



GUIDELINES FOR CLUSTERING OF INDIVIDUAL PROJECTS

Ver 1.0

Published on September 16, 2021

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*Carbon Registry - India, **Carving real impacts***

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ABBREVIATIONS

CPA:	Component Project Activity
CR-I:	Carbon Registry-India
CS:	Carbon Standard
DE:	Delegate Entity
DPD:	Detailed Project Document
EP:	External Project
IMD:	Independent Methodology Developer
IPP:	Independent Project Proponent
MAP:	Methodology Approval Procedure
MCU:	Marketable Carbon Unit
MR:	Monitoring Report
NCCF:	Network for Certification and Conservation of Forests
PA:	Project Activity
PDC:	Permanent Design Changes
PoA:	Programme of Activity
PC:	Project Cluster
RIP:	Registration and Issuance Procedure
SCR:	Stakeholder Consultation Report
VaR:	Validation Report
VeR:	Verification 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.

Guidelines for Clustering of Individual Projects (the guidelines) are 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 (DE) 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 the registry.

2. Terms and Definitions

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

“Shall”: indicates requirements strictly to be followed in order to conform to the document.

“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 combined 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 (CS), Validation and Verification Standard (VVS) and any other regulatory document applicable.

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(s) for its subsequent validation and registration.
 - ii) Implementation and Monitoring of registered PC by the IPP(s), and for verification, certification and issuance of GHG emissions reduction and/or removal units.
 - iii) Independent evaluation by an empanelled 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 empanelled 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 enhancement.

4. Clustering of Individual Projects

4.1. Overarching Guidelines with Rules, Requirements and Procedures

- 4.1.1. Each individual project of the PC shall comply with the rules and requirements established in the CS.
- 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) PC comprising only micro-scale projects
 - ii) PC comprising only small-scale projects
 - iii) PC 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 set of methodologies and;
 - iii) Each individual project utilises the same technology and measures.
- 4.1.5. IPP(s) shall submit during listing of project, validation and registration, a written agreement containing consent of all the IPP(s) to aggregate and combine individual project(s) for submission as a PC for registration and subsequent issuance of MCUs by the registry.
- 4.1.6. IPP(s) shall decide upon a Delegate Entity (DE), *i.e.*, select an IPP amongst them which shall have an IPP account with the registry, and shall be responsible for overall coordination and management of project, and 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 the registry or any other GHG programme. However, complete PC may be classified as External Project as per the rules and requirements of Section 11 of the Carbon Standard (CS)
- 4.1.8. DE shall establish using appropriate evidence that proposed PC (and individual projects) is not a large-scale project fragmented and combined in/as a PC.

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(s) shall prepare and submit a single Detailed Project Document (DPD) 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 DPD 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 referencenumber(s).
- 4.2.4. IPP(s) shall be liable to pay fees in accordance with the CR-I fee schedule
- 4.2.5. For the intent of registration fee as defined in CR-I fee schedule, the following shall be applicable:
 - (i) PC comprising of only micro-scale projects shall be considered as micro-scale project
 - (ii) PC comprising of only small-scale projects shall be considered as small-scale project

Crediting Period

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

Project Scale

- 4.2.7. 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.
- 4.2.8. 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.
- 4.2.9. IPP(s) shall mention the in DPD and MR, the estimated net GHG emissions reduction (in tCO_{2e}) aggregate and average taken per year separately for individual projects and PC.

Baseline Scenario

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

Additionality

4.2.11. Each Individual Project shall demonstrate additionality of all the individual projects as per the rules and requirements mentioned in the Sub-section 9.12 of Carbon Standard.

Monitoring Approach

4.2.12. IPP(s) should propose and adhere to a common monitoring approach provided that IPPs justify it separately for each individual project in the PC.

4.2.13. IPP(s) 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

4.2.14. If the proposed PC or an individual project under the proposed PC is an External Project, the IPP(s) shall adhere to rules and requirements of EP established in Section 11 of the Carbon Standard.

Validation

4.2.15. A single empanelled VVB shall conduct impartial evaluation for validation of the PC as per the rules and requirements established in the guidelines, VVS and any other regulatory document, as applicable.

4.2.16. 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.*

4.2.17. The VVB shall produce and submit a single validation report (VaR) for all individual projects aggregated in the PC.

4.2.18. Rejection of one individual project in the proposed PC during validation shall lead to rejection of the entire PC.

Permanent Design Changes

- 4.2.19. Design changes in individual project of the PC shall be in accordance with the rules and requirements established in the Section 12 of the CS.
- 4.2.20. Permanent Design Changes (PDC) shall be validated as per the rules and requirements established in the Section 16 of VVS.
- 4.2.21. VVB shall produce and submit a single VaR for PDC in the PC.

Verification

- 4.2.22. A single empanelled VVB shall conduct impartial evaluation for verification of PC as per the rules and requirements established in the guidelines, VVS and any other regulatory document, as applicable.
- 4.2.23. The VVB shall produce and submit a single Verification Report (VeR) for individual projects aggregated in the PC.
- 4.2.24. MCUs shall be issued for the PC in the account of the DE after the approval of the VeR by the NCCF.

Document History

Version	Date	Description
Version 1.0	16.09.2021	Initial Publication