SOCIALCARBON®

Standard Guide

V1.2

12 May 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 Charity 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.

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Contents

1.   Introduction

The SOCIALCARBON Standard is a global standard for GHG emission reduction and removal projects. The *SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide* (this document) provides the rules and requirements governing the SOCIALCARBON Standard, alongside core components and processes required to utilise the Standard. This includes details on the SOCIALCARBON Registry system, project registration process, the methodology approval process, and the accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies.

1.1 Version

This is the first version of the SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide since SOCIALCARBON has transitioned from a co-benefits standard to a full carbon standard. Subsequent editions of the document will be labelled with a version number. When the document is updated, a version control section in the appendix will clearly outline the updates made and their effective date. Stakeholders utilising the SOCIALCARBON Standard will be informed of the updates. Readers shall ensure that they are using the most current version of this and all other SOCIALCARBON Standard documents.

Previous versions of the SOCIALCARBON Standard will be available on the SOCIALCARBON website (www.socialcarbon.org) and these should be referred to for the rules and requirements under such previous versions of the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

Note that projects and Social Carbon Units (SCUs) are not labelled on the SOCIALCARBON registry with a specific version of the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

1.2 Language

The operating language of the SOCIALCARBON Standard is English. The SOCIALCARBON Standard documents may be translated into other languages to facilitate local use. However, the English versions of SOCIALCARBON Standard documents, and the interpretation of same, shall take precedence over any other language translations.

1.3 Definitions

Definitions as set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Standard Definitions* shall apply to all SOCIALCARBON Standard documentation. Note that defined terms in the SOCIALCARBON Standard documents are used without capital first letters.

2. Overview of the SOCIALCARBON standard

2.1 Standard Objectives

The SOCIALCARBON Standard establishes the rules and requirements that operationalize the *SOCIALCARBON Standard* to enable the validation of GHG projects, and the verification of GHG emission reductions and removals that can be used both in voluntary and compliance markets. The SOCIALCARBON Standard aims to:

1) Establish clear rules and procedures to enable the successful development of GHG projects, and the creation of high quality GHG credits;
2) Create a trusted and fungible GHG credit, the SCU;
3) Stimulate innovation in GHG mitigation technologies and measures as well as procedures for validation, verification and registration, all within a context of quality, credibility and transparency;
4) Provide a secure registry system for all SCUs that offers assurance against double counting and provides transparency to the public;
5) Provide oversight to ensure that investors, buyers and the market recognizes SCUs as being real, additional and permanent; and
6) Facilitate the rapid development of nature-based solutions worldwide that support local communities, protect biodiversity and tackle climate change.

2.2 History

The concept of the SOCIALCARBON Standard was created using the knowledge gained from the Bananal Island Carbon Sequestration Project; a pilot Sustainable development forestry project in Brazil in the late 90s. It became clear during this time that a carbon project must include the participation of the local people or it will not be sustainable in the long-term. Following the pilot project in 2006, SOCIALCARBON was launched as a co-benefits standard. The Standard communicates that emissions reductions result from efforts that benefit and improve living conditions for stakeholders involved in climate change projects, in ways that strengthen their welfare and civic consciousness without degrading their resources base. As of 2022 the Standard transitioned to a full Standard with a primary focus on Nature-Based Solutions.

2.3 Scope

The SOCIALCARBON Standard provides the standard and framework for independent validation of projects and verification of GHG emission reductions and removals. The scope of the SOCIALCARBON Standard covers all those activities related to the generation of GHG emission reductions and removals. The scope does not include carbon footprint assessments or carbon neutrality claims.

Participation is voluntary and based on objective criteria. The SOCIALCARBON Standard is not discriminatory to project proponents, methodology element developers, validation/verification bodies, or SCU buyers, sellers or brokers.

2.4 SOCIALCARBON Elements

SOCIALCARBON 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 change projects, in ways that strengthen the welfare and citizenship, without degrading their resources base (the 'SOCIALCARBON).

SOCIALCARBON arose from the need to develop a transparent means of measuring social gains from carbon projects. The concept was conceived in 1998 initially as a methodology for the evaluation of carbon sequestration initiatives, based on first- 2 hand experience

acquired during the development of a project on Ilha do Bananal, in the Brazilian state of Tocantins.

The SOCIALCARBON elements are:

1. Basic guidelines: for initiatives undertaken with local stakeholders;
2. 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.

2.5 Basic Guidelines

1. Centred on stakeholders perception
2. Values people's potential and resources
3. Participatory, holistic, dynamic and flexible
4. Deals with local and global issues
5. Geared towards analysis of local ecosystems and their biodiversity potential
6. Geared towards problem solving and the pursuit of sustainability
7. Strives for social inclusion and recognizes gender issues and other forms of social differences
8. Takes into account existing governmental relationships and political context

2.6 Conceptual framework

SOCIALCARBON uses the basic structure of 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]

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

It was also Scoones who developed a working system to investigate the degree of sustainability of a livelihood, applicable on various scales including 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. 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: biodiversity and carbon.

Biodiversity Resource: The combination of species, ecosystems and genes that form 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 Resource: The stock of natural resources (soil, water, air, etc.) and environmental services (soil protection, maintenance of hydrological cycles, pollution sinks, pest control, pollination, etc.), from which resources for livelihoods are derived.

Financial Resource: Basic capital in the form of cash, credit/debit and other economic goods which are available or may become available.

Human Resource: Measurable skills, knowledge, professional qualifications and health and welfare.
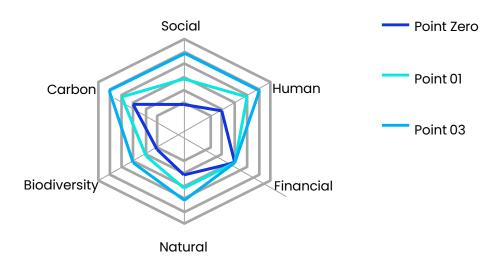
Social Resource: Working networks, social duties, social relationships, affiliations, and associations.

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

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

Schematic representation of SOCIALCARBON Resources

2.7 Documents

The rules and requirements for the SOCIALCARBON Standard are set out in the Standard documents. Projects and methodologies shall meet with all the applicable rules and requirements set out in these documents.

The *SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide* is the overarching document, providing the rules and requirements governing the SOCIALCARBON Standard, alongside core components and processes required to utilise the Standard. This includes details on the SOCIALCARBON Registry system, project registration process, the methodology approval process, and the accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies. Complementing the *SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide* are requirements documents, procedural documents and templates and forms. Social Carbon Foundation may issue new documents, as developments in the SOCIALCARBON Standard require. The complete and current list of the Standard documents are available on the SOCIALCARBON website (www.socialcarbon.org).

In addition to the *SOCIALCARBON Standard Guide*, the additional documents include, but are not limited to:

1) Requirements Documents

    a) *SOCIALCARBON Standard*. Provides the requirements for developing projects and for the validation and verification process.

b) *Methodology Requirements*. Provides the requirements for developing new methodologies.

c) *Standard Definitions*. Provides the definitions for terms used in the SOCIALCARBON Standard documents.

d) *Fee Schedule*. Provides the fees related to the various parts of the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

2) Procedural Documents

a) *Registration and Issuance Process.* Provides the procedures and rules for registering projects and issuing SCUs.

b) *Methodology Approval Process.* Provides the procedures and rules for approval of SOCIALCARBON Standard methodology elements.

c) *AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool.* Provides the procedure for conducting non-permanence risk analysis and buffer determination for AFOLU projects.

3) Templates and Forms

a) *SOCIALCARBON Standard Templates.* Templates for project descriptions, validation reports, monitoring reports, verification reports and methodologies.

b) *Representations Templates.* Templates for deeds of representation made by project proponents and validation/verification bodies.

The Standard documents are also complemented by a number of guidance documents. These guidance documents do not set out SOCIALCARBON Standard rules and requirements, but they provide additional information to assist with the interpretation of the rules and requirements. It is strongly encouraged that such guidance is followed.

2.8 Roles and Responsibilities

2.8.1 Project Proponents

Project proponents are the entities with overall control and responsibility for projects. A project may have one project proponent, or there may be a number of project proponents who collectively have overall control and responsibility for a project. Project proponents establish and operate projects in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. They are responsible for providing the project description, monitoring report and supporting

documentation (including evidence of project and carbon ownership) to facilitate validation and verification.

Project proponents sign unilateral representations with respect to their projects and SCUs, and these are made available on the SOCIALCARBON registry. Project proponents assume limited liability for replacement of excess SCUs, as set out in Section 4.2.

2.8.2 Methodology Element Developers

Methodology element developers are entities that develop methodologies, methodology revisions, modules and tools that are subject to the methodology approval process.

2.8.3 Validation/Verification Bodies

Validation/verification bodies are accredited to:

1) Validate projects and verify GHG emission reductions and removals.

2) Assess methodology elements under the methodology approval process.

Validation/verification bodies are only eligible to carry out work for the sectoral scopes for validation and verification for which they hold accreditation and must sign the required agreement with Social Carbon Foundation before they can perform validation or verification in connection with the SOCIALCARBON Standard. The list of validation / verification bodies is available on the SOCIALCARBON website.

2.8.4 SOCIALCARBON Registry

The SOCIALCARBON registry is responsible for ensuring that all required project documents have been submitted to Social Carbon Foundation; issuing and maintaining accounts of SCUs for accountholders; ensuring the seamless flow of SCUs throughout the entire SOCIALCARBON registry system and maintaining custody and records of SCU legal ownership.

2.8.5 SCU Buyers, Sellers and Brokers

Buyers, sellers and brokers are companies, organisation s or individuals who transact SCUs or facilitate the transaction of SCUs.

2.8.6 Social Carbon Foundation

The SOCIALCARBON Standard is managed by Social Carbon Foundation, which is an independent, charitable organisation incorporated in the United Kingdom. The Social Carbon Foundation is responsible for managing, overseeing and developing the Standard. It maintains an impartial position in the market and does not develop projects, nor does it provide validation, verification or consulting services. The Social Carbon Foundation also reserves the right to develop new methodologies without needing to go through the Methodology Approval Process. However, all methodologies developed by Social Carbon Foundation must be supported by robust scientific data and have input from relevant subject matter experts.

One of Social Carbon Foundation's roles is in respect of overseeing and ensuring the integrity of projects and SCUs in the SOCIALCARBON registry system. Social Carbon Foundation conducts reviews of project registration and SCU issuance requests. Social Carbon Foundation is also responsible for overseeing the validation/verification bodies operating under the SOCIALCARBON Standard. Where Social Carbon Foundation identifies shortcomings in a validation/verification body's performance, it may provide feedback and require the validation/verification body to address non-conformities.

Social Carbon Foundation reserves the right not to register projects, or issue SCUs where it deems that they are not in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules or may otherwise impact the integrity of the SOCIALCARBON Standard or the functioning of the broader carbon market, and to delist projects and SCUs where it deems that they have not been registered or issued in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. Social Carbon Foundation also reserves the right to take action against validation/verification bodies in accordance with the provisions set out in the agreements signed with Social Carbon Foundation. The rights and obligations for validation / verification bodies are set out in such agreements.

Social Carbon Foundation is also responsible for managing the methodology approval process for 3rd party developed methodologies, and it reserves the right to not accept methodology elements into the process, not approve methodology elements, or review and update, put on hold or withdraw approved methodology elements where it deems that they are not in compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules, would sanction

politically or ethically contentious project activities, or may otherwise impact the integrity of the SOCIALCARBON Standard or the functioning of the broader carbon market.

Social Carbon Foundation may convene steering committees, advisory committees or working groups to support its work in specific areas. These groups draw in expertise from outside the organisation to develop and support specific elements of the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

3. SOCIALCARBON standard criteria for GHG projects

All projects shall meet the requirements set out in the *SOCIALCARBON Version 6* documents.

GHG emission reductions and removals verified under the SOCIALCARBON Standard and issued as SCUs shall meet the following principles:

Real

All GHG emission reductions and removals and the projects that generate them must be proven to have genuinely taken place.

Measurable

All GHG emission reductions and removals must be quantifiable using recognized measurement tools (including adjustments for uncertainty and leakage) against a credible emissions baseline.

Permanent

Where GHG emission reductions or removals are generated by projects that carry a risk of reversibility, adequate safeguards must be in place to ensure that the risk of reversal is minimized and that, should any reversal occur, a mechanism is in place that guarantees the reductions or removals will be replaced or compensated.

Additional

GHG emission reductions and removals must be additional to what would have happened under a business-as-usual scenario if the project had not been carried out.

Independently Audited

All GHG emission reductions and removals must be verified to a reasonable level of assurance by an accredited validation/verification body with the expertise necessary in both the country and sector in which the project is taking place.

Unique

Each SCU must be unique and must only be associated with a single GHG emission reduction or removal activity. There must be no double counting, or double claiming of the environmental benefit, in respect of the GHG emission reductions or removals.

Transparent

There must be sufficient and appropriate public disclosure of GHG-related information to allow intended users to make decisions with reasonable confidence.

Conservative

Conservative assumptions, values and procedures must be used to ensure that the GHG emission reductions or removals are not over-estimated.

4. SOCIALCARBON Registry

The SOCIALCARBON registry provides the public interface to all project and SCU information. The SOCIALCARBON registry provides full transparency on project documentation, together with information on project proponents, SCU issuances and retirements.

The SOCIALCARBON registry provides accountholder services and is the entry point into the registry system for project proponents, and SCU buyers and sellers. Such market

participants open an account with the SOCIALCARBON registry and project registration and SCU issuance is initiated with the SOCIALCARBON registry.
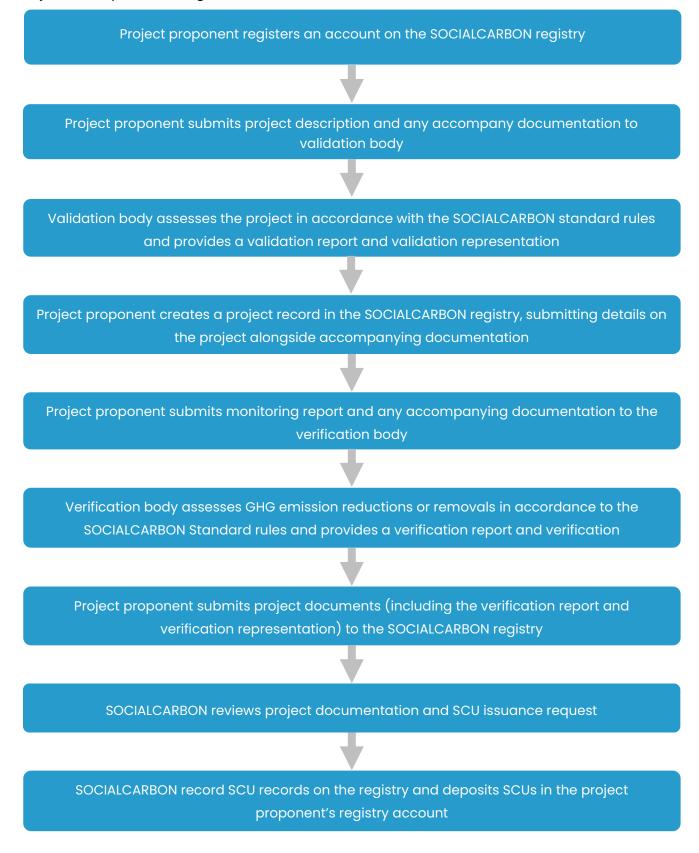
The SOCIALCARBON registry is responsible for ensuring that projects are registered and SCUs are issued in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules; providing services for holding, transferring and retiring SCUs; managing AFOLU buffer credits; and providing custodial services for SCUs and maintaining records of SCU legal ownership.

Project proponents (or other eligible entities, as set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard documents *Registration and Issuance Process*) request listing and registration of projects, and SCU issuance, with the SOCIALCARBON registry. The following diagram on page 18 summarises the project life cycle and registration process. Once the project has been validated and the GHG emission reductions or removals verified, the project proponent submits the relevant documents to the SOCIALCARBON registry. Social Carbon Foundation conducts a completeness review of the documents and may conduct a further accuracy review to assess compliance with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules. Where it is determined that the project complies with the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules, Social Carbon Foundation uploads the documents to the public SOCIALCARBON registry and issues SCUs into the project proponent's account. Note that validation and verification may be undertaken simultaneously, with registration and issuance of the SCUs occurring at the same time, or validation may occur before verification, with registration occurring before any subsequent issuance of SCUs.

SOCIALCARBON®

Project Life Cycle and Registration Process

Project proponent registers an account on the SOCIALCARBON registry

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Project proponent submits project description and any accompany documentation to validation body

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Validation body assesses the project in accordance with the SOCIALCARBON standard rules and provides a validation report and validation representation

↓

Project proponent creates a project record in the SOCIALCARBON registry, submitting details on the project alongside accompanying documentation

↓

Project proponent submits monitoring report and any accompanying documentation to the verification body

↓

Verification body assesses GHG emission reductions or removals in accordance to the SOCIALCARBON Standard rules and provides a verification report and verification

↓

Project proponent submits project documents (including the verification report and verification representation) to the SOCIALCARBON registry

↓

SOCIALCARBON reviews project documentation and SCU issuance request

↓

SOCIALCARBON record SCU records on the registry and deposits SCUs in the project proponent's registry account
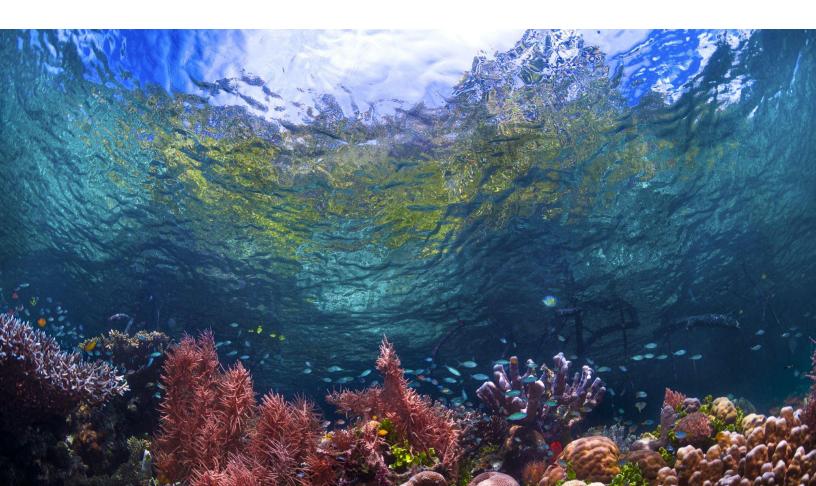
4.1 SOCIALCARBON Standard Fees

Social Carbon Foundation charges fees to cover administration costs, at the rates set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Fee Schedule*.

4.2 SCU Liability and Statute of Limitations

Registered projects and issued SCUs are subject to review by Social Carbon Foundation, as set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Registration and Issuance Process*. Project proponents are responsible for compensating for excess SCU issuance where Social Carbon Foundation deems, acting reasonably, that there has been a material erroneous issuance of SCUs in respect of a project, as a result of the fraudulent conduct, negligence, intentional act, recklessness, misrepresentation or mistake of the project proponent. A statute of limitations applies, whereby Social Carbon Foundation can only require such compensation in relation to any verification completed after 3 January 2022 and up to the later of:

1) 6 years after the date of issuance of the relevant SCU; or

2) 12 months after the date upon which any second verification report with respect to the relevant SCU is accepted on the SOCIALCARBON registry.

5. SOCIALCARBON Standard accreditation

Validation/verification bodies are eligible to provide validation and verification services under the SOCIALCARBON Standard if they have signed the required agreement with Social Carbon Foundation and are:

1) Accredited under ISO 14064-3 and ISO 14065 by an accreditation body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum; or

2) Approved under a SOCIALCARBON-approved GHG program such as the United Nations Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) as a Designated Operational Entity (DOE).

The validation/verification body shall hold such accreditation or approval for validation or verification (as applicable) for the sectoral scope(s) applicable to the methodology applied to the project. Where the methodology falls under more than one sectoral scope, the validation/verification body shall hold accreditation or approval for validation or verification (as applicable) for all relevant sectoral scopes.

Where the validation/verification body holds accreditation or approval for the verification for the relevant sectoral scope(s) but does not hold accreditation or approval for validation, it may validate project description deviations and inclusion of new project activity instances in grouped projects at the time of verification, under the following circumstances:

It holds accreditation or approval for validation in at least one other sectoral scope.

It has completed validation of at least five projects under the SOCIALCARBON Standard or an approved GHG program, and such projects have been registered under the relevant program.

The validation activity does not entail the validation of a project description deviation that impacts the applicability of the methodology, additionality or the appropriateness of the baseline scenario (see the *SOCIALCARBON Standard* for further information on such deviations).

Validation/verification bodies are also eligible to conduct assessments (validation) of methodology elements under the methodology approval process. The validation/verification body shall hold accreditation for validation for the sectoral scope(s) applicable to the methodology. Where the methodology falls under more than one sectoral scope, the validation/verification body shall hold accreditation for validation for all relevant sectoral scopes.

To apply to become an approved validation/verification body with the SOCIALCARBON Standard, organisations must complete a *Social Carbon Foundation Validation/Verification Body Application Form* and submit the signed application, along with any supporting evidence (as required by the application) to operations@socialcarbon.org.

A list of validation/verification bodies approved to undertake validation and verification services under the SOCIALCARBON Standard is available on the SOCIALCARBON website (www.socialcarbon.org).

6. Methodology Approval Process

The methodology approval process is the process by which new methodologies, methodology revisions, modules and tools (referred to in this document as "methodologies") created by 3rd parties are approved under the SOCIALCARBON Standard. Such methodology elements are subject to review by Social Carbon Foundation and independent assessment by one validation / verification body, before final approval by Social Carbon Foundation.

The full rules and requirements for methodology elements with respect to the methodology approval process are set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Methodology Approval Process*.

6.1 Review of Approved SOCIALCARBON Methodology Elements

Social Carbon Foundation may periodically review methodology elements approved under the SOCIALCARBON Standard to ensure they continue to reflect best practice and scientific consensus.

This includes ensuring that methodology elements approved under the Standard are consistent with any new requirements issued by Social Carbon Foundation and that methodology elements have appropriate criteria and procedures for addressing all SOCIALCARBON Standard requirements and are consistent with emerging best practice and scientific consensus. As a result, Social Carbon Foundation may need to update, put on hold or withdraw a methodology element. The procedure through which Social Carbon Foundation may review approved SOCIALCARBON Standard methodology elements and take appropriate action is set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Methodology Approval Process*.

6.2 Compensation for Methodology Developers

Methodology developers are eligible to receive compensation for methodologies approved under the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

Compensation will be paid according to the number of SCUs issued to projects using the methodology or a revision of the methodology, at the rate and in accordance with the payment terms set out in the SOCIALCARBON Standard document *Fee Schedule*. Compensation is payable with respect to SCUs issued on or after 03 January 2022. Methodology developers may elect not to receive compensation by notifying Social Carbon Foundation at any time.

Where Social Carbon Foundation sanctions the consolidation of a number of methodologies, the compensation due to the developer of the consolidated methodology and the underlying methodologies respectively will be determined on a case-by-case basis by Social Carbon Foundation.

Where an eligible methodology is withdrawn or put on hold, compensation remains payable in respect of continuing issuance of SCUs to registered projects that have applied the methodology or a revision of the methodology.

Only methodologies developed under the SOCIALCARBON Standard methodology approval process are eligible for the compensation mechanism. Developers of methodology revisions, modules and tools are not compensated under the mechanism.

Note – Project proponents pay the same SCU issuance levy regardless of the methodology applied to the project. Social Carbon Foundation pays any compensation to the methodology developer out of the SCU issuance levy it receives.

7. Linking to other GHG programs

To recognize work that has gone into developing other credible GHG programs, the SOCIALCARBON Standard has a process for approving GHG programs that meet SOCIALCARBON Standard criteria. A GHG program shall demonstrate compliance with SOCIALCARBON Standard principles and requirements through a gap analysis and the Social Carbon Foundation Board will make the final decision on whether to approve the GHG program. Approval of a GHG program under the SOCIALCARBON Standard has three implications:

GHG credits under the approved GHG program may be cancelled and issued as SCUs (converted into SCUs).

Validation/verification bodies under the approved GHG program are approved for validation and verification under the SOCIALCARBON Standard (for the corresponding sectoral scopes for validation and verification respectively and provided they have signed the required agreement with Social Carbon Foundation).

Methodology elements under the approved GHG program may be used for developing projects under the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

The list of approved GHG programs is available on the SOCIALCARBON website, together with any specific conditions or further clarifications with respect to the scope of approval.

7.1 Gap Analysis Methodology and Process

The approval of other GHG programs is based on the principle of full compatibility with the SOCIALCARBON Standard. A gap analysis process is applied on a case-by-case basis to determine the other GHG program's compliance with SOCIALCARBON Standard principles and requirements and to assess whether the GHG emission reductions or removals issued under the GHG Program are fully compatible with SCUs issued under the SOCIALCARBON Standard.

Any party may initiate a gap analysis of another GHG program with the SOCIALCARBON Standard. All relevant documentation in relation to the GHG program shall be provided to Social Carbon Foundation, with appropriate authorisation secured.

The onus is on the GHG program to demonstrate that it meets the SOCIALCARBON Standard criteria. The costs of the assessment are borne by the GHG program or whoever initiates the gap analysis.

Based on the gap analysis report, the Social Carbon Foundation Board will make a decision on whether to approve the full GHG program or elements of the program.

7.2 Review of SOCIALCARBON Standard-Approved GHG Programs

Approved GHG programs are reviewed periodically by Social Carbon Foundation. Any changes made by an approved GHG program which may affect its compatibility with the SOCIALCARBON Standard shall be communicated immediately to the Social Carbon Foundation. In the event that it is considered that the changes lead to non-conformity with the SOCIALCARBON Standard, the Social Carbon Foundation Board may decide to suspend or terminate its recognition of the approved GHG program. Any projects approved under the GHG program prior to such Social Carbon Foundation Board decision will not be affected by the suspension or termination.

8. Complaints and Appeals Procedure

Project proponents, validation/verification bodies, methodology element developers and other stakeholders (including interested stakeholders) may submit enquiries to Social Carbon Foundation at any time. In addition, the SOCIALCARBON Standard provides a complaints and appeals procedure as set out in the Social Carbon Foundation *Appeals, Complaints and Conduct Policy* available on the SOCIALCARBON website.

Appendix 1: document history

Version	Date	Comment
V1.0	03 Jan 2022	Initial version released under SOCIALCARBON Version 6.0.
V1.1	05 Dec 2022	Revision to section 5 to provide additional clarity on "accredited under the SOCIALCARBON Standard"
V1.2	12 May 2023	Inclusion of content to align with additional requirements of the SOCIALCARBON Standard v6.1