



Approved Service Provider Requirements

V1.0

10 March 2023

About

Developed in 2005 in Tocantins, Brazil the SOCIALCARBON Standard was created by Ecologica Institute, a Civil Society Organisation of Public Interest (OSCIP). The SOCIALCARBON Standard was designed during the implementation of Brazil's first carbon sequestration project in the Bananal Island, with the differential of ensuring community involvement in the initiative. Since 2022, SOCIALCARBON has been managed by the Social Carbon Foundation, a UK Charitable Organisation with the mission to act in mitigating the effects of climate change through scientific research, environmental conservation, and community-based sustainability activities.

Since 2022, the SOCIALCARBON Standard has transitioned from a co-benefits standard to a full standard for nature-based solutions. We believe that climate action and nature-based solutions must include the participation of the local people or they will not be sustainable in the long-term. The transition of the SOCIALCARBON Standard into a full standard for nature-based solutions further supports our mission of scaling local action against biodiversity loss and climate change, but on a global scale. To enable this vision to become a reality, the Social Carbon Foundation develops high quality standards to facilitate market-driven mechanisms that accelerate the development of projects which deliver real results for our communities and the planet.

Intellectual Property Rights, Copyright and Disclaimer

This document contains materials, the copyright and other intellectual property rights in which are vested in Social Carbon Foundation or which appear with the consent of the copyright owner. These materials are made available for you to review and to copy for the use (the "Authorized Use") of your establishment or operation of a project under the SOCIALCARBON Standard (the "Authorized Use").

Except for the Authorized Use, all commercial use of this document is prohibited. You are not permitted to view, download, modify, copy, distribute, transmit, store, reproduce or otherwise use, publish, license, transfer, sell or create derivative works (in whatever format) from this document or any information obtained from this document otherwise than for the Authorized Use or for personal, academic or other non-commercial purposes.

All copyright and other proprietary notices contained in this document must be retained on any copy that you make. All other rights of the copyright owner not expressly dealt with above are reserved.

No representation, warranty or guarantee express or implied is made in this document. No representation, warranty or guarantee express or implied is made that the information provided is accurate, current or complete. Whilst care is taken in the collection and provision of this information, Social Carbon Foundation and its officers, employees, agents, advisers and sponsors will not be liable for any errors, omissions, misstatements or mistakes in any information or damages resulting from the use of this information or any decision made or action taken in reliance on this information.

Contents

1. Overview.....	5
2. Approval Process.....	5
Step 1: Application.....	6
Step 2: SOC estimations.....	6
Step 3: Review and Decision	7
Step 4: Onboarding	7
3. Post-approval requirements.....	8
4. Reviews and investigations.....	8
Appendix 1: document history	9

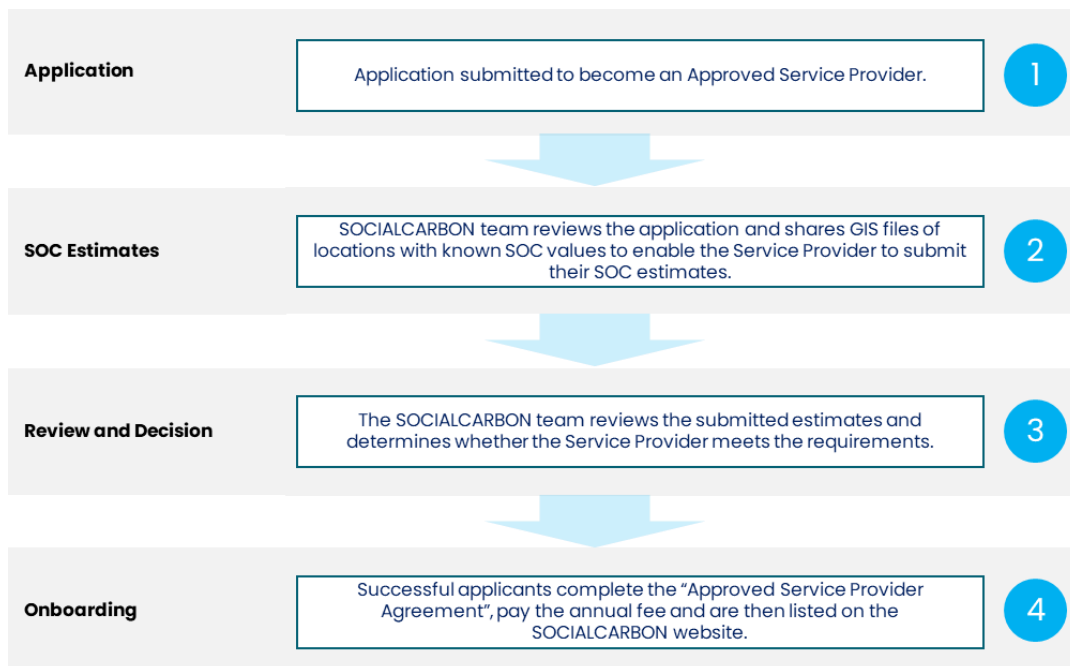
1. Overview

Significant progress has been made on SOC measurement through remote sensing over the past years. Several companies have developed proprietary methodologies to quantify SOC fluxes which are not open source. To accommodate these service providers and their clients, SOCIALCARBON is permitting these service providers to become Approved Service Providers. All SOCIALCARBON Approved Service Providers will be published on the SOCIALCARBON website. To become a SOCIALCARBON Approved Service Provider organisations must demonstrate that their approach can generate accurate estimates.

The purpose of this document is to outline to requirements and processes organisations must comply with to be registered Approved Service Providers.

This document shall be updated from time-to-time and readers should ensure they are using the most current version of the document.

2. Approval Process



Note: The Social Carbon Foundation has sole discretion to reject an application to become a SOCIALCARBON Approved Service Provider at any stage of the process without rationale.

Step 1: Application

Service Providers shall submit an application to become an Approved Service Provider to the following email address: operations@socialcarbon.org

The application form can be found on the SOCIALCARBON Website (www.socialcarbon.org/documentation).

The application form consists of the following sections:

- Details on the organisation
- Details on the team and their experience
- Details on the remote sensing approach
- Case studies demonstrating experience conducting Soil Carbon analysis using the technology
- Details on professional indemnity insurance

Applications are assessed on the following criteria:

- Completeness of the application
- Experience of the team
- Level of academic literature supporting the remote sensing approach
- Quantity and scale of case studies evidencing the application of the remote sensing approach by the Service Provider in the real world
- Evidence of professional indemnity insurance coverage of at least USD 5 million, inclusive of legal defence costs

Step 2: SOC estimations

Service Providers whose applications have passed the initial review shall be sent GIS files by the SOCIALCARBON team for specific locations in which the Soil Organic Carbon stocks have been measured and are known. Using these files, the Service Provider shall conduct an analysis on the Soil Organic Carbon stocks for each location and submit their estimates to the following email address: operations@socialcarbon.org

The estimates shall be submitted using the “*Approved Service Provider Estimates*” template made available on the SOCIALCARBON Website (www.socialcarbon.org/documentation).

This template requires details on the following:

- Data sources and parameters
- Level of uncertainty
- Estimated Soil Organic Carbon stock per area (tC)
- Calculations / links to online platforms recording the results.

Upon receipt of the SOC estimates from the Service Provider the SOCIALCARBON team will compare the estimates with the measured results.

Submissions will be assessed on the following criteria:

- Level of completeness of the document
- Are the calculations clearly documented and structured to facilitate ease of review?
- Are the results within one standard deviation of the known SOC values?

Step 3: Review and Decision

Following a review of the Service Provider’s submitted estimates, the SOCIALCARBON team will make a decision on whether they will be accepted as an Approved Service Provider.

The decision will be communicated by email from a member of the SOCIALCARBON team and will be a “Pass” or “Fail”. If the Service Provider fails the review, no detailed rationale will be provided. This is to ensure that all applicants received the same information to conduct their analysis.

Step 4: Onboarding

Service Providers that have passed will be sent the “Approved Service Provider Agreement” which must be signed and submit to the following email address:

operations@socialcarbon.org

Once signed, the Service Provider will be sent an invoice to pay the annual Approved Service Provider fee. Once payment has been received, the Service Provider will be listed on the SOCIALCARBON Website as an Approved Service Provider and will be permitted to support project proponents using SCM0005 for the specific geographic regions they have been assessed against.

In the event that SOCIALCARBON gains access to additional SOC data for different geographic regions beyond the current locations available, the Approved Service Providers will be required to submit their estimates for these locations before they can support project proponents in these additional geographic regions. The same procedures shall apply as documented above, however the Approved Service Provider will not be required to submit an application form, nor will their existing permitted geographic regions be withdrawn should they fail the assessment of a new geographic region.

3. Post-approval requirements

Projects using an Approved Service Provider must document the measurement technology applied, input parameters and service provider used. It is the responsibility of the Approved Service Provider to establish a legally enforceable agreement with the VVB and project proponent to protect their intellectual property rights and ensure confidential information (related to their methodology) is not publicly shared on the SOCIALCARBON Registry.

Any revisions to the Service Provider's methodology must be documented and shared with the Social Carbon Foundation.

4. Reviews and investigations

If sufficient evidence suggests that an Approved Service Provider is over-estimating carbon fluxes recorded by projects, the Social Carbon Foundation has full discretion to suspend their status as an Approved Service Provider until an investigation has been completed.

Appendix 1: document history

Version	Date	Comment
V1.0	10 March 2023	Initial version released.