

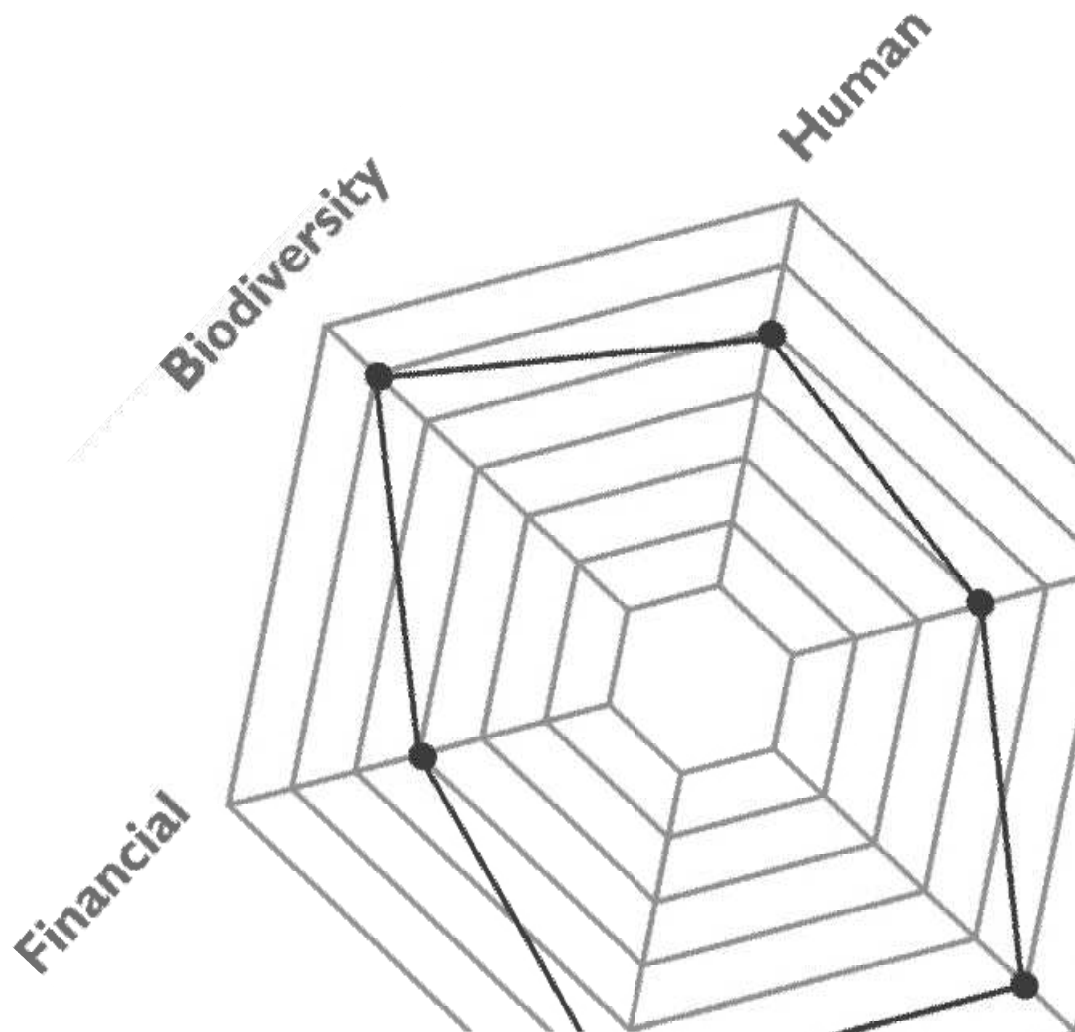


socialcarbon

SOCIALCARBON® Standard

Version 4.0 August, 2009

For public consultation



Introduction

The [SOCIALCARBON](#)[®] is a standard developed to strengthen co-benefits of carbon offset projects.

The SOCIALCARBON Methodology (SCM) is the key element of the Standard. It was developed by the Ecologica Institute (Brazil) in 2000 as a set of analytical tools that assesses the social, environmental and economic performance of projects; thereby demonstrating, through continual monitoring, the project's contribution to sustainable development. As SOCIALCARBON focuses on enhancing co-benefits it is usually used in conjunction with another standard, for example, the VCS, ISO 14.064-2, TUV NORD Climate Change Standard, CDM, or others.

In the last ten years SOCIALCARBON Methodology was quickly diffused, being applied to different realities, which includes from small projects of income generation for communities, to initiatives of enterprises who participate in the international carbon credits market. This demonstrates the potential of use of SOCIALCARBON and also the importance of adopting flexibility as a basic guideline, seeking to always include the political and social context on its approaches.

A challenge, then, arises in our journey: to disseminate the SOCIALCARBON to a world replete of social, cultural, economic and environmental diversities, without losing the own identity of the concept. Thus, this documents aims at presenting criteria for elaboration of carbon offset projects which wish to be certified as SOCIALCARBON projects.

The SOCIALCARBON[®] is an internationally registered trademark, which guaranties that initiatives to mitigate climate change contribute significantly to sustainable development, and add transparent and participatory methods of assessing benefits to stakeholders and the environment.

The SOCIALCARBON Standard aims to standardize the application of the methodology: to this end, any developer that wishes to use the SOCIALCARBON[®] brand or register credits on the SOCIALCARBON Registry must meet the criteria set out in this manual which provides a reference for project developers and certification bodies.



Contents:

Section 1 - SOCIALCARBON Methodology	1
Basic guidelines	1
Conceptual Framework	1
Indicators.....	3
Section 2 - Organizations Involved and their role.....	4
Ecologica Institute	4
Accredited Organization	4
Certifying Entities	4
Section 3 - Criteria	5
Criteria 1 - Offset Project Eligibility.....	5
Criteria – 2 Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology.....	5
Criteria 3 - Monitoring.....	7
Criteria 4 - Continual improvement of Project performance	8
Criteria 5 - Independent auditing conducted through SOCIALCARBON Reports by a Certifying Entity.....	9
Summary of SOCIALCARBON Criteria:.....	10
Section 4 - Procedures	11
Pre-assessment by the SOCIALCARBON Team.....	11
Selection of an Accredited Organization	11
Selection and elaboration of SOCIALCARBON indicators for the Project.....	12
SOCIALCARBON Report (SCR) – Zero Point.....	12
Validation by a Certifying Entity	12
Periodic monitoring.....	12
Verification by a Certifying Entity	13
Issue of SOCIALCARBON® credits	13
Summary of SOCIALCARBON Procedures:.....	13
Annexes	14
Annex I – Definitions	14
Annex II – SOCIALCARBON Timeline.....	14



Section I - SOCIALCARBON

Methodology

SOCIALCARBON concept may be defined as the carbon reduced as a result of actions that benefit and improve the living conditions for stakeholders who are involved or interact with climate changes project, in ways that strengthen the welfare and citizenship, without degrading their resources base.

The SOCIALCARBON Methodology arose from the need to develop a transparent means of measuring social gains from the projects. It was conceived by the Ecológica Institute in 1998, through the development of a carbon sequestration project on the Ilha do Bananal, in the Brazilian state of Tocantins.

The methodology consists of:

1. Basic guidelines: for initiatives undertaken with local stakeholders;
2. A conceptual framework: The methodology is based on the Sustainable Livelihood Approach, and considers six basic resources: Social, Human, Financial, Natural, Biodiversity and Carbon.
3. Indicators: developed using the six resources of the methodology.

Basic guidelines

- I. Centered in stakeholders perception
- II. Values people's potential and recourses
- III. Participatory, holistic, dynamic and flexible
- IV. Deals with local and global issues
- V. Geared towards analysis of local ecosystems and their biodiversity potential
- VI. Geared towards problem solving and the search for sustainability
- VII. Strives for social inclusion and recognizes gender issues and the forms of social difference
- VIII. Takes account of existing power relations and the political context

Conceptual Framework

The methodology takes as its basic structure the sustainable livelihood approach, originally developed by Robert Chambers and Gordon Conway, and subsequently modified by Scoones:



“A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.”¹

It was also Scoones who developed a working system to investigate the degree of sustainability of a livelihood, applicable at various scales including those of the individual, family, community, city, region and even country. The author argues that the ability to attain different livelihoods depends on the possession of material and social goods, and he uses this to define five different types of goods which he terms “resources”: natural capital, economic or financial, human, social and physical. SOCIALCARBON adopted four of the resources defined by Scoones, and added two new ones: biodiversity and carbon.

Biodiversity Resources: It represents the combination of species, ecosystems and genes which form the biological diversity. Relevant aspects of this component are: the integrity of natural communities, the way people use and interact with biodiversity, the degree of conservation, pressures and threats imposed on native species, and the existence of high-priority areas for conservation.²

Natural Resources: It is the stock of natural resources (soil, water, air, etc.) and environmental services (soil protection, maintenance of hydrological cycles, pollution sinks, pest control, pollination, among others), from which resources for livelihoods are derived.

Financial Resource: It is the basic capital in the form of cash, credit/debt and other economic goods which are available or potential.

Human Resources: They are the skills, knowledge, capacities for work and good health that people have. Taken together, these become fundamental for the successful pursuit of different strategies.

Social Resources: They are the working networks, the social duties, social relations, relationships of trust, affiliations, and associations.

Carbon Resource: It refers to the type of carbon project developed, encompassing the methodologies utilized and project performance.

¹ I CHAMBERS, R. & CONWAY, G. Sustainable rural livelihoods: practical concepts for the 21st century. Discussion paper 296, Institute of Development studies (IDS), 1992.

² Initially designed to evaluate the condition of communities involved in forest projects, the SOCIALCARBON Methodology has been adapted to other types of climate change mitigation projects, while keeping its original basic characteristics. In some projects where impacts over biodiversity cannot be measured in a direct way, this resource is replaced by Technological Resource which assesses the conditions of access to technological assets, including the innovation of equipments and processes focusing on their contribution to economic, social and environmental development.



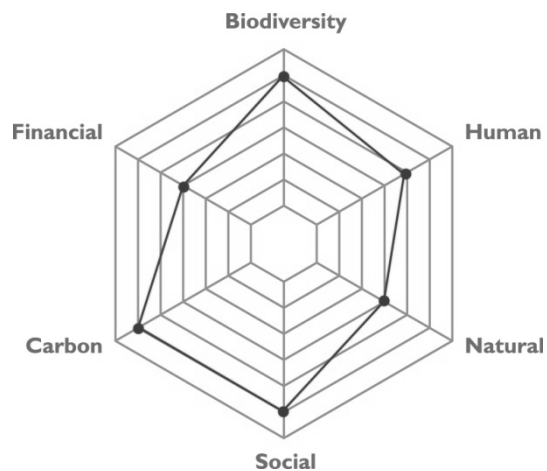
Indicators

SOCIALCARBON indicators should be set out and used to detail the benefits and impacts arising from a carbon offset project for the six resources of the Methodology: Social, Human, Financial, Natural, Biodiversity and Carbon. These indicators receive scores ranging from the worst scenario (level 1) to the ideal situation (sustainable use of resource – level 6).

Schematic representation of the gradient of SOCIALCARBON Indicators - Social Resources:

Scenario 1	Scenario 2	Scenario 3	Scenario 4	Scenario 5	Scenario 6
Absence of a formal community association.	There is a formal community association, but unstructured and with internal conflicts.	Existence of a formal association, controlled by directors interested in the strengthening of group.	Community organization controlled by leaders, and not only directors.	Leader of a formal association, controlled by interested leaders, and who are relatively experienced.	Organization with internalization of community spirit. Controlled by prepared and experienced leaders.

All the data used to score the indicators is collected through participative methods (interviews, questionnaires and meetings with stakeholders). The average score by the indicators is plotted on the hexagon.



The centre of the hexagon represents zero access to assets of resources, while the external border represents maximum access. The resource hexagon illustrated above is a useful tool to identify the reality of a given project and to help project developers to make choices and define improvement goals for their projects.



Section 2 - Organizations Involved and their role

Ecologica Institute

The Ecologica Institute is the legal holder of the SOCIALCARBON®. The Institute is a Non-Profit Organization, located in the northern Brazil and carries out projects in the Amazon Rainforest. Ecologica Institute's mission is to help reduce the effects of climate change through scientific research, conservation, environmental preservation, and sustainable community development. SOCIALCARBON Team is formed by members from the Ecologica Institute responsible for:

- License SOCIALCARBON to other organizations:
 - Accredited Organizations – to apply SOCIALCARBON Methodology
 - Certifying Entities – to validate and verify SOCIALCARBON Reports
 - Supervision activities which aim to monitor the compliance of the Accredited Organization to the requirements of accreditation.
- Development of SOCIALCARBON procedures and methodologies:
 - Update and revise SOCIALCARBON Standard rules and procedures
 - Support to development of new indicators
 - Assess and approve revisions in existing or new SOCIALCARBON Indicators
 - Development of manuals
- Control of SOCIALCARBON Registry

Accredited Organization

Accredited Organizations are qualified institutions responsible for:

- Elaborate new indicators: which this must have the approval by the Ecologica Institute.
- Elaborate SOCIALCARBON Reports for their own projects or projects developed by third parties.

This procedure guaranties that SOCIALCARBON concept and fundamental steps of the Methodology are being carried out by the involved entities. Entire procedures for accreditation by the Ecologica Institute are available at www.socialcarbon.org.

Certifying Entities

A Certifying Entity is an independent organization which validates and verifies SOCIALCARBON Reports, which preferably are consolidated with validation procedures with another SOCIALCARBON approved standard (i.e. VCS) into a single process.



Section 3 - Criteria

SOCIALCARBON Standard requires the following criteria for certifying carbon offset projects:

1. Offset Project Eligibility
2. Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology
3. Monitoring
4. Continual improvement of Project performance
5. Independent auditing conducted through SOCIALCARBON Reports by a Certifying Entity

Criteria 1 - Offset Project Eligibility

(Project Types; Locations; Size; Crediting Period; and Baseline and Monitoring Methodologies)

- a) Because the SCM is usually used in conjunction with outside standards, SOCIALCARBON does not set its own criteria regarding: project type, location, size, crediting period or baseline and monitoring methodologies. Rather, developers must demonstrate that projects comply with other SOCIALCARBON-approved outside standard (e.g. VCS, ISO, CDM, CCAR or other) for certification of emission reductions.
- b) The Project Design Document must be validated and verified by an independent third party, based on the outside standard accepted by the SOCIALCARBON.

Guidance:

The SOCIALCARBON Standard establishes criteria only for the monitoring of social and environmental impacts of project (co-benefits), but not for emission reduction itself, such as additionality and baseline methodologies.

This decision was taken by the Ecologica Institute considering the evolution and consolidation of several carbon offset Standards developed by other organizations. This means SOCIALCARBON permit a dynamic interaction with other existent Standards and defines procedures which are accepted.

For a list of the approved Standards, please consult www.socialcarbon.org or contact info@socialcarbon.org. Other Standards may be accepted; however, they are subject to previous consultation to the SOCIALCARBON Team.

Criteria – 2 Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology

(Accredited Organizations; Indicators; SOCIALCARBON Reports)

- a) The application of the SOCIALCARBON Methodology must be carried out by an Accredited Organization.



- b) SOCIALCARBON indicators should be set out and used to detail the main benefits and impacts arising from a carbon offset project for the six resources of the Methodology.
- c) New indicators or revision of existing indicators must be submitted to approval by the SOCIALCARBON Team.
- d) Data used to score the indicators must be collected through interviews, questionnaires and/or meetings with stakeholders.
- e) All information collected must be organized in the form of a report in compliance with the Template and Guide for Completing SOCIALCARBON Reports, both available at www.socialcarbon.org.

Guidance

Accredited Organizations

The manuals and indicators of the SOCIALCARBON Methodology are public documents which may be used by any organization as base for the actions plan and monitoring of projects. However, if an organization wishes to use the SOCIALCARBON® brand, the application of the Methodology must be carried out by an Accredited Organization. For more information see section 2.

SOCIALCARBON Indicators

Indicators already approved are available at www.socialcarbon.org. In case project activity presents characteristics which are not contemplated by any of the approved indicators, new indicators may be elaborated and must be submitted to approval by the SOCIALCARBON Team.

The number of indicators varies according to the need of project, although the SOCIALCARBON Team recommends at least three and a maximum of ten for each one of the six resources.

SOCIALCARBON indicators should be set out to detail the main benefits and impacts arising from a carbon offset project, so project developers must provide a brief description about the potential positive and negative social, economic and environmental impacts. This will serve as reference to the assessment and approval of the indicators by the SOCIALCARBON Team.

This description of social and environmental impacts does not demand new researches, but must be based on other existent sources of information, as for example: reports, results of consultation with stakeholders, similar projects or opinions of experts. If required by the national competent authorities, documents about the analysis of the environmental impacts and mitigation programs must be presented.

Measurable impacts, or those which tend to vary according to the development of project, must be considered in the indicators submitted to SOCIALCARBON Team's approval.

In case the information are insufficient or controversy concerning the impacts of the project or its indicators, the SOCIALCARBON Team or the Certifying Entity may ask for complementary studies and reviews.



Gathering information for SOCIALCARBON diagnosis

Data used to score the indicators must be collected through interviews, questionnaires and/or meetings with stakeholders. It begins with the selection of groups or people who will be involved or impacted by the project.

- Working group: Participative meetings with representatives of the organization and/or community involved in the project. The meeting is coordinated by a responsible professional, who has the function of orientating the participants to discuss the content of the indicators.
- Interviews: Some key informants are interviewed in a semi-structured form, aiming at the indirectly obtainment of information about the six resources of the Methodology.
- Questionnaires: Questionnaires may be applied by responsible professionals to the community involved, and also to key informants of the organization, in order to collect information.

The responsible for carrying out the diagnosis may select a single method of application or combine them, in order to obtain better results on the survey of information, which will allow a better perception of the reality of project. The results of the survey must be registered, compiled and assessed, according to indicators.

SOCIALCARBON Reports

The SOCIALCARBON Report contains a brief description of the project activity, identification of social economic and environmental impacts, and presentation of results obtained with the assessment of indicators, and is the formal document which will be validated and verified by a Certifying Entity.

Criteria 3 - Monitoring

The project must be periodically monitored with SOCIALCARBON Methodology. Each monitoring period must present a new SOCIALCARBON Report.

The first diagnosis, denominated as “Zero Point”, establishes a baseline for the comparison of future situation and contributions of the project to sustainable development.

Guidance

Application of the SCM begins with the “initial diagnosis,” an assessment of baseline social, economic and environmental conditions to establish a “Zero Point” against which a project’s future contributions to sustainable development will be measured.

It is ideal that the Point Zero is carried out previously to the implementation of project or activity. However, the SOCIALCARBON Methodology may be also applied to projects already ongoing, or in case where there is no possibility of the application a priori.

For projects already in operation, it is recommended that the diagnosis is carried out based on the current situation, avoiding retroactive assessments of scenarios in previous



periods to the implementation of project. Observations about the historic and changes occurred in the past are important. However, many times, the information provided is inaccurate and results on a panorama (hexagon) with small reliability to work as comparative base.

Although the methodology can be applied at any stage in a project's development, including after the issuance of credits, project credits are only eligible for registration on the SOCIALCARBON Registry once the initial diagnosis has been completed.

An annual monitoring is recommended; however, longer periods might be accepted depending on the periodicity of verification of emission reduction.

Criteria 4 - Continual improvement of Project performance

During the periodic verifications of the SOCIALCARBON Report, the project:

- Must demonstrate perspectives of improvement and evidences that at least part of these perspectives is being developed.
- Will not be able to present decrease in the performance of the same resource two consecutive times.

The criteria of continuous improvement are only applied after the first commercialization of carbon credits.

Guidance:

SOCIALCARBON Standard is different from most of co-benefits Standards for carbon offset project because it does not establish absolute requirements for the performance of indicators, but the commitment of the project proponent to continuously improve the social-environment performance.

Thus, two organizations which develop similar activities, but have different levels of social environment performance, might both be in compliance with the requirements.

The Ecologica Institute believes that adopting rigid criteria exclude several projects, especially those developed by small organizations, so it is flexible in accepting projects that does not present high performance in social and environmental issues, as long as they demonstrate improvements during the crediting period and assure compliance with environmental and working legislation.

The SOCIALCARBON Methodology is an important tool to collect socio-economic information in carbon offset projects, allowing identify the main players, characteristics and bottlenecks that determine the project's action line in the coming years to improve the project performance.

In case the project does not demonstrate the improvement of performance expected, the project proponent will:

- a) Receive a notification of irregularity, pointing out the breaches and the deadline for adjustment.



- b) After the notification of irregularity the project developer may submit a proposal to reform the situation, left to the discretion of the Instituto Ecológica, through the SOCIALCARBON Team, decide on the relevance of the proposal.
- c) The lack of proposal within the time limit, or the rejection of the proposal presented will authorize the Instituto Ecológica to Suspension of the SOCIALCARBON certification for the project, in a temporary or permanent basis.

Criteria 5 - Independent auditing conducted through SOCIALCARBON Reports by a Certifying Entity

The SOCIALCARBON Report is validated and verified by a Certifying Entity and must::

- Be based on the assessment of compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard criteria.
- Include a local visit for the collection of information and evidences.
- Have as result the SOCIALCARBON Validation or Verification Report.

Guidance:

Validation and verification of offset projects that use the SOCIALCARBON in conjunction with another standard should preferably be consolidated into a single validation or verification procedure.



Summary of SOCIALCARBON Criteria:

Criteria	Minimum required	Complementary references and information	Documentation to be submitted
Offset Project Eligibility	Project Design Document must be validated and verified by an independent third party, based on the outside standard accepted by the SOCIALCARBON.	Because the SOCIALCARBON is a methodology for monitoring co-benefits of offset projects, it is usually used in conjunction with another standard. List of the Standards accepted is available at www.socialcarbon.org	Project Design Document or equivalent. Validation/verification reports.
Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology	Methodology must be carried out by an Accredited Organization.	Procedures for accreditation by the Ecologica Institute and list of Accredited Organizations are available at www.socialcarbon.org	-
Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology	Indicators should be set out for the six resources of the Methodology. New indicators or revision of existing indicators must be submitted to approval by the SOCIALCARBON Team.	Approved indicators are available at www.socialcarbon.org . For new indicators: Provide a description about the main project's impacts that will serve as reference to the assessment and approval of new indicators. Measurable impacts, or those which tend to vary according to the development of project, must be considered.	List of indicators to be used.
Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology	Information collection through interviews, questionnaires and/or meetings with stakeholders.	Evidences may be required by the Certifying Entity: Pictures, questionnaires, and evidences from meetings with stakeholders.	
Use of SOCIALCARBON Methodology	Elaborate SOCIALCARBON Report	Template and Guide available at: www.socialcarbon.org	SOCIALCARBON Report
Monitoring	The project must be periodically monitored. Each monitoring period must present a new SOCIALCARBON Report.	-	SOCIALCARBON Reports
Continual improvement	Must demonstrate that perspectives of improvement are being developed. Must not present decrease in the same resource two consecutive times.	In case of non-compliance, the project proponent receives a notification and the deadline for adjustment. If not attended, the Instituto Ecologica suspends the SOCIALCARBON certification for the project, in a temporary or permanent basis.	Evidences, when applicable, of the improvements.
Independent auditing of SOCIALCARBON Reports	SOCIALCARBON Report must be validated and verified by a Certifying Entity	Evidences may be required by the Certifying Entity, such as: Environmental Licenses and authorization for the Exploitation of Natural Resources; Workers Registration; evidences of interviews and meetings, among others.	SOCIALCARBON Validation or Verification Report.



Section 4 - Procedures

Pre-assessment by the SOCIALCARBON Team

Project developer or the accredit organization must send an e-mail for a prior assessment of the eligibility of the project by the SOCIALCARBON Team [info@socialcarbon.org], informing:

Project name:	
Project location:	
Project participants:	
Type of project activity (i.e. hydro, landfill, etc.):	
A PDD or equivalent has been/will be elaborated for the project?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
A PDD or equivalent complies with some standard internationally recognized?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No. Specify:
The project will be/has been validated or verified?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No. Specify:
List some of the potential social or environmental benefits of the project:	Specify:

Selection of an Accredited Organization

To ensure the quality of the SOCIALCARBON assessments, the application of the Methodology must be done through an Accredited Organization. The proponent of the project may:

- Contract one of the Accredited Organizations; or
- Become an Accredited Organization

This procedure guaranties that SOCIALCARBON concept and fundamental steps of the Methodology are being carried out by the Parties. In order to be accredited, the applicant organization should:

1. Sign the Application to Accreditation Agreement with the Ecologica Institute.
2. Apply the SOCIALCARBON Methodology in a pilot project under the supervision of the Ecologica Institute, for demonstration of capacity.

Then, the organization will be entitled to an Accreditation Certificate and be able to elaborate new indicators SOCIALCARBON Reports for their own projects or projects by third parties.

Entire procedures for accreditation by the Ecologica Institute are available at www.socialcarbon.org.



Selection and elaboration of SOCIALCARBON indicators for the Project

The Accredited Organization will select or elaborate the indicators applicable to the project for monitoring its contribution to sustainable development.

In case of elaboration of new indicators or revision of existing indicators, these must be submitted to approval by the SOCIALCARBON Team, who publishes them at the web site: www.socialcarbon.org for public consultation and after approval.

SOCIALCARBON Report (SCR) – Zero Point

The Accredited Organization with participation of the proponent of project and stakeholders will collect the necessary information for assessment of each of the indicators established to the project. It may be done by participative meetings; semi-structured interviews; or questionnaires.

Evidences, such as documents and photographic records, must be gathered for future validation and verification, whenever possible.

The information obtained is organized in the form of SOCIALCARBON Report, complying with orientations of the template and guide, available at: www.socialcarbon.org. Indexes are attributed to each of the indicators, and represented in hexagonal form for graphic representation. The initial diagnosis will work as a baseline for evaluation of the contribution of the project to sustainable development.

Validation by a Certifying Entity

Independent auditing by a third party, based on the SOCIALCARBON Report. The procedures of validation of SCR and PDD may be combined or done separately, according to availability and capability of the auditor technical team.

Periodic monitoring

The responsible Accredited Organization together with the project developer must collect the necessary information for assessment of each of the indicators established to the project periodically for elaboration of SOCIALCARBON Reports. An annual monitoring is recommended; however, longer periods might be accepted depending on the periodicity of verification of emission reduction.

From the first commercialization of the SOCIALCARBON credits, the Reports must demonstrate perspectives of improvement of performance.



Verification by a Certifying Entity

Independent auditing by a third party, based on the SOCIALCARBON Report. The procedures of verification of SCR and PDD may be combined or done separately, according to availability and capability of the auditor technical team.

Issue of SOCIALCARBON® credits

The VERs issued shall be SOCIALCARBON® after the verification of the SOCIALCARBON Report concerning considered period.

At the [SOCIALCARBON Registry](#) you have on-line access to lists and details of projects that use SOCIALCARBON®. The SOCIALCARBON Registry is managed by Markit, an Environmental Registry service used by other voluntary offset standards as well. It applies a unique serial number to each credit and enables transfer between seller and buyer, providing full reporting for inquiries regarding traceability and transparency.

Summary of SOCIALCARBON Procedures:

Conventional Project Cycle	Project Cycle with SOCIALCARBON
1 - Selection of professionals for elaboration of the PDD	Selection of an Accredited Organization – a qualified institution will carry out the application of SOCIALCARBON Methodology.
2 - Selection of baseline and monitoring methodologies	Elaboration of indicators for the Project - new indicators must be submitted to approval by the SOCIALCARBON Team.
3 - Project Design Document (PDD)	Elaboration of SOCIALCARBON Report (SCR) - through participative methods, essential data is collected to define a baseline for assessing contribution to sustainable development of the project (Point Zero).
4 - Validation	Validation by a Certifying Entity - an independent auditing, based on the SOCIALCARBON Report, is taken. Validation and verification of SCR and PDD may be combined or done separately, according to capability of the auditor technical team.
5 - Periodic monitoring	Monitoring - periodic diagnosis and generation of SOCIALCARBON Reports to demonstrate project's contributions to sustainable development. Most projects are evaluated annually.
6 - Verification	SOCIALCARBON Reports verification by a Certifying Entity
7 - Issuance of verified emission reductions (VER)	Issuance of SOCIALCARBON® VERs after the verification which may be registered on the SOCIALCARBON Registry



Annexes

Annex I – Definitions

Accreditation: attestation conducted by the Instituto Ecológica's SOCIALCARBON Team to on an organization, expressing formal demonstration of its competence to apply the SOCIALCARBON Methodology.

Certifying Entity: independent entity with responsibility for validating and verifying the SOCIALCARBON Reports.

Point Zero: presents results of the first application of the SOCIALCARBON Methodology which establishes a baseline for monitoring of the contribution of project to sustainable development.

SOCIALCARBON Concept: the carbon reduced as a result of actions that benefit and improve the living conditions for stakeholders who are involved or interact with climate changes project, in ways that strengthen the welfare and citizenship, without degrading their resources base.

SOCIALCARBON Methodology (SCM): Methodology based in the SOCIALCARBON concept which aims to ensure transparent means to measure the social and environmental gains of projects for the mitigation of climate change, through the establishment and monitoring of sustainable indicators.

SOCIALCARBON Report: Structured document which present results of the application of the SOCIALCARBON Methodology for assessment and monitoring of the project.

Annex II – SOCIALCARBON Timeline

Development of the SOCIALCARBON concept over time, and its history up until now:

1998: Development of SOCIALCARBON Concept

SOCIALCARBON concept may be defined as the carbon reduced as a result of actions that benefit and improve the living conditions for stakeholders who are involved or interact with climate changes project, in ways that strengthen the welfare and citizenship, without degrading their resources base.

2000: Development of SOCIALCARBON Methodology

Methodology based on the concept of SOCIALCARBON, which aims to guarantee a transparent means of measuring and quantifying the social and environmental gains from climate change mitigation projects, through the establishment and monitoring of sustainability indicators. Developed in 2000, the methodology is based on the Sustainable



Livelihood Approach, and considers six basic resources: Social, Human, Financial, Natural, Biodiversity and Carbon.

2003: Publication of SOCIALCARBON Book

SOCIAL CARBON: Adding value to sustainable development. Copyright© 2003 by Ecologica Institute.

2000-2008: Application of SOCIALCARBON Methodology

The methodology has been applied in different types of projects, including: assessment of social development projects, with a focus on climate mitigation and income generation for needy communities; VER projects; CDM projects; Certification and management of agro-forestry products.

2008: Publication of SOCIALCARBON Standard

Standard for carbon offset projects which use the SOCIALCARBON Methodology.

2008: Launching of SOCIALCARBON Registry

Information system bringing together all projects and VERs in the voluntary emission reduction market that have successfully completed the approval procedures set out in the follow SOCIALCARBON Standard.

2009: Update of SOCIALCARBON Standard

History of this document:

Version	Date	Main changes
Version 4.0	September, 2009	Changes to the Standard authority and administrative bodies and in text for better comprehension.
Version 3.0	May, 2009	Requirements for verification of emission reduction where excluded. SOCIALCARBON became a complementary Standard to improve co-benefits in carbon offset projects.
Version 2.0	June, 2008	Incorporation of comments of main stakeholders to the first version.
Version 1.0	May, 2008	First version.

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