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# **GUIDELINES FOR CLUSTERING OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS**

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Draft Ver0.1



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**CARBON REGISTRY-INDIA  
NETWORK FOR CERTIFICATION AND  
CONSERVATION OF FORESTS**

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## ABBREVIATIONS

Complete list of shall be provided with the final version of the document. For quick reference kindly refer the following:

- CR-I: Carbon Registry-India
- CS: Carbon Standard
- DE: Delegate Entity
- DPR: Detailed Project Report
- EP: External Project
- IMD: Independent Methodology Developer
- IPP: Independent Project Proponent
- MAP: Methodology Approval Procedure
- MR: Monitoring Report
- PoA: Programme of Activity
- PC: Project Cluster
- RIP: Registration and Issuance Procedure
- SCR: Stakeholder Consultation Report
- VVB: Validation and Verification Body
- VVS: Validation and Verification Standard

## 1. Introduction

An essential provision of Carbon Registry-India (hereby referred to as the registry) is aggregation of several individual micro-scale and/or small-scale projects which allows proposed micro-scale and/or small-scale projects to be validated, registered and subsequently verified as one single project, known as the Project Cluster (PC) without the loss of identity of each project combined in PC.

Clustering of Individual Projects is intended to lead to:

- Reduction in the compliance cost associated with registration of project, issuance of MCUs and other processes of the registry.
- Ease and brevity of communication between IPPs and NCCF by appointment of a Delegate Entity on behalf of, and to represent all the IPPs.
- Improved and easier though robust process of validation of proposed projects and verification of monitoring of registered projects aggregated in the Project Cluster.
- Enhanced consistency and improved quality and monitoring of clustered micro and small-scale projects being registered and operated under CR-I.

## 2. Terms and Definitions

The definitions of terms applicable under the registry have been made available in the Glossary of Terms document, developed separately. Apart from that, the following definitions apply within this document:

- “Shall”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the standard.
- “Should”: indicates that among several possibilities one is recommended as particularly suitable, without mentioning or excluding others, or that a certain course of action is preferred but not necessarily required. A certification body can meet these requirements in an equivalent way provided this can be demonstrated and justified.
- “May”: indicates a course of action permissible within the limits of the document.

## 3. Scope and Applicability

### 3.1. Scope

- 3.1.1. The guidelines establish rules, requirements and procedures for aggregation of individual micro-scale and/or small-scale projects capable of being bundled and viewed as a Project Cluster (PC).
- 3.1.2. The rules, requirements and procedures established in the document are additional to rules and requirements established in Carbon Standard and Validation and Verification Standard.

### 3.2. Applicability

- 3.2.1. The guidelines shall be applicable, as appropriate for the usage at the following stages:
  - i) Design, development of proposed PC by IPP for its subsequent validation and registration.
  - ii) Implementation and Monitoring of registered PC by the IPP, and for verification, certification and issuance of GHG emission reduction and/or removal units.
  - iii) Independent evaluation by an accredited VVB during Validation of individual projects of the proposed PC for determining the appropriateness of the design and other related elements, and also Independent evaluation of the PC by an accredited VVB during Verification, for determining the appropriateness of the implementation and monitoring of individual projects of the registered PC and resulting units of GHG emissions reduction and/or removals.

## 4. Clustering of Individual Projects

### 4.1. Overarching Guidelines with Rules, Requirements

- 4.1.1. Each individual project of the Cluster shall comply with the rules and requirements established in the Carbon Standard.
- 4.1.2. Each PC shall comply with the rules and requirements and adhere to guidelines being established in Section 4 of this document.
- 4.1.3. Each PC may be one of the following:

- i) Project cluster comprising only micro-scale projects
- ii) Project cluster comprising only small-scale projects
- iii) Project cluster comprising mix of both micro-scale and small-scale projects.

4.1.4. The registry shall allow individual projects to be clustered only when;

- i) Each individual Project is of the same sectoral scope and;
- ii) Each individual Project utilises the same methodology or methodologies and;
- iii) Each individual Project utilises the same technology and measures

4.1.5. IPPs shall submit a written agreement containing consent of all the IPPs to aggregate individual project(s) for submission as a Project Cluster for registration and subsequent issuance of MCUs by the registry.

4.1.6. IPPs shall decide upon a Delegate Entity (DE), *i.e.*, select an IPP amongst them which shall open account with the registry, and shall be responsible for communication with the VVBs and NCCF on behalf of all individual IPPs. MCUs issued shall be credited to the account of the DE, which shall maintain and disclose the share of each individual project in the aggregate MCUs.

4.1.7. DE shall ensure that neither of the individual projects or part thereof, included in the proposed PC, is registered or in the process of being registered with CR-I or any other GHG programme.

## **4.2. Specific Rules and Requirements**

4.2.1. The composition of the PC, pre and post registration shall remain the same, *i.e.*, there shall be no addition or omission of an individual project post registration of the PC.

4.2.2. IPP shall prepare and submit a single Detailed Project Report (DPR) and Stakeholder Consultation Report (SCR) using the templates provided on the registry website. IPP shall further adhere to instructions provided in the template for preparation of DPR and SCR.

4.2.3. PC shall have unique reference number as generated by the IT Registry System and individual projects shall not have any separate unique reference number(s).

4.2.4. IPP shall be liable to pay fees in accordance with the CR-I fee schedule (*document being prepared separately*)

### **Crediting Period**

- 4.2.5. Each individual project shall have the same crediting type and period.

### **Project Scale**

- 4.2.6. Each individual project shall demonstrate conformance with the project scale, *i.e.*, individual projects shall not exceed the limit of net GHG emissions reduction as established by the Sub-section 9.5 of the Carbon Standard.
- 4.2.7. In a scenario, where an individual project may exceed the registered limit in a monitoring period, the MCUs issued shall be of the max limit of Net GHG emissions reduction allowed as per the defined project scale.
- 4.2.8. PP shall mention the estimated net GHG emissions reduction (in tCO<sub>2e</sub>) aggregate and average taken per year separately for individual projects and PC.

### **Baseline Scenario**

- 4.2.9. IPP may utilise the same baseline scenario for all the projects in the PC provided that IPPs justify the baseline in each individual project separately as per the rules and requirements mentioned in Sub-section 9.11 of Carbon Standard.

### **Additionality**

- 4.2.10. Each Individual Project shall demonstrate additionality of the project as per the rules and requirements mentioned in the Sub-section 9.12 of Carbon Standard.

### **Monitoring Approach**

- 4.2.11. IPPs may propose and adhere to a common monitoring approach provided that IPPs justify it separately for each individual project in the PC.
- 4.2.12. IPPs shall prepare and submit a single Monitoring Report (MR) for all the individual projects in the PC with net GHG emissions reduction mentioned separately for each individual project and the PC for the Monitoring Period for which the MR is prepared.

### **External Project**

- 4.2.13. If the proposed PC or an individual project under the proposed PC is an External Project, the IPPs shall adhere to rules and requirements of EP established in Section 15 of the Carbon Standard.



## **Validation**

- 4.2.14. A single accredited VVB shall conduct impartial evaluation for validation of the PC as per the rules and requirements established in the guidelines and, Validation and Verification Standard.
- 4.2.15. VVB shall ensure that the individual projects aggregated in the PC are not registered individually, or as a part of any other PC registered or in process of being registered with the registry, not registered or in process of being registered in any other similar programmes such as Clean Development Mechanism, Verified Carbon Standard, Plan Vivo, *etc.*
- 4.2.16. The VVB shall produce and submit a single validation report for all individual projects aggregated in the PC.
- 4.2.17. Rejection of one individual project in the proposed PC during validation shall lead to rejection of the entire PC.

## **Permanent Design Changes**

- 4.2.18. Design changes in individual project of the PC shall be in accordance with the rules and requirements established in the Section 10 of the Carbon Standard.
- 4.2.19. Permanent Design Changes (PDC) shall be validated as per the rules and requirements established in the Section 14 of Validation and Verification Standard.
- 4.2.20. VVB shall produce and submit a single validation report for PDC in the PC.

## **Verification**

- 4.2.21. A single accredited VVB shall conduct impartial evaluation for verification of PC as per the rules and requirements established in the guidelines and, Validation and Verification Standard.
- 4.2.22. The VVB shall produce and submit a single verification report for individual projects aggregated in the PC.
- 4.2.23. MCUs shall be issued for the PC in the account of the Delegate Entity after the approval of the verification report by the NCCF.

## Document History

Version	Date	Description
Draft Ver0.0	24.09.2019	CR-I Guidelines for Clustering of Individual Projects provide rules, requirements and guidance for aggregation of Individual Projects to be considered as one single Project Cluster under the purview of CR-I.
Draft Ver0.1	09.01.2020	Adopted after Changes made during comprehensive internal reviews and feedback received from Chairman and Chief Coordinator, Carbon Registry-India