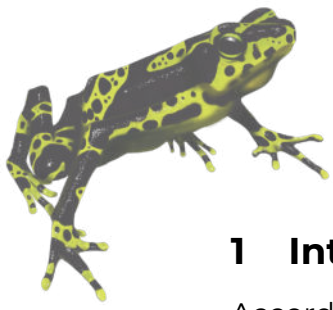
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Acronyms and abbreviations

BBS	BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard
BioCredit	Voluntary Biodiversity Credit
CAB	Conformity Assessment Body
CID	Conservation Initiative Document
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GBF	Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework
GCT	Global CarbonTrace
GIS	Geographic Information System
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
IPs	Indigenous Peoples
LCs	Local Communities
LMT	Landscape Management Tools
MSU	Minimum Spatial Unit
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSs	Sustainable Development Safeguards
SER	Society for Ecological Restoration
TOC	Theory of change



1 Introduction

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity, “biological diversity” means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, inter alia, terrestrial, marine, and other aquatic ecosystems, and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems (United Nations, 1992a).

Despite decades of global efforts to implement national biodiversity strategies and action plans, ecosystems continue to face accelerating fragmentation, degradation, and species loss. The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species (2025) indicates that, among more than 63,000 species assessed, over 19,000 are currently threatened with extinction, including 41% of amphibians, 33% of reef-building corals, 25% of mammals, 13% of birds, and 30% of conifers. These figures underscore the urgent need for coherent, measurable, and accountable frameworks capable of delivering long-term positive outcomes for nature and people¹.

In response to this global challenge, international agreements have evolved toward a more comprehensive vision of biodiversity management. The Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (GBF) (United Nations, 2022) calls upon all stakeholders to mobilize financial resources, promote sustainable investment, and recognize measurable biodiversity conservation outcomes through innovative instruments such as biodiversity credits. This transition reflects a shift from fragmented, project-based conservation approaches toward transparent, performance-based mechanisms that ensure equity, scientific rigor, and durability.

Aligned with this determination, BioCarbon Cert (hereinafter “BioCarbon”) establishes the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (hereinafter “BBS”) as a reference framework for public and private actors seeking to implement ecosystem and biodiversity conservation initiatives under the BBS framework. The Standard provides a structured model for the design, financing, and auditing of conservation initiatives, ensuring that biodiversity conservation outcomes are additional, measurable, verifiable, durable, and aligned with national and international biodiversity objectives.

¹<https://www.iucn.org/es/regiones/am%C3%A9rica-del-sur/nuestro-trabajo/pol%C3%ADticas-de-biodiversidad/lista-roja-de-uicn>

The BBS enables the registration and issuance of Voluntary Biodiversity Credits (BioCredits) for initiatives that meet its technical, social, and governance requirements. These credits represent additional, verified, and traceable biodiversity conservation outcomes achieved during defined monitoring periods and may be used in voluntary markets, conservation investment mechanisms, or compensation schemes consistent with applicable legislation.

The BBS is grounded in rights-based and community-centered principles. All initiatives registered under the BBS shall respect the rights, knowledge systems, governance structures, and stewardship roles of Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC). Initiative holders shall obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) whenever activities affect IP or LC lands, resources, cultural values, or decision-making systems. All uses of biodiversity-related information originating from IP or LC territories shall respect Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty, ensuring that data are collected, shared, stored, and used only with explicit authorization and under agreed governance arrangements.

Transparency is a core principle of the BBS. All processes related to auditing, conformity determination, registration, and issuance of BioCredits shall be conducted under open and traceable procedures. BioCarbon shall ensure public access to relevant information, including methodologies, tools, governance decisions, initiative documentation, monitoring results, and Audit Reports, through its official website and the Registry platform. This commitment strengthens accountability, comparability, and public confidence in the integrity of biodiversity conservation outcomes issued and registered under the BBS on the basis of independent audits.

2 Objectives

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) establishes the rules, criteria, and procedures governing the assessment, registration, and issuance of Voluntary Biodiversity Credits (BioCredits).

This Standard provides the framework through which biodiversity conservation initiatives (hereinafter “Initiatives”) shall demonstrate measurable, additional, and verifiable biodiversity conservation outcomes, ensuring integrity, transparency, and scientific rigor across all stages of design, implementation, monitoring and the auditing process.

In this context, the BBS aims to:

- (a) define clear eligibility and technical requirements for the design and implementation of biodiversity conservation, restoration, and sustainable use initiatives;
- (b) establish the conditions for measurement, reporting, and auditing of biodiversity conservation outcomes, ensuring consistency, comparability, and traceability of data;
- (c) provide criteria to demonstrate additionality, durability, and ecological integrity, supported by robust scientific evidence;
- (d) ensure the meaningful, effective, and equitable participation of IPs and LCs throughout the design, implementation, monitoring, and benefit-sharing processes of biodiversity initiatives, in alignment with international human rights norms;
- (e) ensure the application of Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs), guaranteeing social and environmental responsibility, gender equity, and the protection of IPs and LCs and their cultural heritage;
- (f) establish governance and competence requirements applicable to accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) conducting auditing processes;
- (g) promote transparency and public disclosure throughout the auditing, conformity determination, and registry processes, reinforcing accountability and stakeholder confidence;
- (h) safeguard Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty by establishing obligations for ethical data governance, including community ownership, control, access, and consent regarding biodiversity-related information;
- (i) support the quantification and issuance of BioCredits representing verified biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (j) support the development of high-integrity, equitable, and transparent biodiversity markets, ensuring that all initiatives determined to be in conformity by BioCarbon under the BBS contribute to long-term ecosystem resilience and equitable participation; and
- (k) recognize biodiversity conservation outcomes arising from enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, and maintenance, where such outcomes are additional, measurable, verifiable, and attributable to the Initiative;

- (l) prevent double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution while enabling the transparent recognition of distinct environmental outcomes generated within the same geographic area; and
- (m) enable appropriate coordination with other BioCarbon Programs where distinct environmental attributes are generated by the same or related activities.

3 Version

This document constitutes the draft for public consultation Version 5.0 of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS).

Version 5.0 will supersede all previous versions of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard and enters into force on the date established by BioCarbon upon publication.

This version strengthens the outcome-based architecture of the BBS, including the recognition of biodiversity conservation outcomes arising from enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, and maintenance; the temporal attribution of BioCredits to defined monitoring periods; safeguards against double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution; provisions governing distinct environmental outcomes generated within the same geographic area; the coexistence of related projects or Initiatives under different BioCarbon Programs; Registry traceability; and integrity of claims.

Version 5.0 also strengthens scientific, social, governance, monitoring, auditing, transparency, and rights-based requirements applicable to biodiversity conservation Initiatives.

The BBS may be revised periodically in accordance with BioCarbon's applicable governance, document-development, and public consultation requirements.

Users shall ensure that they consult and apply the official version of the Standard applicable to the Initiative in accordance with BioCarbon's transition rules.

4 Scope

This document constitutes the Standard for conformity assessment, the registration of biodiversity initiatives, and the issuance of BioCredits.

The Standard provides guidance for the registration of biodiversity initiatives that demonstrate compliance with applicable national legal frameworks, as well as with the rules and procedures established by BioCarbon.

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) applies exclusively to initiatives that:

- (a) include activities for the preservation, restoration, and/or sustainable use of biodiversity, together with their corresponding specific actions;
- (b) contribute to regional, local, or landscape-level biodiversity conservation strategies;
- (c) implement ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities using a methodology developed or approved by BioCarbon and in force at the time of application;
- (d) support the implementation of the Kunming–Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework (United Nations, 2022) or other recognized biodiversity-related targets;
- (e) develop conservation activities intended for participation in voluntary biodiversity markets; and
- (f) seek to participate in environmental compensation or conservation investment mechanisms, such as biodiversity offsetting or compensation for biodiversity loss, provided that all applicable legal requirements are strictly complied with.

All initiatives registered under the BBS shall demonstrate respect for the rights, governance systems, and cultural values of IPs and LCs and shall comply with Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements where applicable.

All initiatives registered under the BBS shall comply with the Principles established in Section 6 of this Standard.

BioCredits shall be used in a manner that avoids double counting of biodiversity conservation outcomes between private claims and national or subnational biodiversity accounting frameworks.

Where biodiversity conservation outcomes contribute to public policy objectives, including national or subnational biodiversity targets, initiative holders shall ensure that such outcomes are not simultaneously represented



as exclusive private claims without appropriate transparency and consistency.

5 Area of application

The BBS is intended to serve the following actors and stakeholders:

- (a) public and private actors, including natural persons, communities, companies, public entities, and national or subnational governments, that intend to register with BioCarbon a biodiversity conservation initiative expressly designed to achieve specific biodiversity conservation objectives (hereinafter referred to as “Initiative holders”);
- (b) independent third-party entities (Conformity Assessment Bodies – CABs) that carry out independent audits to assess the conformity of biodiversity conservation initiatives under the BBS;
- (c) entities responsible for the management, analysis, or administration of biodiversity-related information relevant to the implementation, monitoring, or conformity assessment of initiatives;
- (d) private companies, governmental agencies, multilateral institutions, and other financial institutions that invest in biodiversity conservation initiatives and/or participate in voluntary biodiversity markets or related mechanisms; and
- (e) other interested parties involved in biodiversity conservation initiatives, including technical experts, civil society organizations, and market participants.

The BBS is also applicable to IPs and LCs whose lands, territories, resources, cultural assets, or biodiversity stewardship roles are directly or indirectly affected by, or engaged in, the development and implementation of initiatives. Their participation shall ensure meaningful representation in governance and decision-making processes and shall comply with FPIC requirements, where applicable.

6 Principles

Initiative holders and all relevant stakeholders shall apply the following principles in the design, implementation, monitoring, and conformity assessment of biodiversity conservation initiatives under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS):

Responsibility

Initiative holders shall ensure the responsible use of environmental and human resources that comprise biological diversity, avoiding practices that may compromise ecosystem integrity or social well-being.

Compatibility

Initiative holders shall ensure consistency between the sustainable use of biological diversity, local customs and traditions, and the applicable legal frameworks that recognize and protect such practices.

Equity, justice, and co-governance

Initiative holders shall ensure the fair and equitable distribution of benefits derived from biodiversity conservation activities, promote continuous participation and inclusive decision-making, and guarantee an equitable share of benefits for all participants.

This principle also requires respect for the rights of IPs and LCs, ensuring their leadership, meaningful participation, and co-governance in the design, implementation, and oversight of initiatives. Governance structures shall provide IPs and LCs with genuine decision-making power, not merely consultative roles, ensuring they are active partners in stewardship and benefit-sharing.

Respect for rights and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)

Initiative holders shall respect the rights, territories, traditional knowledge, and governance systems of IPs and LCs.

Activities shall be implemented only with FPIC, where required, ensuring culturally appropriate engagement, transparent communication, and full participation in decisions affecting lands, resources, livelihoods, or cultural values.

Precautionary principle

Initiative holders shall apply the precautionary principle in accordance with Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (United Nations, 1992b), ensuring that the absence of full scientific certainty is not used as a reason to postpone measures to prevent environmental degradation where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage.

Transparency

Initiative holders shall communicate information in a clear, accurate, timely, honest, and comprehensive manner, in accordance with recognized transparency principles (ISO 26000:2010).

Governance arrangements shall ensure clear, accountable, and participatory decision-making processes

Initiative holders shall not make, nor allow others to make, claims implying biodiversity conservation outcomes beyond those verified through independent audit and approved for issuance under the BBS. All claims shall be consistent with verified outcomes and with the disclosure requirements of this Standard.

Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty

All biodiversity-related data, traditional knowledge, and territorial information originating from IPs and LCs shall be governed by principles of data ownership, control, access, and consent.

The use of such data shall require explicit authorization and shall follow agreed protocols that protect cultural integrity, confidentiality, and self-determination.

Sustainability

Initiative holders shall integrate the environmental, social, and economic dimensions of sustainable development and ensure the conservation of biodiversity and the well-being of present and future generations.

Verified outcomes supported by independent audit

Biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be based on scientific and rigorous quantification approaches that ensure BioCredits are grounded in reliable measurements and robust auditing and conformity assessment processes, and that outcomes are robust and transparent, supporting the integrity of information under the BBS framework.

Outcome-based and temporal integrity

BioCredits shall represent verified biodiversity conservation outcomes and not geographic area alone. Each BioCredit shall be attributable to a defined

monitoring period and supported by measurable and verifiable evidence of eligible biodiversity conservation performance.

The same geographic area may generate distinct environmental outcomes and may support biodiversity conservation outcomes during successive, non-overlapping monitoring periods. Such circumstances shall not, by themselves, constitute double counting or double issuance. Integrity shall be determined by reference to the environmental outcome represented, its temporal and spatial scope, its additionality, and whether that same outcome has already been issued, used, or attributed.

Do no harm and safeguard integrity

All initiatives shall apply a risk-based due diligence process to identify, prevent, and mitigate negative social, environmental, and cultural impacts.

Initiatives shall not undermine community rights, exacerbate inequities, or create new risks for IPs or LCs.

Integrity of claims and environmental outcomes

Initiative holders shall ensure that any claims associated with biodiversity conservation outcomes are consistent with the requirements of this Standard.

7 General terms

For the purposes of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS), the following terms shall be interpreted as follows:

- (a) "Shall" indicates a mandatory requirement that must be complied with.
- (b) "Should" indicates a recommendation among several possible options, where one course of action is considered particularly appropriate without being mandatory.
- (c) "May" indicates that an action is permitted within the framework of this Standard.

These terms follow standard usage in ISO normative documents and apply exclusively within the context of this Standard.



8 Normative references

The following references are indispensable for the application of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS); however, they are not exhaustive. While the documents cited below are essential, additional references may be relevant depending on the specific context of application.

- (a) Convention on Biological Diversity. United Nations (1992).
- (b) national policies, strategies, and action plans related to the conservation, use, and management of biological diversity.
- (c) applicable environmental legislation establishing requirements for the management, conservation, and sustainable use of biological diversity.
- (d) the BBS, in its most recent official version.
- (e) the Methodological Document for Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities, the BioCarbon Tools and Sustainable Development Safeguards, and any other applicable documents issued by BioCarbon.
- (f) the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) (United Nations, 2007) and other relevant international human rights frameworks recognizing and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Unless otherwise specified, references to external documents shall be understood as referring to their latest official version in force.

9 Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities

9.1 Community Rights, Consent, and Participation

All conservation, restoration, and sustainable-use activities implemented under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) shall:

- (a) respect the rights, knowledge systems, cultural values, and governance structures of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- (b) be designed, implemented, and monitored with the meaningful participation of affected IPs and LCs;
- (c) obtain FPIC whenever activities affect the lands, territories, resources, cultural values, or customary practices of IPs or LCs;

- (d) ensure fair, transparent, and equitable benefit-sharing mechanisms;
- (e) comply with Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty principles when generating, using, storing, or sharing biodiversity-related data, including the application of consent protocols and agreed governance arrangements; and
- (f) incorporate risk-based due diligence processes to identify, prevent, and mitigate potential negative social, environmental, and cultural impacts.

9.2 Conservation activities

Conservation activities shall respond to ecological, social, and economic considerations and shall be structured in a manner that enables consistent, meaningful, and scientifically robust ecosystem and biodiversity conservation outcomes.

Initiatives implementing one or more of the following categories of conservation activities may be registered under the BBS: (a) preservation; (b) ecological restoration; and (c) sustainable use.

9.2.1 Biodiversity conservation outcome pathways

Conservation activities implemented under the BBS may generate biodiversity conservation outcomes through one or more of the following pathways:

- (a) Enhancement or recovery: measurable improvement or recovery of biodiversity condition, ecological integrity, habitat quality, ecosystem structure, composition, function, connectivity, or other eligible biodiversity attributes relative to the applicable baseline;
- (b) Avoided loss: measurable prevention or reduction of an expected decline in biodiversity relative to a credible baseline or counterfactual representing the biodiversity loss reasonably expected in the absence of the Initiative; and
- (c) Maintenance: demonstrated continuation of biodiversity condition, ecological integrity, habitat quality, ecosystem function, or other eligible biodiversity attributes where continued conservation action, management, stewardship, financing, governance, or protection is necessary to sustain those conditions.

These outcome pathways describe the nature of the biodiversity conservation outcome and do not replace the conservation activity categories established in this Section.

An Initiative may generate more than one outcome pathway where scientifically justified and where the applicable methodology enables the respective outcomes to be identified and quantified without duplication.

Maintenance shall not be presumed additional solely because biodiversity condition remains stable. The Initiative holder shall demonstrate that continued conservation action materially contributes to maintaining the relevant biodiversity condition and that the outcome satisfies the additionality requirements of this Standard and the applicable methodology.

The same biodiversity conservation outcome shall not be quantified simultaneously under more than one outcome pathway in a manner that results in duplication.

9.2.2 Preservation

Preservation refers to actions aimed at maintaining the natural state of biodiversity, ecosystems, and landscapes by limiting or eliminating human intervention, ensuring the conservation of ecological structure, composition, and functions, consistent with the principles of in situ conservation under the Convention on Biological Diversity.

Specific preservation actions may include, inter alia: a) isolation of areas and establishment of ecological barriers; b) isolation and protection of forest fragments; c) surveillance, enforcement, and control programs; d) reduction or elimination of hunting and fishing pressures; and e) other.

9.2.3 Ecological restoration

Ecological restoration refers to actions aimed at assisting the recovery of ecosystems that have been degraded, damaged, or destroyed, restoring their ecological structure, composition, and functionality, and enabling the re-establishment of self-sustaining ecological processes over time, consistent with internationally recognized restoration principles.²

Specific ecological restoration actions may include:

² <https://www.ser.org/>

- (a) reestablishment of degraded areas with respect to ecosystem function, structure, or composition;
- (b) rehabilitation of ecosystem productivity and/or ecosystem services;
- (c) recovery or reintroduction of ecosystem uses and services different from those present at the time of degradation, where ecologically appropriate;
- (d) removal or mitigation of agents causing ecosystem degradation; and
- (e) other scientifically justified restoration actions.

9.2.4 Sustainable use

Sustainable use refers to the utilization of components of biological diversity in a manner and at a rate that does not lead to their long-term decline, thereby maintaining their potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations, consistent with the Convention on Biological Diversity (United Nations, 2011)³.

Specific sustainable-use actions may include:

- (a) regulated resource extraction and control measures consistent with sustainability thresholds;
- (b) restrictions on public access or tourism activities to sensitive ecosystems;
- (c) limitations on the use of heavy or destructive machinery or technologies that may cause collateral ecosystem damage;
- (d) soil nutrient recycling and rotation practices;
- (e) composting and organic soil management;
- (f) sustainable agricultural and agroecological practices;
- (g) restrictions on agrochemical or fertilizer use; and
- (h) other sustainable-use practices aligned with conservation objectives.

³ <https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-es.pdf>

9.3 Landscape Management Tools (LMT)

Landscape Management Tools (LMTs) are spatial and functional elements incorporated into the design and implementation of biodiversity conservation initiatives to enhance habitat quality, improve ecological connectivity, and support ecosystem functions while contributing to measurable biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The use of LMTs is optional; however, their application is strongly encouraged where they contribute to the effectiveness, resilience, and long-term sustainability of conservation outcomes.

LMTs may be applied as complementary measures to the conservation activities and specific actions described in Sections 9.1 and 9.2, and shall be designed in a manner consistent with the conservation objectives, landscape context, and ecological conditions of the initiative area.

Examples of Landscape Management Tools may include:

- (a) biological or conservation corridors that facilitate species movement, gene flow, and functional connectivity between habitat patches fragmented by land-use change or degradation;
- (b) riparian buffers, ecological strips, mini-corridors, or connection strips that link natural or semi-natural areas across productive landscapes;
- (c) live fences, hedgerows, and tree lines that enhance structural connectivity, reduce pressure on natural forests, and provide ecosystem services within agricultural or pastoral systems;
- (d) enclosures or protected areas established to prevent degradation from livestock, human intrusion, or other pressures, including areas subject to passive or assisted natural regeneration;
- (e) enrichment and supplementation measures aimed at increasing species diversity, restoring functional ecological components, or supporting the recovery of threatened or locally depleted species;
- (f) agroforestry systems, silvopastoral systems, multipurpose forests, and forest plantations designed to combine production functions with biodiversity conservation objectives;
- (g) conversion of degraded pasture or agricultural land to forest or mixed vegetation cover, including assisted succession and restoration of native species; and

- (h) hydrological and geomorphological restoration measures in wetlands, mangroves, riparian systems, or other aquatic ecosystems, including actions to restore natural water flows, sediment dynamics, and habitat structure.

Where LMTs are applied, initiative holders shall:

- (a) justify their selection in relation to the conservation objectives and expected biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (b) demonstrate that LMTs do not introduce adverse social, environmental, or cultural impacts;
- (c) integrate LMTs into the monitoring and reporting framework of the initiative, using appropriate indicators and spatial data; and
- (d) ensure that the design and implementation of LMTs respect IPs and LCs rights, governance systems, and Data Sovereignty principles, including the application of FPIC where applicable.

The application of LMTs shall be documented in the CID and, where relevant, reflected in spatial datasets submitted for registration and auditing purposes.

The conservation activities, specific actions, and Landscape Management Tools (LMTs) described in Section 9 may be applied globally, regardless of geographic location, provided that the initiative is designed and implemented exclusively in terrestrial ecosystems, mangroves, or wetlands, and is intended to generate verifiable biodiversity conservation outcomes under the BBS.

To ensure full consistency with best practices, all eligibility criteria under this Standard shall be applied in a manner that safeguards the rights, participation, and data governance of IPs and LCs, incorporates risk-based due diligence, and ensures transparent documentation and auditable decision-making.

All eligibility decisions shall be justified with objective evidence and recorded in a traceable manner.

10 Start date and quantification period

The initiative holder shall define the start date of the initiative, the quantification period, the duration of the initiative, and all relevant monitoring periods, milestones, and timelines.

The start date refers to the exact date on which biodiversity conservation activities commence within the geographic boundaries of the initiative.

The start date shall not automatically imply the start of the quantification period.

10.1 Duration period

The initiative shall have a minimum duration of ten (10) years, during which it may quantify and demonstrate biodiversity conservation outcomes eligible for the issuance of BioCredits.

The duration of the initiative may be extended for an additional ten (10)-year period, provided that the initiative holder justifies the reasons, objectives, and expected biodiversity conservation outcomes of such extension.

For any renewal or extension, the initiative holder shall reassess the biodiversity baseline, additionality, and all other applicability requirements established under the BBS.

10.2 Quantification period

The quantification period shall begin on the date on which the biodiversity baseline is established.

BioCredits may only be generated for biodiversity conservation outcomes that occur within the quantification period and that are supported by verifiable monitoring data.

The quantification period may comprise multiple successive monitoring periods.

Biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be attributed to the monitoring period during which they are demonstrated. Each monitoring period shall constitute a distinct temporal basis for monitoring, quantification, independent audit, conformity determination, and, where applicable, issuance of BioCredits.

The continued conservation of the same geographic area across successive monitoring periods shall not, by itself, constitute repeated issuance of the same biodiversity conservation outcome. BioCredits may be issued for subsequent monitoring periods where eligible and additional biodiversity conservation outcomes are independently demonstrated, quantified, and audited for those subsequent periods.

For avoidance of doubt, BioCredits issued for different monitoring periods represent temporally distinct conservation performance. The same biodiversity conservation outcome corresponding to the same temporal and spatial scope shall not be issued more than once.

10.3 Indicative BioCredit potential estimates

The Initiative holder may estimate the expected biodiversity conservation outcomes and the indicative BioCredit potential for the quantification period, in accordance with the applicable BioCarbon-approved methodology or methodologies.

Any indicative BioCredit potential estimate shall be non-binding and subject to revision based on monitored biodiversity conservation outcomes, approved indicators and metrics, methodology requirements, baseline reassessment, data quality, uncertainty, leakage, displacement of pressures, reversals, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, FPIC where applicable, and any other relevant factor assessed during subsequent monitoring periods.

The approval, disclosure, or audit of an indicative BioCredit potential estimate shall not constitute BioCredits issuance, allocation, transferability, market availability, retirement eligibility, or authorization to sell, transfer, retire, or make claims regarding BioCredits.

An indicative BioCredit potential estimate shall not constitute a fixed inventory, predetermined supply, or lifetime allocation of BioCredits associated with an Initiative or geographic area. BioCredits shall arise only from eligible biodiversity conservation outcomes demonstrated, quantified, independently audited, and approved for the applicable monitoring period.

10.4 Retroactivity

Retroactivity refers to the period prior to the conformity determination of the initiative during which biodiversity conservation activities may be recognized and considered for the generation of BioCredits, provided that all requirements set forth in this Standard are fully met.

Retroactivity shall not allow, under any circumstances, the ex-ante issuance of BioCredits. BioCredits may only be issued ex-post, once verified monitoring results exist, an independent third-party audit has been conducted, and BioCarbon has confirmed conformity with the requirements of the BBS.

Retroactivity may be applied in the following cases:

(a) Retroactive initiative start date

The initiative holder may establish a retroactive start date up to five (5) years prior to the registration of the initiative.

In such cases, the initiative shall establish a biodiversity baseline that accurately represents the condition of the ecosystem or landscape at the retroactive start date.

All applicable social and environmental safeguards, including FPIC, shall have been fulfilled prior to the retroactive start date and shall be appropriately documented.

(b) Retroactive quantification period beginning after the initiative start date

Where the initiative start date precedes the establishment of the biodiversity baseline, the quantification period may begin in a later year, provided that the initiative holder establishes a biodiversity baseline demonstrating that the biodiversity conservation outcomes achieved during the retroactive period would not have occurred in the absence of the initiative.

Additionality shall be demonstrated for any retroactive period for which BioCredits issuance is requested.

10.4.1 Conditions for retroactive issuance

Retroactive issuance of BioCredits shall be permitted only if all of the following conditions are met:

- (a) a valid biodiversity baseline has been established for the retroactive period;
- (b) Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and all applicable safeguards were fulfilled prior to the retroactive start date;
- (c) monitoring data for the retroactive period are complete, verifiable, and auditable;
- (d) an independent audit has been conducted for the entire retroactive period; and
- (e) BioCarbon conformity determination confirms that all requirements have been met.

10.4.2 Prohibition of ex-ante issuance

No BioCredits shall be issued for periods in which monitoring was not conducted, a biodiversity baseline does not exist, safeguards were not fulfilled, or the required independent audit and BioCarbon conformity determination have not occurred.

Forward-looking claims, financial instruments, or advance purchase agreements shall not be represented, sold, or traded as issued BioCredits.

10.4.3 Start of the quantification period

The quantification period shall begin on the date on which the biodiversity baseline is established.

Retroactive issuance shall apply only to periods for which ex-post monitoring, independent audit, BioCarbon conformity determination, and issuance are possible.

10.4.4 Baseline establishment

The biodiversity baseline shall be established using field measurements, official data, and/or satellite imagery, supported by methodologies consistent with this Standard.

The baseline shall represent the conditions prior to or at the beginning of the quantification period, allowing subsequent biodiversity changes to be measured accurately.

Under no circumstances shall the baseline post-date the start of the quantification period.

Where retroactivity is applied, the baseline shall correspond precisely to the retroactive start date or to the earliest year of the approved retroactive period.

10.4.5 Consistency with retroactivity rules

Where retroactivity is applied in accordance with Section 10.4, the start date, biodiversity baseline, and quantification period shall be defined in a manner consistent with the retroactive eligibility requirements, including safeguards, FPIC, monitoring, and auditing requirements.

11 Geographic boundaries of the conservation initiative

The Area of the Initiative is the location where ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities are implemented. It shall be defined by clear

geographic boundaries and shall constitute a minimum spatial unit (MSU) of one (1) hectare (10,000 m²).

Prior to the implementation of conservation activities, the initiative holder shall determine land cover within the geographic boundaries through a land cover analysis conducted at a scale of 1:10,000 or finer.

The initiative area shall be represented in a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the entire duration of the initiative. This representation shall follow appropriate information system methodologies and land cover analysis standards. Geographic information shall be managed in accordance with ISO 19111:2019, which defines the conceptual scheme for coordinate referencing, the minimum data required to determine coordinate reference systems, and the associated metadata.

All geographic boundaries shall be supported by documented land tenure information, including maps, legal instruments, or recognition of customary land rights, where applicable. Where lands of IPs or LCs are included or potentially affected, initiative holders shall demonstrate that FPIC has been obtained prior to boundary confirmation.

The initiative holder shall consider landscape heterogeneity within the geographic boundaries and shall identify the ecosystems present, recognizing that an MSU may comprise multiple land-cover types representing different ecological functions. The spatial extent of ecosystems may therefore be reflected in proportion to the occurrence of different cover types.

The geographic boundaries of an Initiative registered under the BBS may overlap, in whole or in part, with the geographic boundaries of a project or Initiative registered under another BioCarbon Program, provided that the applicable integrity requirements are met.

Geographic overlap shall not, by itself, constitute double counting or double issuance.

Where BioCarbon determines that the environmental outcomes cannot be sufficiently differentiated, or that an overlap creates a material integrity risk that cannot be adequately mitigated, the corresponding outcome shall not be eligible for issuance.

Where the geographic boundaries of two or more distinct projects or Initiatives registered or seeking registration under different BioCarbon

Programs overlap in whole or in part, the overlapping geographic area may be identified as a multi-program area. The designation of a multi-program area describes the spatial relationship between the respective projects or Initiatives and shall not merge their programmatic identities, environmental outcomes, documentation, conformity assessment, conformity determination, issuance processes, environmental units, or Registry records.

A single intervention may contribute causally to more than one distinct environmental outcome, including biodiversity, climate, water, or other ecosystem-service outcomes. Common activities, geographic boundaries, financing sources, or causal drivers shall not, by themselves, render such outcomes duplicative.

Where an Initiative registered under the BBS shares a geographic area, activities, participants, data, financing sources, monitoring systems, infrastructure, or other relevant elements with a project or Initiative registered or seeking registration under another BioCarbon Program, the respective projects or Initiatives shall maintain independent programmatic identities.

The Initiative holder shall:

- (a) disclose all relevant BioCarbon Programs, methodologies, registrations, environmental units, and environmental claims associated with the same geographic area or related activities;
- (b) identify the environmental attribute and outcome represented by each project or Initiative;
- (c) demonstrate that each credited outcome is separately defined and quantified in accordance with the applicable BioCarbon Program and methodology;
- (d) demonstrate that each project or Initiative independently complies with the eligibility, additionality, monitoring, quantification, auditing, conformity determination, and issuance requirements applicable under its respective BioCarbon Program;
- (e) identify and justify any elements shared between the projects or Initiatives, including, where applicable, activities, participants, data, mapping, baseline information, stakeholder engagement processes, safeguards, monitoring systems, infrastructure, and financing sources;

- (f) maintain sufficient records to enable the CAB and BioCarbon to assess environmental attribute and outcome differentiation and the risks of double counting, double issuance, double use, or multiple attribution; and
- (g) ensure that the shared use of activities, data, systems, or evidence does not replace or reduce the requirements applicable to each project or Initiative under its respective BioCarbon Program.

Full or partial overlap of geographic areas, activities, or certain operational elements shall not, by itself, imply that the projects or Initiatives constitute the same project or Initiative, nor shall it constitute double counting or double issuance.

All relevant spatial relationships, relationships between projects or Initiatives registered under different BioCarbon Programs, and environmental attributes shall be documented in a transparent and traceable manner and, where applicable, linked through the applicable registries.

All spatial files, including shapefiles, boundary maps, and GIS layers, shall follow standardized metadata, version-control, and traceability procedures to ensure auditability and data integrity.

11.1 Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and land and resource rights

Where the geographic boundaries of the conservation initiative overlap with lands, territories, resources, or culturally significant areas used, governed, or claimed by IPs or LCs, the initiative holder shall

- (a) identify and document all statutory and customary land, resource, and data rights, including tenure systems, access arrangements, and culturally significant areas.
- (b) obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) from the affected IPs and LCs prior to initiative design, implementation, data collection, or monitoring activities, or any activity affecting their rights. The FPIC processes must be culturally appropriate, inclusive, gender-responsive, and transparently documented.
- (c) establish initiative governance arrangements that enable meaningful participation and the effective exercise of decision-making power by IPs and LCs throughout the initiative lifecycle. Where IPs or LCs hold rights over the biodiversity being conserved, they shall be offered the

opportunity to act as co-proponents, primary beneficiaries, or governing partners in the initiative structure.

(d) respect and uphold Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty. Data generated within IPs or LCs territories (including biodiversity data, traditional knowledge, and geospatial information) shall be:

- (i) collected, stored, used, and disclosed only under explicit, ongoing terms agreed upon by the rights-holders;
- (ii) governed by protocols that allow rights-holders to control access, interpretation, and reuse;
- (iii) subject to the right of rights-holders to withdraw consent for specific data uses at any time, upon which the initiative holder must cease such uses and remove data from public domains where feasible;
- (iv) protected from commercial exploitation or secondary use without separate, specific benefit-sharing agreements.

No initiative shall be registered where FPIC has not been obtained when required, where unresolved material conflicts related to land, resource, or data rights persist, or where governance structures exclude meaningful representation of affected communities.

12 Conservation objectives

The initiative holder shall define specific conservation objectives that may be represented at the level of species, taxa, or functional groups, including, inter alia, vascular and non-vascular plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles, mammals, large herbivores, or soil invertebrates, as appropriate to the ecological context of the initiative.

When defining conservation objectives, the initiative holder shall consider priorities and specific characteristics such as vulnerability status, ecological relevance, and cultural value.

Conservation objectives shall explicitly describe how they were developed through stakeholder participation, including meaningful engagement of IPs and LCs, where applicable.



In selecting conservation objectives, the initiative holder shall consider, at a minimum, the following aspects:

- (a) ensuring environmental, social, and financial sustainability for Local Communities;
- (b) ensuring social and financial sustainability for Indigenous Peoples;
- (c) contributing to the conservation of endangered ecosystems and species of flora and fauna;
- (d) contributing to landscape connectivity and the achievement of national or subnational conservation goals;
- (e) generating productive and sustainable livelihood alternatives for Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities;
- (f) supporting the management of public or private protected areas through management plans, expansion, or direct investments in restoration or preservation;
- (g) contributing to restoration processes in prioritized areas within regional portfolios, local initiatives, or private enterprises that support the recovery of strategic ecosystems and associated services;
- (h) generating economic incentives for initiative participants, including incentives linked to areas preserved, restored, or managed for sustainable use;
- (i) increasing food security and financial resilience through the diversification of economic activities; and
- (j) maintaining ecosystem stability to ensure the continued provision of ecosystem goods and services.

13 Biodiversity baseline

The initiative's geographic boundaries shall be composed of area units determined by biotic and physical factors, together with economic and social characteristics, which collectively define the state of the landscape or ecosystem.

The initiative holder shall conduct a comprehensive analysis of these components in order to establish the biodiversity baseline (hereinafter the "baseline").

The baseline shall include a description of data sources, data quality, uncertainty, and the replicability of sampling methods. Where data originate from IPs or LCs territories or knowledge systems, Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty principles shall be applied, and consent protocols shall be followed.

The baseline analysis shall focus primarily on the conservation objectives of the initiative and its ecological context and shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) information on land-cover types and their condition, including an assessment of the physiognomic and structural characteristics of vegetation;
- (b) the structure and composition of plant communities, using indicators such as importance value index, relative abundance, diversity indices, and horizontal and vertical structure;
- (c) the structure and composition of wildlife communities in relation to associated vegetation cover types;
- (d) identification of threatened, rare, and endemic species, based on IUCN categories and/or other applicable national, regional, or local databases;
- (e) relevant social and economic aspects, including factors related to resource management and variables influencing ecosystem degradation or conservation; and
- (f) an assessment of vulnerability to climate change.

The evaluation of the state of the landscape or ecosystem shall consider at least two distinct periods of analysis in order to identify trends, enabling the assessment of quantitative and qualitative attributes such as composition, mobility or migration patterns, reproductive stages, and seasonal or ecological dynamics.

The initiative holder shall select appropriate characteristics and indicators associated with change in accordance with the conservation objectives of the initiative. The selection of indicators shall be based on rigorous technical criteria to assess ecosystem functioning, resilience, and integrity.

During subsequent analysis periods, indicators shall be compared against the baseline reference condition to determine changes in relation to the assessed components.

In general terms, the baseline shall support the identification of:

- (a) biodiversity conservation activities, their specific actions, and applicable Landscape Management Tools (LMTs);
- (b) the area designated for ecosystem and biodiversity conservation and the defined conservation objectives;
- (c) additional areas that support landscape functionality and ecological connectivity with the Area of the Conservation Initiative (ACI);
- (d) conservation objectives that are critical to preservation, restoration, or sustainable use processes; and
- (e) IP and LC, including their characteristics, relationship with biodiversity, well-being, rights, and needs, ensuring their continuous involvement, communication, and participation.

13.1 Baseline validity over time

Initiative holders shall assess whether changes in ecological, social, or economic conditions may affect the validity of the baseline over time.

Where material changes are identified, the initiative holder shall:

- (a) reassess the continued validity of the baseline or counterfactual, including the assumptions, drivers, and conditions supporting it;
- (b) demonstrate continued additionality of biodiversity conservation outcomes.

14 Drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss

The effectiveness of the conservation activities shall depend on how the drivers of transformation as well as their underlying causes are addressed. Initiatives shall therefore be designed and based on the clear and precise identification of these, per the following:

14.1 Drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss

Drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss are natural or anthropogenic forces that directly affect biodiversity, ecosystem structure and function, or the provision of ecosystem services, resulting in ecosystem transformation, degradation, or biodiversity loss. Such drivers may include, inter alia, wildfires,

land-use change, deforestation, overexploitation of resources, pollution, and invasive species.

14.2 Underlying causes

Underlying causes are the social, political, economic, technological, demographic, institutional, and cultural factors that give rise to or influence the direct drivers of biodiversity loss. Examples include unsustainable production and consumption patterns, demographic dynamics, social inequality, poverty, market conditions, governance arrangements, and weaknesses in the implementation or enforcement of applicable legislation.

The identification of drivers shall be linked to the initiative's Theory of Change or equivalent causal model, demonstrating how proposed activities are expected to address direct and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss.

15 Additionality

Initiative holders shall demonstrate that biodiversity conservation outcomes claimed under the BBS are additional. Additionality shall be assessed in relation to the applicable biodiversity conservation outcome pathway and the relevant baseline or counterfactual.

An outcome is additional where the Initiative holder demonstrates, using objective and verifiable evidence, that the claimed enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, or maintenance outcome would not reasonably have occurred, or would not have been sustained to the same extent, quality, or duration, in the absence of the Initiative and the conservation activities supporting it.

The additionality assessment shall establish a clear causal relationship between the Initiative's activities and the biodiversity conservation outcomes claimed and shall be supported by verifiable data and transparent documentation.

For enhancement or recovery outcomes, the Initiative holder shall demonstrate measurable positive change or recovery relative to the applicable baseline.

For avoided-loss outcomes, the Initiative holder shall demonstrate a credible risk or expected trajectory of biodiversity loss or degradation in the absence of the Initiative and demonstrate how the Initiative materially prevented or reduced that loss.

For maintenance outcomes, the Initiative holder shall demonstrate that continued conservation action, management, stewardship, governance, protection, or financing is necessary to sustain the biodiversity condition or ecological integrity represented by the outcome and that, in the absence of the Initiative, such condition would face a credible risk of deterioration, degradation, loss, or insufficient conservation.

The additionality assessment shall include, as applicable:

- (a) identification of the baseline or counterfactual representing the most plausible biodiversity condition in the absence of the Initiative;
- (b) identification of the applicable biodiversity conservation outcome pathway;
- (c) comparison of monitored conditions against the applicable baseline or counterfactual;
- (d) identification of relevant drivers of biodiversity loss, degradation, maintenance, enhancement, or recovery;
- (e) demonstration of the causal contribution of the Initiative to the claimed outcome;
- (f) assessment of whether the claimed outcome can be materially explained by unrelated external factors, legal requirements, public policies, or other interventions; and
- (g) identification and assessment of material interactions with other environmental programs, financing mechanisms, conservation interventions, or environmental units associated with the same activities or geographic area.

Activities undertaken solely to comply with an unconditional legal obligation shall not, by themselves, be considered additional. Where conservation performance exceeds the level required by applicable law, the demonstrably additional component may be eligible subject to the applicable methodology.

The existence of a related project or Initiative under another BioCarbon Program shall not automatically preclude additionality under the BBS. Where distinct projects or Initiatives share activities, interventions, a geographic area, financing sources, or other relevant elements, additionality of the BBS Initiative shall be assessed specifically in relation to the biodiversity

conservation outcome, taking into account the relevant activities, financing, incentives, and causal relationships.

Combined or complementary financing associated with distinct environmental outcomes may support additionality where the Initiative holder transparently demonstrates the role of such financing in enabling, expanding, improving, or sustaining the conservation intervention. Financing arrangements and additionality demonstrations shall be consistent across the related projects or Initiatives and shall not result in duplicate attribution of the same incentive, intervention, or environmental outcome.

Additionality shall be demonstrated for each monitoring period for which BioCredits issuance is requested. For preservation and maintenance activities, stability of biodiversity condition between monitoring periods shall not, by itself, demonstrate an absence of additionality where continued conservation action is necessary to maintain that condition relative to the applicable baseline or counterfactual.

Initiative holders shall document all data, assumptions, evidence, financing interactions, and methodological approaches used to establish additionality.

Additionality and its supporting evidence shall be independently audited and shall form part of BioCarbon's conformity determination.

16 Displacement of pressures and leakage

The initiative holder shall assess the potential for displacement of activities that generate biodiversity loss from within the conservation initiative area to areas outside its geographic boundaries ("Leakage").

The assessment shall:

- (a) identify pathways through which conservation restrictions or land-use changes within the initiative area may shift human pressures (e.g., land conversion, hunting, extraction, grazing, tourism) to neighboring areas;
- (b) distinguish, where feasible, between primary leakage (local, adjacent areas) and secondary leakage (broader landscape displacement);
- (c) describe and implement mitigation measures to minimize leakage risks, including coordination with landholders, Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and relevant authorities;

- (d) provide indicators for monitoring leakage in subsequent monitoring periods; and
- (e) report material evidence of leakage in Monitoring Reports and apply corrective actions where necessary.

Significant unmitigated leakage shall require corrective measures and may affect the quantification or issuance of BioCredits.

17 Integrity of biodiversity conservation outcomes and attributions

This Section establishes the mandatory requirements governing the integrity, differentiation, temporal attribution, issuance, use, and traceability of biodiversity conservation outcomes and BioCredits under the BBS.

Initiative holders shall ensure that biodiversity conservation outcomes submitted for BioCredits issuance are additional, measurable, independently audited, attributable to defined temporal and spatial scopes, and protected against double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution.

17.1 Outcome identity and environmental attribute differentiation

A BioCredit represents a biodiversity conservation outcome and not geographic area alone.

The identity of a biodiversity conservation outcome shall be determined by reference to, as applicable:

- (a) the environmental attribute represented;
- (b) the applicable conservation objective and outcome pathway;
- (c) the relevant indicators and metrics;
- (d) the applicable baseline or counterfactual;
- (e) the geographic or spatial scope;
- (f) the monitoring period;
- (g) the applicable methodology; and
- (h) the corresponding monitoring, audit, conformity determination, and Registry records.

A single intervention may contribute causally to multiple distinct environmental outcomes. Common activities, underlying data, indicators, monitoring systems, financing sources, causal drivers, or geographic boundaries shall not, by themselves, constitute double counting where the environmental outcomes represented by the respective units are substantively distinct.

17.2 Successive monitoring periods

The same geographic area may generate BioCredits during successive, non-overlapping monitoring periods where eligible biodiversity conservation outcomes are independently demonstrated, quantified and audited for each respective period.

The issuance of BioCredits for one monitoring period shall not preclude issuance for a subsequent monitoring period in the same geographic area, provided that:

- (a) the subsequent issuance relates to biodiversity conservation performance attributable to the subsequent monitoring period;
- (b) additionality and all other applicable requirements continue to be met;
- (c) the relevant outcome is monitored, quantified, and independently audited;
- (d) the temporal boundaries do not result in the same outcome being credited twice; and
- (e) BioCarbon independently authorizes the subsequent issuance following conformity determination.

Successive issuance shall not constitute double issuance solely because the same geographic area, ecosystem, conservation object, or conservation activity is involved.

For preservation activities, maintenance of biodiversity condition or continued avoidance of biodiversity loss may constitute an eligible biodiversity conservation outcome in successive monitoring periods where the applicable requirements are met.

17.3 Double counting

Double counting occurs where the same biodiversity conservation outcome is accounted for more than once in a manner that represents it as separate

environmental performance or results in overlapping, inconsistent, or misleading attribution.

Initiative holders shall disclose any circumstance in which the same or materially overlapping biodiversity conservation outcome is included in another crediting mechanism, compensation mechanism, accounting framework, target, certification scheme, reporting system, or environmental claim.

The contribution of an Initiative to national, subnational, jurisdictional, corporate, community, or other biodiversity objectives shall not, by itself, constitute double counting, provided that the respective forms of accounting and attribution are transparently distinguished and no misleading claim of exclusive ownership of the environmental outcome is made.

17.4 Double issuance

Double issuance occurs where more than one BioCredit, biodiversity credit, biodiversity unit, or equivalent tradable environmental unit is issued to represent the same quantified biodiversity conservation outcome for the same temporal and spatial scope.

Geographic overlap alone shall not constitute double issuance.

The assessment of potential double issuance shall consider whether the respective units represent the same environmental attribute, conservation outcome, temporal scope, and spatial scope.

Initiative holders shall ensure that:

- (a) an outcome already represented by issued BioCredits is not submitted for issuance again for the same temporal and spatial scope;
- (b) the same quantified biodiversity conservation outcome has not been issued as an equivalent biodiversity unit under another crediting mechanism;
- (c) all potentially overlapping biodiversity crediting mechanisms are disclosed to BioCarbon and the CAB; and
- (d) sufficient records are maintained to demonstrate the uniqueness of each outcome submitted for issuance.



17.5 Double use

An issued BioCredit shall not be retired, cancelled, surrendered, or otherwise used more than once to support an environmental attribution or claim.

Once retired, a BioCredit shall be permanently identified as retired in the Registry and shall not be transferable or available for any subsequent use or attribution.

17.6 Multiple environmental outcomes, stacking, and bundling

The same conservation activity or geographic area may generate multiple environmental and social outcomes.

The recognition, stacking, or bundling of distinct environmental outcomes, including biodiversity, climate, water, ecosystem-service, or other eligible environmental attributes, shall not, by itself, constitute double counting or double issuance.

Where multiple environmental units arise from the same or related activities, each unit shall:

- (a) represent a clearly defined environmental outcome;
- (b) be quantified in accordance with the applicable BioCarbon Program and methodology;
- (c) be supported by the applicable baseline or counterfactual and additionality demonstration;
- (d) be independently monitored, quantified, and audited in accordance with the requirements applicable to that environmental outcome;
- (e) be separately identified and traceable in the applicable registry system; and
- (f) not represent the same environmental outcome already issued, used, or attributed under another environmental unit.

Where the same or related sets of activities or interventions, including those occurring within a multi-program area, support distinct projects or Initiatives under different BioCarbon Programs, each project or Initiative shall maintain an independent programmatic identity and comply with the applicable requirements of its respective BioCarbon Program. The corresponding environmental outcomes shall remain sufficiently differentiated and subject

to the applicable requirements for additionality, disclosure, monitoring, quantification, auditing, traceability, and claims.

Stacking or bundling shall not be permitted where the respective environmental outcomes cannot be sufficiently differentiated or where their recognition would result in double counting, double issuance, double use, multiple attribution, or materially misleading environmental claims.

18 Biodiversity conservation outcomes

Initiative holders shall describe and quantify the biodiversity conservation outcomes achieved through the implementation of the initiative.

Biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be identified in accordance with the applicable outcome pathway established in Section 9.2.1: enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, or maintenance. The monitoring and quantification approach shall be appropriate to the nature of the outcome claimed and shall enable the CAB and BioCarbon to determine whether the applicable baseline or counterfactual, additionality, and outcome requirements have been met.

Biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be expressed using scientifically robust indicators, measurable variables, and appropriate valuation approaches that capture both ecological and socio-cultural dimensions of biodiversity conservation.

The description of biodiversity conservation outcomes shall:

- (a) identify the ecosystems, habitats, and species groups targeted by the initiative;
- (b) present measurable outcomes consistent with the conservation activities, specific actions, and, where applicable, the Landscape Management Tools (LMTs) applied;
- (c) demonstrate how the outcomes address the identified drivers of ecosystem transformation and biodiversity loss;
- (d) describe how risk management measures have contributed to maintaining or improving biodiversity conditions; and
- (e) demonstrate progress toward the conservation objectives defined in the initiative design and in the applicable methodology.

Biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be presented in a transparent and comparable manner, enabling verification during audits and subsequent monitoring periods.

All variables, indicators, data sources, and calculation approaches used to quantify biodiversity conservation outcomes shall be documented, justified, and made available for auditing and public disclosure in accordance with the transparency provisions of this Standard.

18.1 Uncertainty and data quality

Initiative holders shall identify and document sources of uncertainty associated with biodiversity indicators and measurements.

Where uncertainty is material, conservative approaches shall be applied to ensure that biodiversity conservation outcomes are not overestimated.

19 Risk assessment and management

Initiative holders shall employ appropriate methods to assess potential risks, both direct and indirect, including financial, human-induced, environmental, and climate-related risks, and shall define and implement risk mitigation measures within an adaptive management approach.

Adaptive management is a structured decision-making process through which conservation activities are planned, implemented, monitored, and adjusted in response to changing conditions and new information, with the objective of reducing uncertainty and improving biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The risk assessment shall incorporate social, environmental, governance, operational, and cultural risks, including potential impacts on IPs and LCs. Risk identification and mitigation measures shall follow a documented due-diligence process.

This requirement is intended to complement, and not replace, the *Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) Tool* of BioCarbon (BioCarbon Cert, 2026). It shall apply when initiative holders identify risks associated with initiative activities that are not fully addressed by the *SDSs Tool*.

Risk assessment and risk management measures shall be appropriate, accurate, objective, and proportionate to the scale, scope, and context of the initiative.



19.1 Risk of reversal of biodiversity conservation outcomes

Initiative holders shall assess the risk of partial or total loss of biodiversity conservation outcomes over time, including risks arising from natural, anthropogenic, governance, or external factors.

Where such risks are identified, initiative holders shall:

- (a) implement preventive and mitigation measures to reduce the likelihood and magnitude of potential reversals;
- (b) establish monitoring indicators capable of detecting early signs of degradation or loss of biodiversity conservation outcomes; and
- (c) apply corrective and adaptive management measures where material reversals or risks of reversal are identified.

Where a significant reversal of biodiversity conservation outcomes is demonstrated, the initiative holder shall:

- (a) transparently report the reversal in the Monitoring Report; and
- (b) implement corrective actions aimed at restoring or compensating the affected biodiversity conservation outcomes, where feasible.

All reversal risks, mitigation measures, and corrective actions shall be documented and made available for auditing.

20 Stakeholder engagement and consultation

Initiatives shall prioritize social sustainability. Accordingly, effective stakeholder engagement shall be an integral component of the design, implementation, and monitoring of biodiversity conservation initiatives throughout their duration.

BioCarbon policies and procedures require initiative holders to:

- (a) engage with community members from the earliest stages of the initiative to understand priorities, concerns, and expectations;
- (b) ensure participatory and inclusive decision-making processes;
- (c) provide training, information, and resources that enable meaningful participation of stakeholders in initiative activities; and
- (d) respect and incorporate local customs, traditions, and knowledge into the design and implementation of the initiative.

BioCarbon recognizes Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs) as key stakeholders and stewards of nature and natural resources. Initiative holders shall recognize and value the capacities of IPs and LCs in biodiversity conservation and in the management of ecosystem assets and services.

20.1 Stakeholder identification and engagement

During the design phase, initiative holders shall conduct a comprehensive stakeholder assessment to identify all individuals, groups, and organizations that may be affected by, or have legitimate interests in, the initiative.

This assessment shall document stakeholder interests, concerns, potential influence, and expected roles, using culturally appropriate methods such as interviews, surveys, focus groups, or community meetings.

Initiative holders shall invite, at a minimum, representatives of directly affected stakeholders and relevant local authorities. All stakeholder groups, including women, men, youth, elders, and other relevant social groups, shall be provided with opportunities to submit feedback prior to finalization of the initiative design.

Initiative holders shall provide evidence that invitations were issued and that stakeholder comments were reviewed and considered. Where relevant stakeholders were not invited, initiative holders shall provide documented justification.

The results of stakeholder engagement shall inform decision-making, support the identification of potential risks and conflicts, and contribute to strategies for participation, inclusion, and information disclosure throughout the initiative lifecycle.

The scope of stakeholder engagement shall include a description of the potential positive and negative impacts of the initiative and an explanation of how stakeholder inputs were incorporated.

All stakeholder engagement activities, including methods used, inputs received, initiative holder responses, and any resulting modifications to the initiative, shall be documented in a Stakeholder Engagement Report.

This report shall be made publicly available through the Registry together with the initiative documentation, subject to applicable confidentiality requirements. Sensitive information may be redacted; however, key concerns raised and the corresponding responses shall be disclosed transparently.

Decision-making processes informed by stakeholder engagement shall also be disclosed publicly and reported periodically.

20.2 Consultation with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities

Where IP or LC are affected or have legitimate interests, Initiative holders shall obtain Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) in accordance with applicable national legislation and internationally recognized standards, including ILO Convention No. 169 and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (ILO, 1989).

Initiative holders shall maintain ongoing, transparent, and culturally appropriate communication with IPs, LCs, and other stakeholders throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring phases of the Initiative.

Records of engagement shall include evidence of meetings, materials shared, participants, concerns raised, and responses provided.

All consultation documentation and agreements, including FPIC documentation, shall be translated into the predominant local language using qualified translators to ensure accessibility and understanding. In contexts of low literacy, initiative holders shall apply simplified language and visual tools, where culturally appropriate.

Stakeholder engagement processes shall be gender responsive. Initiative holders shall demonstrate that women are meaningfully consulted and have equal opportunities to participate in decision-making. Engagement methods shall be adapted to remove barriers to participation, and gender-differentiated impacts shall be assessed and documented.

20.3 Grievance mechanism

During implementation, initiative holders shall establish and maintain a robust, transparent, independent, and culturally appropriate grievance mechanism.

The grievance mechanism shall:

- (a) be publicly accessible and available in relevant local languages;
- (b) allow confidential submission of grievances;
- (c) address social, environmental, and cultural grievances, whether direct or indirect;

- (d) provide accessible formats for individuals with limited literacy or digital access;
- (e) include differentiated measures for vulnerable or marginalized groups;
- (f) protect complainants against retaliation; and
- (g) establish clear and reasonable timelines for grievance processing and resolution.

The grievance mechanism shall be reviewed at least once every three (3) years to assess effectiveness and accessibility.

Where feasible, grievances shall be resolved directly by the affected parties; where this is not possible, the mechanism shall identify an independent arbitrator or neutral third-party mediator.

The grievance mechanism shall be clearly described in each Biodiversity Initiative Agreement and shall be communicated prominently to all stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

Initiative holders shall inform stakeholders, IPs, and LCs of BioCarbon's Ethics and Compliance Channel, which may be used to report concerns related to consent, rights violations, contractual breaches, or other grievances.

The quality and representativeness of stakeholder engagement shall be assessed in accordance with the Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) Tool, in particular Section 7.1.4 and Annex A, ensuring inclusive, documented, and effective participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities.

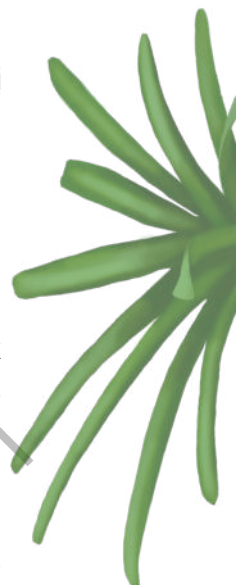
20.4 Consultation with stakeholders

In addition to local consultation processes and public comment periods, initiative holders shall identify and engage with relevant stakeholders when initiatives may have transboundary implications, involve biodiversity of global significance, or generate international interest or concern.

Such global stakeholders may include civil society organizations, international NGOs, multilateral institutions, scientific bodies, and other actors with mandates or interests related to climate, biodiversity, human rights, or sustainable development.

In this context, initiative holders shall:

- (a) conduct outreach to relevant global stakeholders during the design and implementation phases, where applicable;



- (b) provide access to the initiative description and supporting documentation in English and, where appropriate, in other relevant languages;
- (c) establish a clear and accessible channel, such as an online feedback form or dedicated email address, to receive comments or concerns from global stakeholders; and
- (d) summarize global stakeholder engagement activities within the initiative documentation, including outreach actions undertaken, feedback received, and how such feedback was considered or addressed.

BioCarbon shall include comments received from global stakeholders during public consultation as part of the public comment section of the Registry and shall ensure that CABs evaluate the adequacy of global stakeholder engagement as part of the auditing process.

21 Consistency with applicable legislation

Initiative holders shall demonstrate that the initiative complies with all applicable national and international legislation, regulations, and legal frameworks relevant to the biodiversity conservation activities implemented within the scope of the initiative.

Legal compliance shall include legislation related to the protection of human rights and the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs), in accordance with internationally recognized instruments such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (ILO Convention No. 169).

Initiative holders shall establish and maintain a documented procedure, as part of a Document Management System, to identify, monitor, and periodically review all applicable legal and regulatory requirements relevant to the initiative.

Accordingly, initiative holders shall maintain an up-to-date register of all legal and regulatory requirements applicable to the initiative's conservation activities.

Initiative holders shall also maintain a legal compliance register documenting all permits, licenses, land-use authorizations, and Free, Prior and Informed

Consent (FPIC) records, where applicable, and shall provide evidence that such documentation is kept current and available for auditing.

Initiative holders shall demonstrate, where applicable, that the conservation activities and biodiversity conservation outcomes are consistent with national or subnational biodiversity priorities, including National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans (NBSAPs) or equivalent frameworks.

Such alignment shall be documented and made available for auditing purposes.

22 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Initiative holders shall align conservation activities with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and demonstrate contributions to at least three (3) distinct Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by the end of the first monitoring period and in all subsequent periods. Contributions shall be material, initiative-specific, and supported by a clear causal link between the activity and the reported outcome. Speculative, indirect, or immaterial contributions based solely on conceptual associations shall not be claimed.

Initiative holders shall exclusively use the BioCarbon SDGs Contribution Tool to identify, measure, monitor, and report such contributions. The Tool shall require the selection of relevant SDGs based on the initiative baseline and context, the use of official UN SDG indicators or justified initiative-specific indicators where necessary, the definition of baseline conditions and monitoring frequency, and the distinction between current-period and cumulative contributions.

Initiative holders shall assess potential negative impacts on other SDGs and shall manage and mitigate any identified risks using the BioCarbon Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) Tool, or other applicable BioCarbon tools. Contributions shall not be reported where they result in net harm to other SDGs.

Reported contributions shall be consistent with relevant national or subnational SDG priorities, where applicable, and shall be supported by verifiable evidence, transparent methodologies, clearly identified data sources, and indicators sufficient for auditing. Initiative holders shall implement appropriate quality assurance and quality control procedures to ensure data accuracy, reliability, and traceability.

Initiative holders shall define specific criteria and indicators to demonstrate the initiative's contribution to the selected SDGs on a continuous basis. Internal tools such as Theory of Change may support initiative design, but formal reporting and verification of SDG contributions shall be conducted exclusively through the BioCarbon SDGs Contribution Tool.

23 Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs)

Initiatives shall comply with the *Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) Tool* issued by BioCarbon (*BioCarbon Cert, 2026*) and shall demonstrate that initiative activities do not cause harm to communities or the environment by identifying, assessing, and addressing potential environmental and socio-economic risks and impacts.

Initiative holders shall apply the *SDSs Tool* and shall design and implement monitoring, preventive, mitigation, and management measures for each identified risk. Such measures shall be integrated into the initiative design and maintained throughout the full duration of the initiative.

Safeguards shall be reassessed during each monitoring cycle to ensure that risks remain adequately identified, monitored, and mitigated over time.

The *SDSs Tool* establishes the requirements and rules for initiatives to examine and address risks related to:

- (a) Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management, including Land Use;
- (b) Water;
- (c) Biodiversity and ecosystem protection;
- (d) Climate Change;
- (e) Labor Rights and Working Conditions;
- (f) Gender Equality and Women empowerment;
- (g) Land Acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, Displacement, and Involuntary Resettlement;
- (h) Respect for human rights and inclusive stakeholder engagement;
- (i) Protection of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities' Cultural Heritage;
- (j) Community Health and Safety;

(k) Corruption; and

(l) Economic Impact, including transparent benefit-sharing arrangements.

Gender equality and women's empowerment shall be addressed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the *Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) Tool*. Initiative holders shall identify, assess, monitor, and report gender-related risks, mitigation measures, and indicators as part of the SDSs assessment.

Where stakeholders experience negative impacts arising from Initiative activities that cannot be fully mitigated, including impacts affecting livelihoods or access to resources, Initiative holders shall implement appropriate compensation measures. Such measures shall be developed in collaboration with affected stakeholders to ensure fair replacement of lost assets, income, or access to resources.

All losses, including those arising from customary or non-formal tenure or resource-use systems, shall be considered legitimate for the purposes of compensation. Initiative holders shall also establish and implement a remediation plan to address unresolved grievances and to support the restoration of affected stakeholders' livelihoods.

As a condition for conformity determination under the BBS and for the issuance of BioCredits, the initiative holder shall:

- (a) complete the official BioCarbon *Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) Tool* (current version), including the identification of risks, mitigation measures, responsible parties, implementation timeline, and monitoring indicators;
- (b) attach to the Conservation Initiative Document (CID) the report/export generated by the *SDSs Tool* and the corresponding Safeguards Management Plan, including evidence of consultation and stakeholder participation;
- (c) update the SDS assessment and the Safeguards Management Plan during each monitoring period and additionally whenever material changes occur in the initiative context, including changes in the initiative area, activities, stakeholders, rights, or identified risks;
- (d) include in each Monitoring Report a section titled "Safeguards Status (SDS)", describing: (i) current risks by SDS dimension, (ii) mitigation



progress, (iii) relevant incidents, and (iv) corrective actions and their closure status; and

- (e) make available to the CAB and to BioCarbon all records, sources, and evidence supporting the SDS assessment, in accordance with the Standard's data retention and data governance requirements.

Failure to submit the SDS assessment, the absence of a mitigation plan for significant risks, or the lack of verifiable implementation of safeguard measures shall constitute a major non-conformity and may prevent conformity determination and/or the issuance of BioCredits until corrective actions have been satisfactorily closed.

All safeguards shall be subject to independent audit in accordance with the procedures and criteria established in the BioCarbon Audit Manual. Independent third-party auditors shall assess compliance through evidence-based evaluations, including stakeholder consultations, field assessments, and review of supporting documentation.

The results of such assessments shall be made publicly available in accordance with the transparency provisions of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard.

24 Climate change adaptation

Biodiversity and climate change are intrinsically interconnected. Biodiversity loss can exacerbate the impacts of climate change, while climate change can generate additional stress on ecosystems, increasing risks and threats to species and ecosystem functions. Consequently, biodiversity loss and ecosystem transformation are closely linked to vulnerability to climate change.

In accordance with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), vulnerability is defined as the degree to which a system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, the adverse effects of climate change, including climate variability and extreme events.

Vulnerability comprises two main components: (a) sensitivity, which reflects the degree to which a system is affected by climate stimuli, and (b) adaptive capacity, which represents the ability of the system to cope with, respond to, and recover from such impacts.

On this basis, initiative holders shall develop and implement a climate change adaptation plan directly related to the biodiversity conservation activities of the initiative. The adaptation plan shall be developed through a structured process that includes planning, assessment of potential climate-related impacts, and identification of appropriate adaptation strategies.

In this regard, initiative holders shall:

- (a) identify plausible climate change risk and climate variability scenarios based on relevant and credible information sources;
- (b) assess potential changes in land cover and land use resulting from identified climate change scenarios;
- (c) determine whether current or projected climate changes may affect the well-being of Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC) and/or the conservation status of biodiversity within the initiative area; and
- (d) evaluate the contribution of the initiative's conservation activities to climate change adaptation and ecosystem resilience.

25 BioCredits ownership and rights

Rights associated with BioCredits include ownership and the right to benefit from their sale, as well as from any other payments, revenues, or interests derived from biodiversity conservation activities. Ownership of BioCredits confers the economic and transactional rights associated with those BioCredits, subject to the attribution, retirement, benefit-sharing, and other applicable requirements of this Standard.

The ownership of BioCredits shall be supported by clear, transparent, and auditable documentation, including valid agreements and evidence of processes grounded in Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) with the relevant initiative participants, which may include individuals, communities, organizations, or other entitled parties.

Initiative holders shall respect and uphold the rights of all participants to provide consent and to be consulted as part of the design and implementation of the initiative. Where initiatives are located on, or make use of, lands, territories, or resources of Indigenous Peoples (IP) or Local Communities (LC), FPIC shall be obtained and documented prior to the implementation of activities affecting such rights.

Initiative holders shall demonstrate that actions affecting IP or LC lands, territories, or resources respect statutory and customary land and resource rights, in accordance with applicable legislation, and shall not result in forced eviction or involuntary displacement.

Where Indigenous Peoples or Local Communities are not active participants in the initiative, initiative holders shall verify, through the competent authority, the presence of IPs or LCs within the initiative area and shall apply consultation or FPIC requirements, as applicable, irrespective of participation status.

FPIC shall meet or exceed the requirements of applicable national legislation and international standards protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities. FPIC shall be treated as an ongoing process and shall be reaffirmed when material changes occur in the initiative, including changes to activities, scope, land use, governance arrangements, benefit-sharing terms, or other factors that may affect IPs or LCs.

The FPIC process shall follow a decision-making framework and timeline defined by the rights holders, allow participation through freely chosen representatives, and ensure the inclusion of women and marginalized, vulnerable, or disadvantaged groups.

Initiative holders shall demonstrate ownership of BioCredits through transparent and auditable agreements that, at a minimum, include:

- (a) identification of all signatory participants;
- (b) objectives of the agreement;
- (c) date of execution;
- (d) name of the initiative;
- (e) quantification period; and
- (f) responsibilities, obligations, and rights of each signatory party.

Such arrangements shall also specify an accessible grievance mechanism, including procedures for raising and resolving disputes, timelines for response, and contact information for responsible entities.

Where Indigenous Peoples or Local Communities are participants, initiative holders shall provide evidence that the individuals signing on their behalf possess legitimate authority to do so. Where the initiative holder is itself an



IPs or LCs, documentation shall be issued by the appropriate representative authority.

Initiative holders shall demonstrate legal tenure or use rights over the area where conservation activities are implemented for at least the duration of the quantification period. Where such rights are not held directly, a valid agreement with the rights holder shall be provided.

All initiatives shall establish transparent, fair, and equitable benefit-sharing arrangements with IPs, LCs, and other participants. Such arrangements shall clearly define the obligations and responsibilities of all parties and shall be communicated in culturally appropriate formats, processes, and languages.

Benefit-sharing arrangements shall be developed in accordance with the principles set out in Section 6, particularly equity and justice, and shall promote continuous participation and decision-making. The resulting equitable share shall be presented to BioCarbon as a percentage (%) reflecting the outcomes of negotiations among participants.

Benefit-sharing shall apply irrespective of legal, customary, communal, or collective tenure systems. All participants with legitimate interests or customary relationships to land, resources, or biodiversity assets shall be included in the benefit-sharing process.

Draft and final versions of benefit-sharing plans shall be shared with affected IPs and LCs as part of the stakeholder consultation process, in accessible and understandable formats. Initiative holders shall provide evidence of dissemination, consultation records, and translations, and shall submit draft agreements to the CAB for review during the audit, together with the final agreements corresponding to each monitoring period subject to audit.

BioCarbon shall respect self-governance and negotiated outcomes; however, registration shall not proceed where any participant does not agree with the final benefit-sharing arrangement.

Ownership of BioCredits shall ultimately be evidenced through the Conservation Initiative Document (CID) and supporting documentation, including benefit-sharing agreements and proof that FPIC was obtained where required.

Supporting documents and evidence shall be made publicly available in the CID, subject to applicable confidentiality and legal restrictions.

25.1 Distinction between ownership and attribution rights

Ownership of BioCredits:

- (a) confers the right to hold, transfer, or sell such credits;
- (b) does not automatically confer the right to make environmental attributions.

The right to make attributions:

- (a) shall arise only upon the retirement of BioCredits in the Registry operated by Global CarbonTrace (GCT); and
- (b) shall be exercised exclusively by the entity that has retired the corresponding BioCredits.

Under no circumstance shall a single BioCredit support more than one attribution.

26 Transparency and public disclosure

26.1 General principles

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) shall operate with full transparency, ensuring that all relevant documentation, procedures, decisions, and outcomes associated with biodiversity initiatives are publicly accessible.

All public claims associated with BioCredits or biodiversity conservation initiatives shall be consistent with outcomes verified through independent audit and approved for issuance under this Standard, and shall not imply impacts beyond those verified under this Standard.

Transparency and accountability are fundamental principles of the BBS and shall apply to all phases of the initiative lifecycle, including registration, monitoring, auditing, conformity determination, issuance, transfer, and retirement.

All biodiversity initiatives registered under the BBS shall disclose their documentation, monitoring outcomes, and audit statements in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

All publicly disclosed documents shall include, at a minimum, a version number, date of issuance, author, approver, and a change log summarizing

modifications from previous versions, in alignment with BioCarbon transparency requirements.

26.2 Public access to information

BioCarbon shall ensure transparency and public access to all relevant information related to conformity assessment, conformity determination, and the registration of biodiversity initiatives.

All records shall be made publicly available through the official Registry platform and the BioCarbon Standard website.

The following documents shall be published and accessible to all stakeholders:

- (a) the Conservation Initiative Document (CID) or equivalent Project Document;
- (b) monitoring reports, including all verified indicators and biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (c) audit reports issued by accredited Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs);
- (d) methodologies, procedures, tools, and templates applicable under the BBS;
- (e) governance decisions, procedural manuals, and policy updates relevant to the Standard; and
- (f) a non-confidential public summary of the application of the Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS), including the main risks identified by safeguard dimension, the mitigation measures adopted, and the overall status of implementation.

The public disclosure of information related to the SDS shall comply with applicable legislation, including requirements on personal data protection and the protection of culturally sensitive information.

All public documents shall be made available in English and, where applicable, in the official language of the host country.

Previous versions of methodologies, tools, and standards shall remain archived and publicly accessible to ensure traceability.

Only information that is legally protected or demonstrably commercially sensitive may be withheld, in accordance with applicable confidentiality provisions and national legislation.

26.3 Public monitoring summaries

For each monitoring period, the initiative holder shall prepare a non-technical monitoring summary providing a clear, concise, and accessible description of the biodiversity conservation outcomes achieved.

The non-technical monitoring summary shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) a concise overview of the monitoring activities conducted during the reporting period;
- (b) the quantified results of biodiversity indicators and, once issuance has occurred, the number of BioCredits issued for the corresponding monitoring period;
- (c) a summary of participation and benefit-sharing outcomes involving Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC), where applicable;
- (d) a summary of the implementation status of the Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs), including relevant findings and mitigation measures;
- (e) a description of any grievances received during the monitoring period and the actions taken to resolve them; and
- (f) key lessons learned and adaptive management measures implemented.

The non-technical monitoring summary shall be publicly disclosed through the Registry together with the corresponding Monitoring Report.

The purpose of the non-technical monitoring summary is to promote transparency, stakeholder engagement, and accessibility of biodiversity information for non-specialized audiences.

26.4 Public consultation

All biodiversity initiatives submitted for audit, conformity determination, and registration under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) shall undergo a public consultation period of at least thirty (30) calendar days, during which any interested party may submit comments or observations.

Stakeholders shall submit comments using the designated form through the Registry or through any additional channels established by this Standard. The initiative documentation shall be publicly accessible through the Registry for the duration of the public consultation period.

Each submission shall be duly completed and accompanied by the submitter's identifying information, including name, country, organization, and contact email address.

BioCarbon shall ensure that:

- (a) all comments received are forwarded to the initiative holder and the corresponding Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) for review;
- (b) the initiative holder provides responses to, or demonstrates consideration of, all relevant comments received; and
- (c) the CAB assesses the adequacy of the responses and documents its assessment within the Audit Report.

At the conclusion of the public consultation period, BioCarbon shall transmit all comments received to the initiative holder. The initiative holder shall review and consider each comment individually and shall update the Conservation Initiative Document (CID) or Monitoring Report, or provide a justified explanation where comments are deemed not applicable.

The Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) shall verify that all information related to stakeholder and public consultation has been examined and shall include its conclusions in the corresponding Audit Report.

Initiative holders shall provide evidence that stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples (IP) and Local Communities (LC), where applicable, have ongoing opportunities to provide feedback and access consultation processes throughout the design, implementation, and monitoring phases of the initiative.

Public consultation aims to strengthen inclusiveness, legitimacy, transparency, and continuous improvement of biodiversity conservation and BioCredits issuance activities.

26.5 Transparency in methodologies and governance

All methodological documents, tools, and procedures approved under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) shall be subject to public consultation prior to approval and shall be published in full upon adoption.

Published methodological documents shall include version history, date of approval, author, and applicability conditions.

BioCarbon shall ensure that:

- (a) each approved methodology includes clear applicability conditions and references to peer review or expert technical review, where relevant;
- (b) revised methodologies and superseded versions remain publicly accessible to ensure traceability; and
- (c) governance decisions, including resolutions arising from updates to the Standard, are publicly available through the official BioCarbon website.

These transparency provisions enable comparability across biodiversity methodologies and strengthen confidence in the credibility and integrity of the governance framework of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard.

26.6 Confidentiality and commercially sensitive information

Initiative holders may classify certain information as commercially sensitive, provided that such classification is explicitly justified and demonstrably meets at least one of the following conditions:

- (a) the information concerns proprietary methods, confidential business data, or intellectual property protected by law;
- (b) disclosure would breach contractual, privacy, or data protection obligations; or
- (c) confidentiality is required under applicable legislation.

All other information shall be presumed public by default.

BioCarbon reserves the right to reject confidentiality claims that are not adequately justified or that conflict with the transparency requirements of this Standard.

Where confidential information is withheld, initiative holders shall provide a non-confidential summary of the same content for public disclosure.

26.7 Further transparency measures

To enhance traceability and trust in the biodiversity crediting system under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS), the following additional transparency measures shall apply:

- (a) publication of non-technical summaries for all registered initiatives and for all issued BioCredits;
- (b) clear identification of each issuance and retirement event in the Registry, including the initiative reference, serial numbers, and dates;
- (c) mechanisms for addressing erroneous issuance, reporting errors, or data inconsistencies, including public disclosure of corrective actions taken;
- (d) public disclosure of any corrections, suspensions, or revocations of BioCredits, including the reasons for such actions and the corrective measures implemented;
- (e) publicly accessible grievance and feedback channels enabling stakeholders to submit concerns related to the integrity, performance, or compliance of initiatives;
- (f) open access to aggregated, non-confidential data and analytical reports generated by BioCarbon to support scientific research, market integrity, and policy development; and
- (g) where applicable, relevant information on biodiversity conservation outcomes may be made available to competent national or subnational authorities for purposes of transparency and consistency with public biodiversity objectives.

These measures shall ensure that all registered initiatives operate under a transparent, accountable, and high-integrity framework consistent with international best practices and the objectives of this Standard.

Where attributions are made in relation to BioCredits, such attributions shall be publicly disclosed and traceable to the corresponding retired BioCredits in the Registry.

26.8 Continuous improvement

BioCarbon shall periodically review and update the transparency provisions of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) to reflect evolving best

practices, stakeholder feedback, and relevant regulatory or market developments.

Material revisions to the Standard that introduce substantive changes to eligibility requirements, quantification approaches, safeguards, rights, environmental integrity requirements, or the obligations of Initiative holders or CABs shall be subject to public consultation in accordance with BioCarbon's applicable document-development and governance procedures.

Editorial corrections, clarifications, improvements in normative coherence, updates to references, and revisions that strengthen or clarify existing requirements without materially altering the rights, obligations, eligibility, or environmental integrity framework of the BBS may be adopted without a new public consultation.

All revisions shall be transparently documented in the document history and communicated publicly, together with any applicable transition provisions.

Public disclosure processes shall include mechanisms to receive, document, assess, and respond to stakeholder comments in a transparent and timely manner.

All responses to stakeholder comments shall be recorded and made publicly accessible through the Registry, in accordance with the transparency provisions of this Standard.

Updates to the Standard shall follow the transition procedures established by BioCarbon and shall be communicated publicly.

27 Monitoring and reporting

27.1 General principles

Initiative holders shall establish and implement a monitoring and reporting framework to ensure that biodiversity conservation outcomes achieved under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) are measured, documented, and communicated in a consistent, accurate, and transparent manner.

Monitoring results may confirm, reduce, increase, or otherwise modify prior estimates of biodiversity conservation outcomes or indicative BioCredit potential, provided that such changes are supported by the applicable

methodology, approved indicators and metrics, data quality requirements, baseline consistency, conservative treatment, and audit evidence.

Monitoring under this Standard shall be designed to ensure scientific rigor, repeatability, verifiability, transparency, and alignment with indicator quality standards, sampling design requirements, and data governance principles. All monitoring activities shall apply Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Data Sovereignty principles, where applicable.

Monitoring and reporting activities shall be designed to:

- (a) quantify biodiversity conservation outcomes using the indicators and metrics defined in the applicable methodology;
- (b) demonstrate progress toward the conservation objectives of the initiative;
- (c) provide verifiable and auditable information to support conformity determination and the issuance of BioCredits; and
- (d) support continuous improvement and adaptive management of biodiversity conservation actions.

Monitoring outcomes shall be recorded and made available for review by accredited CABs and BioCarbon and shall be disclosed publicly through the Registry in accordance with the transparency provisions of this Standard.

Monitoring results shall be assessed against the established biodiversity baseline.

Where the Initiative holder proposes to add, remove, replace, or materially modify indicators, metrics, monitoring design, conservation objects, baseline assumptions, methodological modules, or the quantification approach, such change shall be documented and submitted to BioCarbon for review. Where the change may affect conformity, quantification, attribution, safeguards, or BioCredits issuance eligibility, BioCarbon may require an updated conformity assessment, supplementary audit, or other review before the change is used to support BioCredits issuance.

27.2 Monitoring frequency and scope

Monitoring shall be conducted at regular intervals defined by the applicable methodology and by the characteristics of each biodiversity indicator.

At a minimum, initiative holders shall demonstrate that:

- (a) monitoring is performed periodically to assess measurable changes in selected biodiversity indicators;
- (b) data collection methods and sampling protocols are consistent with the approved methodology;
- (c) participation of IP and LC, where applicable, is effective, transparent, and supported by regular communication updates at least once per year during the initiative duration;
- (d) the scope of monitoring covers all relevant ecological, social, and spatial components of the initiative area; and
- (e) the monitoring design allows comparability across consecutive reporting periods.

The monitoring frequency shall be defined using a risk-based and ecological materiality approach, taking into account: (i) the characteristics and sensitivity of the biodiversity components and conservation objects being monitored; (ii) the characteristics and expected response of the selected indicators; (iii) the temporal dynamics of the ecological processes being assessed; (iv) the nature, magnitude, and intensity of the drivers and pressures identified under Section 14; (v) the risks identified under Section 19; and (vi) the level of uncertainty associated with the baseline or counterfactual and the monitored biodiversity conservation outcomes.

The monitoring interval shall be designed to ensure sufficient statistical power and methodological consistency to detect ecologically significant changes in ecosystem composition, structure, and functionality throughout the quantification periods.

The monitoring periodicity shall balance scientific robustness, operational proportionality, and the financial sustainability of the initiative, avoiding both under-monitoring that may prevent the detection of material deviations and unnecessary over-monitoring that does not provide additional technical value.

Any subsequent adjustment to the defined monitoring frequency shall be technically and documentarily justified, reflected in the updated monitoring plan, and remain consistent with the initiative's adaptive management system.

27.3 Reporting obligations and public disclosure

Initiative holders shall prepare and submit a Monitoring Report for each monitoring period.

Each Monitoring Report shall include:

- (a) a description of monitoring activities conducted, including methodologies, sampling design, and analytical approaches;
- (b) quantified results for each biodiversity indicator defined under the applicable methodology;
- (c) a comparison of results with previous monitoring periods, highlighting observed trends or changes;
- (d) a summary of stakeholder engagement activities and benefit-sharing outcomes; and
- (e) supporting evidence, datasets, maps, and spatial files required for auditing.

Metadata for all datasets, GIS files, and sampling records shall follow standardized formats and version-control procedures.

All non-confidential components of Monitoring Reports shall be made publicly available through the Registry.

Monitoring Reports shall be submitted to the accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) for auditing prior to the issuance of BioCredits.

A non-technical summary of each Monitoring Report shall be disclosed publicly through the Registry to ensure transparency and accessibility for non-specialized audiences.

Monitoring Reports shall follow the prescribed format and shall undergo internal quality control prior to submission to the CAB, in accordance with the criteria defined in the BioCarbon Audit Manual.

27.4 Participation of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities in monitoring

Where IPs and/or LCs are present within the initiative area, the monitoring plan shall describe opportunities for their meaningful participation in data collection, validation, and interpretation, including the integration of traditional knowledge where appropriate and only with consent.

The monitoring plan shall describe procedures to ensure that data collected within Indigenous Peoples' or Local Communities' territories respects their Data Sovereignty, including provisions on ownership, access, confidentiality, consent protocols, and culturally appropriate handling of information.

The initiative holder shall not disclose or publish sensitive ecological, cultural, or territorial information without the explicit consent of the rights-holders.

27.5 Adaptive monitoring and corrective measures

Initiative holders shall implement an adaptive monitoring system that enables the identification, documentation, and correction of any significant deviation affecting biodiversity conservation outcomes previously verified by independent audit and recognized under the BBS.

Where monitoring results indicate a decline in biodiversity indicators, or where conservation outcomes differ from those reported in previous audit periods, initiative holders shall:

- (a) identify the causes of the deviation, in accordance with the risk identification process established in Section 19;
- (b) design and implement corrective or adaptive measures to restore or maintain the intended biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (c) document such measures in the subsequent Monitoring Report or, where necessary, request an extraordinary audit; and
- (d) maintain evidence demonstrating the effectiveness of corrective actions in subsequent monitoring periods.

The implementation of adaptive monitoring and corrective measures shall be carried out through meaningful consultation with affected stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities, and shall be reported transparently through the Registry.

This approach supports continuous improvement, accountability, and the long-term integrity of biodiversity conservation, in accordance with the principles of transparency and adaptive management defined under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard.

27.6 Records and data management

Initiative holders shall maintain complete and accurate records of all monitoring activities, datasets, and outcomes throughout the duration of the initiative.

Such records shall:

- (a) be stored securely and made available for auditing at any time;
- (b) include version history, timestamps, and metadata to ensure traceability and prevent unauthorized modification;
- (c) be retained for a minimum period of ten (10) years after the end of the monitoring period;
- (d) be updated in each new reporting period to reflect the most recent monitoring results and corrective measures implemented; and
- (e) include mechanisms to respect the right of IPs and/or LCs to withdraw consent for data use. Upon notification of withdrawal consent, the initiative holder shall:
 - (i) immediately halt further processing or disclosure of the specified data;
 - (ii) review existing public disclosures and, where legally and technically feasible, redact or remove data derived from the withdrawing party; and
 - (iii) document the withdrawal and actions taken in the subsequent Monitoring Report.

Data and records shall be managed in accordance with the BioCarbon Data Protection Policy, applicable national regulations on information security and confidentiality, and the applicable national data protection legislation.

28 Auditing and conformity determination process

Initiative holders seeking conformity determination and BioCredits issuance under this Standard shall undergo an independent auditing process conducted by an eligible Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) in accordance with the requirements of this Standard and the applicable BioCarbon Audit Manual.

Audits shall be evidence-based, risk-informed, impartial, and consistent across monitoring periods.

The outcomes of the audit shall constitute the basis for BioCarbon's conformity determination under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS).

CABs shall be responsible for conducting audit activities to evaluate the initiative's conformity with the environmental, social, and technical requirements established under the BBS, the Methodological Document for Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives, and all applicable BioCarbon Tools and guidance documents, including the BioCarbon Audit Manual (in its current version).

All audits shall be conducted in accordance with principles of transparency, independence, integrity, and traceability.

28.1 Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs)

The CABs operating under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) shall demonstrate the following:

- (a) valid accreditation under ISO/IEC 17065 issued by a recognized accreditation body, with a scope that includes, or is technically relevant to, biodiversity conservation, ecosystem conservation, ecological restoration, preservation, sustainable use, biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem services, Nature-based Solutions, conservation initiatives, or environmental projects involving quantifiable biodiversity outcomes;
- (b) a sufficient number of qualified professionals who demonstrate ethical conduct and independence to perform all functions required for conformity assessment and auditing activities;
- (c) documented experience of appointed auditors in the evaluation of biodiversity conservation strategies and initiatives;
- (d) demonstrated competence of at least one member of the audit team based on prior experience and formal training;
- (e) technical capacity to assess the application of approved methodologies and to interpret biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (f) documented internal procedures governing the performance of CAB functions, including clear assignment of responsibilities within the organization;

- (g) competence to perform functions in accordance with applicable legislation and the provisions of this Standard;
- (h) demonstrated knowledge of environmental and biodiversity-related issues and effective quality management for conformity assessment;
- (i) technical knowledge relevant to the monitoring of biodiversity conservation activities; and
- (j) established procedures for handling complaints, appeals, and disputes.

CABs shall operate in an independent, reliable, non-discriminatory, and transparent manner and shall comply with applicable legislation and, at a minimum, the following requirements:

- (a) a documented governance structure that safeguards integrity and ensures impartiality of conformity assessment and auditing activities;
- (b) appropriate arrangements to protect the confidentiality of information obtained from initiative holders;
- (c) absence of actual or potential conflicts of interest with initiative holders, buyers, intermediaries, or any other entities that could unduly influence audit outcomes; and
- (d) provision of information to BioCarbon upon request, except where disclosure is legally restricted. Information classified as confidential shall not be disclosed without written consent of the information provider, unless disclosure is required by law. Information used to assess additionality shall not be considered confidential.

CABs shall maintain procedures to ensure that all audit activities involving data originating from Indigenous Peoples or Local Communities comply with Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty principles, including lawful authority to access, use, store, and disclose such data.

28.1.1 Governance and competence of CABs

CABs operating under the BBS shall maintain robust governance structures, impartiality safeguards, technical competence, and quality management procedures consistent with internationally recognized accreditation standards.

CABs shall demonstrate valid accreditation under ISO/IEC 17065 (Conformity assessment — Requirements for bodies certifying products, processes and services), with a scope that includes, or is technically relevant to, biodiversity

conservation, ecosystem conservation, ecological restoration, preservation, sustainable use, biodiversity monitoring, ecosystem services, Nature-based Solutions, conservation initiatives, or environmental projects involving quantifiable biodiversity outcomes.

ISO/IEC 17029 (Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for validation and verification bodies) shall be applied as a conformity assessment reference for governance, impartiality, competence, consistent operation, evidence-based evaluation, and validation and verification principles in the generic ISO/IEC sense. The reference to ISO/IEC 17029 shall not be interpreted as establishing separate operational validation or verification processes under the BBS or as transferring BioCarbon's conformity determination role to the CAB.

Where the accreditation scope does not explicitly include biodiversity-related activities, the CAB shall provide documented evidence of technical competence and experience relevant to biodiversity-related audit activities. Such evidence may be assessed by BioCarbon as complementary evidence in determining the technical relevance of the CAB but shall not replace the applicable accreditation requirement.

CABs shall also comply with the BioCarbon Audit Manual for Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives, including all applicable requirements concerning competence, independence, impartiality, audit planning, evidence evaluation, reporting, internal review, and quality assurance.

Each CAB shall:

- (a) maintain governance mechanisms to identify, analyze, and mitigate threats to impartiality and independence in decision-making;
- (b) establish transparent procedures for auditor appointment, qualification, and periodic performance review;
- (c) demonstrate technical competence in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, including ecological, social, and legal aspects;
- (d) implement internal quality management systems to ensure consistency, traceability, and reliability of audit outcomes;
- (e) maintain valid professional liability insurance covering auditing activities under this Standard and adhere to BioCarbon's Code of Conduct;

- (f) ensure continuous training of personnel involved in auditing activities on updates to the BBS and associated methodologies, tools, and safeguards; and
- (g) Include at least one member with demonstrated competence in social safeguards, human rights due diligence, and FPIC assessment methodologies, capable of conducting sensitive, confidential interviews with IPs and LCs to assess the *effectiveness* (not just the existence) of consent and governance arrangements.

Audit Reports issued by CABs shall explicitly reference compliance with the BioCarbon Audit Manual and indicate the applicable accreditation scope.

BioCarbon reserves the right to review CAB documentation, performance, and audit procedures at any time to ensure continued compliance with governance and competence requirements.

CABs shall maintain a secure audit-evidence management system with documented controls for data integrity, confidentiality, retention, and versioning, including access logs and retention procedures, to ensure audit traceability and post-conformity determination review.

28.1.2 Technical competence in biodiversity

CABs shall demonstrate specific technical competence in biodiversity and ecosystem conservation, including:

- (a) ecological assessment methodologies;
- (b) biodiversity monitoring and indicators;
- (c) ecosystem restoration and conservation practices; and
- (d) social and governance aspects related to biodiversity initiatives.

Audit teams shall include at least one member with demonstrated expertise in biodiversity conservation relevant to the type of ecosystem under assessment.

28.2 Scope of the auditing process

Each audit shall include a comprehensive review of the initiative's design, implementation, monitoring outcomes, and governance effectiveness.

At a minimum, the audit shall assess and document the following elements:

- (a) the geographic boundaries of the initiative and the delineation of the conservation area;
- (b) the start date of conservation activities and evidence of effective implementation;
- (c) where retroactivity is applied, the CAB's assessment that all retroactive periods comply with the requirements set forth in Section 10.4;
- (d) the conservation activities, specific actions, and applied Landscape Management Tools (LMTs);
- (e) identification of drivers of ecosystem transformation and biodiversity loss, including underlying causes;
- (f) demonstration of additionality in accordance with Section 15, including the appropriateness of the applicable baseline or counterfactual and the requirements corresponding to the relevant biodiversity conservation outcome pathway;
- (g) compliance with applicable legislation and regulatory frameworks;
- (h) conservation objectives and targeted biodiversity conservation outcomes;
- (i) use of approved methodologies and procedures for the quantification of BioCredits;
- (j) establishment of the biodiversity baseline and its consistency with the applied methodology;
- (k) alignment of the biodiversity baseline with the quantification period;
- (l) contribution of the initiative to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), supported by verifiable indicators and documentation;
- (m) implementation of the monitoring and reporting system, including adaptive monitoring and corrective measures, where relevant;
- (n) the CAB's assessment that all data, records, geospatial files, and monitoring datasets used as audit evidence comply with data-quality, metadata, and version-control requirements established under the BBS and applicable BioCarbon Tools, and that datasets used in quantification are reproducible by the CAB;

- (o) where BioCredits issuance is requested for a subsequent monitoring period, confirmation that the biodiversity conservation outcome is attributable to that monitoring period and does not duplicate an outcome previously issued for the same temporal and spatial scope; and
- (p) where the BBS Initiative is related to a project or Initiative registered or seeking registration under another BioCarbon Program, including where the respective projects or Initiatives operate within a multi-program area, assessment of the differentiation of environmental attributes and outcomes, relevant interactions among baselines or counterfactuals and additionality demonstrations, elements shared between the respective projects or Initiatives, and the controls established to prevent double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution.

Additionally, the CAB shall evaluate and document, as part of the audit, the following aspects:

- (a) Effectiveness of Stakeholder Engagement and FPIC, including verification that:
 - (i) stakeholder consultation and, where applicable, FPIC were conducted prior to activity start through a culturally appropriate, inclusive, and documented process, and were reaffirmed where material changes occurred;
 - (ii) independent and confidential interviews were conducted with a representative sample of community members, including women, youth, elders, and marginalized groups, to assess their understanding of the initiative, the absence of coercion, awareness of the right to withdraw consent, and the effective and inclusive functioning of governance arrangements in practice;
 - (iii) the grievance mechanism is accessible and effective, based on the review of resolved and unresolved cases and, where safe and appropriate, interviews with past complainants; and
 - (iv) the Initiative's governance arrangements provide meaningful decision-making power and co-governance for IPs and LCs, consistent with Section 11.1.
- (b) Compliance with Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Data Sovereignty, including verification that:

- (i) data collection and use protocols are consistent with community-agreed terms;
- (ii) mechanisms to control data access, interpretation, and reuse are operational; and
- (iii) mechanisms for withdrawal of consent are functional and respected in practice.

CABs shall ensure that all audit evidence, including interviews, field observations, datasets, and documentation, is securely stored, traceable, and handled in accordance with integrity principles, including protection of sensitive information and respect for Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty. Records of independent community interviews shall be kept confidential by the CAB to protect participants and preserve the integrity of the audit process.

28.3 Conformity determination

Upon completion of the audit, the CAB shall submit an Audit Report to BioCarbon documenting findings, conclusions, and recommendations regarding the initiative's conformity with the BBS.

BioCarbon shall review the Audit Report and, where all applicable requirements are met, shall issue a Conformity Statement confirming that the initiative complies with the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard and is eligible for the issuance of BioCredits.

The conformity determination shall be based solely on objective evidence obtained through the audit process.

Both the Audit Report and the Conformity Statement shall be made publicly available through the Registry in accordance with the transparency provisions of this Standard.

BioCarbon may request additional information or corrective actions prior to finalizing the Conformity Statement where audits identify data gaps, inconsistencies, or insufficient evidence of conformity.

No Conformity Statement shall be issued until all corrective actions have been satisfactorily closed.

Conformity determination relating to retroactive periods shall explicitly specify the approved retroactive start date, baseline year, and audited retroactive periods in accordance with Section 10.4.

29 BioCredits issuance and registry

Upon completion of the audit process and issuance of the Conformity Statement, BioCarbon shall proceed with the issuance process in accordance with this Standard.

Where the review confirms conformity with this Standard, BioCarbon shall issue a BioCredits Issuance Statement authorizing the registration and issuance of verified BioCredits corresponding to biodiversity conservation outcomes.

BioCredits shall be issued exclusively on an ex-post basis following verified monitoring results and conformity determination.

BioCredits shall be issued only where:

- (a) the initiative has received a Conformity Statement under the BBS and all monitoring datasets supporting issuance have passed quality control and audit procedures;
- (b) the Conformity Statement and Audit Report are complete; and
- (c) all applicable transparency and disclosure requirements have been fulfilled through the Registry.

Each BioCredits Issuance Statement shall specify the number of BioCredits authorized, the monitoring period to which they correspond, and the serial identification assigned in the Registry.

For each issuance, BioCarbon shall confirm that the biodiversity conservation outcomes authorized for issuance are attributable to the applicable monitoring period and have not previously been issued for the same temporal and spatial scope.

Where a BBS Initiative is related to a project or Initiative registered under another BioCarbon Program, each project or Initiative shall maintain an independent registration in the applicable registry, with its own identifier, documentation, environmental outcomes, environmental units, and issuance records.

Where technically feasible, the applicable registries shall provide traceable cross-references between related projects or Initiatives. Such references shall enable transparent identification of their relationship and of the respective environmental attributes, methodologies, monitoring or quantification

periods, issuance records, and claims, without implying that the respective environmental units represent the same environmental outcome.

Where related projects or Initiatives operate within a multi-program area, the applicable Registry records shall identify, where technically feasible, the existence of the shared geographic area without merging the respective registrations or implying common ownership, equivalence, or duplication of the environmental outcomes represented by the respective environmental units.

Where BioCredits have previously been issued for the same Initiative or geographic area, the issuance review shall include reconciliation against prior issuance records to confirm temporal differentiation and prevent duplication of biodiversity conservation outcomes.

Where retroactive issuance is approved, the BioCredits Issuance Statement shall also specify the retroactive start date, baseline year, and the audited retroactive periods approved under Section 10.4.

The issuance process shall conclude with the public listing of BioCredits in the Registry, including serial numbers, issuance batches, corresponding monitoring periods, and associated documentation, ensuring full traceability, transparency, and integrity.

No forward-looking claims, financial instruments, or advance purchase agreements shall be represented, marketed, or traded as issued BioCredits.

BioCarbon shall ensure that no serial number is altered, duplicated, or reassigned.

The Issuance Statement shall include a public link to the Monitoring Report and Audit Report available in the Registry.

Prior to issuance, BioCarbon shall verify consistency among the Monitoring Report, Audit Report, and Conformity Statement, including alignment of spatial data, indicators, baselines, and quantities, ensuring that all issued BioCredits are fully traceable to verified biodiversity conservation outcomes.

BioCarbon shall ensure that biodiversity conservation outcomes corresponding to issued BioCredits are:

- (a) uniquely identified;

- (b) fully traceable to the applicable monitoring period, methodology, audit, conformity determination, and Registry record; and
- (c) not issued, used, or attributed more than once for the same environmental outcome and the same temporal and spatial scope.

Initiative holders shall disclose all biodiversity crediting mechanisms or equivalent environmental units associated with the same activities or geographic area and shall declare that the biodiversity conservation outcomes submitted for issuance have not been issued elsewhere as equivalent units representing the same environmental outcome for the same temporal and spatial scope.

29.1 Registry platform

BioCredits shall be registered, issued, tracked, transferred, and retired through the Registry operated by Global CarbonTrace (GCT) in accordance with the applicable Registry rules and BioCarbon Program requirements.

Each BioCredit issued shall be assigned a unique serial number recorded in the Registry.

Registry records shall be supported by secure digital infrastructure, including distributed ledger or equivalent technologies, to ensure security, transparency, and traceability.

Only initiative holders, or entities duly authorized by them, may request the registration of initiatives and initiate Registry-related procedures.

To register an initiative, initiative holders shall submit, at a minimum, the following documentation:

- (a) information identifying the initiative holder and the initiative;
- (b) authorization for registration and use of the Registry;
- (c) the Conservation Initiative Document (CID);
- (d) the report generated by the BioCarbon *SDS Tool* (current version) and the corresponding Safeguards Management Plan (or, where applicable, a non-confidential summary in accordance with the confidentiality provisions of this Standard); and
- (e) the Monitoring Report.

All publicly accessible Registry information shall include metadata describing data sources, monitoring periods, version history, and conformity determination dates.

The number of BioCredits authorized for issuance may differ from prior indicative BioCredit potential estimates where such difference is justified by monitored results, approved indicators and metrics, methodology requirements, data quality, uncertainty, conservative treatment, leakage, displacement of pressures, reversals, baseline consistency, safeguards, or other applicable requirements.

Sensitive or culturally restricted information shall be managed in accordance with applicable legislation and Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty principles.

Registry information shall be public by default, except where information is lawfully classified or restricted under applicable legislation.

29.1.1 Attribution and traceability

The Registry operated by Global CarbonTrace shall ensure full traceability of BioCredits, including:

- (a) issuance;
- (b) transfer;
- (c) retirement; and
- (d) associated attribution, where applicable.

All attributions shall be linked to specific retired BioCredits and shall be publicly traceable.

The Registry shall prevent:

- (a) double issuance;
- (b) double use; and
- (c) multiple attributions associated with the same BioCredit.

Each issuance record shall identify, at a minimum, the Initiative, applicable methodology, biodiversity conservation outcome pathway, monitoring period, quantity issued, issuance date, unique serial identification, and the corresponding Audit Report, Conformity Statement, and BioCredits Issuance Statement.

Where applicable, the Registry record of the BBS Initiative shall identify the existence of related projects or Initiatives under other BioCarbon Programs, including whether the respective projects or Initiatives operate within a multi-program area, and provide sufficient information to enable cross-referencing and transparent differentiation and traceability of the respective environmental outcomes and attributes.

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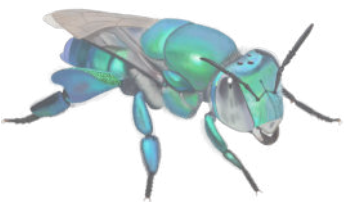
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Draft for public consultation



ANNEX A. Terms and definitions

Adaptive management

process of iteratively planning, implementing and modifying strategies for managing resources in the face of uncertainty and change

Note 1 to entry: Adaptive management involves adjusting approaches in response to observations of their effects and changes in the system brought on by resulting feedback effects and other variables.

[SOURCE: IPCC, 2014, ISO 14090:2019(en), 3.3]

Additionality

Condition under which a biodiversity conservation outcome is attributable to the Initiative and would not reasonably have occurred, or would not have been sustained to the same extent, quality, or duration, in the absence of the Initiative and the conservation activities supporting it.

Additionality is assessed in relation to the applicable biodiversity conservation outcome pathway and the relevant baseline or counterfactual in accordance with Section 15 of this Standard.

Area of the conservation initiative (ACI)

location with defined geographical boundaries where conservation activities may be carried out

Benefit-sharing

The commitment to channel some kind of returns, whether monetary or non-monetary, back to the range of designated participants; for example, sharing of benefits arising from sustainable wildlife management.

[SOURCE: SOFO, FAO, 2014 (MJ677)]

BioCredit

Voluntary Biodiversity Credit issued under the BBS representing an additional, verified, traceable, and conformity-determined biodiversity conservation outcome attributable to a defined monitoring period.

A BioCredit may represent an eligible biodiversity conservation outcome arising from enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, or maintenance, as

established under this Standard and the applicable BioCarbon-approved methodology.

Each BioCredit is quantified in accordance with the applicable methodology, independently audited by an eligible CAB, approved for issuance by BioCarbon, and recorded in the Registry with unique serial identification.

A BioCredit represents a biodiversity conservation outcome and not ownership of, or a unit of, geographic area, land, species, habitat, ecosystem, or biodiversity itself.

In the context of the BBS, biodiversity credits are referred to as BioCredits. The term BioCredit is used as a synonym for Voluntary Biodiversity Credit (VBC).

BioCredits allocation

Process by which issued BioCredits are recorded, identified, and assigned to a specific account, holder, or entity within the registry system, including the assignment of unique serial numbers and the corresponding traceability.

The allocation of BioCredits constitutes an administrative registry operation and does not, by itself, imply their use for attribution purposes nor the making of claims associated with biodiversity outcomes.

BioCredits attribution

Use of retired BioCredits to support a statement associated with biodiversity conservation outcomes by an entity.

Attribution may only occur once the corresponding BioCredits have been retired and shall be specific, verifiable, and fully traceable to the BioCredits used.

Each BioCredit may support only one attribution.

BioCredits Issuance Statement

Formal declaration issued by BioCarbon authorizing the registration and issuance of BioCredits following conformity determination.

Biodiversity conservation initiative (Initiative)

A set of coordinated conservation activities expressly dedicated to achieving measurable outcomes related to the conservation, restoration, or sustainable use of biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation initiative holder (Initiative holder)

The natural or legal person, public or private, responsible for the formulation, implementation, monitoring, and registration of a biodiversity conservation initiative.

Biological diversity

"Biological diversity" means the variability among living organisms from all sources, including, among other things, terrestrial, marine, and different aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; it includes diversity within species, between species, and of ecosystems.

Co-benefits

A policy or measure aimed at one objective could have positive effects on other purposes, regardless of the net impact on overall social welfare. Co-benefits are often subject to uncertainty and depend, among other factors, on local circumstances and implementation practices. Co-benefits are the same named as secondary benefits.

Conformity determination

Decision adopted by BioCarbon, on the basis of the Audit Report issued by an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), through which it is established whether a biodiversity conservation initiative complies with the applicable requirements of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS).

The conformity determination is based exclusively on objective and verifiable evidence contained in the Audit Report and supporting documentation and constitutes the basis for issuing the Conformity Statement.

Conformity Statement

Formal document issued by BioCarbon confirming that a biodiversity conservation initiative has demonstrated conformity with the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard and is eligible for the issuance of BioCredits.

Community-led project

A community-led project is an initiative in which local community members play a central role in identifying priorities, planning, decision-making, implementing, and maintaining activities or interventions. These initiatives leverage the community's own resources and capacities, build on local

strengths, and ensure accountability to the community's own vision and needs. External actors (e.g., NGOs, governments, donors) act as partners or facilitators rather than primary decision-makers.

Conservation objects

Conservation objects are the components of biodiversity that are considered in conservation activities and therefore included in the calculation of BioCredits. They include species or taxa such as vascular and non-vascular plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Functional taxa such as large herbivores or soil invertebrates may also be included. These may vary according to conservation objectives, which shall be justified by their ecological and functional relevance. The selection of conservation objects shall consider priorities and special features, such as their vulnerability status and cultural value, to ensure that their conservation contributes to the maintenance and resilience of ecosystems.

The identification of conservation objects shall be based on a diagnosis of the functional, physical and biotic components of the ecosystem, together with a baseline analysis, considering the local and regional context. It shall also include information to ensure the stability of ecosystems and the continued provision of environmental goods and services.

Biodiversity conservation outcome

A measurable, verifiable, and attributable result arising from eligible biodiversity conservation activities and demonstrated in relation to an applicable baseline or counterfactual.

Under the BBS, biodiversity conservation outcomes may arise through enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, or maintenance, as established in Section 9.2.1 and the applicable methodology.

A biodiversity conservation outcome shall be attributable to a defined monitoring period and shall meet the applicable additionality, monitoring, quantification, auditing, and conformity determination requirements of the BBS.

Bundling

An approach under which two or more distinct environmental outcomes or ecosystem services generated by the same or related activities are jointly represented, offered, or communicated as part of a combined environmental proposition, while preserving the identity, quantification, traceability, and

applicable integrity requirements of each underlying environmental outcome or unit.

Bundling shall not result in the same environmental outcome being issued, used, or attributed more than once.

Continuous community participation

regular and ongoing involvement of community members in all phases of a project or initiative, including its design, planning, implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and adaptive management.

Note 1 to entry: Continuous community participation requires inclusive and equitable processes that ensure all groups, particularly women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized populations, have meaningful opportunities to influence decisions.

Note 2 to entry: It relies on mechanisms for continuous dialogue, feedback, transparency, and accountability between Initiative holders and the community.

[SOURCES: Based on UNDP Community Participation Framework; World Bank Participation Sourcebook; FAO Guidelines on Community-Based Forestry; OECD DAC Principles; ILO Community Participation Methods.]

Counterfactual

A reasoned and evidence-based representation of the environmental condition or trajectory that would most plausibly occur in the absence of the Initiative or the relevant conservation intervention.

A counterfactual may be used, where applicable, to assess avoided loss, maintenance, additionality, or other biodiversity conservation outcomes that cannot be adequately evaluated solely by reference to an observed historical baseline.

The counterfactual shall be supported by transparent assumptions, relevant ecological, social, economic, legal, and land-use information, and sufficient evidence to permit independent audit and BioCarbon's conformity determination.

Ecosystem

dynamic complex of plant, animal and micro-organism communities and their non-living environment interacting as a functional unit

[SOURCE: UN Convention on Biological Diversity]; ISO 34101-2:2019(en), 3.7

Environmental attribute

An identifiable characteristic of an environmental outcome that defines the nature of the environmental benefit represented by an environmental unit, including, as applicable, the environmental outcome, metric or unit of measurement, baseline or counterfactual, spatial scope, temporal scope, and applicable methodology.

Environmental attributes shall be sufficiently differentiated where multiple environmental units arise from the same or related activities or geographic area, so that each unit represents a distinct environmental outcome and does not result in double counting, double issuance, double use, or multiple attribution.

Environmental unit

An identifiable and traceable unit representing a quantified environmental outcome issued, registered, or otherwise recognized under an environmental program or mechanism.

An environmental unit shall be distinguished from the underlying environmental outcome itself and from the geographic area, activity, or intervention from which that outcome arises.

Where multiple environmental units arise from the same or related activities or geographic area, each unit shall represent a distinct environmental outcome and shall comply with the applicable requirements for environmental attribute differentiation, additionality, monitoring, traceability, and prevention of double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution.

Forest (Natural Forest)

“Forest” is a minimum area of land of 0.05-1.0 hectares with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10-30 per cent with trees with the potential to reach a minimum height of 2-5 meters at maturity in situ. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various stores

and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest. Young natural stands and all plantations which have yet to reach a crown density of 10-30 per cent or tree height of 2-5 meters are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes, but which are expected to revert to forest (UNFCCC, 2002).

Habitat

place or type of site where an organism or population naturally occurs.

[SOURCE: CBD, Art.2]; ISO 14055-1:2017(en), 3.1.6.

Indicative BioCredit potential estimate

Non-binding estimate of the potential number of BioCredits that may be generated by a Biodiversity Conservation Initiative over a defined quantification period, based on the applicable BioCarbon-approved methodology or methodologies, conservation objects, indicators, metrics, baseline, assumptions, and information available at the time of estimation.

An indicative BioCredit potential estimate does not constitute BioCredits issuance, allocation, transferability, market availability, retirement eligibility, or authorization to sell, transfer, retire, or make claims regarding BioCredits.

The estimate may be revised in future monitoring periods based on monitored biodiversity conservation outcomes, approved indicators and metrics, methodology requirements, baseline reassessment, data quality, uncertainty, leakage, displacement of pressures, reversals, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, FPIC where applicable, and any other relevant factor assessed under the BBS.

Indigenous and Local Communities Data Sovereignty

rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities to govern the collection, ownership, control, access, use, and stewardship of data relating to their peoples, lands, natural resources, cultures, and knowledge systems (including Community Generated Data), ensuring that such data is managed in ways that support communities' self-determination, collective benefit, ethical use, and responsibility

Note 1 to entry: Indigenous Data Sovereignty frameworks commonly include principles such as Collective Benefit, Authority to Control, Responsibility, and

Ethics (CARE Principles), as well as Ownership, Control, Access, and Possession (OCAP®).

Note 2 to entry: These principles apply to biodiversity, cultural knowledge, geospatial information, and all data derived from Indigenous and Local Communities territories or knowledge systems.

[SOURCE: Global Indigenous Data Alliance (GIDA), 'CARE Principles for Indigenous Data Governance', 2020; First Nations Information Governance Centre (FNIGC), 'The OCAP® Principles', 2014.]

Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

Are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to peoples and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.

[SOURCE: Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations]

Local Communities (LCs)

All land-dependent communities. While communities vary in size, identity, internal equity and land-use systems, they all share strong connections to their lands and distribute rights according to norms which they themselves devise.

[SOURCE: COMMON GROUND, Securing land rights and safeguarding the earth, Land Rights Now, ILC, OXFAM, Rights Resources and A Global Call to Action on Indigenous and Community Land Rights, 2016.]

Metadata

Data that provides information and context about other data. In dMRV, this includes details such as the time, date, GPS location, sensor used, and the processing method of the collected information.

Monitoring period

Defined, non-overlapping interval of time during which biodiversity indicators are measured and monitored to assess biodiversity conservation outcomes. Each monitoring period provides a distinct temporal basis for reporting, quantification, auditing, conformity determination, and, where applicable, issuance of BioCredits.

Multi-program area

A geographic area that is wholly or partially shared by two or more distinct projects or Initiatives registered or seeking registration under different BioCarbon Programs, where each project or Initiative maintains an independent programmatic identity and represents a distinct environmental outcome in accordance with the requirements of its applicable BioCarbon Program.

The existence of a multi-program area shall not, by itself, constitute double counting, double issuance, double use, or multiple attribution. Projects or Initiatives operating within a multi-program area shall remain independently subject to the applicable requirements of their respective BioCarbon Programs, including requirements for eligibility, additionality, monitoring, quantification, auditing, conformity determination, issuance, traceability, and claims.

Nature-based solutions

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) defines nature-based solutions as "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, while simultaneously providing benefits for human well-being and biodiversity."

Related projects or Initiatives across BioCarbon Programs

Two or more distinct projects or Initiatives registered or seeking registration under different BioCarbon Programs that share, in whole or in part, a geographic area, activities, interventions, participants, data, monitoring systems, infrastructure, financing sources, or other relevant elements.

Each project or Initiative maintains an independent programmatic identity and is subject to the requirements, methodology, documentation, conformity assessment, conformity determination, issuance process, environmental units, and registry applicable under its respective BioCarbon Program.

The existence of shared elements shall not, by itself, constitute double counting or double issuance, provided that the respective environmental outcomes and attributes are sufficiently differentiated and the applicable requirements for additionality, disclosure, monitoring, quantification, auditing, traceability, and claims are met.

**Registry Platform (operated by Global CarbonTrace –
www.globalcarbontrace.io)**

Digital platform operated by Global CarbonTrace (GCT) for the registration, issuance, tracking, transfer, retirement, and traceability of BioCredits under the BBS.

Species

Species are groups of individuals or natural populations that actually or potentially interbreed and are reproductively isolated from other similar groups by their physiological characteristics (producing incompatibility between parents or sterility of hybrids, or both).

Stacking

An approach under which the same activity, intervention, or geographic area generates two or more distinct environmental outcomes or ecosystem services that are separately quantified and may give rise to separate environmental units under different BioCarbon Programs.

Stacking is permitted under the BBS where each environmental unit represents a distinct and sufficiently differentiated environmental outcome and the applicable requirements for additionality, environmental attribute differentiation, monitoring, disclosure, traceability, and prevention of double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution are met.

Sustainable utilization (use)

" Sustainable use" means the use of components of biological diversity in a manner and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining the potential of biological diversity to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

ANNEX B. Informative ISO Terminology References

The following terms are included for informational purposes only to provide context on the international conformity assessment framework used as reference in the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS).

These definitions are extracted from ISO/IEC 17000, ISO 14000, ISO 26000, and related standards. They shall not be interpreted as establishing operational terms, procedures, deliverables, decisions, or approval mechanisms under the BBS.

Under the BBS, the operative terminology is established in the body of this Standard and includes, as applicable: audit, Audit Report, Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), BioCarbon conformity determination, Conformity Statement, BioCredits Issuance Statement, BioCredits, and Registry actions.

References in this Annex to validation, verification, certification, accreditation, declaration, attestation, or similar ISO/IEC conformity assessment terms shall be understood only in their generic ISO/IEC sense and shall not create separate operational processes under the BBS unless expressly established in the body of this Standard or in another binding BioCarbon normative document.

Accreditation

Third-party attestation related to a conformity assessment body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 5.6].

Adaptive capacity

ability of systems, institutions, humans, and other organisms to adjust to potential damage, to take advantage of opportunities, or to respond to consequences.

Note 1 to entry: Coping capacity is defined as the ability of people, organizations, and systems, using available skills, resources, and opportunities, to address, manage, and overcome adverse conditions.

[SOURCE: ISO 14090:2019, 3.2, modified — Note 1 to entry has been added.]

Adaptation to climate change (Climate change adaptation)

process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects

Note 1 to entry: In human systems, adaptation seeks to moderate or avoid harm or exploit beneficial opportunities.

Note 2 to entry: In some natural systems, human intervention can facilitate adjustment to expected climate and its effects. [SOURCE: ISO 14090:2019, 3.1]

Attestation

issue of a statement, based on a decision, that fulfilment of specified requirements has been demonstrated.

Note 1 to entry: The resulting statement, referred to in this document as a “statement of conformity”, is intended to convey the assurance that the specified requirements have been fulfilled. Such an assurance does not, of itself, provide contractual or other legal guarantees.

Note 2 to entry: First-party attestation and third-party attestation are distinguished by the term’s declaration, certification and accreditation, but there is no corresponding term applicable to second-party attestation.

[SOURCE:ISO/IEC 17000:2020(en), 7.3]

BBS note: References to declaration, certification, accreditation, assurance, or attestation in this ISO/IEC definition are included only to explain generic ISO/IEC conformity assessment terminology. They do not establish BBS operational documents or processes. Under the BBS, the applicable operational documents and decisions are the Audit Report issued by the CAB, BioCarbon’s conformity determination, the Conformity Statement, the BioCredits Issuance Statement, and Registry actions.

Audit

process for obtaining relevant information about an object of conformity assessment and evaluating it objectively to determine the extent to which specified requirements are fulfilled.

Note 1 to entry: The specified requirements are defined prior to performing an audit so that the relevant information can be obtained.

Note 2 to entry: Examples of objects for an audit are management systems, processes, products and services.

Note 3 to entry: For accreditation purposes, the audit process is called “assessment”.

[SOURCE:ISO/IEC 17000:2020(en), 6.4]

NOTE: In the context of the BBS, audits are conducted by an accredited CAB meeting the applicable BBS requirements.

Audit Report

Document issued by an accredited Conformity Assessment Body (CAB), presenting in a structured manner the findings, evidence, analyses, and conclusions resulting from the audit of a biodiversity conservation initiative.

The Audit Report shall include an explicit conclusion regarding the conformity of the initiative with the applicable requirements of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS), based exclusively on objective evidence verified during the audit process.

The Audit Report constitutes the technical basis for BioCarbon’s conformity determination and does not, by itself, constitute a final decision of the scheme nor authorize the issuance of BioCredits.

Conformity Assessment

demonstration that specified requirements are fulfilled.

Note 1 to entry: The process of conformity assessment as described in the ISO/IEC 17000 functional approach can have a negative outcome, i.e. demonstrating that the specified requirements are not fulfilled.

Note 2 to entry: Conformity assessment includes activities defined elsewhere in this document, such as but not limited to testing, inspection, validation, verification, certification, and accreditation.

Note 3 to entry: Conformity assessment is explained in ISO/IEC 17000 as a series of functions. Activities contributing to any of these functions can be described as conformity assessment activities.

Note 4 to entry: This document does not include a definition of “conformity”. “Conformity” does not feature in the definition of “conformity assessment”. Nor does this document address the concept of compliance.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2020(en), 4.1]

BBS note: References to testing, inspection, validation, verification, certification, or accreditation in this definition are generic ISO/IEC conformity assessment terms. They shall not be interpreted as establishing separate validation, verification, certification, or accreditation processes under the BBS. Under the BBS, the applicable process is the independent audit conducted by an accredited CAB meeting the applicable BBS requirements, followed by BioCarbon's conformity determination and, where applicable, BioCarbon's Conformity Statement and BioCredits Issuance Statement.

Conformity Assessment Body (CAB)

Independent third-party entity accredited in accordance with applicable requirements, responsible for conducting audits and assessing the conformity of initiatives with the requirements of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard and the applicable program documents.

Note 1 to entry: The CAB does not administer or operate the BioCarbon scheme, nor does it issue the final conformity determination or authorize the issuance of BioCredits.

Note 2 to entry: A CAB may be governmental or non-governmental, with or without regulatory authority, provided that it meets the applicable requirements of accreditation, competence, independence, and impartiality.

Data quality

degree to which the characteristics of data satisfy stated and implied needs when used under specified conditions.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 25012:2008, definition 4.3]

Declaration

attestation document issued by anybody other than an independent third-party certification body.

Note 1 to entry: This definition differs from the definition of declaration in ISO/IEC 17000.

Note 2 to entry: "Body" includes any individual.

[SOURCE: ISO 22222:2005(en), 3.8]

BBS note: The term "Declaration" is not used as an operative BBS document. The BBS uses "Conformity Statement" and "BioCredits Issuance Statement",

both issued by BioCarbon, as the applicable program documents for conformity determination and BioCredits issuance.

Ecosystem services

benefit people obtain from ecosystems

Note 1 to entry: These are generally distinguished into provisioning, regulating, supporting and cultural services. Ecosystem services include the provisioning of goods (e.g. food, fuel, raw materials, fiber), regulating services (e.g. climate regulation, disease control), and non-material benefits (cultural services) (e.g. spiritual or aesthetic benefits). The supporting services are necessary for the production of all other ecosystem services (e.g. soil formation, nutrient cycling, water cycling) and are also referred to as “ecosystem functions”.

Note 2 to entry: Ecosystem services are sometimes called “environmental services” or “ecological services”.

[SOURCE: ISO 14008:2019(en), 3.2.11]

Risk

effect of uncertainty.

Note 1 to entry: An effect is a deviation from the expected – positive or negative.

Note 2 to entry: Uncertainty is the state, even partial, of deficiency of information related to, understanding or knowledge of, an event, its consequence and likelihood.

Note 3 to entry: Risk is often characterized by reference to potential events (as defined in ISO Guide 73:2009, 3.5.1.3) and consequences (as defined in ISO Guide 73:2009, 3.6.1.3), or a combination of these.

Note 4 to entry: Risk is often expressed in terms of a combination of the consequences of an event (including changes in circumstances) and the associated likelihood (as defined in ISO Guide 73:2009, 3.6.1.1) of occurrence.

[SOURCE: ISO 9000:2015, 3.7.9, modified — Notes to entry 5 and 6 have been deleted]; ISO 19011:2018(en), 3.19]

Site

location with defined geographical boundaries and on which activities under the control of an organization may be carried out

Note 1 to entry: The geographical boundaries may be on land and in water, and include above- and below-surface structures, both natural and man-made.

[SOURCE: ISO 14015:2001(en), 2.14.]

Sustainable development

development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Note 1 to entry: Sustainable development is about integrating the broader expectations of society as a whole of a high quality of life, health and prosperity with environmental justice and maintaining Earth's capacity to support life in all its diversity. These social, economic and environmental goals are interdependent and should be mutually reinforcing.

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.23]

Sustainability

state of a system, including economic, social and environmental aspects, in which the needs of the present are met without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Note 1 to entry: In the ISO 34101 series “sustainability” is referred to as an objective rather than a requirement.

[SOURCE: ISO 34101-1:2019(en), 3.51]

Stakeholder (Interested party)

person or organization that can affect, be affected by, or perceive itself to be affected by a decision or activity.

Note 1 to entry: To “perceive itself to be affected” means the perception has been made known to the organization.

Note 2 to entry: The terms “interested party” and “stakeholder” are used interchangeably.

[SOURCE: ISO 14001:2015, 3.1.6, modified — The admitted term “stakeholder” and Note 2 to entry have been added; ISO 14006:2020(en), 3.1.7.]

Stakeholder engagement

activity undertaken to create opportunities for dialogue between an organization and one or more of its stakeholders, with the aim of providing an informed basis for the organization's decisions

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010(en), 2.21]

Transparency

openness about decisions and activities that affect society, the economy and the environment, and willingness to communicate these in a clear, accurate, timely, honest and complete manner

Note 1 to entry: Transparency can be the result of processes, procedures, methods, data sources and assumptions used by the local government that ensure appropriate information is made available to customers/citizens and other interested parties.

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.24, modified — The note to entry has been added.]; ISO 18091:2019(en), 3.7.

Uncertainty

parameter associated with the result of quantification that characterizes the dispersion of the values that could be reasonably attributed to the quantified amount

Note 1 to entry: Uncertainty information typically specifies quantitative estimates of the likely dispersion of values and a qualitative description of the likely causes of the dispersion.

[SOURCE: ISO 14064-1:2018(en), 3.2.13]

Vulnerability

propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected

Note 1 to entry: Vulnerability encompasses a variety of concepts and elements including sensitivity or susceptibility to harm and lack of capacity to cope and adapt.

Note 2 to entry: Vulnerability is the degree to which an ecological, social and economic system is susceptible to, or unable to cope with, adverse climate change impacts, including climate variability and extremes.

[SOURCE: ISO 14090:2019, 3.15, modified — Note 2 to entry has been added.];
ISO/TS 14092:2020(en)

Draft for public consultation

Document history

Document type. Normative document

Version	Date	Description
Version for public consultation	May 11 th , 2021	Initial version – a document submitted for public consultation
Version 1.0	July 2 nd , 2021	Definitive version. No changes with respect to the former document.
Version 2.0	November 15 th , 2022	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Change of author to BioCarbon Registry (formerly ProClima) Minor editorial changes
Version 3.0	February 27 th , 2024	Adjusted version Change of author to BioCarbon Cert Clarifications and minor editorial changes
Version 3.1	May 31 st , 2024	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Minor editorial changes.
Version 3.2	January 25 th , 2025	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Minor editorial changes
Version 4.0 Public Consultation Version	January 7 th , 2026	Comprehensive revision consolidating technical and structural updates to strengthen methodological coherence, transparency, governance, biodiversity outcome integrity, and alignment with international standards, including enhancements to additionality, safeguards, stakeholder engagement, Data Sovereignty, and auditing and certification processes
Version 4.0	March 5 th , 2026	Consolidated version of the BBS strengthening normative coherence, scientific integrity, the robustness of risk-based monitoring, the ex-post issuance framework, the Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS), and auditing and transparency requirements.
Version 4.1	May 5 th , 2026	Incorporates normative, technical, institutional, and editorial adjustments to strengthen the coherence of the BBS, including improvements in integrity and traceability, stakeholder participation, safeguards, monitoring, auditing,

Version	Date	Description
		conformity determination, issuance and registration of BioCredits, as well as definitions and operational terminology of the scheme.
Draft for public consultation Version 5.0	August 7 th , 2026	Comprehensive revision strengthening the outcome-based architecture of the BBS. The revision clarifies biodiversity conservation outcome pathways for enhancement or recovery, avoided loss, and maintenance; establishes temporal differentiation across successive monitoring periods; strengthens additionality, double counting, double issuance, double use, and multiple attribution requirements; enables the coexistence of related projects or Initiatives under different BioCarbon Programs, subject to integrity controls and environmental attribute differentiation; strengthens auditing and Registry traceability requirements; and introduces additional clarifications concerning indicative BioCredit potential estimates, monitoring, issuance, and claims integrity.

