BioCarbon Standard

BIOCARBON BIODIVERSITY STANDARD (BBS)

ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES

BIOCARBON CERT®

Version 3.2 | January 27, 2025

www.biocarbostandard.com

BIOCARBON CERT. 2025. BIODIVERSITY STANDARD. Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities. Version 3.2. January 27, 2025. 40 p. ISBN 978-628-96808-1-2 (Digital). http://www.biocarbonstandard.com

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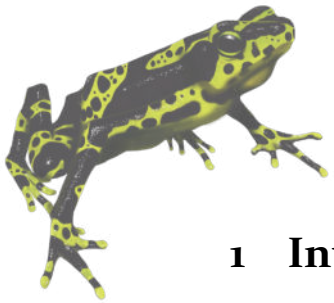
Acronyms and abbreviations

BBS	BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature
LMT	Landscape Management Tools
IP	Indigenous Peoples
LC	Local Communities
MSU	Minimum Spatial Unit
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
TOC	Theory of change
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework on Climate Change



1 Introduction

According to the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD 1992): "*Biological diversity*[1] *means the variability among living organisms from all sources including, among other things, terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are part; this includes diversity within species, between species and of ecosystems*."[2]

In keeping with this definition, biodiversity-related issues have been addressed through action plans that consider the conservation of species and ecosystems. However, and despite efforts to meet the priorities defined almost three decades ago, terrestrial habitats continue to be subject to fragmentation and degradation, increasing species' vulnerability. In this regard, the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species states that currently, "*of the 63,837 species assessed, 19,817 are threatened with extinction, including: 41% of amphibians, 33% of reef-building corals, 25% of mammals, 13% of birds and, 30% of conifers*".[3]

As a result, new targets are conciliated to be achieved in international negotiations, focusing on new forms of biodiversity management, including strategies that combine the sustainable use of natural resources with activities associated with the conservation of natural ecosystems. All this based on an integral approach that favors the sustainable management of ecological and social systems.

Following this determination, BIOCARBON CERT (hereinafter referred as just "BIOCARBON") aims to provide a biodiversity management model, for public and private actors who intend to undertake conservation activities of ecosystems and biodiversity. The Biodiversity Program of BIOCARBON focuses on providing guidelines for the structuring of voluntary, public or private investment initiatives, establishing technical criteria for long-term, sustainable and efficient financing.

This standard has been strategically designed to facilitate access to certification mechanisms, registration and issuance of Voluntary Biodiversity Credits for those conservation initiatives that meet the established requirements. This, in function of the technical characteristics and territorial context of each initiative, provides tools that guarantee additional and permanent biodiversity conservation actions. The Voluntary Biodiversity Credits generated can be traded on voluntary markets as well as in compensation schemes or environmental investments.

1 Term known as biodiversity
2 https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-es.pdf
3https://www.iucn.org/es/regiones/am%C3%A9rica-del-sur/nuestro-trabajo/pol%C3%ADticas-de-biodiversidad/lista-roja-de-uicn

2 Objectives

The BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (hereinafter "BBS") is intended for biodiversity conservation initiatives (hereinafter "Initiatives") whose activities contribute to the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity.

In this context, this standard:

(a) establish the practices and principles that the initiative holders shall comply with, in order to register the initiative and obtain voluntary biodiversity credits;

(b) define the requirements to be taken into consideration by the initiative holders to implement biodiversity conservation, restoration and sustainable use activities;

(c) provides criteria for demonstrating that conservation activities are permanent and measurable;

(d) sets the necessary conditions to ensure data quality for the quantification and management of voluntary biodiversity credits;

(e) ensures quality and compliance with applicable requirements for the registration and issuance of voluntary biodiversity credits;

(f) recognizes the importance of biodiversity conservation initiatives securing funding for ecosystem and biodiversity management in an accountable, transparent and traceable manner;

(g) reaffirms the overall effectiveness and integrity of the Biodiversity Crediting Program of BIOCARBON.

3 Version

This document constitutes the Version 3.2. January 27, 2025.

This version may be updated from time to time and intended users should ensure that they are using the latest version of the document available on the BIOCARBON website[4].

4 Scope

This document constitutes the Standard for the certification and registration of biodiversity initiatives and the issuance of Voluntary Biodiversity Credits (hereinafter

[4] www.biocarbonstandard.com

referred to as BioCredits). The Standard provides guidance for the registration of biodiversity initiatives that demonstrate compliance with the requirements established in national legal frameworks, as well as compliance with the rules and procedures established by BIOCARBON.

The BBS applies only to:

(a) initiatives that include activities for the preservation, restoration and/or sustainable use of biodiversity and the specific actions for each one;

(b) initiatives which development include contributions to regional or local conservation strategies;

(c) Initiatives for the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity using a methodology developed or approved by BIOCARBON;

(d) activities that support the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework[5], or other existing biodiversity-related targets;

(e) Initiatives that develop conservation activities for participation in voluntary biodiversity markets;

(f) Initiatives that intend to participate in an environmental compensation and investment mechanism, such as environmental compensations for biodiversity loss, provided that they strictly comply with all the criteria established by the applicable legislation in compliance.

5 Area of application

The BBS is intended to serve:

(a) all public and private actors (an individual, a community, a company, a certain country government, among others), that intend to register with BIOCARBON an initiative expressly dedicated to meeting a particular goal related to biodiversity conservation (referred as "Initiative holders);

(b) independent third-party entities (referred as "Certification Bodies") that conduct certification audits for the initiatives;

(c) entities managing biodiversity information;

[5] https://www.cbd.int/doc/decisions/cop-15/cop-15-dec-04-en.pdf

(d) private companies, government agencies, multilateral institutions and other financial institutions that invest in initiatives and/or participate in the Biodiversity Credit Market or other markets;

(e) in general, to all interested parties involved in biodiversity conservation initiatives.

6 Principles

Initiative holders and all stakeholders should apply the following principles[6]:

Responsibility

Guarantee the responsible use of the resources (environmental and human) that make up biological diversity.

Compatibility

Determine consistency between the sustainable use of biological diversity and local customs and traditions (and the applicable legislation that recognizes them).

Equity and justice

Ensure the fair distribution of the benefits, promote continuous participation and decision-making, and provide an equitable share to all.

Similarly, promote respect for the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities, ensuring their leadership, participation and equitable access to the benefits of conservation activities.

Precautionary principle

Apply the "precautionary principle"[7], following Principle 15 of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.[8]

[6] Some elements for the definition of these principles have been partially inspired by the Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2004) Addis Ababa Principles and Guidelines for the Sustainable Use of Biodiversity (CBD Guidelines) Montreal: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity 21 p

[7] Principle 15. Rio Declaration on Environment and Development. Available in: https://www.un.org/spanish/esa/sustdev/agenda21/riodeclaration.htm

[8] In order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation.

Transparency

Commitment to communicate in a clean and clear manner, expressing information accurately, timely, honestly, and comprehensively.[9]

Ensure clear and effective governance, with accountable and participatory decision-making processes.

Sustainability

Cover the three areas on which sustainable development is based (social, economic, and environmental) and guarantee the conservation of biodiversity and the wellbeing of future generations.

Verified and certified results

Based on scientific and rigorous quantification models that ensure the BioCredits generated are based on reliable measurements and certification processes, and that the results are robust and transparent, supporting the integrity of the information.

7 General terms

The following general terms apply to the BBS:

(a) "Shall" is used to indicate that the requirement shall be complied with;

(b) "Should" is used to indicate that, among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable;

(c) "May" is used to indicate that it is permitted.

8 Normative references

The following references are indispensable for the application of the BBS:

(a) Convention on Biological Diversity[10]. United Nations (1992);

(b) National policies and action plans related to the use and management of biological diversity;

[9] Taken from ISO 26000:2010 Standard, 2.24
[10] https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-es.pdf

(c) Environmental legislation that sets norms on the management of biological diversity;

(d) The BBS in their most recent version;

(e) The Methodological Document for Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Activities, the BIOCARBON Tools and Safeguards, and other documents that are applicable to biodiversity conservation initiatives.

9 Ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities

9.1 Conservation activities

Conservation activities should respond to economic, social, and ecological considerations and follow a structure that enables the ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities in a consistent, meaningful, and accurate way. Initiatives consisting of the following conservation activities may be registered[11] with BIOCARBON: (a) preservation; (b) restoration; (c) sustainable use.

9.1.1 Preservation

Actions that lead to maintaining the natural state of the biodiversity and landscapes or ecosystems by limiting or eliminating human intervention[12].

Specific preservation actions may include a) Isolation of areas/ establishment of ecological barriers; b). Isolation of forest fragments; c). Surveillance and control programs; d). Reduction of hunting and fishing activities; e). Others.

9.1.2 Ecological restoration

According to the Society for Ecological Restoration (SER), ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged or destroyed.[13]

Specific restoration actions may include a). Re-establishment of a degraded area in regards of its function, structure or composition; b). Rehabilitation of the productivity and/or ecosystem services of the original ecosystem; c). Recovery of the usage of the ecosystem and/or ecosystem services different from the ones of the original ecosystem; d). Removal of the agents causing degradation on the ecosystem; e). Others.

[11] These activities, developed separately or combined, make up a biodiversity conservation initiative.
[12] Defined in the colombian document: *Política Nacional para la Gestión Integral de la Biodiversidad y sus Servicios Ecosistémicos (PNGIBSE).* Ministerio de Ambiente y Desarrollo Sostenible. s.f. Bogotá, 134 p.
[13] https://www.ser.org/

9.1.3 Sustainable use

Sustainable use refers to the use of components of biological diversity in a way and at a rate that does not lead to their long-term decline, thereby maintaining its potential to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations[14].

Specific Sustainable use actions may include a). Purse-seine and other control efforts; b). Limitation on entry and/or actions of the public/tourists to a landscape or ecosystem; c). Limitation of heavy or destructive machinery and/or other forms of technology that may cause collateral damage to other elements of the landscape or ecosystem; d). Recycling/rotation of soil nutrients; e). Composting; f). Sustainable agriculture; g). Limitation of agrochemicals or fertilizers; h). Others.

9.2 Landscape Management Tools (LMT)

The "landscape management tools" (LMT)[15] are landscape elements that compose or enhance habitat, increase functional connectivity, or simultaneously fulfill ecosystem functions while contributing to biodiversity conservation. LMT are recommended to be included in the design and development of the initiatives, as a complement or addition to the Specific Actions proposed above.

LMT can include, among others: corridors (biological and conservation), mini-corridors or connecting strips enclosures, enclosures, live fences, enrichment, supplementation, multipurpose forests, conversion from pasture to forest cover, silvopastoral systems, agroforestry systems and forest plantations, which are described in detailed below.

Corridors (*biological and conservation*) favor movement and genetic exchange between local populations spatially isolated due to habitat fragmentation and loss. They can follow natural dispersal and migration routes, such as watercourses, or be created through restoration strategies in open areas. Biological corridors can be remnant when the connection between forest patches is preserved or restored when they are reestablished.

Mini corridors or connection strips. These are small strips or galleries that connect natural areas through productive areas. They are also generated on the margins of streams and rivers. They differ from the previous one in size, and their function is limited to small areas.

The *closures* are areas that are enclosed by a fence and are dedicated to conservation. In some cases, intensive restoration and cover establishment activities are carried out. In others, depending on the degree of deterioration and pressure on the resource, it is

[14] https://www.cbd.int/doc/legal/cbd-en.pdf
[15] http://www.humboldt.org.co/es/component/k2/item/344-herramientas-de-manejo-para-la-conservacion-de-biodiversidad-en-paisajes-rurales

possible to do so with minimal actions. For this purpose, species can be used as long as their extraction and management do not negatively impact the ecosystem. The use of timber species, for example, is possible if they are established on the periphery. In this case, the management tool is similar to an enrichment system (in the case of existing cover) and a mini corridor in pasture areas.

Enclosures are established live fences that isolate conservation areas, restoration or recovery areas, water sources, or other systems, preventing the impact generated by the passage of livestock and people. The enclosure of forests is the most efficient alternative to stop animals from entering the forest fragments. Trampling, consumption of seedlings and seeds, and soil compaction are among the most frequent effects in areas where water sources originate.

Live fences are single, in-line tree lines or wide strips of up to several meters. Live fences are crucial in increasing structural connectivity, resource provisioning, and decreasing fence maintenance costs. Live fences can generate the most prominent and most efficient possible connections between forest fragments, in tightly confined areas, without altering existing productive activities on a large scale. In addition, live fences reduce pressure on forests by reducing the demand for timber.

Through *enrichment*, flora elements are incorporated into the remnants, ravines, and forested areas. The details shall come from the local biota that can significantly decrease due to use pressures and other factors, although still found in natural ecosystems.

Supplementation is used to recover endangered species or key species for the functioning of the ecosystem. It is also possible that the individuals have disappeared from the local biota. However, they were there, probably because of records that show their presence in the ecosystem. Through supplementation, individuals produced in nurseries or recovered in the field and require very particular habitat conditions for their establishment and development are taken to natural areas. In some cases, the conservation of species in safe sites has been proposed, that is, to establish these species in spots that, in addition to their unique natural conditions, are in a management category such as protected areas. Endangered species can also be re-introduced through a controlled ecological introduction program.

Multipurpose forests are areas of natural or cultivated forests established under use criteria. Such is the case of firewood banks or sites for fodder production. They fulfill a protective and use function. Therefore, it is necessary to reduce pressures so that use does not dominate over protection or conservation, such as staggered harvests, thinning, etc.

Conversion from pasture to forest cover can be used in conjunction with establishing conservation corridors or the expansion of riparian strips. This includes techniques that

allow the change from field to a more diverse cover in composition and structure. In addition, various strategies can be employed to accelerate succession processes that lead to a rapid, economical, and practical transformation, both biologically and ecologically. For example, through the establishment of native species, intermediate pioneers are the basis of establishment with enrichments of native species of threatened character and/or advanced succession.

The restoration of the hydrological regime in wetlands[16] consists of restoring or rehabilitating a wetland. This requires, first and foremost, the repair of the hydrological regime. Activities that can lead to this may consist mainly of removing infrastructure works that impede water flow into the wetland or pipes and canals that drain the swamp. However, water regulation of the wetland is also related to activities to control the entry of sediment, solid waste, and pollutant flows and the geomorphological reconfiguration of the site.

Mangrove habitat restoration can include replanting and restoration of lost species, reducing pressure and allowing the system to recover naturally.

The hydrological regime can be recovered indirectly by controlling water quality based on nutrient concentrations, exploiting aquifers and supply springs, and maintaining vegetation cover in the upper parts of the watersheds. Since sediment input is related to the hydrological regime, it is sometimes necessary to build gabions or soil retention structures.

The reconstruction of the physical structure of the wetland habitat[17] through the restitution of the substrate's microtopography determines the variety of factors such as oxidation-reduction potential and temperature and/or the distribution and establishment of species. The physical reconfirmation of the wetland involves techniques to stabilize the form and, at the same time, promote heterogeneity in the relief.

10 Eligibility and requirements

The conservation activities, specific actions and LMT explained in Section 8 can be applied globally and regardless of the geographic location, as long as the initiative is designed and developed in terrestrial ecosystems, mangroves or/and wetlands ***only,*** and developed solely with the intention to obtain voluntary BioCredits.

Moreover, for an initiative to be eligible, holders shall compl y with the requirements described below.

[16] Ibid., p. 29
[17] Ibid., p. 29

10.1 Starting date

The initiative holder shall design a schedule defining the starting and ending date of the initiative (duration period). Also, the monitoring periods and other important dates and milestones in the developing of the initiative. The starting date refers to the exact date when the conservation activities begin.

Regarding the duration period, initiatives can only quantify and demonstrate BioCredits for a minimum of ten (10) years. This period can be extended for another 10-year period by justifying the reasons, goals and expected results of said extension. The initiative shall still be able to demonstrate additionality and therefore, the initiative holder shall evaluate once again the baseline conditions and other applicability requirements set by BIOCARBON.

Retroactivity may be considered per 1. the starting date of the initiative (the holder shall establish a robust Baseline indicating the initial ecosystem or landscape's state prior to the beginning of the Conservation Activities). Or 2. per a posterior year where additionality can still be proven (a robust Baseline indicating that the current conservation outcomes would not have occurred without the implementation or development of the initiative). In either scenario the baseline shall be established using field measurements, official data and/ or satellite imagery.

10.2 Geographic boundaries and minimum spatial unit

The Area of the Initiative is where the ecosystem and biodiversity conservation activities take place. It is defined by its geographic boundaries and is considered a minimum spatial unit (MSU) of 1 hectare (10,000m^2) of surface area.

In order to advance with the conservation activities, the initiative holder shall first determine the land cover within the geographic boundaries through a land cover analysis (at scales of 1:10,000 or greater).

The initiative area is therefore determined per its geographic boundaries and should be represented in a Geographic Information System (GIS) for the duration of the initiative. This should be carried out following appropriate methodologies for information systems and an appropriate land cover analysis. For example, geographic information should be handled following the quality standards of ISO 19111:2019(en)[18], which defines the conceptual scheme for the description of coordinate referencing, the minimum data needed to determine coordinate reference systems, and additional descriptive information in a coordinate reference system metadata.

[18] Geographic information — Spatial referencing by Referencing by coordinates

The initiative holder shall consider the diversity of the landscape within the geographic boundaries and identify the ecosystems present. This is because a MSU may contain a mixture of coverages that represent different ecological functions within an ecosystem. Therefore, the extent of the ecosystem can be reflected in the same proportion in which the various cover types occur.

Additionally, the initiative geographical boundaries shall not overlap with any area (coordinates) already registered for any Carbon projects per BCR Standard, as this may cause issues related to double counting and may also imply lack of additionality in the new biodiversity initiative proposed. Carbon projects and Biodiversity initiatives shall be designed and implemented independently yet aiming to be geographically adjacent to one another.

10.3 Conservation objectives and considerations

The initiative holder shall choose specific conservation objectives which can be represented as either species or taxon (such as vascular or non-vascular plants, birds, amphibians, reptiles and mammals. Functional taxa can also be considered, such as big herbivores or invertebrates found in the soil, etc.). However, initiatives should take into consideration priorities and special characteristics when choosing their conservation objectives such as their state of vulnerability and cultural value.

When choosing the conservation objectives, the initiative holder should consider the following considerations. The conservation objectives should:

(a) ensure environmental, social and financial sustainability for the local communities;

(b) guaranty the social and financial sustainability of the indigenous people;

(c) contribute to the conservation of endangered ecosystems and species of flora and fauna;

(d) contribute to connectivity processes and to the fulfillment of national conservation goals;

(e) generate productive alternatives for local communities and indigenous people;

(f) support the management of public or private protected areas through management plans, expansion or direct investments in restoration or preservation;

(g) contribute to restoration processes in prioritized areas within regional portfolios, local initia tives or private enterprises that contribute to the recovery of strategic ecosystems and their associated services, as long as the conservation actions are not linked to compensation plans or strategies of any of the mentioned;

(h) generate economic incentives for the initiative participants (per hectare preserved, restored or destined for sustainable use);

(i) increase the food and financial security through the diversification of economic activities;

(j) maintaining ecosystems' stability to ensure the provision of goods and services.

10.4 Biodiversity baseline

The initiative's geographic boundaries are made up of area units (as described in Section 9.2). These area units are determined by biotic and physical factors, coupled with economic and social characteristics. All these components, working together, are what determine the state of the landscape or ecosystem.

The initiative holder shall carry out a thorough analysis of the components previously mentioned, in order to establish the biodiversity baseline[19] (hereinafter just "baseline").

This analysis will focus primarily on the conservation initiative's objectives and its ecological niche. Therefore, the baseline will include at a minimum:

(a) information on cover types and their condition, including an assessment of the physiognomic-structural characteristics of the vegetation;

(b) structure and composition of plant communities, with indicators such as importance value index, relative abundance and diversity index, horizontal and vertical structure;

(c) structure and composition of wildlife communities in relation to the different types of associated vegetation cover;

(d) identification of threatened, rare and endemic species, based on IUCN categories[20] and/or other national, regional or local databases that may apply.

[19] Biodiversity baseline is the collection and interpretation of information on the conditions present at a site, as well as trends related to use and management.
[20] Red List of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Available in: http://www.iucnredlist.org

(e) social and economic aspects, identifying the factors related to resource management and the variables that determine the degradation or conservation of landscapes or ecosystems;

(f) assessment of vulnerability to climate change.

The evaluation of the state of the landscape or ecosystem should also consider at least two different periods of analysis (to determine trends). This will allow to contemplate quantitative and qualitative aspects such as its composition and potential mobility or migration patterns, gestation stages, hibernation states, among others.

It is necessary to select the appropriate characteristics and indicators associated with change per the conservation objectives of each initiative. The selection of features and associated indicators should be carried out on a rigorous technical basis to assess ecosystem functioning, resilience, and integrity. During the subsequent period of analysis, the indicators are going to be correlated to the initial reference condition. Finally, changes are determined concerning the considered components.

In general terms, the baseline should focus on the conservation objectives and therefore, facilitate the identification of the following:

(a) the activities for the preservation, restoration and sustainable use of biodiversity, their specific actions and LMT,

(b) the area for the conservation of ecosystems and biodiversity and the conservation objectives;

(c) other areas that enable maintenance and enhancement of landscape functionality and connectivity with the Aci;

(d) conservation objectives that due to their characteristics can be key in preservation, restoration and sustainable use processes;

(e) local communities and indigenous people, the characteristics that identify them and their relationship with biodiversity, as well as their wellbeing, rights and needs. Thus, assuring their permanent involvement, communication and participation;

10.5 Drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss

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

10.5.1 Drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss

Defined as "*forces that directly influence and affect the provision of ecosystem services*", are natural or anthropogenic alterations that affect the structure and function of landscapes or ecosystems, resulting in transformed or degraded areas. Some of these include wildfires, land-use changes, deforestation, overexploitation of resources, pollution, and the presence of invasive species.

10.5.2 Underlying causes

Are factors that originate the drivers or causes of biodiversity loss. These factors are linked to social, political, economic, technological, and cultural variables that constitute the existing relationships between natural systems and the populations that inhabit them. Some underlying causes include high production and consumption habits, population growth dynamics and trends, social inequality, lack of education and poverty, market trade, local legislations and governance systems.

10.6 Risk assessment and management

Initiative holder should employ appropriate methods to assess potential risks (direct and indirect such as financial, anthropic and climate) and consider risk mitigation measures within “adaptive management”.

Adaptive management is a process by which conservation activities can be positively adapted to future possible conditions. It is a structured decision-making process that considers the variables of incidence and reduces uncertainty in the results.

This requirement is intended to complement BioCarbon's Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDS) tool[21]. It comes into play when the initiative holder identifies additional risks related to the initiative activities beyond those listed in the aforementioned tool. Risk assessment and management shall be appropriate, accurate and objective.

10.7 Additionality

Initiative holders shall demonstrate that NGB are achieved due to the initiative and that such gains would not have occurred if the initiative had not been implemented.

Additionality shall be demonstrated through a qualitative and quantitative assessment that can explain, based on measurable variables, that the conservation outcomes would not have occurred if the conservation initiative had not taken place.

[21] https://biocarbonstandard.com/en/tools/

Furthermore, the design and implementation of the initiative shall include at least one of the conservation activities stated in section 8 of this document and at least one (or more) specific action(s) in order to assure additionality. LMT are optional but highly recommended.

10.8 Biodiversity conservation results

Initiative holders shall describe the ecosystems and biodiversity conservation outcomes, considering appropriate variables and relevant valuation techniques. The outcomes should be in line with the conservation activities, their specific actions and LMT, the drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss, risk management and the achievement of the conservation objectives.

10.9 Stakeholder engagement

Initiatives shall prioritize social sustainability. Therefore, stakeholder engagement is crucial for designing and implementing conservation activities aimed at quantifying of the conservation ecosystems and biodiversity.

BIOCARBON recognizes Local Communities (LC) and Indigenous Peoples (IP) as crucial stakeholders and important 'administrators' of Nature and natural resources. Despite comprising only 6% of the global population, IP safeguard 80% of the world's remaining biodiversity[22]. Initiative holders shall recognize the capacities of IP not only in biodiversity conservation but also in managing ecosystem assets and services.

Initiative holders shall therefore maintain permanent interaction and communication with LC, IP and all other stakeholders, in order to incorporate a variety of perspectives and perceptions regarding biodiversity. This shall be done throughout the whole design and implementation phases of the initiatives.

In this sense, initiative holders shall identify the different stakeholders and develop plans to facilitate their participation and inclusion as well as implement mechanisms for information disclosure and an appropriate stakeholder consultation.

Initiative holders shall additionally demonstrate that the initiative positively contributes to the socioeconomic component, as it:

(a) identifies and strengthens mechanisms for social and community participation (stakeholder engagement) at the local and regional levels;

[22] Convention on Biological Diversity. Indigenous Communities Protect 80% of All Biodiversity.20th of July,2022.

(b) implements sustainable production systems, combining production and conservation actions to generate local economic development;

(c) considers pre-existing social conflicts and supports the development of efficient models with post-conflict scenario management;

(d) the initiative generates short- and long-term benefits to members of the LC and IP in the initiative area;

(e) conservation activities under the initiative produce an average increase in the income of local producers.

A helpful tool for identifying, measuring, and monitoring these contributions as factors of positive change, is the Theory of Change (TOC). It works using a logical sequence that represents the conditions and factors necessary to achieve the expected impact. With various variables that adequately describe the connections between conservation measures and the effects and results can be quantified in the short term. The initiative holder can also use the FSC Guidance for Demonstration of Ecosystem Service Impacts[23]. This guide includes the essential elements of a TOC and a quality checklist.

10.10 Consistency with applicable legislation

Initiative holders shall demonstrate that the initiative complies with current national and international legislation and other legal frameworks related to the conservation activities developed in the scope of the initiative.

The legal compliance shall also include, among others, the laws related to the protection of human and IP's rights, in accordance with international regulations, such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

In this sense, initiative holders should have a documented procedure (Document Management System) which identifies and monitors all the relevant legislation and regulations, demonstrating that a procedure to review compliance is taking place periodically.

Accordingly, the initiative holder should maintain an updated list of all legislative requirements that apply to the initiative's conservation activities.

[23] FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0 ES. Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC,2018). FSC®F000100.

10.11 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

Initiatives shall align their conservation activities with minimum three (3) Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and specify how and in which measures they align.

Accordingly, the initiative holder should conduct an assessment on the contribution of the conservation initiative to said SDGs and therefore contribute to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted by all United Nations members in 2015.

To demonstrate compliance with this requirement, initiative holders shall demonstrate that by defining relevant criteria and indicators, the initiative's contribution to SDGs are applicable to their conservation activities.

The 17 SDGs include recognition and efforts in terms of fundamental rights and actions to improve well-being and quality of life, such as food security, healthy living, education, gender equality, access to water and energy, economic growth, and sustainable use of ecosystems and peaceful societies.

Initiative holders should, for example, determine whether the initiative contributes to actions such as[24]:

(a) reduce the proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions according to national definitions;

(b) ensure that all men and women, particularly the poor and vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services;

(c) improve agricultural productivity and the incomes of small-scale food producers, particularly women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen;

(d) ensure the sustainability of food production systems and apply resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, contribute to the maintenance of ecosystems, and strengthen adaptive capacity;

(e) achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health services, and access to safe, effective, affordable, and quality medicines and vaccines for all;

(f) reduce the number of deaths and illnesses caused by hazardous chemicals and by air, water, and soil pollution and contamination;

[24] Variables based on the 2030 agendas

(g) ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all decision-making levels in political, economic, and public life;

(h) grant women equal rights to economic resources, as well as financial services and natural resources;

(i) support the efficient use of water resources and ensure the sustainability of freshwater extraction and supply to address water scarcity;

(j) ensure full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including youth and persons with disabilities, as well as equal pay for work of equal value;

(k) protect labor rights and promote a safe and secure working environment for all workers, including migrant workers, particularly migrant women and those in precarious employment;

(l) promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and significantly increase industry contribution to employment and gross domestic product under national circumstances.

As mentioned above, it is mandatory to determine particular criteria and indicators for each initiative to permanently demonstrate compliance with the chosen SDGs.

10.12 Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs)

Initiatives shall comply with SDSs tool[25] by addressing potential risks related to environmental and socio-economic safeguards that may arise during the conservation activities of the initiative. Initiative holders shall demonstrate preventive and mitigation measures for each potential risk.

The SDSs tool provides the requirements and rules for initiatives to examine and address the risks related to:

(a) Land use: Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention and Management;

(b) Water;

(c) Biodiversity and ecosystems;

(d) Climate Change;

[25] https://biocarbonstandard.com/en/tools/

(e) Labor and Working Conditions;

(f) Gender equality and women empowerment;

(g) Land acquisition, Restrictions on Land Use, Displacement, and Involuntary Resettlement;

(h) Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage;

(i) Community and Health and safety;

(j) Corruption; and

(k) Economic Impact.

10.13 Climate change adaptation

Biodiversity and climate change are interconnected. Biodiversity loss can exacerbate the impacts of climate change, just as climate change generates stress in ecosystems causing potential threats to the different species. Consequently, biodiversity loss and transformation are associated with vulnerability to climate change.

According to the IPCC, vulnerability is defined as "*the degree of susceptibility or inability of a system to cope with the adverse effects of climate change and, in particular, climate variability and extreme events.*"

Vulnerability has two components: (a) *sensitivity,* which measures system's weakness, and (b) *adaptation,* which corresponds to the system's ability to cope with and recover from an event.

Following the above, initiative holders shall develop a climate change adaptation plan (directly related to the initiative's conservation activities), following a process of planning, potential impact assessment, and identification of climate change adaptation strategies.

In this regard, initiative holders should:

(a) identify possible scenarios of climate change risks and climate variability, based on relevant information;

(b) identify the likely changes in land cover and land use due to these climate change scenarios;

(c) determine whether current or potential climate changes will have an impact on the well-being of IP and LC and/or the conservation status of biodiversity;

(d) evaluate the contribution of conservation activities to climate change adaptation;

10.14 Biodiversity credits (BioCredits) ownership and rights

Rights to biodiversity credits include ownership and the right to benefit from the sale of them and from any other payments or interest received from conservation activities. In essence, ownership confers the right to benefit from ecosystem and biodiversity conservation. To establish full legal ownership of the biodiversity credits, rights shall be supported by evidence of a process rooted in free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) with the relevant "initiative participants" (this term may include an individual, the parties, a party, or a fraction thereof).

Accordingly, initiative holders shall honor the rights of other participants to consent to consultation as part of the initiative's design and implementation plans. The FPIC shall be applied in relation to any actions affecting IP and LC's lands, territories, or resources, including land tenure rights for the initiatives, ensuring they are respected without the threat of forced eviction.

In instances where initiatives involve activities within the territories of IP, ethnic groups and/or LC, initiative holders shall ensure recognition and respect for their statuary and customary rights, following the procedures stipulated in applicable legislation.

Particularly when IP and LC are not active participants of the initiative, i.e. when the initiative participants are individuals or organization other than the IPs or LCs -the initiative holder shall initially seek certification from the relevant authority to ascertain the presence of IP in the initiative area. If such communities exist, the Fundamentals Right to Prior Consultation shall be guaranteed, as applicable.

Initiative holders shall demonstrate BioCredits rights with agreements and documents that ensure compliance with this requirement, including, at minimum, the following information:

(a) Participants who signed the agreement(s);

(b) Agreement objectives;

(c) Agreement date;

(d) Name of the initiative;

(e) Period of quantification of NGB; and

(f) Responsibilities, obligations, and rights or each of the signatory participants.

In the event that the initiative does include IP and LC as one of the participants, the initiative holder shall provide evidence that the individual signing the documents within the scope of the initiative, possesses the authority to do so. If the initiative holder is an IP, the documentation shall be submitted by the legitimate authority representing the IP.

Regardless of the initiative taking place in IP and/or LC territories, initiative holders shall always demonstrate per the provisions of current local and national legislation, that they hold the rights to land tenure (use and manage the area where the conservation activities are developed) at least during the quantification periods. Otherwise, the initiative holder shall demonstrate to have an agreement with that who does.

In all cases, the initiative holder shall establish transparent agreements that incorporate provisions for fair and equitable benefits with IP and LC and other participants. These agreements should therefore delineate the responsibilities and obligations of all involved. By promoting transparency, participants can gain a clear understanding of the initiative's goals, timelines and potential impacts. This transparency fosters trust and accountability, facilitating a more collaborative and effective approach to addressing the initiative.

Initiative holders shall evidence the procedures employed to stablish benefit-sharing arrangements with all participants. Where applicable, the initiative holders shall demonstrate that such agreements have been duly established with them and that the terms and conditions have been communicated in a culturally appropriate manner.

Said arrangements shall also be developed in accordance with the set of principles stated on Section 5 of this document, mainly focused on Equity and justice and therefore promoting the continuous participation and decision-making of the participants and guaranteeing a reasonable distribution of benefits by ensuring an equitable share.

This equitable share should be presented to BioCarbon in the form of percentage (%) as the resultant of said negotiations between the participants.

BIOCARBON promotes self-governance and empowerment in the territories and will therefore accept the negotiations reached by the participants. If a participant, however, does not agree to the equitable share proposed, BIOCARBON will not proceed with the registration of the initiative until this is resolved.

11 Monitoring plan

The initiative holder shall describe procedures for monitoring activities including quality control of measurements and the quantification of BioCredits attributable to the conservation activities.

The monitoring plan should be structured appropriately and in accordance with:

(a) the national circumstances and context of the initiative;

(b) good monitoring practices, appropriate for the follow-up and control of the activities of the biodiversity conservation initiative;

(c) data quality assurance procedures.

The Biodiversity Initiative holder may determine the periodicity of the monitoring periods, considering the objectives of conservation and the design for the application of quantification metrics. However, monitoring periods should never exceed five (5) years or be less than one year.

Initiative holders shall implement the monitoring plan per approval of the certification body. The execution of the approved monitoring plan and its modifications where applicable, are a requirement for the certification of the initiative. Any modifications to the monitoring plan to increase its accuracy and/or the completeness of the information, shall be justified and submitted to the certification body.

Based on the implementation of the monitoring plan and the quantification of BioCredits, the certification body will determine whether these have been obtained in an accurate, relevant, and transparent manner.

12 Certification process

Initiative holders that comply with the eligibility criteria and requirements established on Section 9 of this BBS, should then ensure that a certification process is carried out by an independent certification body accredited for this purpose.

Certification bodies are responsible for conducting certification audits to evaluate the initiative's compliance with the criteria and requirements specified in this BBS and in BioCarbon's Methodological Document for Biodiversity Conservation Initiatives, as well as all BioCarbon's Tools that may apply.

A certification audit should consider the following:

(a) the geographic boundaries of the initiative;

(b) the date of commencement of conservation activities;

(c) conservation activities, specific actions and LMT;

(d) drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss and their underlying causes;

(e) additionality analysis;

(f) compliance with applicable legislation;

(g) review of stakeholder consultation and or FPIC;

(h) Sustainable development safeguards (SDS)

(i) conservation objectives;

(j) the appropriate use of concepts and procedures required to quantify BioCredits;

(k) the biodiversity baseline;

(l) the initiative's contribution to SDGs; and

(m) the monitoring plan.

In summary, the certification body determines whether the initiative meets all the requirements to be certified and if the initiative has achieved an increase of NGB over the specified time period(s). If so, the certification body will then proceed to submit an attestation or certification statement, indicating said compliance.

13 Certification bodies

Certification Bodies shall demonstrate the following:

(a) its scope of accreditation includes biodiversity conservation evaluation activities;

(b) has a sufficient number of professionals who demonstrate the necessary ethical conduct to perform all the functions required to conduct certification audits;

(c) the auditors in charge have experience in the evaluation of biodiversity conservation strategies;

(d) at least one member of the audit team has demonstrated competence based on previous experience;

(e) the auditors have the necessary skills to evaluate the use of applicable methodologies and interpret the results for the conservation activities evaluated;

(f) has documented internal procedures for the performance of its functions, in particular, procedures for the assignment of responsibilities within the organization;

(g) is competent to perform the functions specified per the applicable legislation and the provisions described in this BBS;

(h) ensures the necessary knowledge on environmental issues and ensures quality in conformity assessment;

(i) is knowledgeable about monitoring conservation activities;

(j) has procedures for handling complaints, appeals and disputes.

In addition, certification bodies shall operate in an independent, reliable, non-discriminatory and transparent manner, in compliance with the applicable legislation and in particular with the following requirements:

(a) have a documented structure that protects its integrity, with provisions that guarantee the impartiality of its operations;

(b) have appropriate arrangements in place to protect the confidentiality of information obtained from the initiative holders;

(c) demonstrate that they do not have an actual or potential conflict of interest with the initiative holders for whose certification they have been contracted;

(d) make available to BIOCARBON, upon request, the information obtained. Information classified as confidential shall not be disclosed without the written consent of the provider or if required by the applicable legislation. The information to determine additionality, shall not be considered confidential.

14 Revision and issuance of BioCredits

Once the certification is complete and the certification statement has been submitted, the technical committee of BIOCARBON performs a revision of the information provided and then supplies a formal written "BioCredits issuance statement". BioCredits will only be issued if the initiative has been previously certified under the guidelines established in the BBS for this purpose.

15 Registry platform

BIOCARBON has a public registry platform that allows the registration of initiatives and assigns a unique serial number for each BioCredit. The records in the platform are connected to a BlockChain system that guarantees the security, traceability, and transparency of the BioCredits issued by BIOCARBON. The only ones who may request the

registration of initiatives are the initiative holders or whoever is authorized by them, to carry out the procedures required in this regard. In order to register an initiative with BIOCARBON, initiative holders shall provide the following documentation, among other documents, if required:

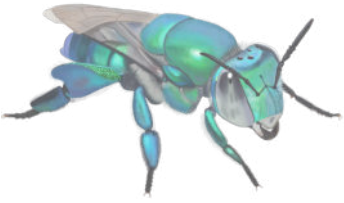
(a) Information on the initiative holder and the initiative;

(b) Authorization for registration of the initiative and use of the platform;

(c) Conservation Initiative Document (CID);

(d) Monitoring report;

The information in BIOCARBON'S registry system is public, except for the information classified or reserved by law, following applicable national legislation.



ANNEX A. GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Accreditation

related to a certification body conveying formal demonstration of its competence to carry out specific conformity assessment tasks. [SOURCE: ISO/IEC 17000:2004, 5.6]

Adaptation to climate change (Climate change adaptation)

process of adjustment to actual or expected climate and its effects

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

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

Adaptive capacity

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

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

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

Adaptive management

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

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

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

Area of the conservation initiative (A)

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

Attestation

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

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

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

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

Audit

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

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

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

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

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

Biodiversity conservation initiative (Initiative)

conservation activities expressly dedicated to meeting a particular target related to the conservation of biodiversity.

Biodiversity conservation initiative holder (Initiative holder)

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

Biodiversity credit (BioCredit)

Corresponds to a certified unit that represents a positive, sustainable and additional biodiversity conservation outcome that would not have occurred in the absence of the

project initiative. It is measured in terms of the effective reduction of threats to biodiversity, the prevention of expected losses, or the enhancement of biodiversity through specific actions designed to improve the resilience of ecosystems[26].

In the context of the BBS, biodiversity credits are referred to as BioCredits. The term BioCredit is accepted as a synonym for Voluntary Biodiversity Credit (VBC). It is a measurable, traceable and tradable unit that represents the unit of measurement related to biodiversity conservation and is quantified through the application of the set of metrics outlined in section 12 of this document[27].

Biological diversity

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

Certification

third-party attestation related to an object of conformity assessment, with the exception of accreditation.

[SOURCE : ISO/IEC 17000 :2020(en), 7.6.]

Certification body

third-party conformity assessment body operating certification schemes

Note 1 to entry: A certification body can be non-governmental or governmental (with or without regulatory authority).

[SOURCE : ISO/IEC 17065 :2012(en), 3.12]

Certification criteria

set of standards, rules, or properties to which an asset must conform in order to be certified to a certain level

Note 1 to entry: Certification criteria are defined by a certification policy. Certification criteria can be specified as a set of certification properties that must be met.

[26] Biodiversity Credit Alliance (2024). Definition of a Biodiversity Credit. Disponible en: https://www.biodiversitycreditalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/Definition-of-a-Biodiversity-Credit-Rev-220524.pdf#page=5.99

[27] International Advisory Panel on Biodiversity Credits (2024). Framework for high integrity biodiversity credit markets. Disponible en: https://www.iapbiocredits.org/framework

[SOURCE ISO/IEC/IEEE 24765 :2017(en), 3.526]

Conformity Assessment

demonstration that specified requirements are fulfilled.

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

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

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

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

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

Conservation objects

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

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

Data quality

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

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

Declaration

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

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

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

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

Ecosystem

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

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

Ecosystem services

benefit people obtain from ecosystems

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

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

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

Forest (Natural Forest)

"Forest" is a minimum area of land of 0.05-1.0 hectares with tree crown cover (or equivalent stocking level) of more than 10-30 per cent with trees with the potential to

reach a minimum height of 2-5 meters at maturity in situ. A forest may consist either of closed forest formations where trees of various stores and undergrowth cover a high proportion of the ground or open forest. Young natural stands and all plantations which have yet to reach a crown density of 10-30 per cent or tree height of 2-5 meters are included under forest, as are areas normally forming part of the forest area which are temporarily unstocked as a result of human intervention such as harvesting or natural causes, but which are expected to revert to forest.[28]

Habitat

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

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

Indigenous Peoples (IPs)

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

[SOURCE: Indigenous Peoples at the United Nations]

Nature-based solutions

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

Species

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

Stakeholder (Interested party)

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

[28] The Marrakech Accord. CP7/D11. https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/docs/cop7/13a01.pdf. The biodiversity initiative holder shall use the definition that applies.

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

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

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

Stakeholder engagement

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

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

Risk

effect of uncertainty.

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

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

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

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

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

Site

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

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

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

Sustainability

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

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

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

Sustainable development

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

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

[SOURCE: ISO 26000:2010, 2.23]

Sustainable utilization (use)

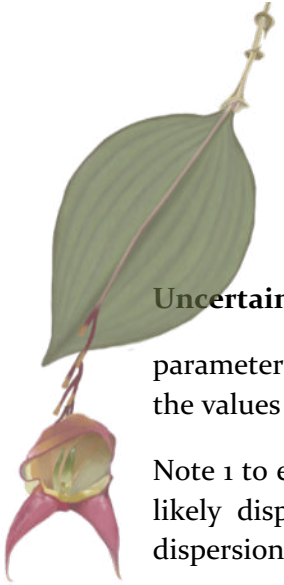
" *Sustainable use*" means the use of components of biological diversity in a manner and at a rate that does not lead to the long-term decline of biological diversity, thereby maintaining the potential of biological diversity to meet the needs and aspirations of present and future generations.

Transparency

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

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

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



Uncertainty

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

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

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

Vulnerability

propensity or predisposition to be adversely affected

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

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

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

Document history

Document type. Standard.

BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS). ECOSYSTEM AND BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION ACTIVITIES.

Version	Date	**Nature of the document**
Version for public consultation	May 11, 2021	Initial version – a document submitted for public consultation
Version 1.0	July 2, 2021	Definitive version. No changes whit respect to the former document.
Version 2.0	November 15, 2022	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Change of author to BioCarbon Registry (formerly ProClima) Minor editorial changes
Version 3.0	February 27, 2024	Adjusted version Change of author to BioCarbon Cert Clarifications and minor editorial changes
Version 3.1	May 31, 2024	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Minor editorial changes.
Version 3.2	January 25, 2025	Adjusted version Concepts and definitions Minor editorial changes