**RESTART ENERGY DEMOCRACY**

**CARBON STANDARD**

**VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION REPORTTEMPLATE**

Date: 25th March 2023

Version 1.0

**Instructions for completing the Validation and Verification Report**

This template is for the validation and verification of projects under the RED Carbon Standard.

Where the independent validation/verification body has also, at the time of this verification, undertaken a gap validation of a project participating in RED Carbon Standard Certification. Furthermore, please describe the validation process in the relevant sections of this template.

Unless applying a merited deviation, please complete all sections using Verdana or Franklin Gothic Book 10.5-point, black, regular (non-italic) font. Where a section is not applicable, explain why the section is not applicable (i.e., do not delete the section from the final document and do not only write “not applicable”).

Submit the project description as a non-editable PDF.

Delete all instructions, including this introductory text, from the final document.

Save the document with the following name:

* For Validation report: Validation\_Nameoftheproject\_Date
* For Verification report: Verification\_Nameoftheproject\_Date
* When the validation and the verification is made at the same time: Validation&Verification\_Nameoftheproject\_Date

Logo IV*V*B (optional):

Document Prepared By (individual or entity IVB):

Contact Information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Project Title  | Name of project |
| Version | Version number of this validation and verification report |
| Report ID | Identification number of this validation and verification report |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Report Title  | Title of this validation and verification report |
| Project Developer | Project Developer for whom the report was prepared |
| Pages | Number of pages of this report |
| Date of Issue | Click or tap to enter a date. report issued |
| Prepared By | Validation body that prepared this report |
| Verification body that prepared this report |
| Validation and Verification body that prepared this report  |
| Contact  | Physical address, telephone, email, website |
| Approved By | Individual at the validation body who approved this verification report  |
| Individual at the verification body who approved this verification report |
| Tasks executed by | Individuals who conducted this validation or/and verification.  |

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

## Objective

Explain the purpose of the:

* Validation:
* Verification:
* Validation and Verification:

## Scope and Criteria

Describe the scope and criteria of the:

* Validation:
* Verification:
* Validation and verification:

## Reasonableness of Assumptions (Validation Step)

Indicate the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods that support a claim about the outcome of future activities.

## Level of Assurance (Verification Step)

Indicate the level of assurance of the verification.

## Summary Description of the Project

Provide a summary description of the project (no more than one page).

# VALIDATION

## Method Approach and Standards

Outline the approach and standards utilised, along with the plan for collecting supporting data, for carrying out the validation. If evidence gathering methods are applied during validation, provide context on the approach, significant underlying assumptions, and rationale for selecting the particular approach. Kindly delineate the schedule of validation, comprising pivotal milestones such as the kick-off meeting, desk review, and site visit, along with their corresponding dates.

## Document Review

Describe how the validation is carried out as an audit where the project description and any supporting documents were reviewed, cross-checked, and compared with identified and stated requirements.

## Interviews

Describe the interview process and identify personnel, including their roles, who were interviewed and/or provided information additional to that provided in the project description and any supporting documents.

## Site Visits

Describe the method and objectives for site visit(s) if it is performed in the validation step. Include in the description, details of all facilities and/or project areas visited, the physical and organisational aspects of the project assessed and the dates when such site visits took place.

## Project Details

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the following:

* + Project type, technologies and measures implemented, and eligibility of the project
	+ Project design, including eligibility criteria for grouped projects
	+ Project developer and other entities involved in the project
	+ Ownership
	+ Project start date
	+ Project crediting period
	+ Project scale and estimated GHG emission reductions or removals
	+ Project location
	+ Project compliance with applicable laws, statutes, and other regulatory frameworks
	+ Participation under other GHG programs:
		- Projects registered (or seeking registration) under other GHG program(s)
		- Rejection by other GHG programs
	+ Other forms of credit in the host country:
		- Emissions trading programs and other binding limits
		- Other forms of environmental credit sought or received and eligible to be sought or received
	+ Sustainable Development Goals contributions
	+ Corresponding Adjustment declaration

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the description in the project description is accurate and complete.

## Safeguards

### Do not Harm

Identify any potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts identified by the project developer. Analysed if reasonable steps have been taken to mitigate such impacts.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the do not harm assessment of the project activity.

### Public Consultation

Summarise any public comments that were submitted during the public consultation period. Evaluate whether the project developer has given appropriate consideration to all comments received and provide an overall conclusion on the public comments. Additionally, describe the project developer's response to each comment, outline any changes made to the project design as a result, and explain how the project developer's responses are appropriate.

### Local Stakeholder Consultation (if applicable)

Provide a summary of all stakeholder input received during the local stakeholder consultation. Evaluate whether the project developer has appropriately considered all input received and give an overall conclusion regarding the local stakeholder input. Furthermore, detail the project developer's response to each input, highlight any changes made to the project design, and justify how the project developer's responses are fitting.

### Environmental Impact

Identify the implications of any environmental impact assessments conducted with respect to the project.

## Application of Methodology

### Title and Reference

Identify if the applied methodology and any tools used in the calculation are right for the type of the project. Note that the methodology and tools, and the specific versions of them applied by the project, must be valid at the time of validation.

### Applicability

Identify if the criteria of eligibility from the methodology is applied. Provide a conclusion with respect to each applicability condition.

Where the applied methodology provides the project with a number of tools or modules to choose from, describe the steps taken to assess that the appropriate tool or module has been selected. Provide a conclusion with respect to each selected tool or module.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the applicability of the methodology, and any tools or modules selected by the project developer.

### Project Boundary

Identify the project boundary and describe the steps taken to validate it. Include details of documentation assessed (e.g., commissioning document) and observations made during the site visit.

For each GHG source, reservoir and sinks describe the steps taken to assess that it has been selected correctly in accordance with the applied methodology. Describe the steps taken to assess whether any relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs have not been selected.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the project boundary and selected sources, sinks and reservoirs are justified for the project.

### Baseline Scenario

Describe the process of determining and validating the baseline scenario for the project, including the following elements where applicable:

* ensuring that the assumptions and data used to identify the baseline scenario are appropriately justified, supported by evidence, and reasonable
* verifying that the documentary evidence used to determine the baseline scenario is relevant and accurately quoted and interpreted in the project description
* considering relevant national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances and listing them in the project description
* following correct procedures for identifying the baseline scenario and ensuring that it reasonably represents what would have occurred in the absence of the project
* detailing the steps taken to cross-check the data used to identify the baseline scenario, including sources of information
* providing an overall conclusion regarding the justification of the identified baseline scenario.

### Additionality

Provide the methodology used to demonstrate the additionality and provide an overall conclusion regarding whether additionality is justified for the project.

### Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Please provide information on the methods used to quantify greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals generated by the project. Describe the validation process for these methods, including all data, parameters, and references used. Your description should include how the quantification of baseline emissions, project emissions, and leakage was assessed, as well as a summary of net GHG emission reductions or removals. Additionally, describe any uncertainties associated with the calculation of emissions and the documentation used as the basis for assumptions and data sources.

Furthermore, please assess the following aspects of the project description:

* Are all relevant assumptions and data listed, including their references and sources?
* Are all data and parameter values used considered reasonable in the context of the project?
* Can all estimates of baseline emissions be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the project description?

Provide an overall concluding statement regarding whether the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and net GHG emission reductions and removals.

### Request for exemptions (if applicable)

Identify any request for exemptions applied to the project and describe the steps taken to validate each request for exemptions. Include information about the impacts the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals (except where they result in increased accuracy).

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether any request for exemptions applied to the project are valid.

### Monitoring Plan

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the adherence of the monitoring plan to the requirements of the applied methodology and any referenced tools.

## Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

If relevant, describe the steps taken to assess the level of non-permanence risk set forth by the project proposer. For each risk factor, this should include:

* A comprehensive examination of all reasoning, assumptions, and validations used to support the risk rating.
* An evaluation of all documents and data provided to verify the risk score.
* A determination of whether the risk rating is adequate or appropriate.

Based on this assessment, the overall risk rating has been deemed acceptable. In conclusion, the determined value of the overall risk rating indicates that the project proposer has taken appropriate measures to evaluate and mitigate non-permanence risks.

Provide a concluding statement regarding the determined value of the overall risk rating.

## **2.1 Validation Findings**

Use this section to provide details of all validation activities that took place during the verification, such as gap validation, validation of request of exemptions of methodology or/and project description, and the inclusion of new project activity instances into grouped projects.

* + - * 1. Participation Under Other GHG Programs

For projects seeking registration under the RED Carbon Standard and an approved GHG program (e.g., CDM) provide a gap validation, including the following:

* The name of the approved GHG program, and registration number and details of the project.
* A description of the steps taken to assess whether the project is eligible to participate under the RED Carbon Standard.
* A conclusion with respect to each of the relevant sections of the (additional/gap) project description provided by the project developer.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the project is eligible to participate under the RED Carbon Standard.

## Request for Exemptions on Project Description (if applicable)

Identify any request for exemptions applied to the project and describe the steps taken to validate each deviation. Assess whether the proposed request for exemption impacts any of the following, documenting the assessment of each separately:

* The applicability of the methodology.
* Additionality.
* The appropriateness of the baseline scenario.

Provide an assessment of whether the request for exemptions is appropriately described and justified, and whether the project remains in compliance with the RED Carbon Standard rules.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the request for exemption of the project is valid.

## Grouped Project (if applicable)

Describe the steps taken to validate the inclusion of new project activity instances into the (grouped) project, including the following:

* Sampling process for validation of new project activity instances.
* The number of new project activity instances added to the project in this verification period.
* Quality and completeness of evidence, data and documentation relating to the new project activity instances.
* Conformance of the new project activity instances with the eligibility criteria set out in the project description.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the inclusion of the new project activity instances is valid.

## **2.2 Validation Opinion**

* Clearly state that the GHG statement is the responsibility of the project developer, whether the project conforms with the validation criteria for projects set out in RED Carbon Standard Version 2, and include any qualifications or modifications. In case of adverse, disclaimed, modified, or qualified opinions, the reasons for these opinions should be described before the validation/verification body's conclusion.
* Furthermore, the statement should specify whether the data and information used to support the GHG statement are hypothetical, projected, or historical. It should also assess the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods used to back up the claim about the future activities' outcome, such as whether the project is likely to achieve the estimated GHG emission reductions or removals. The statement must acknowledge that actual results may differ from estimates since they are based on assumptions that are subject to change
* Include a declaration that the validation and/or verification of the GHG statement was conducted in accordance with ISO 14064-3. The applicable ISO version shall be included (e.g., ISO 14064-3; 2019).
* Validation period must be broken down into calendar year vintages: From [day/month/year] to [day/month/year]

Validated GHG emission reductions and removals in the above period:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Year | Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO2e) |
| Year A (e.g., 2021) |  |
| Year B |  |
| Year C |  |
| Year... |  |
| Total estimated ERs |  |
| Total number of crediting years |  |
| Average annual ERs |  |

# VERIFICATION

Use this section to describe the verification process. Where validation activities have also been performed as part of the verification (e.g., validation of a project description deviation or inclusion of new project activity instances into a grouped project), also include details relevant to the validation process.

## Method Approach and Standards

Describe the method approach and criteria, including the sampling plan, used for undertaking the verification.

## Document Review

Describe how the verification was carried out as an audit where the project description, monitoring report and any supporting documents were reviewed, cross checked and compared with identified and stated requirements.

## Interviews

Describe the interview process and identify personnel, including their roles, who were interviewed and/or provided information additional to that provided in the project description, monitoring report and any supporting documents.

## Site Inspections

Describe the methods and objectives for any on-site inspections performed. Include in the description, details of all project activity locations visited, the physical and organisational aspects of the project inspected and the dates when such site inspections took place.

## Project Implementation Status

Determine the current status of the project activity(s) and explain the measures taken to evaluate the following aspects:

* The presence of any significant inconsistencies between the project implementation and the project description.
* The progress of the monitoring plan and the adequacy of monitoring, encompassing the appropriateness of the implemented monitoring system (i.e., methods and timetable for obtaining, documenting, compiling, and analysing the monitored data and parameters).
* The existence of any noteworthy differences between the actual monitoring system, the monitoring plan defined in the project description, and the applied methodology.
* Whether the project has participated in or been excluded from any other GHG programs since the validation or prior verification.
* Whether the project has obtained or sought any other kind of environmental credit or qualification since the validation or prior verification.
* Whether the GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project have been incorporated into an emissions trading program or any other scheme that includes GHG allowance trading.
* Whether the project has executed the actions resulting in the Sustainable Development Goals as detailed in the monitoring report.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the project has been implemented as described in the PDD.

## Safeguards

### Do no Harm

Identify and discuss any potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts identified by the project developer. Discuss whether reasonable steps have been taken to mitigate such impacts.

### Public consultation and Local Stakeholder Consultation

Summarise any stakeholder input received during ongoing communication with local stakeholders. Assess whether the project developer has taken due account of all and any input and provide an overall conclusion regarding local stakeholder input.

Include the project developer’s response to all input, describe any resultant changes to the project design and provide an explanation of how the project developer’s responses are appropriate.

## Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

Identify the data and parameters used to calculate the GHG emission reductions and removals, and describe the steps taken to assess the following for each of them:

* The accuracy of GHG emission reductions and removals, including accuracy of spreadsheet formulae, conversions and aggregations, and consistent use of the data and parameters.
* Whether the methods and formulae set out in the project description for calculating baseline emissions, project emissions and leakage have been followed.
* The appropriateness of any default values used in the monitoring report.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether GHG emission reductions and removals have been quantified correctly in accordance with the project description and applied methodology.

1. Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Identify and describe the evidence used to determine the reductions and removals of greenhouse gas emissions, including the steps taken to assess the sufficiency and appropriateness of the evidence. This should include details about any cross-checks performed on the reported data and how the reliability, source, and nature of the evidence were assessed. Additionally, describe the flow of information from data generation and aggregation to recording, calculation, and transposition into the monitoring report. If the project description does not specify the calibration frequency of monitoring equipment, assess the appropriateness of the implemented calibration frequency. Finally, provide an overall conclusion regarding the sufficiency and appropriateness of the evidence used to determine GHG reductions and removals

## NON-Permanence Risk Analysis

Where relevant, describe the steps taken to assess the non-permanence risk rating determined by the project developer. For each risk factor, provide the following:

* An assessment of all rationale, assumptions and justification used to support the risk score.
* An assessment of the quality of documentation and data provided to support the risk score.
* A conclusion regarding the appropriateness of the risk rating.

Provide a conclusion regarding the determined value of the overall risk rating.

# VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

Confirm that the project has been executed in accordance with its description and any approved variations. If validation activities were included in the audit, clearly indicate whether the project adheres to the validation criteria for projects established in RED Carbon Standard Version 2, along with any qualifications or limitations. Additionally, provide a conclusion on the quantity of greenhouse gas emissions reductions or removals achieved by the project during the verification period, stating whether or not the goal was accomplished. Also confirm and provide a breakdown of GHG emission reductions or removals by vintages within the verification period.

Verification period: From Click or tap to enter a date. to Click or tap to enter a date.

Verified GHG emission reductions and removals in the above verification period:

For non-AFOLU projects, use the following table:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Year | Baseline emissions or removals (tCO2e) | Project emissions or removals (tCO2e) | Leakage emissions (tCO2e) | Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO2e) |
| Year A |  |  |  |  |
| Year... |  |  |  |  |
| Total  |  |  |  |  |

#

# APPENDIX

Use appendices for supporting information. Delete this appendix (title and instructions) where no appendix is required.

##

# DOCUMENT UPDATE

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Version  | Date  | Comments or additional information |
| 1  | 25.03.2023 | Initial version of the document. |