



SOCIALCARBON®

SOCIALCARBON v5.0  
Transition Guidance.

Version 1.1

socialcarbon.



## SOCIALCARBON v5.0 Transition Guidance

For 15 years SOCIALCARBON has been a recognised co-benefits standard promoting the social and biodiversity benefits of carbon projects. Following extensive conversations with project developers and reviewing the current state of the voluntary carbon market, we have made the decision to become a full standard – SOCIALCARBON v6. We are remaining true to our roots and ensuring projects consider broader components of a Nature-Based Solution beyond carbon, whilst also striving to provide industry-leading carbon methodologies that deliver real carbon reductions / removals.

This change will have an impact on all existing project developers and VVBs currently using the SOCIALCARBON Standard v5.0 for co-benefits. This document provides guidance for existing project developers and VVBs using the SOCIALCARBON standard during this transition.

### 1. Transition Period

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 SOCIALCARBON will be exclusively a full standard. After which, no projects will be able to certify against the historic SOCIALCARBON co-benefits Standard (Version 5.0) for vintages after 2023.

### 2. Implications for Project Developers

- No vintages dated after 2023 can be issued under SOCIALCARBON Standard v5.0 (Co-Benefits).
- Vintages from 2023 and prior can still be issued with the SOCIALCARBON Standard v5.0. This will apply even if the voluntary carbon units are issued after 2023.
- All historical credits with a vintage of 2023 or prior will be able to maintain their SOCIALCARBON v5.0 co-benefits label.

Projects using VCS, Gold Standard or CDM, are able to transfer their projects to the new Standard and convert their existing units to SOCIALCARBON Units (SCUs) starting from the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2022. Please review the “Registration and Issuance Process” and the

“SCU conversion guidance document” for details on this process. **You will incur no cost by SOCIALCARBON to transition a project to the full standard** and converting units to SCUs. The only fee associated with the process will be the annual registry fee.

If you have been developing new SOCIALCARBON indicators, these will still be eligible under the new Standard v6.0.

### **Why transition your project and convert your units to SCUs?**

SOCIALCARBON v6.0 alongside its accompanying governance, has been designed to provide a leading international standard that is more cost effective, lowers barriers to entry and embeds co-benefits into the project design by default. The Standard will utilise the most advanced technology in the industry to improve the transparency of your project and better support project developers in delivering their projects.

### **3. Implications for Validation / Verification Bodies (VVBs)**

All VVBs accredited under the old SOCIALCARBON Standard (v5.0) will only be able to validate / verify VCU vintages from 2023 and prior.

Given that the new Standard has evolved considerably from the previous standard, all VVBs previously accredited must reapply for accreditation under the new Standard v6.0 to be eligible to audit projects under the new version of the standard. To do so, please review the latest SOCIALCARBON [documentation](#), [fee schedule](#) and submit a VVB application. If your application is accepted, a VVB agreement must be signed and an annual fee will be charged.

If you have any questions or would like to talk to a member of our team, please email us on [info@socialcarbon.org](mailto:info@socialcarbon.org).