NORMATIVE GUIDELINE

MULTI-PROGRAM FRAMEWORK (MPF)

Unlocking finance for nature-based solutions through distinct environmental outcomes

BIOCARBON CERT®

VERSION 1.0| September 11, 2026

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BIOCARBON CERT®. 2026. Multi-Program Framework (MPF). v1.0. September 11, 2026. BioCarbon Cert. 34 p.

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1 Introduction

BioCarbon's Multi-Program Framework establishes the conditions under which two distinct projects or Initiatives under two different BioCarbon Programs may operate within a shared geographic area. Each project retains its own programmatic identity, methodology, documents, assessment, environmental units and registry records.

The volume of Verified Carbon Credits generated by a project does not, by itself, express the environmental value of the ecosystem it conserves. Strategic ecosystems may deliver substantial biodiversity or water outcomes while producing limited creditable GHG benefits or incurring high measurement and management costs. Complementary finance associated with distinct outcomes may help implement and sustain conservation, restoration and appropriate management.

The framework recognizes that a common intervention may support more than one environmental outcome. It requires the outcomes to be demonstrably differentiated and independently eligible, with consistent evidence on activities, financing, rights and commitments. A shared area does not create an entitlement to a second credit stream.

2 Objectives and scope

2.1 Permitted program configurations

A multi-program area shall comprise exactly two distinct participating projects or Initiatives, each under a different BioCarbon Program. The permitted configurations are BCS with BBS, BCS with BWS, and BBS with BWS. Each participating project shall apply one methodology under its respective Program.

A configuration combining BCS, BBS and BWS shall not be eligible. Project holders shall not use overlapping pairs, separate legal entities, renamed projects or artificial subdivision of boundaries or monitoring periods to establish three crediting Programs over the same area and overlapping outcome periods.

2.2 Activities and geographic application

This framework shall apply exclusively to nature-based solutions. For the purposes of this framework, these are interventions that address societal challenges through the conservation, restoration or sustainable management of natural or modified ecosystems and their ecological functions, providing benefits for people, biodiversity, ecosystem services and resilience. Eligible activities shall remain limited to the combinations and conditions established in Annex A and to the terrestrial, freshwater, coastal or marine scope expressly covered by each selected methodology.

Each participating project shall demonstrate how its credited outcome arises from the nature-based solution. Infrastructure and technical components may be included where they directly support its implementation or functioning and are permitted by the applicable methodology. Standalone technological or infrastructure activities shall not qualify solely because they are located within the shared area.

REDD+ projects shall be excluded from this initial framework, including small-scale and community-led REDD+ projects. The exclusion shall be assessed against the actual project activities and accounting approach; a change in name or presentation shall not establish eligibility. Conservation or avoided loss in other eligible ecosystems shall not be excluded solely because it prevents conversion or degradation.

This framework shall not be used to combine unrelated projects from different areas as if they were a multi-program area. Such portfolio purchases remain subject to the rules applicable to each underlying credit and do not establish eligibility under this framework.

3 Normative references and application

Participating projects shall comply with the applicable BioCarbon Standard, BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard or BioCarbon Water Standard; the selected methodology; mandatory BioCarbon tools; applicable validation, verification and conformity procedures; registry requirements; and relevant contractual and legal requirements. Document versions shall be determined under the respective Program's effective-date and transition provisions.

This framework establishes additional conditions for multi-program participation. It shall not expand a methodology's scope, waive a Program requirement or replace the quantification rules of a participating Program. Where the requirements cannot be satisfied concurrently, the proposed combination shall not be admitted until the incompatibility is resolved through the applicable normative process.

The BioCarbon Multi-Methodology Framework addresses the application of two BCS methodologies within one BCS project. It shall not be combined with this framework to permit more than one methodology in a participating project. Other general permissions for multi-methodology application shall likewise not override the one-methodology condition of this framework.

Annexes A and B form normative parts of this framework. Annex C is informative. "Shall" expresses a requirement; "may" expresses permission subject to the applicable conditions.

4 Terms and definitions

Multi-program area

The explicitly delineated geographic area shared by two distinct projects or Initiatives under two different BioCarbon Programs, with identified periods of participation and linked documentation and registry records. The area is an organizing and disclosure arrangement and does not issue a separate environmental unit.

Participating project

A BCS project, BBS Initiative or BWS project admitted to a multi-program area. The collective expression does not alter the terminology, legal identity or requirements of the respective Program.

Environmental outcome

The specific GHG mitigation, biodiversity conservation or water result represented by a unit under the relevant Program, with the applicable metric, spatial scope, temporal scope and evidentiary basis.

Environmental attribute differentiation. The substantive distinction between the environmental outcomes represented by separate units, established through the applicable objectives, metrics, baselines or counterfactuals, quantification, attribution, temporal and spatial scopes, and permitted claims.

Stacking

The separate quantification and issuance of units for distinct environmental outcomes arising from the same or related activities within a shared area. Under this framework, each credit stream belongs to a separate participating project and Program.

Joint sale

A transaction or commercial package containing separately issued units from the two participating projects. Each unit retains its identity, transfer and retirement records, and permitted claims. This framework does not create a composite unit.

Bundling

A market term used for different forms of combined environmental products or claims. Any arrangement described as bundling under this framework shall comply with the joint-sale and outcome-differentiation requirements; the label shall not authorize an embedded, duplicated or unidentified claim.

Co-benefit description

An evidence-based description of an additional environmental or social characteristic of a project. Such a description does not, by itself, represent the purchase, ownership or retirement of a separately credited outcome.

Participation date

The date from which BioCarbon's admission decision and the required registry linkage become effective for the multi-program area. It is distinct from each project's start date and quantification period.

Shared activity

An intervention, management practice, protection measure or supporting action that contributes to both projects. Sharing an activity does not remove the requirement for independent eligibility of each outcome.

Material interaction

A relationship between projects capable of affecting eligibility, additionality, rights, quantification, safeguards, durability, financing, disclosure or environmental claims under either Program.

5 Programmatic origin and eligibility

5.1 Gate 1: BioCarbon origin

Each participating project shall have been originally developed and submitted under a BioCarbon Program. Eligible configurations may involve two new BioCarbon-origin projects or an existing BioCarbon-origin project that subsequently adds a distinct project under another BioCarbon Program.

A project migrated or transferred from another environmental crediting program after external registration, validation, verification, crediting or issuance shall not be eligible, even where it is subsequently registered under BioCarbon. A project operating under another crediting program shall not enter this framework by adding a BioCarbon biodiversity or water project to that external project.

Project holders shall disclose the origin and full crediting history relevant to the proposed projects, activities and outcomes, including previous identifiers, applications, registrations, validations, verifications, issuance, transfers and withdrawals. Documentary evidence shall support the claimed BioCarbon origin. Renaming, restructuring, changing a holder or redrawing a boundary shall not be used to circumvent the origin requirement.

The origin assessment concerns the projects and outcomes proposed for crediting. The receipt of grants, public support or other non-crediting finance shall be disclosed and assessed under the applicable requirements and shall not, by itself, be treated as migration from an external crediting program.

5.2 Gate 2: substantive eligibility

After satisfying Gate 1, each project shall independently demonstrate compliance with its Program and methodology, and the pair shall demonstrate compliance with this framework. BioCarbon origin, existing registration, environmental value or low carbon-credit output shall not substitute for this second assessment.

A failure at either gate shall prevent admission of the proposed combination. Neither a positive conclusion for one project nor a commercial agreement covering both credit types shall cure an eligibility failure in the other project.

6 Methodological eligibility and activity scope

Each project shall identify one applicable methodology, its version and the precise activities and outcomes covered. A methodology may include several eligible practices, pools or technical components within its own approved scope. Mandatory tools integral to its application shall not be counted as additional methodologies.

A BCS project applying two methodologies shall not participate in a multi-program area. Project holders shall not import the quantification provisions of a second methodology as an unapproved module or divide a single project administratively to avoid this restriction. Normal replacement of a methodology version under applicable transition rules shall not, by itself, constitute simultaneous application of two methodologies.

The selected combination shall be listed in Annex A and shall satisfy its coverage conditions. A family-level listing shall not authorize every activity, ecosystem or pairing within that family. Where the second Program has no applicable approved methodology, that route shall remain unavailable for admission and issuance until the necessary coverage is established and the annex is updated as required.

Methodological overlaps and precedence provisions shall be resolved before validation. Where a project's actual scope requires two GHG methodologies, it shall not be eligible under this framework in that configuration. Eligibility shall not be established by omitting material sources, pools, activities or obligations that the applicable methodology requires the project to address.

7 Spatial and temporal boundaries

7.1 Shared area and project boundaries

Project boundaries may coincide or overlap partially. Holders shall delineate the shared area and identify the portions belonging only to one project. Multi-program attribution shall be limited to the relevant shared spatial scope; each Program shall retain its own rules for defining intervention, quantification, monitoring, reference and leakage areas.

The shared area shall be supported by georeferenced data, consistent coordinate systems, version-controlled maps and a reproducible overlap assessment. A reference region, leakage belt, buffer zone or general area of influence shall not be treated as a participating project's credited area solely to establish overlap.

For BWS combinations, holders shall distinguish the intervention area, catchment or hydrogeological system, and locations where benefits and impacts occur. Hydrological connections shall be supported by evidence. Being located in the same basin or relying on the same water source shall not, by itself, establish a multi-program area.

7.2 Periods and sequential entry

Each project shall retain its own start date, baseline reference dates, quantification period, monitoring periods and durability obligations. Holders shall provide a temporal comparison identifying the periods represented by each credit stream and the periods for which multi-program participation is claimed.

Simultaneous development and sequential incorporation shall be permitted. Before a second project is admitted, the existing project's documentation shall disclose the proposed relationship and assess material effects on its activities, additionality, financing, rights and commitments.

Admission shall not confer automatic retroactive eligibility. Earlier periods may be considered only where the respective Program permits them and sufficient contemporaneous or otherwise admissible evidence demonstrates all applicable requirements, including rights, required consent, additionality, monitoring, attribution and absence of prior incompatible claims. The participation date shall not be backdated to imply that an admission decision existed earlier.

Admission to a multi-program area, or the addition of the second Program, shall not reset the start date, prior-consideration requirements, registration history, crediting-period limits or temporal eligibility of an existing BCS project. Any recognition of earlier outcomes shall retain the evidence and conditions required by the applicable BCS rules; the admission date shall not be used as a substitute for that evidence.

Non-overlapping monitoring periods may support successive issuance where the respective Program permits and verifies the outcome for each period. Reuse of a location or conservation activity in a later period shall not, by itself, constitute duplication; the same outcome quantity shall not be attributed twice to overlapping periods.

8 Outcome identity and prevention of double counting

Each project shall identify the outcome represented by its proposed units, the applicable metric and quantification method, the relevant baseline or counterfactual, the spatial and temporal attribution, and the intended use and claim. Different unit names or measurement units shall not, by themselves, demonstrate substantive differentiation.

Common land, management actions, financing, monitoring equipment, datasets or ecological drivers may support both projects. Holders shall explain the causal relationship to each outcome and demonstrate that one quantified result has not merely been relabeled or sold twice. Where a shared indicator is used, its distinct role in each assessment and the limits of the resulting claims shall be explicit.

Carbon shall be quantified under the selected BCS methodology; biodiversity under the selected BBS methodology and outcome pathway; and water under the selected BWS methodology. No conversion factor, exchange ratio or composite metric between the Programs' units shall be created by this framework.

Holders shall disclose potentially overlapping crediting, compensation, certification, payments, targets, supply-chain claims and other attribution arrangements relevant to the same outcomes. Evidence shall distinguish non-exclusive reporting of contributions from transfer, use or exclusive attribution of a quantified outcome.

An outcome already issued, used, transferred or assigned in an incompatible manner shall not be submitted again as a separately available outcome. Different buyers shall not receive competing claims to the same credited environmental performance. Where the overlap cannot be resolved and demonstrated, the affected outcome shall be ineligible.

A BioCredit, water credit or related contract shall not represent, transfer or authorize the use of the same quantified greenhouse gas emission reduction or removal that is issued or proposed for issuance under BCS. Where a non-carbon unit or arrangement also conveys that climate impact, the affected carbon outcome shall not be issued unless the overlap is demonstrably resolved under the applicable rules. Different unit names, metrics, buyers or registries shall not, by themselves, resolve the overlap.

9 Baselines, additionality and complementary finance

9.1 Independent assessment with consistent assumptions

Each project shall independently demonstrate additionality under its Program, selected methodology and mandatory tools. The assessment shall address the specific environmental outcome and shall consider material activities, commitments and financing associated with the other participating project.

Baseline and counterfactual methods may differ where the Programs require different approaches. Their shared factual assumptions shall be consistent. Holders shall not describe the same committed activity as certain to continue in one assessment and certain to cease in another without a documented explanation of the different temporal, spatial or conditional circumstances.

Where both projects are developed together, the additionality assessments shall transparently consider the combined financing structure and the dependence of implementation or continuity on the relevant revenues. Financing contingent on the combined arrangement shall be distinguished from funding already secured independently. Each assessment shall follow its own Program's tests rather than assume either that the other revenue stream is absent or that it independently funds the entire intervention.

9.2 Financial evidence and shared costs

Holders shall disclose the material sources and uses of funding, including expected and realized credit revenue, grants, subsidies, payments for ecosystem services, operating revenue, binding commitments and material restrictions on the use of funds. The evidence shall explain how each credit stream enables, expands, improves or sustains the activities supporting its outcome, where financing is relevant to the applicable additionality test.

Shared budgets shall use consistent cost and revenue assumptions. A shared expenditure shall be identifiable as such and shall not be presented in both projects as wholly unfunded where one funding source already covers it. Any cost allocation used for financial assessment shall be justified and shall not automatically determine how many environmental units may be issued.

This framework shall not impose a fixed allocation of revenue, a universal funding-gap percentage, an automatic credit discount or an issuance ramp-up solely because two Programs participate. Each Program's required deductions, uncertainty treatment and quantification provisions shall nevertheless apply in full.

Where the applicable BCS additionality assessment includes investment analysis, the assessment shall include all relevant non-carbon revenues and funding associated with the other participating project, together with their timing, availability and enforceable conditions. It shall demonstrate the role of carbon-credit revenue required by the applicable investment test. The need for the combined financing arrangement shall not, by itself, establish the additionality of the carbon outcome.

Where the applicable BCS additionality assessment relies on barrier analysis, the assessment shall account for the effect of biodiversity or water revenues and other funding on each barrier relied upon. It shall provide verifiable evidence of the decisive role of carbon-credit revenue required by the applicable barrier test.

Any assumption that funding depends on the combined arrangement shall be supported by contemporaneous or otherwise admissible evidence of the actual financing conditions. Inconsistent counterfactual assumptions or unsupported exclusions of the other credit stream shall not be used to establish additionality. These requirements shall not replace the additionality approach prescribed by the applicable Program and methodology.

9.3 Existing projects and continuity of conservation

An existing BioCarbon-origin project may support a second project where the new outcome is independently eligible. Where complementary revenue is intended to finance continuity, holders shall demonstrate the real conservation or management needs, remaining obligations, resources available, duration of support required and causal function of the new financing.

For a BBS maintenance or avoided-loss outcome, stability in monitored biodiversity condition shall not, by itself, establish lack of additionality. Eligibility shall depend on the applicable outcome pathway and evidence that continued conservation action, stewardship, governance, protection or financing is necessary relative to the relevant baseline or counterfactual.

Legal duties, existing management obligations and contracted commitments, including safeguards and environmental commitments under the counterpart project, shall remain part of the assessment. Compliance with those commitments shall not, by itself, establish an independently additional outcome under the second Program. Equally, the presence of a conservation obligation shall not automatically preclude a distinct eligible outcome where the respective Program's requirements can be demonstrated.

The discovery of another market or the addition of a credit label shall not establish eligibility. Where activities, financing, management and commitments remain materially unchanged, the holder shall still demonstrate the specific causal and additionality basis required for the new outcome; absent that evidence, the second project shall not be admitted.

9.4 Eligibility and quantity

Additionality is a condition of eligibility. The quantity of units shall be determined by the applicable methodology. This framework shall not replace a conservation-outcome calculation with a universal difference-from-baseline formula or require perpetual increases in ecological indicators. Where a methodology requires measurable improvement or net removals, those requirements shall continue to apply.

A maintenance or avoided-loss pathway under BBS or BWS shall not authorize BCS issuance for a standing carbon stock, an ecological condition or an unquantified climate co-benefit. Each BCS unit shall represent the eligible greenhouse gas emission reduction or removal quantified and verified under the applicable carbon methodology, including its baseline, deductions and crediting-period requirements.

Continued additionality and material financing changes shall be assessed at the events and frequency required by each Program. New revenue, termination of funding, major price or cost changes, or changes in committed activities shall be assessed where they could alter the basis of either project's eligibility.

10 Rights, safeguards and benefit-sharing

Each holder shall demonstrate the legal or customary authority and enforceable rights required for its activities and outcomes. Land ownership alone shall not be treated as conclusive evidence of rights over every environmental attribute. The assessment shall identify relevant land, water, resource, access, carbon, biodiversity and attribution rights and any competing interests.

Existing agreements shall be examined for exclusive environmental claims, co-benefit commitments, compensation obligations, sale restrictions and rights already assigned to buyers or other parties. Admission shall not modify existing rights retrospectively. Any necessary amendment shall be validly agreed and evidenced before the affected outcome is admitted or issued.

Where Indigenous Peoples or Local Communities hold rights or are affected, the applicable requirements for free, prior and informed consent, participation and data sovereignty shall apply. Incorporation of a second Program shall be assessed as a potential material change to activities, resource use, governance, revenues and benefit-sharing. Consent shall be obtained or reaffirmed as required before the relevant change is implemented; consent for the first project shall not automatically be assumed to cover the second.

Benefit-sharing arrangements shall transparently address the new credit stream, associated costs, responsibilities and distribution of benefits. Participating rights-holders shall receive understandable information on the two projects, the outcomes sold, restrictions on use and consequences of material events. Existing consultation and grievance mechanisms may be coordinated where they remain accessible and satisfy each Program.

The activities of one project shall not undermine the other's conservation objectives or cause incompatible environmental or social harm. Potential effects on native ecosystem identity, biodiversity, soil, water quantity, water quality, downstream users and customary uses shall be assessed under the applicable safeguards and methodologies.

11 Project documentation and coordination

Each participating project shall maintain a separate Project Document, Monitoring Reports, validation and verification reports and statements, and Program-specific decisions. Each document shall identify the multi-program area, the counterpart project and the material interactions relevant to its assessment.

Holders shall maintain the linked information specified in Annex B. This information may be incorporated in the existing Project Documents or a shared annex referenced by both projects. It shall not replace the separate Project Documents or create a third project dossier.

Where holders differ, they shall document an enforceable coordination arrangement covering information exchange, shared activities, access for assessment, funding responsibilities, rights, safeguards, material-event notification and implementation of corrective actions. One contact may coordinate submissions, but each holder shall remain responsible for its own obligations.

Shared evidence shall identify its source, version, period, spatial coverage and authorized use. The two project files shall point to the same authoritative version or explain any relevant difference. Protected information shall be accessible to the competent CAB and

BioCarbon under applicable confidentiality arrangements. Authorization to use information for one Program shall not automatically authorize its use for another Program where such use would exceed the original purpose, consent or applicable rights.

12 Monitoring, quantification and reporting

Each project shall monitor and quantify its outcome under its own methodology and tools. Monitoring frequencies, sampling designs, reference conditions, uncertainty treatment, leakage assessment and durability requirements shall remain those of the respective Program.

Field visits, equipment, datasets and logistical arrangements may be shared where technically appropriate. Their suitability, representativeness, calibration and quality control shall be demonstrated for each use. Shared monitoring shall not result in a single undifferentiated environmental quantity or a conclusion that one Program's result establishes the other's result.

Monitoring Reports shall identify material changes in the counterpart project and assess effects on the reported outcome. Differences in monitoring periods shall be reconciled using explicit temporal references; verification of one period under one Program shall not be represented as verification of a different period under the other.

Carbon, biodiversity and water calculations shall account for relevant interactions, adverse effects and displacement in accordance with their respective methods. The same observation may be relevant to more than one assessment, but a deduction shall not be applied twice within the same outcome calculation for the same accounted effect.

Holders shall provide sufficient calculation evidence for independent assessment and the public disclosure required by each Program. Where a quantified outcome spans both shared and non-shared areas, the relationship between the quantified units and the multi-program area shall be reproducible. Unsupported proportional allocation shall not be used to assign or release environmental claims.

13 Auditing, validation and verification

Each project shall undergo independent auditing, validation and/or verification under the requirements of its Program. The CAB shall have the applicable approval, competence and impartiality arrangements. The same CAB may assess both projects only where it satisfies the requirements for each Program and maintains separately identifiable scopes, evidence evaluations, reports, conclusions and statements.

Assessment logistics and use of common evidence may be coordinated. Each CAB shall nevertheless evaluate the material interactions relevant to its own conclusion, including origin, methodological applicability, additionality, outcome identity, rights, financing, safeguards and registry attribution. A conclusion issued for the counterpart project shall not substitute for this assessment.

At initial admission, the assessment shall address the applicable requirements of this framework and Annexes A and B. At subsequent verification, the CAB shall evaluate continued conformity and changes affecting the relationship, using the materiality and assurance provisions applicable to its Program.

Unresolved material inconsistencies between the project files or conclusions shall be reported to BioCarbon. A favorable conclusion for one Program shall not conceal an adverse or qualified conclusion for the other. Findings shall be resolved through the applicable Program procedures before the affected registration or issuance decision.

14 Admission and conformity determination

Holders shall submit the proposed combination through the applicable BioCarbon processes, identifying both projects, the shared area, the selected methodologies and the required evidence. Proposed participation may be disclosed during project development, but shall not be represented as an approved multi-program area.

BioCarbon shall determine conformity for each project under its respective Program and shall determine whether the proposed arrangement satisfies this framework. Admission shall require a positive basis for both participating projects, resolution of material interaction findings, and the ability to establish the required registry linkage and restrictions.

The admission record shall identify the projects, Program pair, shared area, methodology versions, applicable outcome periods, participation date and any limitations arising from methodological coverage or the assessed evidence. Admission shall not constitute an issuance decision or create a new credit type.

CABs perform validation and verification. BioCarbon establishes requirements and makes the applicable Determination of Conformity and authorization decisions. The registry operator records the authorized project and unit actions. None of these roles shall be represented as interchangeable.

15 Registry linkage and issuance

Each participating project shall retain its own Program identifier and registry record in Global Carbon Trace. The records shall be linked to each other and to a common multi-program area identifier. Linkage shall retain the relevant geographic scope, participation dates, status and historical changes.

Each unit or issuance lot shall remain traceable to its Program, project, methodology, verified outcome, monitoring period, serial identifiers, status and applicable use restrictions. Where only part of a project participates, the records shall identify the affected outcome scope without implying that all units from the project have the same multi-program status.

The records shall distinguish multi-program admission, Program-level issuance authorization and eligibility for any external label or specified market use. No such label or use status shall be inherited solely from the area, the counterpart project or the Program pairing. Where external eligibility depends on a methodology, standard version, activity scope, outcome period, host-country authorization, accounting condition or approved assurance mechanism, the applicable evidence, limitations and status shall remain traceable under the relevant Program procedures.

An external eligibility label shall be applied only after all conditions for that label have been met. Where conditions remain outstanding, the public registry record shall prominently disclose each outstanding condition alongside the affected units and shall not present those units as fully eligible for that use.

Issuance shall be authorized separately under each Program and shall follow its applicable issuance rules. No fixed ratio, matched quantity or synchronized issuance date shall be required solely because projects share an area. An area-level assessment shall not replace verification or authorize ex-ante issuance.

The status of the counterpart project and material unresolved interactions shall be available for the relevant issuance review. An independently eligible outcome may proceed under its Program only where the counterpart's status does not undermine its own eligibility, rights, safeguards or claims and the applicable disclosures are maintained.

The registry shall preserve separate transfer, retirement, cancellation and correction records. A joint purchase or coordinated retirement request shall identify each underlying unit and the applicable beneficiary and purpose. No retired or cancelled unit shall become transferable through repackaging, relabeling or dissolution of the multi-program arrangement.

The required linkage, restriction flags and transaction controls shall be operational before issuance is authorized for the affected multi-program outcomes. Separate digital representations, platform integrations or commercial certificates shall remain subject to BioCarbon's applicable registry and integration rules and shall not create additional units or competing records of ownership. BioCarbon shall retain evidence, through the applicable registry assurance process, that these controls prevent unauthorized label propagation, transfer or reuse of retired or cancelled units, and removal of continuing use restrictions following a change in area status.

16 Commercialization, use and environmental claims

16.1 Separate and joint transactions

Units may be sold separately to different buyers or together to the same buyer. Joint contracts, invoices or commercial packages shall specify the Program, project, credit type, quantity, period, serial or lot reference when available, and use restrictions for each component. The terms shall identify how non-delivery or invalidity of either component is addressed without automatic substitution across credit types. Contracts shall identify the environmental outcome conveyed by each component and expressly exclude any separately credited climate impact from the rights conveyed solely by a BioCredit or water credit.

Whether units are sold separately or jointly, the rights conveyed by each unit type shall exclude outcomes separately credited under the counterpart project. A transaction covering both outcomes shall expressly identify the corresponding units from each Program. A price premium for co-benefits shall not, by itself, confer rights over the counterpart project's separately credited outcomes.

A joint sale shall retain the underlying units as separate assets. It shall not convert a carbon credit into a biodiversity or water credit, embed an undisclosed second ownership claim, or create an area-level credit. Forward agreements shall be distinguished from issued units and shall not support claims that an outcome has already been verified, issued or retired.

16.2 Attribution and public communication

Claims shall accurately distinguish project support, financing, ownership of an issued unit and use of a retired unit. Attribution of a credited outcome to a buyer shall correspond to the units acquired and retired, or otherwise used as expressly permitted by the respective Program, and shall identify the relevant scope and period.

A buyer of only one credit type shall not claim ownership, retirement or exclusive attribution of the other separately credited outcome. Evidence-based descriptions of the area's broader environmental characteristics may be used where they do not imply such ownership or duplicate the outcome claim assigned to another buyer.

Holders and parties marketing units on their behalf shall disclose multi-program participation and the existence of separate credit streams. Commercial materials shall distinguish measured and credited outcomes from qualitative co-benefits, expected future results and independently verified but unissued information.

The framework shall not authorize equivalence between carbon, biodiversity and water outcomes or a claim that acquisition of one unit neutralizes impacts measured under another Program. External recognition, labels or permitted market uses shall be assessed for the specific eligible Program, methodology, activity and unit; recognition of a carbon unit shall not be represented as extending to BioCredits, water credits or the multi-program area as a whole.

Purchase, retirement or ownership of units under this framework shall not, by itself, demonstrate achievement of a corporate climate target, nature target, water target or other external target, or approval by an external target-setting initiative. Claims concerning target progress, climate contributions or neutralization shall meet the applicable accounting, eligibility and claims requirements and shall clearly distinguish these uses.

Where a contribution to a specific corporate nature target is claimed, the supporting evidence shall identify the target, its geographic and value-chain scope, period and metric, and demonstrate the contribution under the applicable target-setting requirements. Purchase or retirement of units shall not, by itself, support a claim that a company, product or activity is nature-positive or net-positive. The biodiversity compensation exclusion in Section 17 shall continue to apply.

17 Biodiversity compensation exclusion

BioCredits representing outcomes within the shared area and relevant multi-program outcome periods shall not be sold, transferred, retired, surrendered or otherwise used to compensate for biodiversity damage, satisfy a biodiversity offset obligation, or support an equivalent compensatory biodiversity claim. This restriction applies to voluntary and mandatory compensation uses.

The restriction shall be disclosed before sale, incorporated into the applicable contractual terms, and preserved in the registry records throughout subsequent transfers and use.

Holders shall require intermediaries acting on their behalf to communicate and retain the restriction. The prohibition shall not be removed by separating a joint package or by withdrawal of the area from this framework.

Where affected and unaffected biodiversity outcomes cannot be reliably distinguished within an issuance lot, the restriction shall apply to the entire inseparable lot. Holders shall not use unsupported spatial or quantitative allocations to release part of that lot from the restriction.

Previously issued units and existing contracts shall retain their established legal status. They shall be disclosed and assessed for compatibility before admission, including any continuing compensation obligations or attribution rights that affect later periods. An outcome already assigned or used for biodiversity compensation shall not be reissued, relabeled or made available again under this framework.

This is a condition of participation in multi-program areas. Carbon and water units shall remain subject to their own Program-specific permitted uses and restrictions. Their use shall not authorize a compensatory biodiversity claim.

18 Risk, material events and corrective action

Each project shall assess and manage risks under its own Program and tools. The assessment shall address material dependencies between projects, including common ecological drivers, shared infrastructure, financing, governance, rights and monitoring systems. No additional uniform reserve percentage is established by this framework.

Holders shall notify BioCarbon and the relevant CABs of material events in accordance with the applicable notification requirements. The event record shall identify which projects, outcomes, areas and periods may be affected. A coordinated submission may satisfy more than one notification requirement where its recipients, timing and content meet each applicable rule.

Reversal, non-delivery, loss of rights, financing failure, serious safeguard breaches or an adverse assessment in one project shall trigger evaluation of consequences for the other project. The consequences shall be based on the actual interaction and each Program’s requirements. A finding in one Program shall not be treated as either automatic invalidation or automatic preservation of the other outcome.

Where a material interaction remains unresolved, BioCarbon shall withhold the affected admission or issuance authorization and apply other controls available under the relevant Program. Corrective actions shall address the cause, the outcome consequences, the evidence needed to restore conformity and any required communication or registry correction.

Carbon reserves, biodiversity risk mechanisms and water-benefit continuity arrangements shall remain governed by their respective Programs. Units or reserves from one Program shall not be used as substitutes for losses or obligations under another.

Carbon double-counting and double-claiming events shall be addressed under the applicable controlled version of the Avoidance of Double Counting Tool and related BCS procedures. The applicable remedy, responsible party, replacement-unit eligibility and source of compensation shall be identifiable. Any use of carbon reserve units for such remedies shall comply with those procedures and shall be reflected in the available balances and risk adequacy assessment, without counting cancelled, committed or otherwise unavailable units as resources available to meet outstanding permanence obligations.

19 Duration, changes and exit

Multi-program participation shall not shorten or replace either project's quantification period, monitoring obligations, durability commitments, liability or contractual responsibilities. Different Program timelines shall be disclosed and managed without an artificial common expiry date.

Changes in holders, boundaries, methodologies, activities, financing, rights, claims or benefit-sharing that may affect conformity shall be submitted and assessed under the relevant Program procedures. The linked records shall preserve the previous configuration and identify the effective date and scope of the change.

A holder may request withdrawal from the multi-program arrangement subject to its existing obligations and the applicable Program procedures. BioCarbon shall assess implications for the remaining project's additionality, activities, financing, rights, safeguards and claims before authorizing the change in area status.

Exit shall not erase historical linkage, cancel obligations attached to issued units, release the biodiversity compensation restriction on affected BioCredits, or permit an outcome to be issued again. A new pairing shall satisfy the origin and substantive eligibility gates and shall not create prohibited overlapping crediting by three Programs.

20 Transparency, complaints and fees

Public information shall enable a reader to identify the two projects, shared area, participation status and dates, methodologies, differentiated outcomes, assessed periods, conformity decisions, registry links and material use restrictions. A public explanation shall describe the role of complementary finance and how prior commitments and competing claims were addressed, without disclosing protected personal or commercially sensitive information unnecessarily.

Confidentiality shall not prevent the CAB or BioCarbon from examining the complete evidence required for assessment. Public redactions shall not obscure material information needed to understand the claimed outcomes, their attribution or restrictions. Sensitive ecological locations and Indigenous or Local Community data shall be protected under the applicable requirements.

Complaints and grievances concerning either project or their interaction shall be handled through the relevant BioCarbon and project mechanisms. Coordinated handling shall retain access for affected parties and the ability to identify responsibilities and remedies under each Program.

Participation shall not alter the applicability of Program fees. Listing, registration, issuance, transfer, retirement and other charges shall apply where established by the respective Program's fee schedule. Joint marketing, shared audits or common ownership shall not create an exemption or an automatic combined tariff.

21 Governance, revisions and transition

BioCarbon shall approve, publish and maintain this framework and its normative annexes through the applicable governance and document-control procedures. Interpretations shall be consistent with the adopted requirements and shall not create project-specific exemptions from origin, Program-count, methodology-count, REDD+ or compensation-use restrictions.

Version 1.0 of this framework, dated September 11, 2026, shall enter into force on the date of its publication on the BioCarbon website. It shall apply to applications for admission to a multi-program area submitted on or after that date, including applications involving existing BioCarbon-origin projects, subject to all applicable eligibility requirements of this framework.

Before adopting this framework or a material revision, BioCarbon shall document whether the proposed change affects information, procedures or conditions relevant to an external assessment, recognition or approved market use of BCS units. BioCarbon shall make the notifications, application updates and supporting disclosures required by the applicable external process and shall implement any resulting conditions or transition requirements. Publication or admission under this framework shall not, by itself, be represented as external approval of the change or of the affected units.

New combinations and changes in methodological coverage shall be evaluated for additionality, outcome differentiation, environmental compatibility, rights, safeguards, quantification, registry operation and claims before inclusion in Annex A. Approval of a new methodology under a Program shall not automatically authorize its use in a multi-program area.

Material methodological revisions affecting an existing pairing shall trigger review of the corresponding annex conditions and transition arrangements. Existing units shall retain traceability and applicable obligations; changes in eligibility shall be applied in accordance with published effective-date and transition provisions.

Any future proposal to admit REDD+ or increase the number of participating Programs shall require an explicit normative revision supported by evidence and review through the applicable governance process. Such expansion shall not be implemented through case-by-case exceptions or commercial arrangements.

Annex A. Eligible activities and methodological combinations — normative

Application of this annex

The following families define the initial BCS scope. They shall be used only in the two-Program configurations and specific routes permitted below. Family inclusion does not establish project eligibility or approve all possible pairings. The applicable versions shall be determined under Section 3.

BCS methodology	Activities within initial scope
BCR0001	ARR, revegetation, restoration, rehabilitation and ecosystem recovery on eligible land.
BCR0003	High-mountain conservation, restoration and improved management, subject to peatland precedence.
BCR0004	Avoided land-use change, conservation and eligible restoration in continental wetlands of the Orinoquia.
BCR0005	Prevention of natural-savanna conversion and degradation; eligible recovery and landscape management.
BCR0007	Conservation and restoration of natural continental wetlands outside the Orinoquia, within its scope.
BCR0009	SOC enhancement through eligible digestate or effluent application in managed agricultural systems.
BCR0012	Conservation, restoration and sustainable management of eligible blue-carbon ecosystems.
BCR0013	Conservation of intact peatlands, hydrological and ecological restoration, and eligible protection measures.
BCR0015	Improved livestock, grazing, soil, forage and eligible silvopastoral management.
BCR0016	Integrated improved agricultural management and recovery of agricultural soils.

BCS methodology	Activities within initial scope
BCR0017	Net SOC and/or SIC removals in managed agricultural soils, including eligible mineral-weathering routes.

BCR0002 and REDD+ projects are excluded. BCS methodologies not listed above, including other forest-carbon or non-land-based routes, are not enabled by this initial annex. Their consideration would require the review specified in Section 21.

Routes available for project-level assessment

Each row defines an alternative pair. Grouped methodology codes indicate alternative choices, not simultaneous application. "Assessment route" identifies a pairing with identified methodological coverage; it is not approval of a project. "Restricted route" requires an express scope-compatibility demonstration addressing the limitation stated. All requirements of both methodologies apply in addition to the conditions summarized here.

Pairing	Route	Specific condition
BCR0001 + BBS0001	Assessment route	Eligible terrestrial restoration or management with independently eligible biodiversity conservation objectives and outcomes.
BCR0003 or BCR0005 + BBS0001	Assessment route	Terrestrial ecosystem conservation or recovery within BBS0001 scope. Apply the correct GHG method for the ecosystem; do not include ineligible wetland or peatland components under BCR0005.
BCR0009, BCR0015, BCR0016 or BCR0017 + BBS0001	Assessment route	The BBS Initiative shall meet terrestrial, landscape-based conservation requirements. Agricultural practice labels, SOC stocks or carbon removals alone shall not establish a biodiversity outcome.
BCR0001, BCR0009, BCR0015, BCR0016 or BCR0017 + BWS0001	Assessment route	Demonstrate eligible increased infiltration and every BWS0001 land, hydrological and safeguard condition. Compatibility of inputs and species shall be checked.

Pairing	Route	Specific condition
BCR0015 or BCR0016 + BWS0002	Restricted route	Identifiable rainwater capture, storage and use within a demonstrably shared project area; separate water additionality and demand evidence; no incompatible land conversion, abstraction or ecological impacts.
BCR0003, BCR0004, BCR0005, BCR0007, BCR0012 or BCR0013 + BWS0001	Restricted route	Only where the actual intervention area meets BWS0001 eligibility. Intact-ecosystem conservation shall not be assumed to qualify. Respect all GHG-method restrictions on hydrological intervention.
BCR0003 or BCR0013 + BWS0003	Restricted route	An identifiable managed recharge or regulation system and attributable volumetric benefit shall be demonstrated. Rewetting or natural water retention alone shall not establish eligibility.
BCR0004, BCR0007, BCR0012 or BCR0013 + BBS0001	Restricted route	Only outcomes and components expressly covered by BBS0001's terrestrial scope. This row does not enable aquatic or marine biodiversity crediting under a terrestrial methodology.
BBS0001 + BWS0001	Assessment route	Both terrestrial biodiversity conservation and increased infiltration shall qualify independently within the mapped shared scope.
BBS0001 + BWS0002 or BWS0003	Restricted route	One selected BWS methodology. The water infrastructure or management system and its benefit shall overlap the Initiative on a valid basis, support compatible activities and satisfy separate outcome eligibility.

Coverage limits and unavailable routes

BWS0001, in the published version reviewed, limits interventions to qualifying non-forest areas with evidence of natural-cover transformation at least ten years before project start and requires the specified hydrological conditions, including water stress. Holders shall apply its complete applicability provisions. It shall not serve as a generic methodology for crediting water benefits from intact ecosystem conservation.

BCR0004 and BCR0007 restrict anthropogenic alteration of the water regime. A BWS activity shall not override that condition. Pairings requiring incompatible hydrological works, including an incompatible application of BWS0003, shall remain unavailable unless the relevant methodological provisions are formally revised.

BCR0013 establishes precedence for peat-soil accounting where its scope overlaps BCR0003 or BCR0007. The project shall select a compliant single GHG methodology. Cross-referencing context shall not be used to apply two accounting methodologies within one participating project.

Aquatic or marine biodiversity outcomes requiring a methodology beyond BBS0001 shall remain unavailable under this annex until an applicable BBS methodology and the corresponding pairing are approved and incorporated. This limitation concerns current methodological coverage and does not exclude blue-carbon, peatland or wetland families from the framework's intended ecosystem scope.

Dedicated soil-biodiversity methods and additional water-quality or water-efficiency methods are not enabled by this framework solely because they are under development. Their approved versions, outcome definitions and compatibility conditions shall be reviewed before the annex is expanded. BBS0001 shall not be extended to replace a required specialist methodology.

Annex B. Minimum linked information and assessment record — normative

The following information shall be maintained within the two project files or a shared annex referenced by both. Existing evidence may be cross-referenced by stable identifier and version. The record shall support each CAB's separate assessment and BioCarbon's decisions without requiring a third Project Document.

Information block	Required content
Project identity and origin	Program, project identifier, holder, selected methodology and version, initial BioCarbon submission evidence, and relevant prior crediting history.
Spatial relationship	Georeferenced boundaries of both projects; shared and non-shared areas; map versions; hydrological connections and benefit locations where relevant.
Temporal relationship	Original start and baseline dates; registration and prior-consideration evidence; quantification, monitoring and participation periods; overlaps and continuing obligations.
Outcome identity	For each stream: outcome, metric, pathway where applicable, baseline or counterfactual, attribution scope, unit type, and permitted or prohibited claims.
Activities and dependencies	Shared and separate activities, implementation responsibilities, causal contribution to each outcome, and ecological or operational dependencies.
Additionality and finance	Independent additionality conclusions; shared costs and material funding interactions; existing obligations; availability and conditions of revenues; applicable carbon investment counterfactuals and supporting evidence.
Rights and benefit-sharing	Rights over each outcome; prior assignments and compensation commitments; exclusion of separately credited climate impacts from non-carbon contracts; relevant consent, participation and benefit-sharing evidence.
Monitoring and evidence	Monitoring responsibilities and periods, common datasets and versions, independent calculations, confidentiality controls and reproducibility references.

Information block	Required content
Assessment and decisions	CAB identities and competence, separate reports and statements, interaction findings and their resolution, and Program-specific conformity decisions.
Registry and claims	Linked project and area identifiers and affected lots or serials; participation, issuance and external-use status; eligibility evidence and restrictions; separate transfer and retirement treatment.
Changes and events	Material changes, notifications, cross-project effects, corrective actions and resources, outstanding obligations, status, exit and continuing restrictions.

For each decision or verification, the CAB shall confirm that the relevant information is complete, consistent and supported. Counterpart conclusions shall retain their scope and limitations; findings shall remain distinct from Program and registry decisions.

Annex C. Illustrative applications — informative

Strategic ecosystem with limited carbon revenue

A BioCarbon-origin high-mountain or savanna project generates limited carbon revenue while supporting valuable conservation. A second BBS Initiative may be eligible where its conservation outcome, methodology, rights and additionality are independently demonstrated and the financial evidence shows how complementary revenue enables or sustains the relevant conservation. Low carbon output is context, not an eligibility shortcut.

Existing project seeking continuity finance

An existing project needs resources for continued management, stewardship or protection. The review considers genuine future needs, existing resources and obligations, and the role of the new revenue. A stable biodiversity condition may support an eligible maintenance outcome where the BBS and methodology requirements are met; the framework does not require annual increases in all indicators. Any BCS issuance continues to require eligible quantified mitigation under the carbon methodology; ecological stability alone does not establish a carbon quantity.

Second credit label without a demonstrated basis

A holder proposes a second credit stream while providing no evidence of the outcome-specific causal contribution or additionality required by the second Program. Separate documents and a new buyer do not resolve that deficiency. Admission is unavailable until substantive eligibility is demonstrated.

Same intervention and two buyers

Eligible revegetation contributes to independently quantified carbon removals and a biodiversity conservation outcome. Each project is verified separately. A carbon buyer and a biodiversity buyer may acquire the respective units; each claim follows the acquired and retired units, while factual area descriptions disclose the separate streams. Neither buyer acquires the other separately credited outcome through a co-benefit description or an undisclosed contractual extension.

Partial overlap

A terrestrial biodiversity Initiative overlaps only part of a larger eligible carbon project. The shared portion is mapped and linked. The carbon project's full boundary is not relabeled as multi-program by association. Quantification and registry evidence identify the actual scope of the relationship and prevent unsupported allocation of outcome claims.

Water intervention incompatible with the GHG method

A proposed water project requires works that breach the GHG methodology's restriction on hydrological alteration. Environmental relevance and separate accounting cannot overcome the incompatibility. The proposed pairing is unavailable under those methodological versions.

External origin or excess methodology count

A project transferred from an external crediting program remains ineligible for this framework after BioCarbon registration. Separately, a BCS project applying two methodologies remains ineligible to add BBS or BWS through a multi-program area. Neither case is cured by separate invoices, legal entities or registry labels.

Material event and exit

A funding failure or ecological disturbance affects one project. Its implications for the other are assessed on evidence and under each Program's rules. The area may be suspended or dissolved where appropriate, while historical links, issued-unit obligations and the biodiversity compensation restriction remain traceable.

Complementary revenue and the carbon investment test

Biodiversity or water revenue may be necessary alongside carbon revenue to implement a common intervention. The financing conditions and each applicable additionality test must be supported by consistent evidence. Where the carbon investment test requires a decisive role for carbon revenue and the intervention would already meet that test's financial benchmark without it, adding a BCS credit stream does not establish carbon additionality.

External label or market use

Admission of a BCS project and a BBS Initiative to a multi-program area does not establish eligibility for an external carbon label or specified market use. Each affected carbon unit must meet the relevant conditions. The area and the BioCredits do not inherit the label; a failed external-use condition does not automatically preclude another independently eligible use under the Program.

Concurrent carbon compensation obligations

A carbon double-claiming event and a reversal may require corrective action at the same time. The applicable BCS procedures determine the remedies and eligible resources. Units already cancelled, committed or otherwise unavailable cannot also support outstanding obligations. Compensation for one event does not discharge a separate obligation unless the applicable rules and the actual quantities support that treatment.

History of document

Type of document

BioCarbon Normative Guideline – Multi-Program Framework (MPF)

Version	Date	Description
Version 1.0	September 11, 2026	Initial release