METHODOLOGY DEVELOPMENT & APPROVAL PROCEDURE (MD&A)

Governance procedure for ensuring quality, integrity and consistency in methodologies and tools under the BIOCARBON STANDARD

BIOCARBON CERT®

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1 Introduction

BIOCARBON CERT (hereinafter "BIOCARBON") sets and manages the BIOCARBON STANDARD, the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Crediting Program that certifies and registers mitigation activities that demonstrably reduce or remove greenhouse gas emissions. The BIOCARBON STANDARD promotes low-carbon growth while safeguarding environmental integrity, scientific rigour, and transparency.

The BIOCARBON STANDARD is governed by a normative framework comprising the BCR Standard, Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), approved methodologies and tools, and additional regulatory instruments. All activities, methodologies, and validation/verification processes under the Program shall comply with these rules.

This Methodology Development & Approval Procedure ("MD&A") establishes the mandatory steps and criteria for the development, independent review, approval, periodic revision and retirement of methodologies and tools under the BIOCARBON STANDARD. The procedure is normative for methodology developers, conformity assessment bodies (CABs), BIOCARBON governance bodies and any other interested party.

This Procedure operates within the normative hierarchy of the BIOCARBON STANDARD and shall be applied in accordance with the current versions of all applicable rules, tools, and procedural documents adopted by the Program.

These include, but are not limited to, the BCR Standard, Standard Operating Procedures, and technical tools for baseline, additionality, permanence, safeguards, and double counting avoidance.

The procedure is designed to remain fully consistent with BIOCARBON STANDARD rules, which are themselves aligned with internationally 4 olos 4 ón 4 d principles of carbon-market integrity and with the eligibility criteria applied to aviation-sector offsetting schemes.

This document is reviewed at least every five (5) years, or sooner where significant revisions to BIOCARBON rules or external frameworks occur. The authoritative version is the one published on the BIOCARBON website; users shall verify that they are consulting the latest release before application.

2 Objectives

The objectives of this Guidance are to:

(a) Provide clear instructions for the development of methodologies in accordance with the conditions and rules established by BIOCARBON;

(b) Establish the procedures necessary to meet requirements for quality, integrity and transparency throughout the methodology life-cycle;

(c) Maintain the integrity, coherence and operational efficiency of the BIOCARBON PROGRAM's methodological framework;

(d) Ensure all methodologies remain fully aligned with BIOCARBON environmental-and-social safeguards;

(e) Foster methodological innovation by incorporating state-of-the-art science, data and technology, thereby enhancing environmental integrity and market relevance; and

(f) Promote effective stakeholder participation and public transparency throughout methodology development, public consultation, approval and subsequent review cycles.

3 Version

This document constitutes Version 2.0 of May 21, 2025.

This document may be periodically adjusted; intended users shall ensure they are consulting the latest version available on the BIOCARBON website. The document undergoes a formal review at least every five (5) years, or sooner where significant revisions to BIOCARBON rules or external frameworks occur.

4 Scope and Area of application

This Guidance governs the design, development, review, approval and periodic revision of methodologies and tools used within the BIOCARBON STANDARD. It applies to all BIOCARBON personnel, external methodology developers, Conformity Assessment Bodies (CABs) and any other stakeholders involved in methodological activities.

Specifically, the Guidance addresses:

(a) Development of new methodologies;

(b) Review, revisión and approval of methodologies; and

(c) Development, review and approval of tools, modules or analytical instruments that support GHG quantification, monitoring and reporting under the Program.

Methodologies developed or revised under this Procedure shall comply with the applicable requirements of the following documents, as amended and adopted from time to time:

(a) BCR Standard;

(b) Standard Operating Procedures (SOP);

(c) Baseline and Additionality Tool;

(d) Permanence and Risk Management Tool;

(e) Avoiding Double Counting (ADC) Tool;

(f) Safeguards Framework and SDG Contributions Tool;

(g) Validation and Verification Manual.

These documents form part of the BIOCARBON STANDARD's normative framework and shall be considered binding for methodology developers, reviewers, and Program authorities.

5 Terms and definitions

Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use ("AFOLU")

The sector comprises of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removals attributable to project activities in the agriculture, forestry, and other land uses sectors.

BCR STANDARD

The BCR Standard is the core normative document of the BIOCARBON STANDARD. It sets out the principles, requirements, and eligibility conditions that govern the design, implementation, validation, verification, registration, and credit issuance of greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation activities.

The BCR Standard applies to all GHG project types eligible under the BIOCARBON STANDARD and provides the foundational rules for additionality demonstration, baseline, quantification of emission reductions or removals, leakages, environmental and social safeguards, sustainable development contributions, permanence, and the avoidance of double counting.

All methodologies, tools, and procedures adopted by the Program shall be consistent with the requirements of the BCR STANDARD, which prevails in the event of any conflict with subordinate documents.

BioCarbon Standard

The BIOCARBON STANDARD is the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Crediting Program managed by BIOCARBON. It defines the institutional, procedural, and technical framework for certifying mitigation activities that reduce or remove GHG emissions and for issuing Verified Carbon Credits (VCC).

The Program is governed by a normative hierarchy that includes the BCR Standard (its core technical rulebook), the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), approved methodologies and tools, and additional regulatory instruments. All activities under the Program must comply with these documents to ensure environmental integrity, transparency, and alignment with international best practices.

Clean Development Mechanism ("CDM")

Article 12 of the Kyoto Protocol defines the clean development mechanism: *"The purpose of the clean development mechanism is to assist Parties1 not included in Annex I in achieving sustainable development and in contributing to the ultimate objective of the Convention, and to assist Parties included in Annex I in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments under Article 3"*.

Clean Development Mechanism ("CDM") Projects

They are a type of GHG Project that includes GHG emission reduction or removal activities eligible for the Kyoto Protocol's Clean Development Mechanism ("CDM").

Conformity Assessment Body

Body that performs conformity assessment activities and that can be the object of accreditation.

Note 1 to entry: Whenever the term "conformity assessment body" is used in the text, it applies to both the applicant and accredited conformity assessment bodies, unless otherwise specified.

[SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 2.5, modified — The words "and that can be the object of accreditation" have been added to the definition and the Note to entry has been added; [ISO/IEC 17011:2017(en), 3.4]

GHG project (Greenhouse gas project)

Activity(ies) that change the conditions of a GHG baseline and that reduce GHG emissions or improve GHG removals.

GHG statement

Formal written statement addressed to the intended user, ensuring compliance with the requirements of the BIOCARBON STANDARD, observing the criteria contained in ISO 14064-2, and evaluation in accordance with ISO 14065 and ISO 14064-3.

Intended User

Individual or organization identified by those reporting GHG-related information as being the one who relies on that information to make decisions.

Note 1 to entry: The intended user can be the client, the responsible party, GHG program administrators, regulators, the financial community or other affected interested parties, such as local communities, government departments or non-governmental organizations.

[SOURCE: ISO 14064-2:2019(en), 3.3.1].

Methodology or Methodological Document

Document that summarizes, systematizes, and defines the techniques, methods, and procedures to be used for quantifying removals or reductions of greenhouse gasses depending on the nature and particular characteristics of each project.

Project document (PD)

The document prepared by the project holder of a GHG project which sets out in detail, in accordance with the BIOCARBON STANDARD, the GHG project. The template of the Project Document is publicly available on the BioCarbon website and shall be used for the purposes of validation, verification, registration and issuance of VCCs, as applicable.

The PD includes all relevant technical, environmental, legal and financial information of the project, and shall demonstrate compliance with the applicable requirements, including additionality, baseline definition, quantification methods, safeguards, SDG contributions, monitoring plan and permanence provisions.

Project holder

The person or organization responsible for the design, validation, monitoring, verification and registration of a GHG project.

The project holder has the agreements to represent all project participants to the BIOCARBON registration.

NOTE: The project holder is acting as the Responsible Party..

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.].

Third-party certification

certification provided by a person or body that is recognized as being independent of the parties involved the certification.

See ISO 17000.

SOURCE: ISO 12576-2:2008(en), 3.9

6 Methodological Documents under the BIOCARBON STANDARD

The BIOCARBON STANDARD includes methodological documents that set out the rules for quantifying greenhouse-gas emission reductions or removals at the project level. Each methodological document shall:

(a) Define applicability criteria and eligibility requirements for the project type;

(b) Delineate the spatial and temporal project boundaries;

(c) Establish procedures for baseline definition and require the application of the additionality criteria in accordance with the BioCarbon Baseline & Additionality Tool;

(d) Identify all relevant GHG emission sources and carbon pools affected by the project activity, and quantify associated changes in accordance with BioCarbon requirements;

(e) Include a procedure for identifying, assessing and conservatively quantifying leakage emissions resulting from the implementation of the project activity, ensuring that all significant indirect sources are accounted for;

(f) Establish procedures for monitor all identified sources of material leakage throughout the quantification period. Leakage emissions shall be quantified ex post, reported in each monitoring report, and deducted from net GHG benefits where aplicable;

(g) Provide scientifically robust equations and, where applicable, default factors for calculating emission reductions or removals, based on verifiable data sources, and ensuring the accuracy and reliability of results;

(h) Specify the Global Warming Potential (GWP) values used to convert non-CO_2 gases into CO_2 equivalent, including the time horizon (e.g., 100 years) and the source (e.g., IPCC Fifth Assessment Report – AR5). GWP values shall be consistently applied across all quantification steps and transparently disclosed in the methodology;

(i) Incorporate an uncertainty assessment in accordance with ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, and require the application of the BioCarbon Uncertainty Assessment Tool. If the combined relative uncertainty of the quantified emission reductions or removals exceeds the applicable threshold, the methodology shall apply a proportional deduction to ensure that reported mitigation results remain accurate and conservative;

(j) Specify monitoring, data collection, quality assurance and quality control requirements, in alignment with the BioCarbon Standard; and

(k) Prescribe verification and reporting provisions consistent with the BioCarbon SOP and the BCR STANDARD, and ensure that all quantified mitigation results are traceable through the Project Document and official reporting templates.

By codifying these elements, methodological documents promote accuracy, transparency and conservatism, preventing any over-estimation of mitigation results and ensuring that reported results are realistic and credible.

All methodologies approved under the BIOCARBON STANDARD shall comply with these requirements, as amended and adopted from time to time, to maintain programme integrity and comparability across project activities.

6.1 Baseline and Additionallity Tool

Methodologies shall require the use of the BioCarbon Baseline & Additionality Tool to define the project baseline and to demonstrate additionality in accordance with the applicable requirements of the BIOCARBON STANDARD.

The Tool provides structured procedures and default parameters for determining the baseline scenario and demonstrating additionality, based on the nature of the activity and its applicable sector.

Specifically, each methodology shall:

(a) Reference the procedures established in the Tool for defining the baseline scenario, based on the project type, sectoral context, and available data, ensuring alignment with BioCarbon principles of conservativeness and methodological consistency;

(b) Require that the baseline scenario reflects conservative assumptions, is consistent with sectoral context and policy conditions, and avoids any overestimation of mitigation results;

(c) Require the periodic update or reassessment of the baseline parameters at the beginning of each new crediting period, as specified in the Tool.

6.2 Corresponding-Adjustments evidence

Where applicable, methodological documents shall require project holders to demonstrate the application of Corresponding Adjustments (CA) in accordance with the BIOCARBON STANDARD.

Specifically, the use of the Avoiding Double Counting (ADC) Tool shall be required whenever mitigation outcomes are intended for international transfer or when otherwise mandated by the host country or the BIOCARBON STANDARD.

Methodologies shall not prescribe CA procedures but shall reference the ADC Tool and associated program rules as applicable.

7 Need for Methodological Development

This section defines the circumstances and prerequisites for initiating the development of a new methodology within the BIOCARBON STANDARD.

A new methodology may be pursued only when:

(a) The proposed GHG project type, while demonstrating potential additionality, is not covered by any methodology currently approved under the BIOCARBON STANDARD; and

(b) No applicable methodology exists under the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) for the proposed activity.

The development of methodological documents in BIOCARBON is overseen by the technical committee. It is reviewed and approved by the Directorate and a delegate by the Technical Committee before public consultation and final publication on the BIOCARBON website (www.biocarbonstandard.com).

The process of developing and reviewing a methodological document depends on the party identifying the opportunity to develop a methodology.

In order for the Technical Committee and the Directorate to approve the development of a new methodology, the following requirements shall be met:

(a) At the least one member of the Technical Committee has knowledge and proven experience of 5 years in the field of application for which the methodological development is required;

(b) If the methodology is developed in collaboration with another organization or natural person, this organization or person shall demonstrate to have solid scientific bases, knowledge and demonstrable experience of 8 years in the field of application for which the methodological development is required.

(c) If the methodology is developed in collaboration with another organization or individual, this organization or individual must undergo periodic technical review processes to be carried out by the Technical Committee.

7.1 BIOCARBON-Led methodology development

The Technical Committee is responsible for identifying methodological gaps and leading the development of new methodologies under the BIOCARBON STANDARD, across all eligible sectors and project types.

The Committee draws on its internal subject-matter expertise and, where appropriate, engages qualified external experts to ensure scientific rigour, technical consistency, and alignment with BIOCARBON's normative framework.

When the Committee initiates a new methodology, the process shall follow the steps and requirements set out in this Procedure, including internal review, public consultation, and independent external review.

7.2 Third-party developer initiative

The Technical Committee evaluates each Methodology Development Intention (MDI) submitted by a third-party developer and determines its relevance to the Program. Once an MDI is approved, the Committee oversees the preparation of methodologies for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals in all sectors and project types eligible under the BIOCARBON STANDARD.

The Committee relies on its own subject-matter expertise and, whenever required, enlists qualified external experts to ensure technical rigour throughout the development process.

8 Overview of methodology development process

Methodology development follows a systematic sequence that applies equally to Project Holders and to independent third-party developers. The process commences with the submission to BIOCARBON of a Methodology Development Intention (MDI) form. The MDI is screened by the BIOCARBON Technical Committee against predefined approval gates, including but not limited to:

(a) Eligibility of the proposed activity within BIOCARBON-approved sectors and sub-sectors;

(b) Technical compatibility with BIOCARBON rules and conditions (e.g. additionality, permanence, avoidance of double counting, environmental-and-social safeguards);

(c) Demonstrated absence of material overlap with methodologies already approved or under development; and

(d) Availability of robust data sources and scientific evidence to support methodological parameters.

Upon completion of the initial methodological document, BIOCARBON shall either accept or return it with findings. If returned, the developer shall address every finding and submit a revised version. When the internal review outcome is positive, the developer prepares the full methodology package and submits it to the BIOCARBON Technical Committee for formal evaluation and endorsement. Once the draft methodology receives clearance from

the Directorate and a designated member of the Technical Committee, it is published on the BIOCARBON website for a 30-day public consultation period.

Following the close of the consultation, the Technical Committee forwards the draft methodology and all stakeholder comments to an independent External Reviewer accredited by BIOCARBON. External Reviewers involved in the methodology-development cycle shall:

(a) Sign a conflict-of-interest declaration for each assignment, in accordance with the BIOCARBON Conflict-of-Interest Policy[1]; and

(b) Be rotated or replaced after a maximum of two consecutive validation/verification cycles for any given methodology, to preserve impartiality.

The developer shall prepare a consolidated comment-response matrix and revise the draft to address every observation. The External Reviewer then conducts a technical quality assessment and issues a recommendation to the Technical Committee. If both the External Reviewer and the Technical Committee approve the responses, BIOCARBON posts the final comment-response matrix on its website and releases the methodology as Version 1.0 (Approved).

8.1 MDI Submission

The following describes the process from MDI submission up to external review and approval of the methodology by BIOCARBON.

8.1.1 Eligibility criteria

(a) Proposal within four BIOCARBON eligible sectors (AFOLU, Energy, transportation, waste handling)

(b) Proposed methodology within the rules and conditions defined by BIOCARBON.

(c) methodology clearly defines the parameters for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals and provides other relevant definitions for its application

(d) The MDI demonstrate coherence with sustainable and safeguards principles (SDGs, moreover coherence with the code of ethics of the program and provision in place for integrity.

[1] Within the methodology-development framework of the BioCarbon Standard, all governance bodies shall comply with the BioCarbon Conflict-of-Interest Policy.

8.1.2 Submission of Methodology Development Intention (MDI)

The third-party that is to develop a new methodological document shall submit an intent to develop a methodology that includes a description of the following elements:

(a) Scope;

(b) Justification;

(c) Proposed methods;

(d) CV of the experts participating in the methodology development.

The MDI shall be submitted electronically to technical.committee@biocarbonstandard.com

8.1.3 BIOCARBON review of the Methodology Development Intention

The Technical Committee reviews MDIs against the following approval criteria:

(a) Scope of activity within BIOCARBON-eligible sectors;

(b) Proposed methodology within the rules and conditions of the BIOCARBON;

(c) The proposed activity falls within the types of activities and sectors applicable to BIOCARBON;

(d) There is no methodology under the CDM that would be applicable to the type of activity;

(e) The proposed methods define the parameters for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals and provide other relevant definitions for their application;

(f) Evidence that the MDI can potentially assess contributions to at least three (3) Sustainable Development Goals;

(g) The third-party developer experts involved in the development of the methodology document shall have a scientific basis, knowledge, and 8 years of demonstrable experience in the application area for which the methodology is to be developed.

The results of the methodology review represent the following three options:

(a) The MDI is accepted with suggestions to be included in the development of the methodology;

(b) The MDI is not accepted. The developer shall submit a new version with the results submitted by BIOCARBON;

(c) The MDI is rejected.

8.1.4 BIOCARBON review of the draft methodology

If the MDI is accepted, the third-party developer submits the draft methodological document. The process of evaluating the submitted draft is led by the Program Coordinator together with the delegate of the Technical Committee. During the evaluation process, it shall be demonstrated that the methodological document:

(a) contains all the components required by BIOCARBON;

(b) applies the principles of BIOCARBON and principles of certification;

(c) meets applicable regulatory requirements;

(d) correctly references a method or equation defined by another organization;

(e) provides clarity and presents the methods as procedures to facilitate their understanding and application;

(f) clearly defines the parameters for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals and provides other definitions relevant to the application;

(g) clearly defines the scope of application;

(h) does not conflict with the requirements specified in the BIOCARBON STANDARD;

(i) is relevant to the development context of the country and is aligned with the national context;

(j) includes the quantification methods that comprises the relevant parameters for quantifying emission reductions or removals, depending on the type of activity;

(k) includes the sources or references for the quantification methods that have been validated by a scientific and investigative organization, and that after a pilot quantification implementation has been conducted, the emission reduction or removals results are verifiable and consistent.

There are two possibilities that arise from the review of the draft methodological document:

(a) BIOCARBON sends findings to the developer that shall be closed before proceeding;

(b) BIOCARBON approves the draft methodology and continues the process (selection of an external reviewer).

Once the MDI is accepted by the Directorate and a delegate from the Technical Committee, it shall undergo to the public consultation procedure accordingly with the processes described on the Standard Operating Procedures -SOP document, section 15.1. Public Consultation.

8.2 Public Consultation

Once the draft methodological document is approved by the Directorate and a delegate of the Technical Committee, it will be publicly consulted on the BIOCARBON website for 30 days. The use of the public consultation process is essential to support the interaction between BIOCARBON and all stakeholders, and to comply with the application of the principles of the BIOCARBON STANDARD, essentially responsibility, quality, and integrity. The public consultation document contains the following information:

(a) Document title;

(b) Objectives;

(c) Scope and area of application;

(d) Release date and version;

(e) Mark or note (watermark, for example) indicating that it is a document for public consultation.

1. BIOCARBON publishes on its website the public consultation document, in which at least:

   (a) The document is in the process of public consultation;

   (b) Deadline for submission of comments. The minimum deadline date is equal to thirty (30) calendar days, from the date of disclosure;

   (c) Contact information for the person receiving the comments.

2. BIOCARBON announces through available media that its document is subject to public consultation and publishes the access link and/or shares the document directly with interested parties. Interested parties shall include, at a minimum:

   (a) Any relevant local and national stakeholders in the carbon market, including a minimum: other certification and registration schemes, verification and

validation bodies, associations and consultants, and other national and international associations BIOCARBON is a member, developers of GHG projects;

(b) All relevant local and national stakeholders in the sector of the economy for which the document applies;

(c) Regulatory governmental entities.

3. During the public consultation period, BIOCARBON collects and documents all comments received in the BIOCARBON ***Public Consultation Results*** format.

4. At the end of the public consultation period, BIOCARBON responds to each comment in the BIOCARBON ***Public Consultation Results*** document and makes the appropriate adjustments to the Methodological Document.

5. Once the adjustments are made and approved by the BIOCARBON assigned roles, the final version of Methodological Document and the ***Public Consultation Results*** document are published on the BIOCARBON website.

The developer of the methodology shall update the document taking into account the comments received and provide justification in case the comment is not considered.

Two options during the review of the draft methodology including public comments:

(a) The new version meets the requirements to continue the process;

(b) The developer shall update the methodology considering the results published by BIOCARBON.

8.3 External Review

BIOCARBON will post the Terms of Reference on the website to select an external reviewer considering the scope of the methodological document. The Technical Committee will review the proposals and select the external reviewer based on the selection criteria included in the Terms of Reference. The cost of the contract and the external review will be borne by BIOCARBON.

The external review and BIOCARBON approval of the methodological document follows a similar process to the validation of a project under BIOCARBON :

(a) The reviewer selected shall submit a report that meets the criteria described in the Terms of Reference;

(b) The findings presented in the reviewer's report shall be addressed by the methodology developer;

(c) The methodology developer's response will be reviewed by the reviewer;

(d) Once all findings are resolved, the reviewer submits the final report to BIOCARBON.

8.4 BIOCARBON Evaluation process

The process of evaluation is led by the Program Coordinator together with the Delegate of the Technical committee. During the evaluation process, External experts are invited to participate, considering the scope of the methodology.

During the evaluation process, it shall be demonstrated that the methodology:

(a) Includes all the components required by the BIOCARBON STANDARD;

(b) Applies the principles of BIOCARBON and principles of Certification and Registration;

(c) Meets the applicable legal requirements;

(d) Correctly references any method or equation defined by another organization;

(e) Offers clarity and presents the methods as a procedure in order to facilitate their understanding and application;

(f) Clearly defines the parameters for quantifying GHG emission reductions or removals and provides other relevant definitions for its application;

(g) Clearly establishes the scope of application;

(h) Is not contradictory with the requirements established in the BIOCARBON STANDARD;

(i) Is following the program principles regarding No net harm, safeguards, SDGs contribution among others in place;

(j) Include robust quantification methods for determining the parameters used to estimate emission reductions and/or removals for the relevant activity type; ensure that all data sources or methodological references are endorsed by recognised scientific or research institutions; and demonstrate, through a pilot quantification exercise, that the resulting mitigation estimates are both verifiable and internally consistent.

8.5 Methodology approval

Upon conclusion of the public-consultation and external-review phases, the BIOCARBON Executive Board receives the complete methodology dossier together with the stakeholder comment–response matrix and the Technical Committee's positive recommendation. The Board verifies that:

(a) All public comments have been duly addressed;

(b) The External Reviewer's findings have been satisfactorily resolved; and

(c) The final draft is fully consistent with BIOCARBON STANDARD rules and requirements.

Once these conditions are confirmed, the Board of Directors issues a formal resolution approving the methodology and instructs to publish Version 1.0 (Approved) on the BioCarbon website (https://biocarbonstandard.com/en/methodologies/). For transparency, the webpage shall display:

(a) The start and end dates of the public-consultation period;

(b) A complete record of comments received; and

(c) BIOCARBON's responses and any resulting amendments to the methodology.

The Board of Directors meeting minutes and resolution shall be published on the BIOCARBON website within 10 business days of approval

This transparent publication step provides stakeholders with clear evidence of how feedback was considered and reinforces confidence in the integrity of the approval process.

8.6 Summary of process

In summary, the steps considered during the methodology development process are:

(a) MDI submission by third-party developer or internally developed methodologies led by the Technical Committee the draft of the Methodology initiative by the technical committee;

(b) White paper/issues paper development (either internal or external, depending on expertise);

(c) Kick-off meeting;

(d) Request for proposals for technical contractor (if needed);

(e) External expert review and comment of MDI;

(f) The BIOCARBON technical committee revises MDI based on the external review;

(g) Public consultation period (30 days);

(h) The BIOCARBON technical committee reviews and publicly responds to submitted comments received during public consultation period;

(i) The BIOCARBON technical committee revises Methodology draft and get the approval from the Directorate;

(j) Board of Directors reviews and approves the Methodology Document;

(k) Methodology approved and published as Version 1.0 on the BIOCARBON website.

9 Safeguards and sustainable development

All methodologies developed under the BIOCARBON STANDARD shall explicitly require the application of the BIOCARBON environmental-and-social safeguards and tools applicable to mitigation activities.

Specifically, methodological documents shall:

(a) Reference the Sustainable Development Safeguards Tool as mandatory for the identification and mitigation of environmental and social risks;

(b) Reference the SDG Contributions Tool as mandatory for defining and monitoring sustainable development benefits;

(c) Ensure that project holders demonstrate compliance with these tools during validation, verification, and issuance processes, as set out in the applicable BIOCARBON procedures.

By embedding these requirements throughout the process, BIOCARBON guarantees that approved methodologies not only yield high-integrity GHG outcomes but also advance broader sustainable-development objectives.

10 Process Timeline

The summary of the ten (10) steps required for the approval of the methodological document and the estimated timeline for each step are described in the next table:

Steps for methodologies approval - BIOCARBON		Time (Business days)
1	BIOCARBON reviews the Methodology Development Intention	15
2	Publication of the Terms of Reference to develop the methodology and selection of the consultant (BioCarbon initiative)	60
3	Methodology development	No more than six months
4	Evaluation process	15
5	Acceptance Decision by the Directorate and designated member of the Technical Committee after the evaluation of the methodology draft[2]	10
6	Adjustment or attend new recommendations if any	7
7	Public consultation on BIOCARBON´s website	30
8	Review and address comments and inputs from public consultation	8
9	Approval by the Board of Directors	15
10	Publication of final methodology on the BioCarbon´s website	3

Source: BIOCARBON, 2024

11 Methodology review, revision and retirement

11.1 Review frequency and triggers

All approved methodologies shall undergo a comprehensive technical review at least once every five (5) years. The BIOCARBON Technical Committee may, however, initiate an extraordinary review at any time when one or more of the following triggers arise:

(a) Emergence of new peer-reviewed scientific evidence that materially affects underlying assumptions or parameters;

(b) Significant advances in measurement technologies or data availability that improve accuracy or reduce uncertainty;

(c) Changes in applicable laws, regulations or policy frameworks that render parts of the methodology non-compliant;

(d) Evidence-based concerns, raised by verifiers, stakeholders or BIOCARBON monitoring, that a methodology could overestimate mitigation results;

(e) Identification of material errors, misuse or fraud in the application of the methodology; or

(f) Revisions to higher-level BIOCARBON rules (e.g. Standard, SOP, ADC Tool) that necessitate harmonisation.

11.2 Revision categories and version control

Revisions are classified as minor or major:

- Minor revision are editorial or clarificatory changes that do not alter core equations, default factors or applicability. The version number increments by the decimal (e.g. v1.0 to v1.1).
- Major revision are any change that affects baseline identification, additionality, quantification equations, monitoring requirements or applicability scope. The version number increments by the integer (e.g.v1.0 to v2.0).

Every approved methodology shall include a Document History annex to record all modifications made to the methodology over time.

All previous versions shall be publicly archived and remain accessible for consultation, even after being superseded, in order to ensure full transparency and traceability of the methodological history.

11.3 Suspension and cancellation

Where immediate concerns arise, the Executive Board may suspend a methodology. Suspension halts its selection for new projects but allows a transition period, normally 12 months, for ongoing projects to complete validation or switch to an alternative version. During suspension, the Technical Committee shall either:

(a) issue a revised version that addresses the concern or

(b) recommend cancellation if adequate remedies are not feasible.

Cancellation permanently withdraws the methodology from use; the Registry will block new listings and flag affected projects for remedial action. The Board communicates the decision publicly, citing reasons and the required next steps for project proponents.

11.4 Transition rules for projects

Projects that have achieved registration under an earlier version may continue to apply that version for the remainder of their current quantification period.

Projects in validation may switch to the latest approved version or, if within a defined grace period, continue under the previous version subject to Technical Committee approval.

11.5 Publication and stakeholder communication

Every new version, along with its Document History and effective date, shall be posted on the BIOCARBON methodologies webpage. Stakeholders are notified via a Programme Notice. The methodology archive retains all superseded versions for reference.

By applying this structured review and revision framework, BIOCARBON ensures its methodologies remain scientifically robust, fit for purpose and aligned with evolving best practice.

Document history

Type of Document. Guidance.

Version	Date	Nature of the Document
1.0	January 30, 2023	First version
1.1	January 30, 2024	Adjusted version Section 6 updated Minor editorial changes
2.0	May 21, 2025	Comprehensive revision aligning the MD&A with BioCarbon Standard v4.0 and the current BIOCARBON normative hierarchy; Added new Sections Clarified version-control policy; strengthened requirements on external review, public consultation and transition rules; General editorial, structural and consistency improvements throughout.