VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION STANDARDS

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Carbon Registry - India, ***Carving real impacts***

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ABBREVIATIONS

AFOLU: Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use

CAR: Corrective Action Request

CDM: Clean Development Mechanism

CL: Clarification

CPA: Component Project Activity

CR-I: Carbon Registry-India

CS: Carbon Standard

DE: Delegate Entity

DPD: Detailed Project Document

EP: External Project

ER: Emissions Reduction

ESIA: Environmental and Social Impact Assessment

ESC: Extended Stakeholder Consultation

FAR: Forward Action Request

FM: Forest Management

GC: Governing Council

GHG: Greenhouse Gases

IPP: Independent Project Proponent

IRR: Internal Rate of Return

LSC: Local Stakeholder Consultation

MAP: Methodology Approval Procedure

MBP: Minimum Buffer Percentage

MCU: Marketable Carbon Unit

MR: Monitoring Report

NCCF: Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests

NDC: Nationally Determined Contributions

PoA: Programme of Activities

PDC: Permanent Design Changes

PEFC: Programme for Endorsement for Forest Certification Standard

PG: Programme Guide

RAIR: Request for Approval for Initiation of Registration

RCP: Renewal of Crediting Period

REC: Renewable Energy Certificate

RET: Rare, Endangered and Threatened

RIP: Registration and Issuance Procedure

SCR: Stakeholder Consultation Report

VaR: Validation Report

VeR: Verification Report

VVB: Validation and Verification Body

VVS: Validation and Verification Standard

IVVE: Independent Validation and Verification Expert

1. Introduction

The Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests (NCCF) is a 'not for profit' organization registered in India under Societies Registration Act, 1860. It is involved in developing globally aligned certification programmes and standards-based mechanisms in India. It is working towards developing national environment and sustainability-based standards in diverse areas of forest, climate change, natural resource management and ecotourism. In addition, NCCF is also engaged in policy advocacy and varied conservation activities across the country. Through development and application of its certification programmes and standards-based mechanisms, NCCF aims to promote adoption of healthier and sustainable: economically beneficial, environmentally responsible and socially appropriate, operational and management practices, in accordance with national policies, institutional frameworks and sustainability usage norms.

The development and functioning of the 'Carbon Registry-India' (the registry) would help in achieving NCCF's aspirational goal of combating climate change and its impacts through utilization of the ambition of the internal, and strength of global environmental markets. This initiative assumes more importance after India's adoption of ambitious Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) following COP 21 in 2015, and the inclusion of Article 6 in the Paris Agreement. The modalities and procedures of the registry have been formulated to provide a congenial ecosystem for development, assessment and adoption of scientifically accepted environmentally and socially beneficial technologies, activities, measures and practices throughout the globe.

The CR-I Validation and Verification Standard (VVS) establishes rules and requirements for Validation and Verification bodies (VVBs) for carrying out audit activities listed below:

(i) validation of project design and related activities,
(ii) verification of implementation, operation and monitoring activities carried out by projects, and
(iii) assessment of new methodologies and/or tools

The rules and requirements shall follow the regulatory framework established by the Programme Guide (PG), Carbon Standard (CS) and other regulatory documents of the registry. All VVBs shall adopt this standard and further ensure strict compliance with all applicable rules and requirements prescribed therein for carrying out above-mentioned audit activities.

The foundation framework of this standard is based on rules, requirements and procedures established in ISO 14064-3:2019, ISO 14065:2013, ISO 14066:2011 and ISO 19011:2018. The rules and requirements established henceforth are formulated in a manner to allow flexibility in approach employed by its intended users, without compromising on the integrity, credibility and robustness of the registry.

VVBs are independent third-party entities possessing adequate sectoral competency and human resource to effectively observe, evaluate and report on activities carried out by IPP(s) for validation and verification of projects and by IMD(s) for assessment and subsequent listing of project-based methodologies and tools. To be considered for empanelment under the mechanism, VVBs shall be compliant with the eligibility criteria described in Section-8 of this standard.

Through development, adoption and subsequent usage of the standard, the registry shall ensure the following:

(i) promote design and development of eligible projects for registration and project-based methodologies and tools for approval and listing.

(ii) promote projects with significant sustainable development component.

(iii) promote implementation, operation and monitoring of projects for verification.

(iv) promote design, development and implementation of an organization's GHG management system and related activities.

(v) augment organizational capacity to effectively monitor a project's performance and progress and resulting GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

(vi) reinforce environmental integrity and uphold scientific rigor in quantification of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

(vii) enhance the credibility, consistency and transparency of implementation, monitoring and reporting, including GHG project emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement

The standard document shall be updated on a regular basis and the intended users are advised to refer to the most current version of the document.

2. Normative References

The following documents have been referred to during design and formulation and are indispensable for the application of this standard document. For dated references, only the edition cited applies, while for undated references, the latest edition of the referenced document (including any amendments) applies.

- ISO 14064-3:2019 - Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions
- ISO 14065:2013 - Requirements for greenhouse gas validation and verification bodies for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition

- ISO 14066:2011 – Greenhouse gases – Competence requirements for greenhouse validation teams and verification teams
- ISO 19011: 2018 - Guidelines for auditing management systems
- Clean Development Mechanism Validation and Verification Standard (CDM-EB93-A05-STAN)
- Carbon Registry-India Carbon Standard (Version 1.0)

3. Terms and Definitions

The definitions of terms applicable under the registry have been made available in the Glossary of Terms document. Apart from that, the following definitions apply to this standard document:

- "Shall": indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard document.
- "Should": indicates that among several possibilities, one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. A certification body can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
- "May": indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the standard document.

4. Scope and Applicability

4.1. Overarching Scope

4.1.1 The standard establishes rules and requirements for VVBs to carry out the activities outlined below:

(i) Validation of proposed projects seeking registration, through evaluation and review of the Detailed Project Document (DPD), Stakeholder Consultation Report (SCR) and other relevant and supporting documents describing a project's design and development.

(ii) Validation of Permanent Design Changes (PDCs) to a registered project proposed by IPP(s) based on evaluation and review of the revised DPD and other relevant and supporting documents.

(iii) Validation of Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) request submitted by IPP(s) based on evaluation and review of the revised DPD and other relevant and supporting documents.

(iv) Verification of projects seeking certification and issuance of MCUs, through evaluation and review of the Monitoring Report (MR) and other relevant and supporting documents describing a project's implementation and monitoring.

(v) Assessment of proposed project-based methodologies and tools seeking approval and listing with the registry through evaluation and review of the Methodology Document, Synopsis and other relevant and supporting documents.

(vi) Assessment of proposed revision in project-based Methodology/Tool approved and listed with the registry through evaluation and review of Methodology Revision Document/Tool Revision Document and other relevant and supporting documents.

(vii) Empanelment of independent VVBs with the registry to perform all auditing activities described above.

4.2 Applicability

4.2.1 This standard is applicable for adoption and subsequent usage by VVBs and for reference by IPP(s) and IMDs, as applicable at the following stages:

(i) Validation of proposed projects seeking registration
(ii) Validation of Permanent Design Changes (PDCs) to a registered project proposed by IPP(s)
(iii) Validation of Renewal of Crediting Period (RCP) request submitted by IPP(s)
(iv) Verification of projects seeking certification and issuance of MCUs
(v) Assessment of proposed project-based methodologies and tools seeking approval and listing with the registry.
(vi) Assessment of proposed revision in project-based methodologies and tools listed with registry.

4.2.2 Moreover, this standard is also applicable for usage by VVBs to demonstrate their eligibility for empanelment with the registry.

5. Entry into Force

The Validation and Verification standard document shall enter into force on *the date of publication* of the final document and shall be subject to revision on a regular basis, as deemed appropriate by the NCCF. No earlier version(s) of this standard document exist(s).

6. Language

English is and shall be the language of operation of the registry. All regulatory documents under the registry, as applicable, shall be in English. If required, the documents may be translated into other languages too by NCCF only.

However, interpretation of the English version shall hold precedence over other all language versions.

7. Standard Principles of Auditing

The term auditing has been used as an umbrella term for all activities carried out by VVBs under validation, verification and assessment regimes and refers to an independent and impartial review, scrutinizing, inspecting the, and reporting on the project and/or methodology related documents to achieve the required objective.

The VVBs shall adhere to the auditing principles as defined in the standard, guiding the validation team for validation of proposed project plan, verification team for verification of monitoring of projects and assessment team for assessment of proposed project-based methodology and tools and their revisions. VVBs shall adhere to the following principles adapted from the standards referred in the normative references:

(i) **Integrity:** All VVBs shall carry out activities of evaluation while demonstrating honesty, professional ethics and due diligence.

(ii) **Independence:** All VVBs shall maintain impartiality, be free from biasness, influence and conflict of interest while maintaining the objectivity towards findings and results of validation, verification and assessment.

(iii) **Evidence-based approach:** All findings and results of validation, verification and assessment shall be based on established facts rather than assumptions or hypothetical scenarios.

(iv) **Confidentiality:** Secrecy of sensitive information shall be maintained by VVBs and the members of the validation, verification and assessment team.

(v) **Fair representation:** VVB shall reflect findings, conclusions, reports and limitations of the validation, verification and assessment truthfully, appropriately and accurately. Additionally, VVB shall also report difference of opinion amongst its team members and obstacles faced during the different stages of auditing.

(vi) **Due professional care:** All VVBs shall exercise due professional care and judgement along with necessary knowledge and skills during different stages of evaluation and recognizing the importance of each task and its outcome to the intended users.

(vii) **Openness:** VVBs shall furnish information in a transparent and timely manner regarding the status of validation, verification and assessment, as applicable, which shall be made accessible to NCCF, IPP(s) and other entities/stakeholders involved.

8. Empanelment of Validation and Verification Bodies

8.1. All applicant entities intending to become an empanelled Validation and Verification Body, in order to carry out validation and verification activities of projects, with the registry shall fulfil any of the eligibility criteria given below in Table 1:

Table 1: Eligibility criteria for Validation and Verification of Projects

Criterion Number	Eligibility Criterion	Evidence
Criterion 1	a) Accredited as DOE by UNFCCC for CDM/Art 6.4 for validation and/or verification in applicable sectoral scope(s)	a) Accreditation certificates issued by CDM/Art 6.4 Accreditation Panel for validation and/or verification in applicable sectoral scope(s)
Criterion 2	a) Listed as Active VVB by VCS for validation and/or verification in applicable sectoral scope(s)	a) Empanelment and/or listing certificates and/or documents by Verra for validation and/or verification in applicable sectoral scope(s)
Criterion 3	a) Accredited for ISO 17029/14065 by anccreditation body which is a member of International Accreditation Forum or its successor Global Accreditation Cooperation Inc. MLA for GHG quantification assessment in applicable sectoral scope b) Competent sectoral experts for applicable sectoral scope with the applicant	a) Accreditation certificates issued by relevant accreditation body with membership of International Accreditation Forum or its successor Global Accreditation Cooperation Inc. MLA, including time period for which accreditation is valid b) Details of experts, reports, projects, etc., with name of expert, complete title of publications, etc., and/or

		educational proof, including curriculum vitae

Note: An alternative pathway exists for eligible individuals as described in section 9 (Empanelment of Independent Validation & Verification Expert (IVVE))

8.2. All applicant entities intending to become an empanelled VVB, in order to carry out assessment of new methodologies/tools and their subsequent revisions, with the registry shall fulfil the following eligibility criteria as prescribed in Table 2 below:

Table 2: Eligibility Criteria for VVB seeking empanelment for Assessment of Methodologies

Type of Methodology	Eligibility Criterion	Evidence
Non-AFOLU	(a) Empaneled as VVB with the registry	(a) Not required
	(b) VVB shall be accredited in all sectoral scopes applicable to the proposed methodology	(b) Accreditation certificates issued by a valid accreditation body as per cl. 8.1
	(c) VVB shall have collectively completed 15 successful validations and/or methodology evaluations under other GHG programmes, like CDM, VCS, GS, etc.	(c) List of projects shall be provided with the evaluation reports and shall include the project title, Ref. No., registration date and name of the GHG programme. For methodologies, the details shall include the methodology title, ref. no, date of methodology approval and name of the GHG programme

AFOLU	(d) VVB shall comply either with Option 1 or Option 2: • Option 1: Minimum of 5 (five) successful validations or verifications. • Option 2: 1 (one) methodology evaluation and 2 (two) validations or verifications, under other GHG programmes, like CDM, VCS, GS, etc.	(d) List of projects shall be provided with the evaluation reports and shall include the project title, ref no., registration date and name of the GHG programme.

8.3. Applicant VVB shall completely adhere to rules, requirements and procedures of the VVB empanelment procedure for empanelment with the registry and shall pay fee as applicable.

8.4. In addition to satisfying the above eligibility criteria, the applicant entity shall further sign an agreement with the NCCF in order to be formally empanelled as a VVB with NCCF for work of the registry.

8.5. The VVBs shall secure and maintain accreditation as per the rules, requirements and procedures set out under their respective accreditation regimes.

9. Empanelment of Independent Validation & Verification Expert (IVVE)

- This section provides rules, eligibility criteria, and procedures for the empanelment of *Independent Validation & Verification Expert (IVVE) for microprojects with* the Carbon Registry - India (CR-I).
- IVVEs may carry out the following activities within their sectoral competency in joint engagement with another IVVE or VVB:
    - Validation of proposed projects
    - Verification of implemented projects
    - Assessment of methodologies and tools
- IVVEs are permitted to validate or verify across sectoral scopes, subject to evidence of experience in related scope.

9.1 Eligibility Criteria for IVVE

Table 3: Eligibility Criteria for empanelment of independent individual:

Criterion Number	Eligibility Requirement	Evidence Required
IVVE-1	ISO 14064 Training	Certificate from an training agency registered with bodies such as IRCA or Exemplar
IVVE-2	Minimum of 3 years professional experience in GHG validation/verification in the proposed sectoral scope(s)	Curriculum vitae, reference letters, proof of employment or contracts
IVVE-3	Minimum of 5 validation or verification assignments completed under CDM, VCS, GS, or similar GHG programs	Project logbook listing project names, roles, and references
IVVE-4	Successful completion of NCCF's CR-I training and /or evaluation	Certificate of completion; assessment records maintained by CR-I
IVVE-5	Declaration of no conflict of interest and adherence to code of conduct	Signed declaration and ethics agreement submitted annually

9.2 RULES FOR EMPANELMENT AND OPERATION

- **Conflict of Interest:** An IVVE shall not engage in any validation or verification assignment where a conflict of interest exists. CR-I will maintain a conflict-of-interest registry and conduct random checks. The IVVE shall periodically disclose conflicts of interests as they arise to Cr-I.

- **Sectoral Scope Empanelment:** IVVEs shall only be empanelled for sectoral scopes in which they meet the criteria under 8.2. CR-I shall publish sectoral scope mapping and associated criteria.

- **Quality Assurance:**

1. All IVVE reports must be submitted using CR-I standard templates (VaR, VeR).
2. Public listing of IVVE scores and categories will be maintained on the CR-I website.

- **Annual Re-qualification:** IVVEs must undergo a refresher examination annually to maintain empanelment.

9.3 PROCESSES FOR GOVERNANCE

- IVVE Shadow Audit Registry: All new IVVEs will have their first 2 or assignments observed.
- Public Audit Trail: Each IVVE report will carry a traceable audit number linked to their digital profile.
- Performance Feedback Loop/Ethics: A mechanism for project proponents and peer reviewers to rate IVVE conduct post-engagement.

10. Materiality

10.1 Materiality, a critical concept in auditing, shall be employed by VVBs during the process of verification for identification of errors, omissions and misrepresentations that could significantly affect (overestimate) the actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement officially claimed by a project (GHG assertion).

10.1 Although the concept of materiality contains evaluation of both the qualitative and quantitative elements, but under current scope, the VVB shall perform assessment of quantitative materiality only.

10.2 Using the standard auditing techniques described in Section-11 of this standard, the VVB shall assess whether the GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement are free from the influence of all material errors, omissions and misrepresentations.

10.3 If the VVB discovers a material error, omission and misrepresentation, it shall request the IPP(s) to appropriately address the same and, if required, shall conduct additional evaluation to ensure that an overall reasonable level of assurance is achieved.

10.4 The VVB, based on its sectoral expertise and professional wisdom, shall identify all points, issues, sources of materiality in a specific project's GHG assertions and shall determine whether these require further scrutiny through appropriate means.

10.5 The materiality thresholds are categorized into three levels based on the volume of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement resulting from monitored project (project scale). These thresholds have been described below:

(i) **Micro-Scale projects:** net GHG emissions reduction less than or equal to 20,000 tCO_2e, a materiality threshold of ±5%.

(ii) **Small-Scale projects:** net GHG emissions reduction greater than 20,000 tCO2e but less than or equal to 100,000 tCO_2e, a materiality threshold of ±3%.

(iii) **Large-Scale projects:** net GHG emissions reduction greater than 100,000 tCO_2e, a materiality threshold of ±1%.

10.6 The aggregate errors, omissions and misrepresentations shall be quantified by comparing the value of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement calculated by the IPP(s) with the value of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement determined by the VVB. The mathematical relation to be used to determine the percentage discrepancy between the values of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement is given below:

$$\textbf{\% discrepancy} = \frac{(ER_{IPP} - ER_{VVB})}{ER_{VVB}} \times 100$$

where ER_{IPP} is the actual emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement calculations made by the IPP and ER_{VVB} is the emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement re-calculations made by a VVB.

10.7 The aggregate errors, omissions and misrepresentations shall be considered material by the VVB if the percentage discrepancy is greater than the applicable threshold.

10.8 In order for a GHG Assertion to be accepted by the VVB and subsequently NCCF, the aggregate errors, omissions and misrepresentations shall be 'immaterial', *i.e.*, the percentage discrepancy, calculated using the given relation, should be within the applicable threshold (defined in Subsection-9.6 above).

11 Level of Assurance

11.1 VVB shall ensure that the overall auditing process carried out either during validation, verification or assessment provides, at minimum, a reasonable level of assurance.

11.2 The registry shall follow the assurance levels as described in the *ISO 14064-3: Specification with guidance for the validation and verification of Greenhouse Gas Assertions*, namely:

(i) Reasonable assurance, where results of evaluation are materially correct and fair representation as per the standard in use.
(ii) Limited assurance, where results of evaluation are not materially incorrect and are not unfair representation as per the standard in use.

11.3 Applicability for level of assurance:

(i) For a proposed project, the submission for Request for Registration shall be made only when the VVB has determined that the level of assurance achieved is reasonable.
(ii) For a registered project, the submission for Request for Issuance shall be made only when the VVB has determined that the level of assurance achieved is reasonable.
(iii) For proposed new methodology/tool, the submission for approval and listing shall be made only when the VVB has determined that the level of assurance achieved is reasonable.

12 Validation and Verification Techniques

12.1 Auditing techniques refer to the methods and procedures implemented by an auditor, based on prevailing circumstances, in order to gather sufficient evidence regarding a particular element of a proposed (undergoing validation) or registered project (undergoing verification) or a proposed methodology (undergoing

assessment) or for audit of any other activity permitted within the purview of the registry.

12.2 Auditor shall use the techniques of auditing as per the requirement of the standard and as deemed appropriate and necessary by the applicable standard requirements. Auditor shall utilise the following techniques, though other methods may also be used if deemed necessary and required:

(i) **Desk Review:** Refers to review of information and data using the documents and references provided by the IPP(s)/IMD(s) and other online and offline sources of information which may be important for evaluation of the proposed project or methodology or registered project.

(ii) **On-site Visit:** VVB shall visit the site for visual and physical inspection of the proposed project boundary, installed instruments, current processes, etc. Such a technique is utilized to either verify the information presented in the documents or collection of information deemed necessary for evaluation. If VVB decides to conduct a survey to gather information, VVB shall adhere to rules and requirements of CDM standard 'Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities'. In respect of micro-scale projects, VVB may not conduct on-site audit either for validation or for verification. However, if deemed necessary by NCCF, VVB shall conduct on-site visit for the proposed/registered project(s) for both verification and validation activities.

(iii) **Follow-up activities:** VVB may follow up with the information received, gathered or collected *via* activities such as emails, telephonic conversations, and cross checks of information received with other sources of data such as reports, research articles, etc to confirm the creditability of the information.

12.3 VVBs/IVVEs shall describe the process undertaken to perform evaluation of each element of design and development of proposed project as described in PART A, registered project as described in PART B, and proposed methodology in PART C of the standard.

13 Performance Review

13.1 Performance Review of VVBs:

(i) In order to ensure that the VVBs are executing their duties effectively, delivering requisite output quality, and at the same time, are adhering to all the applicable rules, requirements and procedures established under the registry, the NCCF shall conduct regular and exhaustive performance reviews by carrying out the following activities:

(ii) Witness audits of VVB during on-site validation and verification of projects on random basis;

(iii) Documentation review of all VVB documentation, such as Validation and Verification reports, Validation and Verification plans (including sampling plans), Findings reports, etc. during request for registration and certification, as applicable.

13.2 Performance review of IVVEs

The performance review process for IVVEs will mirror that of VVBs, including:

(iv) Scoring matrix (Approach and Representation based on rate by the project proponent, peer reviewer and witness auditor remark.)
(v) Random witness assessments and documentation review by CR-I
(vi) De-empanelment for non-performance (score below threshold in scoring matrix) or ethical breaches

13.3 Categorisation of VVBs

13.3.1 Each VV activity completed by the empanelled VVB shall be scored by NCCF using a common-score method based on approach adopted by VVB for auditing activity and representation of result, including any clarifications and comments presented.

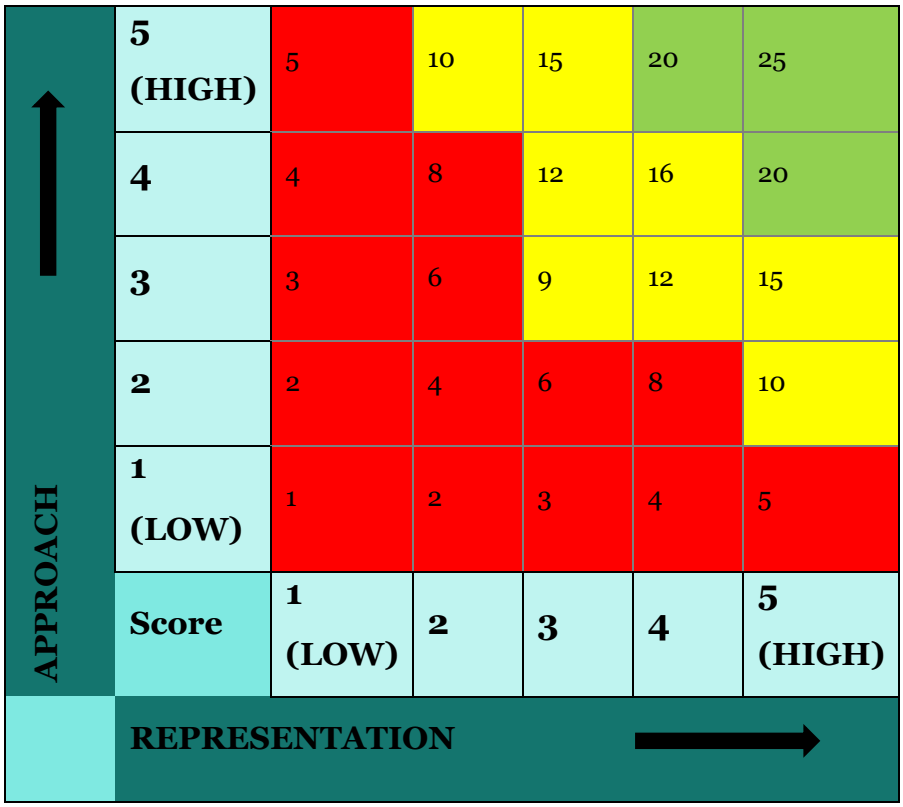
13.3.2 CR-I shall allocate scores ranging from 1-5 for approach and representation with increasing score signifying higher score on the criterion as evident in Fig 1. The maximum possible score awarded for a completed auditing activity shall be 25 (5*5).

13.3.3 CR-I shall give scores for approach based on parameters including but not limited to, team selection, plan of audit, code of conduct and time period in which the activity is completed while adhering to rules and requirements. NCCF shall give scores for representation based on paraments including but limited to quality of report submitted (language and technical), timing and adequacy of addressal of comments and unbiasedness and accuracy of result of audit. Scores given by NCCF shall be non-contestable.

13.3.4 CR-I shall further categorize VVBs into Category I, Category II and Category III based on scoring range (average score) received in respect of all the completed auditing activities as given in Table 1, with level of performance represented in the order as Category I> Category II> Category III.

13.3.5 For example, a VVB has scored 12, 10, 15 in three auditing activities, the scoring range
13.3.6 shall be $\frac{12+10+15}{3} = 12$, which comes under the scoring range of Category II. VVB should try to score as high as possible to achieve and maintain a higher categorisation.

13.3.7 CR-I shall list the VVBs along with their respective Categories on the registry website.



	High Score
	Medium Score
	Low Score

Fig 1: Scoring Matrix for VVBs

Table 1: Categorization of VVBs

S. No.	Average Scoring Range $\left(\frac{\textit{cumulative auditing score}}{\textit{number of completed auditing activities}}\right)$	Category
1.	20 – 25	Category I
2.	9-19	Category II
3.	1-8	Category III

PART A: VALIDATION OF PROPOSED PROJECTS

14 Rules and Requirements for Validation of Proposed Projects

14.1 Overarching Rules and Requirements

14.1.1 All VVBs and IVVE shall adhere to rules and requirements established in the standard for validation of proposed projects, Permanent Design Changes and other activities permitted within the purview of the registry.

14.1.2. VVBs and IVVE shall determine if the activities of the proposed project conform to the rules and requirements of the Carbon Standard (CS), selected and applied methodologies and tools, selected baselines, additionality tool, and other regulatory documents, as applicable.

14.1.3 VVB or IVVE and IPP shall formally come to an agreement on objectives, scope, criteria, level of assurance and materiality of validation activity to be conducted.

14.1.4 The process of validation shall include, but not be limited to, VVB/IVVE reviewing the following documentation provided by IPP(s), as applicable: Evidence of Project Ownership, DPD, SCR, net ER estimation spreadsheet(s), IRR sheets and supporting evidence for elements of proposed project design and other supporting documentation.

14.1.5. For conducting validation, VVB/IVVE shall adopt and uphold the principles of GHG accounting as mentioned in the Section-7 of CS.

14.1.6 VVB/IVVE shall ensure competence of the audit team as per the criteria of ISO 14066:2011– *Greenhouse gases – Competence requirements for greenhouse validation teams and verification teams*.

14.1.7 For the purpose of registration of projects, VVB/IVVE shall prepare a Validation Report (VaR) using a valid version of Validation Report Template, available on the registry website and submit it to NCCF for review.

14.1.8 If necessary, VVB/IVVE shall raise the following type of non-conformities depending upon the elaboration or action required:

(i) **Clarification (CL):** VVB shall raise a request for Clarification if any explanation, information, etc. pertaining to the proposed project is deemed to be ambiguous or insufficient to conform or to demonstrate conformance with rules and requirements and procedures prescribed under the registry.

(ii) **Corrective Action Request (CAR):** VVB shall raise a Corrective Action Request when any element of the design and development of the proposed project does not lead to:
   (a) Conformance with rules, requirements and procedures of the registry and/or;
   (b) Appropriate and conservative estimation and/or calculation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement;

(iii) **Forward Action Request (FAR):** VVB shall raise a Forward Action Request when issues related to implementation or monitoring project may arise in future. FAR shall be addressed and reviewed by VVB conducting the first verification.

14.1.9 VVB/IVVE shall resolve each CL and CAR when appropriate missing and/or amended information and/or documentation has been provided and/or appropriate action has been taken by the IPP(s). VVB shall mention the issuance of CL, CAR and FAR and subsequent closure of CL and CAR in the Validation Report.

14.1.10 The VVB/IVVE shall evaluate all sources and the magnitude of potential errors, omissions and misrepresentations during validation, and address the same. The categories of potential errors, omissions and misrepresentations assessed shall be the following:

i. the inherent risk of a material discrepancy occurring;
ii. the risk that the controls of the organization or GHG project will not prevent or detect a material discrepancy;
iii. the risk that the validator or verifier will not detect any material discrepancy that has not been corrected by the controls of the organisation or GHG project.

14.2 Completion of DPD

14.2.1 The VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has prepared and further submitted the DPD by using the valid version of the DPD template (available on the registry website).

14.2.2 The VVB/IVVE shall further ascertain whether the DPD has been prepared by completely adhering to the document preparation instructions provided in the template and the rules and requirements, as applicable, prescribed in Section-9 of CS.

14.2.3 VVB/IVVE shall ensure that IPP(s) has(ve) clearly designated the Delegate Entity (DE) in the DPD. Delegate Entity (DE) shall refer to the IPP (in case where there are multiple project proponents) which shall be responsible for communication with the VVB and NCCF, and overall management of the proposed project.

14.3 Introductory Details

14.3.1 The VVB/IVVE shall ascertain the accuracy and appropriateness of all information provided by the IPP(s) on the covering page of the DPD, through appropriate means of auditing described in Section-11. of this standard.

14.4 Project Ownership

14.4.1 VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the ownership of the project, as described by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules and requirements prescribed in CS.

14.4.2 VVBs/IVVEs shall assess whether the IPP(s) can claim project ownership based on the evidence provided by the project proponent as per the rules and requirements of CS.

14.4.3 VVB/IVVE shall assess whether the Delegate Entity (DE) is clearly mentioned in the and roles and responsibilities of all IPP(s) have been appropriately defined.

14.4.4 VVB/IVVE shall evaluate evidence for its authenticity, adequacy and appropriateness for demonstration of Project Ownership.

14.4.5 VVB/IVVE may solicit external expertise when evaluating the ownership of a specific project in a geographic jurisdiction or sector where its knowledge or expertise is limited.

14.4.6 For AFOLU projects, VVB/IVVE shall confirm the ownership of land through ownership documents of lands, land rights, lease, or any other judicial and legal document confirming the land ownership of the IPP(s).

14.4.7 The VVB/IVVE shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.4.8 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB/IVVE shall provide its conclusion on the appropriateness of the Project Ownership described in the DPD.

14.5 Description of the Proposed Project

14.5.1 The VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the description of the proposed project and all its constituting elements, provided in the DPD by the IPP(s), is in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.5.2 VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has adopted and applied the correct methodology for the sectoral scope under which the project is proposed and also determine whether correct name and version of the methodology is mentioned in the DPD.

14.5.3 VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the DPD accurately describes measures, technology(ies), equipment to be used in the proposed project. If a change or alteration to the already existing measures, technology(ies), equipment and/or process(es) is proposed, VVB shall determine whether differences are fully and transparently described in the DPD.

14.5.4 If applicable, the VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether IPP(s) has transparently indicated that the proposed project is an External Project (EP) and its nature has been described appropriately, as per the rules and requirements prescribed in Section-11 of CS.

14.5.5 For AFOLU projects, VVB/IVVE shall ascertain the appropriateness of the Minimum Buffer Percentage (MBP) calculated by the IPP as per the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in CR-I Tool for Determination of GHG Reversal Risk and Buffer Contribution.

14.5.6 For PoA, VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the DE has explicitly, appropriately and adequately defined the plan of implementation of all the CPAs in the proposed PoA, as per the rules, requirements of CS, including:

(i) Listing of all CPAs, including CPAs to be added at later stages of the PoA
(ii) Eligibility criteria for inclusion of CPAs
(iii) Process to include CPAs in the registered PoA

14.5.7 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.5.8 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB/IVVE shall provide its conclusion on the description of the proposed project provided by IPP(s) in the DPD.

14.6 Project Scale

14.6.1 The VVB/IVVE shall determine whether the IPP(s) appropriately identified, applied and indicated the scale of the proposed project in accordance with the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.6.2 VVB shall ascertain whether all the CPAs of the proposed PoA are of the same scale as per the project scale limits defined in the CS.

Note: IVVE is not eligible to carry out the validation or verification of PoA and perform audit for inclusion of CPA.

14.6.3 VVB shall assess the appropriateness of the applied project scale based on the criteria prescribed in the CS and further provide its assessment and conclusion.

14.7 Project Boundary

14.7.1 VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the project boundary, described by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.7.2 VVB shall ascertain whether the description of the project boundary provided covering all CPAs of the PoA in the DPD defines and adequately explains the physical delineation of project, geographical area, and GHG sources and sinks as per requirements of CS and the applied methodology(ies) and related tools and standardised baselines.

14.7.3 VVB/IVVE shall assess whether the description of the Project Boundary provided by the IPP(s) is accurate, complete and in conformance with the requirements of CS, applied methodology(ies) and related tools.

14.7.4 VVB/IVVE shall confirm if the project boundary defined in the DPD is consistent with the results of visual and physical inspections conducted during on-site visit.

14.7.5 VVB/IVVE shall ascertain whether the GHG sources and/or sinks and/or gases, selected by the IPP(s) are accurate, complete, justified and conform to scope and design of the proposed project.

14.7.6 If applicable. VVB/IVVE shall also ascertain if the exclusion of GHG sources and/or sinks and/or gases and explanation thereof is justified and adequate, based on the rules, requirements and procedures of CS and applied Methodology(ies) and Tool(s).

14.7.7 If methodology(ies) and/or standardised baselines allow IPP(s) to choose GHG sources and/or sinks and/or gases, VVB/IVVE shall ensure that all the relevant sources and/or sinks and/or gases have been selected including the ones relevant to leakage.

14.7.8 The VVB/IVVE shall evaluate the appropriateness and credibility of all information, data, reasoning, justification(s) and supporting evidences provided by DE and based on the assessment provided by other IPP(s) and corroborated by its own observations if required.

14.7.9 For AFOLU project, VVB/IVVE shall ensure that IPP(s) has(ve) correctly described the physical and geographical boundary of each distinct segment of land under the proposed project, and evaluate if the documents provided are authentic, legal and describe the information as per the information gained through on-site visit.

14.7.10 The VVB/IVVE shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this subsection.

14.7.11 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB/IVVE shall provide its conclusion on the description of the project boundary provided by IPP(s) in the DPD.

14.8 Local Stakeholder Consultation

14.8.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC), with all its constituting activities, was conducted in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.8.2 If the project design undergoes significant changes since the last stakeholder consultation meeting, the VVB shall assess whether a new consultation meeting had been organized following the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.8.3 The VVB shall ascertain whether the Stakeholder Consultation Report (SCR) has been completed using the valid version of the SCR form template, and in strict compliance with all applicable preparation instructions provided in the template.

14.8.4 VVB shall ascertain if DE has conducted LSC at PoA level, covering all the CPAs included during the validation of PoA and CPAs proposed to be included at later stages.

14.8.5 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.8.6 Using its sectoral expertise and the standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its assessment and conclusion on adequacy, appropriateness and efficacy of the local stakeholder consultation conducted by the IPP(s).

14.9 Project Start Date

14.9.1 VVB shall ascertain whether the start date of the proposed project, selected and provided by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.9.2 VVB shall determine if the project start date mentioned in the DPD is in the required DD/MM/YYYY format.

14.9.3 VVB shall ensure that DE has submitted the project for listing with the registry as per the rules and requirements of the CS.

14.9.4 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its assessment and conclusion on the accuracy and appropriateness of the Project Start Date defined by the IPP(s) in the DPD.

14.10 Project Crediting Period

14.10.1 VVB shall ascertain whether the type and duration of the crediting period of the proposed project, provided by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.10.2 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the appropriateness of the Project Crediting Period defined by the IPP in the DPD.

14.11 Application of Approved Methodologies

14.11.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the selection and further application of a registry-approved methodology or set of methodologies and associated tool/modules by the proposed project is in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.11.2 VVB shall evaluate the proposed project's response against each relevant applicability condition prescribed in the applied methodology in order to ascertain whether:

(i) The applied methodology is appropriate to the type, scope and design of the proposed project,
(ii) The response provided by IPP(s) against each relevant applicability criteria is coherent, complete, scientifically and physically accurate and overall appropriate, and
(iii) The IPP(s), through provision of responses backed by credible and valid supporting evidences, has demonstrated strict adherence to all relevant applicability conditions prescribed in the applied methodology.

14.11.3 VVB shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has(ve) correctly referenced the registry-approved methodology, wherever required in the DPD, and has further applied its latest version to the proposed project.

14.11.4 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken to ascertain the accuracy and appropriateness of the IPP(s) response to each applicability criterion, as applicable.

14.11.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the IPP(s) demonstration of the applicability of a specific registry-approved methodology to the proposed project.

Deviations from Applied Methodology(ies):

14.11.6 The VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed deviation(s) from applied methodology(ies) is/are in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.11.7 The VVB shall ascertain whether the deviation(s) from applied methodology(ies), proposed by the IPP(s), lie within the scope of allowed project-specific deviations outlined in Section-9.10.4 of CS.

14.11.8 The VVB, based on its sectoral expertise and professional wisdom, shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has(ve) suitably demonstrated that the proposed deviations do not adversely impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

14.11.9 The VVB shall determine whether the current proposed deviation(s) have been derived based on precedent setting of past proposed deviation(s) in similar projects and shall take into consideration its effect during evaluation and framing of the final opinion.

14.11.10 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken to ascertain whether the proposed deviation(s) are justifiable, feasible and overall appropriate.

14.11.11 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the proposed deviation(s) from applied methodology(ies).

Determination of the Baseline Scenario

14.11.12 VVB shall ascertain whether the determination of the baseline scenario, provided by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules, requirements and procedures (as applicable) prescribed in the applied methodology(ies), supporting tool(s) and the CS.

14.11.13 The VVB shall ascertain whether the baseline scenario established by the IPP(s) is the most credible, reasonable and appropriate and further adheres to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the applied methodology(ies), supporting tools and the CS.

14.11.14 The VVB shall ascertain whether for determination of the baseline scenario the IPP(s) have appropriately:

(i) described all applied and used measure(s), technology(ies), equipment, and nature and level of services offered by both the proposed project and the established baseline scenario;
(ii) included a clear comparison between the project and the established baseline scenario;
(iii) taken into consideration all appropriate regional, national, sectoral policies, regulations and conditions;
(iv) referenced all supporting documentation and other sources of data;
(v) through conservative means applied all values, assumptions and justification, which are further endorsed by supporting evidences.

14.11.15 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.11.16 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the baseline scenario established by the IPP(s).

14.11.17 For instances where the rules, requirements and procedures for the determination of the baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality are

integrated, the VVB shall perform a singular assessment (based on the rules and requirements of Sections 12.12 and 12.13 of this standard) and provide its conclusion accordingly.

14.12 Demonstration of additionality

14.12.1 VVB shall ascertain whether the demonstration of additionality of the proposed project, provided by IPP(s) in the DPD, is in adherence to the definition-based criteria provided in the Glossary of Terms document and rules and requirements and procedures (as applicable) prescribed in the applied methodology(ies), supporting additionality tool(s) and CS.

14.12.2 The VVB shall assess IPP(s)' demonstration of additionality to ascertain whether the proposed project is additional or not.

14.12.3 The VVB shall ascertain whether the procedure employed by IPP(s) for demonstration of additionality of the proposed project is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the applied methodology(ies) and/or supporting tools, as applicable.

14.12.4 The VVB shall ascertain whether for demonstration of additionality of the proposed project the IPP(s) have:

(i) referenced all applicable regulatory and guidance documents (applied methodologies, supporting tools, guidelines etc.) employed;
(ii) correctly applied and further demonstrated strict compliance with all applicable regulatory and guidance documents in a logical and systematic manner;
(iii) appropriately, and through conservative means applied all values, assumptions and justifications, and are further endorsed by supporting evidences.

14.12.5 In case where IPP(s) claims the project to be auto-additional, VVB shall ascertain whether the claim conforms to the provisions of auto-additionality provided in the rules and requirements of the CS. VVB shall ensure IPP(s) have appropriately cited the applicable report, document, etc., in the DPD for claim of auto-additionality of the project.

14.12.6 The VVB, through adoption of standard auditing techniques at its disposal, shall perform cross-checks of all values, assumptions and justification employed by the IPP(s) for demonstration of additionality of the proposed project.

14.12.7 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this section.

14.12.8 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on demonstration of additionality of the proposed project by the IPP(s).

14.13 Estimation of GHG Emissions Reduction and/or Removals Enhancement

14.13.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the overall method employed by the IPP(s) to estimate the baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions, leakage effects and the resulting GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement due to the proposed project is in conformance with the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools.

14.13.2 For all data and parameters fixed ex-ante (during validation) and monitored (before verification), the VVB shall review all data sources, assumptions, choices, rationales and calculations to ascertain whether they are appropriate to the context of project design, and further, are in conformance to the rules and requirements prescribed in the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools.

14.13.3 For data and parameters fixed ex-ante (during validation) and monitored (before verification), the VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) The assumptions, choices, rationale and sources(s)/reference(s) of all data and parameters, as applicable, have been appropriately mentioned, wherever required.

(ii) The values applied are reasonable and conservative within the context of proposed project design.

(iii) The source(s) and level(s) of uncertainty are within acceptable levels and, where applicable, in adherence to the thresholds established within the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools.

(iv) All estimates of the baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions, leakage effects and the resulting GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement can be reproduced using the data and parameter values provided in the DPD.

14.13.4 VVB shall assess whether the equations used to estimate baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions, leakage effects and the resulting GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement are selected and applied correctly and in a structured and logical manner, and further, are in accordance with rules, requirements and procedures of the applied methodologies and supporting tools.

14.13.5 Where IPP(s) undertake sampling and survey activities for determination/estimation of a specific fixed parameter, the VVB shall assess whether the design and implementation of the sampling activities were in adherence to rules and requirements of the applicable version of the "Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities".

14.13.6 If methodology(ies) and/or supporting tools provide(s) multiple approaches for selection of equations and/or parameters, coefficients, variables, the VVB shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has(ve):

(i) provided appropriate justification (supported by evidence(s) as applicable) for adoption of the same, consistent with the established baseline scenario, design of the proposed project and other supporting evidence(s).

(ii) selected and applied the equations correctly and in a structured and logical manner, in accordance with rules, requirements and procedures of the applied methodologies and supporting tools.

(iii) selected and applied the parameters, coefficients, variables correctly and in accordance with the rules and requirements of the applied methodologies and supporting tools.

14.13.7 For AFOLU projects aimed at GHG removals enhancement, VVB shall ascertain whether the IPP(s) has(ve) evaluated risk and determined MBP as per the rules, requirements and procedures of CR-I Tool for Determination of GHG Reversal Risk and Buffer Contribution. Rules and requirements for this Sub-section are additional to the rules and requirements prescribed in the Tool.

14.13.8 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.13.9 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the overall method employed by the IPP(s) to estimate the baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions , leakage effects and the resulting GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement due to the proposed project.

14.14 Monitoring Approach

14.14.1 The VVB shall assess whether the devised Monitoring Approach, described in the DPD, is in adherence to the rules and requirements of the CS, applied methodology(ies), supporting tools, any other regulatory document and if applicable, the relevant version of the "Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities".

14.14.2 For all data and parameters monitored (before verification), the VVB shall assess whether:

(i) All data and parameters have been included and all relevant details have been provided in the DPD in adherence to the rules and requirements of the applied methodology(ies), supporting tools and other relevant regulatory documents.

(ii) The monitoring methods, frequency of monitoring, QA/QC techniques and other procedures described in the DPD are in adherence to the rules and requirements of the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools.

14.14.3 For the Monitoring Strategy designed by the IPP(s), the VVB shall assess whether:

(i) All measures and procedures described under the Monitoring Strategy are appropriate and feasible within the context of project design.

(ii) The implementation of all measures and procedures described under the Monitoring Strategy would allow transparent, exhaustive, efficient and effective monitoring, reporting and verification of the GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement due to the proposed project activity.

14.14.4 The roles and responsibilities of each participating IPP(s) have been appropriately established, Delegate Entity (DE) has been designated, and further, transparently described. Moreover, whether the established roles and responsibilities would afford adequate management control and accountability over implementation of all measures and procedures established within the Monitoring Strategy:

(i) The procedure(s) for QA/QC analysis established under the Monitoring Approach would allow effective and efficient management of identified point(s) of uncertainty(ies) and risk(s).

(ii) Appropriate operation and control measures have been established to ensure that all human resources employed are suitably skilled and competent.

(iii) The measures and procedures related to document and record-keeping would result in creation of adequate documentary evidence(s) to be assessed during verification.

14.14.5 Where IPP(s) undertake sampling and survey activities for determination/estimation of a specific monitoring data and parameter, the VVB shall assess whether the design of the proposed sampling activities is in adherence to the rules and requirements of the applicable version of the "Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities".

14.14.6 VVB shall ascertain whether the monitoring approach to determine contribution to SD adheres to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CR-I Tool for Determination of Contribution of Projects towards Sustainable Development.

14.14.7 If applicable, VVB shall ascertain if the monitoring approach to monitor GHG reversal risk adheres to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in CR-I Tool for Determination of GHG Reversal Risk and Buffer Contribution.

14.14.8 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.14.9 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the Monitoring Approach devised by the IPP(s).

14.15 Environmental, Economic and Social Safeguards

14.15.1 VVB shall evaluate whether the complete ESIA (for large-scale projects and small-scale projects) and preliminary study (for micro-scale projects) conducted by IPP(s) on potential environmental and social impacts of the proposed project is in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

14.15.2 As applicable. VVB shall evaluate whether the IPP(s) has(ve) carried out the ESIA by adhering to, as applicable, the local/national/international rules, requirements, regulations and procedures, existing regulatory framework and is based on established scientific principles.

14.15.3 As applicable, VVB shall evaluate if the preliminary study has been conducted by the IPP(s) is accurate, complete and overall appropriate and further based on established scientific principles.

14.15.4 VVB shall ensure that proposed project adequately demonstrates conformance of no net harm of safeguard mechanism in all the six aspects as prescribed in the CS. VVB shall ensure that conformance has been demonstrated and described adequately by the IPP(s) in the appropriate section of SCR. For A/R projects opting for NCCF-PEFC Forest Management Certification, VVB shall ensure that appropriate sections of the yearly audit reports are being cited in the appropriate sections of the SCR.

14.15.5 If required, VVB may engage experienced and capable environment and/or social impact assessment professional(s) to evaluate the results of Preliminary Study and/or ESIA reports.

14.15.6 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.15.7 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the conformance to Environmental, Economic and Social Safeguards.

14.16 Contribution towards Sustainable Development

14.16.1 The VVB shall assess whether the demonstration of the proposed project's contribution to Sustainable Development (SD) is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CR-I tool for Determination of Contribution of Projects towards Sustainable Development and CS. The rules and requirements prescribed in this sub-section are complemented by rules and requirements of the Tool.

14.16.2 For A/R projects opting for NCCF-PEFC Forest Management (FM) Certification, VVB shall ensure that appropriate sections of the yearly audit reports are being cited in the appropriate sections of the DPD.

14.16.3 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

14.16.4 VVB may engage sustainable development expert to verify the monitoring of project's impact on sustainable development parameters as described in the SD tool

14.16.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the demonstration of the proposed project's contribution to SD.

15. Clustering of Individual Projects

15.1 In case the IPP(s) aggregate(s) individual small-scale and/or micro-scale projects as a Projects Cluster (PC) with request for registration, the VVB shall ascertain whether the procedure carried out for clustering of individual proposed small-scale and/or micro-scale projects is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CS, Guidelines for Clustering of Individual Projects and any other regulatory document, as applicable.

15.2 A single empanelled VVB shall validate a proposed PC, and further prepare and submit a single Validation Report in respect of request for registration.

15.3 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

15.4 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the procedure carried out for clustering of individual proposed small-scale and/or micro-scale projects.

16. External Projects

16.1. If applicable, VVB shall ensure that IPP(s) has(ve) identified and classified the proposed project appropriately as per the classification of External Project (EP) as prescribed in Section 11 of CS.

16.2. VVB shall ensure that appropriate and adequate evidence has been provided by the IPP as per the classification of EP and rules and requirements of the CS.

16.3. For EPs classified as converted projects, VVB shall ensure that crediting period has been appropriately defined and takes into account the crediting period completed/lapsed in the previous GHG programme.

16.4. The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

16.5. Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of classification of the project as EP.

17. Permanent Design Changes

17.1. The VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed and/or actual permanent changes to the design of the registered project are in adherence to the rules and requirements prescribed in Section-12 of CS, the applied methodology(ies) and other relevant supporting documents.

17.2. The VVB shall assess the appropriateness of the appraisal of the potential impacts of all permanent proposed and/or actual changes on the key aspects described in Sub-Section-12.1.4 of CS.

17.3. The VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) The IPP(s) have submitted the revised DPD, both in track-change and clean modes, along with all supporting documents.

(ii) The proposed and/or actual changes to the design of the registered project are demonstrably permanent in nature.

(iii) All proposed and/or actual changes to the design of the registered project, including a summary of the same, have been transparently recorded in the revised DPD (in both track-change and clean versions) by the IPP(s).

(iv) All information and supporting documentation provided by the IPP(s) allow clear comprehension of the nature, scope, applicability and appropriateness of the proposed and/or actual permanent changes to the design of the registered project.

17.4. The VVB shall confirm that all data, assumptions, choices and rationales employed, and resulting calculations performed under the purview of the proposed and/or actual PDC do not result in overestimation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

17.5. The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

17.6. Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its final validation conclusion on the appropriateness and acceptability of the permanent design changes made by the IPP(s) to registered project.

PART B: VERIFICATION OF IMPLEMENTED PROJECTS

18. Rules and Requirements for Verification of Implemented Projects

The Section established rules and requirements for evaluation by VVBs of the implementation, operation and monitoring carried out by a registered project to determine whether it is appropriate for certification and subsequent issuance of MCUs.

18.1. Overarching Rules and Requirements

18.1.1 All VVBs shall adhere to rules and requirements established in the standard for verification of the project activity as prescribed in this Section-17 of the standard.

18.1.2 VVB and IPP(s) shall formally come to an agreement on objectives, scope, criteria, level of assurance and materiality for verification of project before commencing the activities of verification of the registered project.

18.1.3 VVB shall ascertain whether the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project are in adherence to the rules and requirements of the CS, selected and applied methodology(ies) and/or tools and any other regulatory documents.

18.1.4 The process of verification shall include, but not be limited to, VVB reviewing the following documentation provided by IPP(s), as applicable: DPD, SCR, Validation Report, MR, documents concerning permanent design changes (if applicable), previous verification and certification reports, net ER calculation spreadsheet(s), supporting documentation and other evidences related to calculation of ER, supporting evidences for values of data and parameters monitored and other supporting documentation.

18.1.5 For conducting verification, VVB shall adopt and uphold the principles of GHG accounting as mentioned in the Section-7 of CS.

18.1.6 While conducting verification, the VVB shall apply the materiality approach to ascertain the sources of individual or the aggregate of actual errors, omissions and misrepresentations that could have resulted in overestimation of the GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement claimed by the registered project. In doing so, the VVB shall adhere to rules and requirements prescribed in Section-9 of this standard.

18.1.7 VVB shall ensure competence of the entire audit team as per the criteria set out in ISO 14066: 2011 – *Greenhouse gases – Competence requirements for greenhouse validation teams and verification teams*.

18.1.8 For the purpose of verification and certification of implemented projects and subsequent issuance of MCUs, the VVB shall prepare a Verification Report (VeR) using a valid version of VeR Template, available on the registry website and submit it to NCCF for further necessary action.

18.1.9 If necessary, VVB shall raise the following type of non-conformities depending upon the elaboration or action required:

(i) **Clarification (CL):** VVB shall raise a request for Clarification if any explanation, information, etc. pertaining to the registered project is deemed to be ambiguous or insufficient to conform or to demonstrate conformance with rules and requirements and procedures prescribed under the registry.

(ii) **Corrective Action Request (CAR):** VVB shall raise a Corrective Action Request when any element of the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project does not lead to:

(a) Conformance with rules, requirements and procedures of the registry and/or,
(b) Appropriate and conservative estimation and/or calculation of GHG emissions reductions and/or removals enhancement.

(iii) **Forward Action Request (FAR):** VVB shall raise a Forward Action Request when issues related to implementation or monitoring project may arise in future. FAR shall be addressed and reviewed by all VVBs conducting subsequent verifications.

18.1.10 VVB shall resolve each CL and CAR when appropriate missing/amended information and/or documentation has been provided and/or appropriate action has been completed. VVB shall mention the issuance of CL, CAR and FAR and subsequent closure of CL and CAR in the Verification/Certification Report. VVB shall also mention the status of closure of FAR generated during validation of project or during previous verification activity.

18.1.11 The VVB shall assess all sources and the magnitude of potential errors, omissions and misrepresentations during verification, and address the same. The categories of potential errors, omissions and misrepresentations assessed shall be the following:

(i) the inherent risk of a material discrepancy occurring;

(ii) the risk that the controls of the organization or GHG project will not prevent or detect a material discrepancy;
(iii) the risk that the validator or verifier will not detect any material discrepancy that has not been corrected by the controls of the organization or GHG project.

18.2 Completion of Monitoring Report (MR) Form

20.1.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the MR has been completed using the valid version of the MR template document and that the same strictly complies with all applicable instructions for preparation of MR provided in the template.

18.3 Introductory details

20.3.1 The VVB shall assess the accuracy and appropriateness of information on the covering page as per the rules and requirements of Section 11 of this standard and the CS.

18.4 Description of Registered Project

20.4.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the design, implementation and operation of the registered project is in adherence to the description provided in the registered DPD and rules and requirements prescribed in the CS.

20.4.2 The VVB shall asses, all physical and non-physical features of the monitored project, including but not limited to, all measures, technologies, equipment and other infrastructure in order to ascertain whether the registered project activity was designed, and is currently being implemented and operated in adherence to the description provided in the registered DPD and the MR.

20.4.3 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.4.4 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide a conclusion on the appropriateness of the:

(i) description of the registered and monitored project provided in the MR;
(ii) actual design, implementation and operation of the registered project.

18.5 Actual Monitoring Approach

General

20.5.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the monitoring of all data and parameters and the implementation of the overall Monitoring Strategy by the IPP(s) is in adherence to the established Monitoring Approach described in the registered DPD and the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CS, the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools and other regulatory documents.

20.5.2 The VVB shall assess whether the following are in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures established in the Monitoring Approach described in the registered DPD:

(i) The organizational and management framework including the roles and responsibilities of all entities and personnel involved in executing the Monitoring Strategy.

(ii) The GHG data collection and management system, depicted graphically including all locations of monitoring, as applicable.

Evaluation of Monitoring Procedures

20.5.3 The VVB shall assess the appropriateness of the monitoring procedure employed for each data and parameter required to be monitored through examination of the following aspects:

(i) External reference sources;
(ii) Frequency of monitoring and reporting;
(iii) Equipment/technology used for carrying out monitoring, if applicable;
(iv) Calibration test procedures;
(v) QA/QC procedures;
(vi) Sampling and survey activities, if applicable

20.5.4 The VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) All external reference sources employed by the IPP(s) are credible and acceptable;
(ii) The IPP(s) has(ve) correctly cited all external reference sources in the MR;
(iii) All values, data, rationale and other information have been accurately reproduced and/or utilised, as applicable.

20.5.5 The VVB shall ascertain whether the frequency of carrying out monitoring of all data and parameters, including supporting activities, and recording of results is in adherence to the requirements of the established Monitoring Approach described in the registered DPD.

20.5.6 The VVB shall ascertain whether the nature and type of equipment/technology(ies) used for carrying out monitoring is in adherence to the requirements of the established Monitoring Approach described in the registered DPD.

20.5.7 The VVB shall ascertain whether the procedure for conducting calibration testing (including supporting activities) of equipment/technology(ies) used for monitoring, is in adherence to the established Monitoring Approach described in the registered DPD, applied methodologies and other regulatory documents of the mechanism, and wherever applicable, national and international standards, manufacturer specifications, etc.

20.5.8 The VVB shall ascertain whether the procedure for conducting calibration testing was carried out by organisation(s) accredited to relevant national and international standards.

20.5.9 If the IPP(s) carry(ies) out calibration tests after the due date set by the frequency requirements (late calibration), the VVB shall ensure whether a conservative discount factor has been applied for calculation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement based on the following two situational requirements:

(i) If the late calibration results reveal that there is error in the monitoring equipment/technology or the error is within the maximum permissible limit, the IPP(s) shall apply the maximum permissible error (as per manufacturer's specifications) to the values monitored after the due date of calibration.

(ii) If the late calibration results reveal that the error is greater than the maximum permissible limit, the IPP shall apply the error determined by the testing.

20.5.10 If, during verification, the VVB discovers that the IPP(s) has/have not carried out calibration testing, the VVB shall formally request the IPP(s) to conduct a late calibration testing. Further, the VVB shall ascertain whether the calibration testing was carried out in adherence to the rules and requirements of the Sub-Section-17https://indiaghgp.org/carbon-market-simulation-india.5.9 above.

20.5.11 The VVB shall ascertain whether QA/QC procedures have been applied in accordance with the registered monitoring plan.

20.5.12 Where IPP(s) undertake(s) sampling and survey activities for determination of a specific data or parameter, the VVB shall assess whether the design of the proposed sampling activities is in adherence to the rules and requirements of the applicable version of the "Standard: Sampling and surveys for CDM project activities and programme of activities".

Evaluation of Data and Parameters Monitored

20.5.13 The VVB shall ascertain whether all data and parameters required to be monitored as per the established Monitoring Approach have been included in the actual Monitoring Approach employed by the IPP(s).

20.5.14 For all data and parameters monitored, the VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) All data sources, assumptions, choices, rationales used by the IPP(s) are credible and justified;
(ii) The values of data and parameters recorded in the MR are consistent with the primary evidences (like plant logbooks, generation reports, test reports, certificates, bills/invoices, purchase records, etc.) generated, maintained and further supplied by IPP(s) during verification;
(iii) The values of all applicable emission factors, GWPs, IPCC default factors, etc. have been correctly applied;
(iv) The levels of accuracy and uncertainty in the values of all monitored data and parameters have been correctly determined and are within permissible limits.

20.5.15 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.5.16 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the actual Monitoring Approach employed by the IPP(s).

18.6 Actual GHG Emissions Reduction and/or Removals Enhancement

20.6.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the methodological steps employed to calculate the following quantities:

(i) Baseline GHG emissions and/or removals
(ii) Project GHG emissions
(iii) Leakage emissions
(iv) Actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement

and ascertain whether the above quantities are in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the registered DPD, CS, applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools and other regulatory documents under the registry.

20.6.2 For calculation of actual GHG Emissions Reduction and/or Removals Enhancement, the VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) All equations, formulae and processes employed by the IPP(s) were applied correctly and further, are in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the registered DPD, applied methodologies and supporting tools and other regulatory documents under the registry;
(ii) All data sources, assumptions, choices, rationales used by the IPP(s) are credible and justified;
(iii) The calculations are for the duration of the entire monitoring period, as applicable.

20.6.3 VVB shall assess the adequacy and appropriateness of the justification(s), rationale, evidence(s), etc., provided by the IPP(s) regarding increase in the actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement achieved by the registered and monitored project compared to the estimated values provided in the registered or revised DPD.

20.6.4 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.6.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the Actual GHG Emissions Reduction and/or Removals Enhancement.

18.7 Environment, Economic and Social Safeguards

20.7.1 VVB shall ascertain if the brief provided by the IPP(s) is adequate and appropriate as per the rules, requirements and procedures as prescribed in the CS.

20.7.2 If applicable, VVB shall ascertain whether the brief provided incorporates the changes in the conditions and appropriate actions undertaken by the IPP(s) to establish conformance with environment, economic and social safeguards as prescribed in the CS. If applicable, VVB shall also ascertain if modifications as per the new ESIA at the time of monitoring have been incorporated appropriately.

20.7.3 For A/R projects opting for NCCF-PEFC FM certification, VVB shall ascertain if the IPP has appropriately cited the appropriate sections of the current audit report in the MR.

20.7.4 If required, VVB may engage experienced and capable environment and/or social impact assessment professional(s) to evaluate the provisions in the Section pertaining to safeguards.

20.7.5 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.7.6 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its conclusion on the continued conformance of the project to environment, economic and social safeguards.

18.8 Monitoring of Actual Contribution towards Sustainable Development

20.8.1 The VVB shall assess whether the monitoring of the registered project's actual contribution to Sustainable Development (SD) is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CR-I tool for Determination of

Contribution of projects towards Sustainable Development, and as prescribed in the CS and any other regulatory document, as applicable. .

20.8.2 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.8.3 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the monitoring of the registered project's actual contribution to Sustainable Development (SD).

20.8.4 VVB may engage expert(s) from the domain of sustainable development to evaluate conformance to registered monitoring approach and actual monitored effects of project on sustainable development parameters as described in the SD tool.

18.9 Monitoring and Reporting of Reversals

20.9.1 For AFOLU projects aimed at GHG removal enhancement, VVB shall ascertain the methodological steps taken by the IPP(s) to monitor the risk of GHG reversal and event of GHG reversal as per monitoring approach in the registered DPD.

20.9.2 Rules and requirements for monitoring and reporting of GHG reversals prescribed in this standard are additional to rules, requirements and procedures as prescribed in CR-I tool for Determination of GHG Reversal Risk and Buffer Contribution.

20.9.3 VVB shall employ their sectoral expert(s) to evaluate the monitoring of GHG reversal risk and its conformance to the rules, requirements and procedures of the registry.

20.9.4 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.9.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the monitoring of the registered project's GHG reversal risk monitoring.

18.10 Inclusion of the Component Project Activity

20.10.1 VVB shall evaluate the CPA proposed for inclusion in the registered PoA as per the rules and requirements as prescribed in the CS and applied methodology(ies) and tools and any other regulatory documents, as applicable.

20.10.2 VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed PoA completely adheres to the eligibility criteria as prescribed in the CS.

20.10.3 VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed CPA for inclusion has been mentioned in the registered DPD under the section of CPAs to be included at later stages.

20.10.4 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.10.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the inclusion of CPA in the registered PoA.

19 Renewal of Crediting Period

19.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the procedure carried out by the IPP(s) for submission of request for renewal of crediting period of a registered project is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CS and other regulatory documents, as applicable.

19.2 The VVB shall assess whether, for submission of request for renewal of crediting period of a registered project, the IPP(s) has(ve) prepared an updated DPD by revising the sections concerning the following elements, as applicable:

(i) Project crediting period
(ii) Application of approved methodology(ies)
(iii) Determination of Baseline scenario
(iv) Estimation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement
(v) Monitoring Approach
(vi) Contribution of project towards SD
(vii) GHG reversal risk and buffer contribution/MBP, if applicable

19.3 Specifically, the VVB shall assess whether:

(i) The start date of the new crediting period is immediately after the ending of the current crediting period and the duration of the new crediting period is in conformance to the rules and requirements of the CS.

(ii) The adopted methodology(ies) (whether an updated version or a completely different methodology) are applicable and valid, and further, have been correctly applied in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures of the CS.

(iii) If the baseline scenario is not updated, that it is still applicable and valid, and if it is updated, whether the new baseline scenario and its determination adheres to the rules, requirements and procedures of the applied methodology(ies), and further, whether the effects of the existing national/regional scenarios, circumstances and policies have been appropriately considered.

(iv) The re-estimation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement adheres to the methodological steps/procedure, values of applicable data, parameter(s), variable(s) among others, provided in the

applied methodology(ies), and supporting tools, and further is in compliance with the rules, requirements and procedures of the CS.

(v) The revised Monitoring Approach, comprising the monitoring of all data and parameters and the implementation of the overall Monitoring Strategy, is in compliance with the applied methodology(ies) and supporting tools, the CS and other regulatory documents.

19.4 The VVB shall transparently describe the process undertaken by it to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

19.5 Using its sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques at its disposal, the VVB shall provide its thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the procedure carried out by the IPP(s) for submission of request for renewal of crediting period of a registered project.

PART C: ASSESSMENT OF PROJECT METHODOLOGIES AND TOOLS

20 Rules and Requirements for assessment of Methodologies/Tools

This Section prescribes rules, requirements and procedures for assessment of the design and development of proposed methodology(ies) and/or tool(s) prepared and submitted by the IMD and subsequently their revision, for their approval and subsequent listing under the registry.

20.1 Overarching rules and requirements for New Methodology/Tool Assessment

20.1.1 VVBs shall ascertain whether the design and development of the proposed methodology and/or tool(s) is in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CS, the Methodology Approval Procedure (MAP) and other regulatory documents, as applicable.

20.1.2 VVBs shall ascertain whether the Methodology document/Tool Document has been prepared using the valid version of the Methodology Document template/Tool Document template and through strict compliance with the document preparation instructions provided therein.

20.1.3 VVBs shall ascertain whether the Methodology Document/Tool Document is written in a manner that is explicit, concise and logically structured so that it is

understandable and may further be conveniently used by IPP(s) for design and development of proposed projects and implementation, operation and monitoring of registered projects, and subsequently by VVBs for its validation and verification respectively, as applicable.

20.1.4 The MAP for new Methodology/Tool requires two independent assessments to be conducted by two different VVBs. The scope, rules, requirements and procedures for both evaluations shall be consistent. However, the VVB that performs the second assessment (second VVB) shall also review the Assessment Report prepared by the first VVB and provide its conclusion on the same in its assessment report.

20.1.5 Specifically, VVBs shall ascertain whether each constituting element of the proposed new methodology and/or tool(s) adheres to all rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in the CS and other regulatory documents, as applicable.

20.1.6 In performing the assessments, VVBs shall employ their sectoral expertise and further adhere to the rules, requirements and procedures as applicable, prescribed in the Sub-sections below.

Applicability Conditions

20.1.7 The VVBs shall ascertain whether prescribed applicability conditions, including its design and content, are in adherence to the applicable rules and requirements of of CS and other regulatory documents.

20.1.8 The VVBs shall ascertain whether:

(i) The prescribed applicability conditions lay down specific set of rules and requirements for the type(s) of projects {including their scope, and applicable equipment, technology(ies) and measure(s)} and related activities that are qualified for inclusion.

(ii) All prescribed applicability conditions operate within the established scope of the proposed methodology and are appropriate to the types of projects and related sectors qualified for inclusion.

(iii) The prescribed applicability conditions are written in a manner which is unequivocal, concise and logically structured, and further, would allow proper evaluation of the appropriateness and adequacy of the adoption and application of the methodology by a proposed project.

(iv) The rules and requirements provided in the prescribed applicability conditions do not necessitate an alternative for describing other elements of the methodology such as the procedures for determination of baseline, quantification of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement, monitoring methodology, etc.

(v) The rules and requirements provided in the prescribed applicability conditions do not contradict specifications/provisions listed under other elements of the methodology such as the procedures for determination of

baseline, quantification of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement, monitoring methodology, etc.

20.1.9 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its assessment based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Subsection.

20.1.10 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the prescribed applicability conditions.

20.2 Project Boundary

20.2.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the project boundary provides:

(i) A description of the physical delineation and/or geographical area and
(ii) All source(s), sinks(s), reservoir(s) and types of anthropogenic GHG emissions under the control of the IPPs that are significant and reasonably attributable to a proposed project.

20.2.2 The VVB shall ascertain whether the description of the physical delineation and/or geographical area, to be applied by proposed projects, provided in the methodology document is in adherence to the applicable rules and requirements of CS.

20.2.3 The VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed methodology includes:

(i) All possible source(s), sinks(s), reservoir(s) and types of anthropogenic GHG emissions, sufficiently attributable to all variety of proposed projects;
(ii) The justification(s) provided by the IMD for inclusion/exclusion of all source(s), sinks(s), reservoir(s) and types of anthropogenic GHG emissions (including leakage), for both baseline and project scenarios, are reasonable and appropriate; and
(iii) The information that allows for a meaningful comparison between the source(s), sinks(s), reservoir(s) and types of anthropogenic GHG emissions for the baseline and the project scenarios.

20.2.4 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.2.5 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the rules, requirements and other provisions for defining a Project Boundary prescribed in the proposed methodology.

20.3 Baseline Scenario

20.3.1 The VVBs shall ascertain whether the methodology prescribes rules, requirements and procedures for determination of the baseline scenario applicable to a proposed project.

20.3.2 The VVB shall ascertain whether the rules, requirements and procedures in the methodology:

(i) are written in a manner which is unequivocal, appropriately detailed and logically structured, to allow convenient application by an IPP for determination of the baseline scenario;
(ii) allow for determination of a conservative and credible baseline scenario;
(iii) have appropriately considered all similar types of existing and conceivable projects (and underlying activities) as well as applicable equipment, technology(ies) and measure(s), and
(iv) have sufficiently incorporated preceding and prevailing social, economic, environmental and technological circumstances and conditions, as applicable.

20.3.3 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.3.4 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the prescribed rules, requirements and procedures for determination of the baseline scenario.

20.4 Additionality

20.4.1 The VVBs shall ascertain whether the methodology prescribes rules, requirements and procedures for demonstration of additionality by a proposed project.

20.4.2 The VVBs shall ascertain which one of the options listed below was adopted by the IMD for demonstration for additionality:

(i) **Option (a):** Applies an appropriate additionality tool/module, etc. created under an internationally/nationally recognised GHG programme by including an adequate reference in the proposed Methodology Document; or

(ii) **Option (b):** Establishes a new and elaborate procedure for evaluation and demonstration of additionality; or

(iii) **Option (c):** Establishes a new and elaborate procedure for evaluation and demonstration of additionality which is contained in a separate tool and adequately referenced within the proposed Methodology Document.

20.4.3 For options (b) and (c), the VVB shall ascertain whether the rules, requirements and procedures applicable to the proposed methodology:

(i) are written in a manner, which is unequivocal, appropriately detailed and logically structured, to allow convenient application by an IPP for demonstration of the additionality;
(ii) ensure consistency between the specifications/provisions for demonstration of additionality of a project and the determination of its baseline scenario.

20.4.4 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation of the proposed methodology based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.4.5 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the prescribed rules, requirements and procedures for demonstration of additionality under the proposed methodology.

20.5Determination of GHG Emissions Reduction and/or Removals Enhancement

20.5.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the methodology prescribes rules, requirements and procedures for determination of estimated and actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement due to the project.

20.5.2 The VVB shall ascertain whether the prescribed rules, requirements and procedures:

(i) are written in a manner which is unequivocal, appropriately detailed and logically structured, to allow convenient application of the proposed methodology by an IPP for determination of emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

(ii) provide algorithms and formulae for calculation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement corresponding to source(s), sinks(s), reservoir(s) and related GHGs, separately for the baseline and project scenarios, as well as leakage.

(iii) provide algorithms and formulae that are logical, have established scientific basis, utilise acceptable rationale and assumptions, and further, are appropriate to the type of project(s) and related sector(s), as intended.

(iv) do not lead to overestimation of baseline emissions and estimated and actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removal enhancement due to the project.

(v) maintain consistency between the established baseline scenario and the established specifications/provisions used for the determination of baseline GHG emissions and/or removals.

(vi) where applicable, apply and use all the parameters, coefficients, variables in a consistent manner, and employ an appropriate SI unit.

20.5.3 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.5.4 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the prescribed rules, requirements and procedures for determination of estimated and actual GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement due to the project.

20.6 Data and Parameters Fixed Ex-Ante

20.6.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the methodology identifies and describes all parameters, coefficients, variables required for the calculation of baseline GHG emissions, project GHG emissions, GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement and leakage, that are not monitored and remain fixed throughout the crediting period.

20.6.2 The VVBs shall ascertain whether:

(i) all identified parameters, coefficients, variables are logically applied, have established scientific basis, and further, are appropriate to the type of project(s) and related sector(s), as intended.
(ii) suitable description of each parameter, coefficient, variable fixed ex-ante has been provided, and is in an approved format.
(iii) all identified parameters, coefficients, variables are consistent with all the parameters, coefficients, variables, as applicable, used in the algorithms and formulae for calculation of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement.

20.6.3 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.6.4 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, both VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of data and parameters fixed ex-ante.

20.7Monitoring Approach

20.7.1 The VVB shall ascertain whether the methodology provides rules, requirements and procedures for designing the overall Monitoring Approach, which includes the following two elements:

(i) Data and parameters monitored
(ii) Monitoring Strategy

20.7.2 For data and parameters to be monitored, the VVB shall ascertain whether:

(i) the methodology identifies and describes all parameter(s), coefficient(s), variable(s) required for the calculation of baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions, GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement and leakage, whose values are to be determined through appropriate monitoring means.

(ii) the means of monitoring for each parameter, coefficient, variable, including through direct measurements, sampling and usage of external reference sources, etc., have been duly established, and are feasible and appropriate for determination of data and parameter values.

(iii) If external sources are used for determination of data and parameter values, whether they are publicly available, credible and justified.

(iv) suitable description of each parameter, coefficient, variable fixed ex-ante has been provided, and is in an approved format.

(v) all identified parameters, coefficients, variables are consistent with all the parameters, coefficients, variables, as applicable, used in the algorithms and formulae for calculation of GHG emissions reductions and/or removals enhancement.

20.7.3 For the Monitoring Strategy, the VVB shall ascertain the feasibility and appropriateness of the rules, requirements and procedures for:

(i) Establishing a suitable Monitoring Strategy to facilitate gathering and storing of all relevant data required for calculation of baseline GHG emissions and/or removals, project GHG emissions, GHG emissions reduction and/or removals enhancement and leakage; and

(ii) Management of uncertainty(ies), ensuring data quality (QA/QC procedures), monitoring frequency and calibration requirements, as applicable.

20.7.4 VVBs shall transparently describe the process undertaken by each one to perform its evaluation based on the rules and requirements prescribed in this Section.

20.7.5 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, both VVBs shall provide their thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the overall Monitoring Approach.

20.8 Pre-approved Methodology

20.8.1 Assessment of pre-approved Methodology/Tool shall be undertaken by NCCF and assessment by VVB is not required. Neither NCCF shall be liable to formulate an assessment report for IMD or any other entity involved in the process.

20.8.2 NCCF shall ensure that design and development of the proposed Methodology/Tool is in adherence to rules, requirements of CS and any other regulatory document, as applicable.

20.8.3 NCCF shall ascertain whether the submitted Methodology/Tool document is as per the latest approved and listed versions of Methodology/Tool.

20.8.4 NCCF shall ascertain whether the Methodology document/Tool document has been prepared using valid version of the Methodology Document template/Tool Document template and is in strict compliance with the document preparation instructions provided therein.

20.8.5 NCCF shall ascertain whether Methodology/Tool document is written in a manner that is explicit, concise and logically structured so that it is

understandable and may further be conveniently used by IPP(s) for design and development of proposed projects and implementation, operation and monitoring of registered projects, as applicable.

20.8.6 NCCF shall ascertain whether each constituting element of the Methodology/Tool completely adheres to the rules, requirements and procedures of CS and any other regulatory document of the registry, as applicable.

20.8.7 NCCF shall assess the proposed Methodology/Tool as per the rules and requirements established for VVB for new Methodology/Tool. NCCF may utilise the sectoral experts of the Methodology Panel or employ its own sectoral experts as deemed necessary for assessment of the proposed Methodology/Tool.

20.8.8 NCCF shall completely adhere to the procedure as prescribed in MAP for approval and listing of pre-approved Methodology.

20.9 Revision of Methodology/Tool

20.9.1 VVB shall ascertain whether proposed revisions in the Methodology/Tool are in adherence to the rules, requirements and procedures prescribed in CS, and other regulatory documents, as applicable

20.9.2 VVB shall ascertain whether the proposed revisions comply with criteria prescribed in the CS

20.9.3 VVB shall ascertain whether the Methodology Revision Document/Tool Revision Document has been prepared using valid version of the Methodology Revision Document template/Tool Revision Document template and in strict compliance with the document preparation instructions provided therein.

20.9.4 VVB shall ascertain whether the Methodology Revision Document/Tool Revision Document is written in a manner that is explicit, concise and logically structured so that it is understandable and may further be conveniently used by IPP for design and development of proposed projects and implementation, operation and monitoring of registered projects, and subsequently by VVBs for its validation and verification respectively, as applicable.

20.9.5 MAP requires independent assessment to be conducted by only one VVB. The VVB shall perform assessment as per the VVS, MAP and another regulatory documents as applicable. VVB shall prepare Methodology/Tool revision Assessment Report and provide its conclusion in the same.

20.9.6 Using their sectoral expertise and standard auditing techniques, VVB shall provide thorough assessment and conclusion on the appropriateness of the proposed revisions and Methodology/Tool.

20.9.7 VVB shall describe the process used to assess the compliance of proposed revisions and the Methodology/Tool as a whole to the relevant sections of this standard.

20.9.8 VVB shall prepare Methodology Revision assessment report/Tool Revision assessment report using the valid version of the Methodology Revision assessment report template/Tool Revision assessment report template, and provide its conclusion in the appropriate section of the report.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Description
Version 1.0	16.09.2020	Initial Publication
Version 1.1	24.09.2025	Revised Version