

# **RESTART ENERGY DEMOCRACY**

## **CARBON STANDARD**

### **Independent Validation and Verification Body Accreditation and Re-Accreditation Procedure**

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## ABOUT US

RED Carbon Standard stands for Restart Energy Democracy Carbon Standard and is an independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market, first of this kind, from Romania. We certify green projects such as renewables, agriculture, forestry, energy efficiency, hydrogen, enabling them to get tokenized carbon credits on the RED Platform Application, thus actively contributing to the attainment of net-zero carbon emissions.

At RED, we believe that God is the Creator of the Universe, the Earth, and its vegetation, and that God is the Source of all Life on Earth and in the Universe. We believe that we are all children of God, no matter what nationality, race, or gender. We also believe that God's Love for His children is so great that He sent His Son, Jesus Christ, to guide and save us.

It is, therefore, our responsibility to take care of the Earth and all living creatures on it, to preserve nature, flora, and fauna, and to act accordingly for mankind's perpetuity as we were empowered to do so: "So God created mankind in His image, in the image of God He created them, male and female....By the seventh day, God had finished the work He had been doing; so on the seventh day, He rested from all his work. Then God blessed the seventh day and made it holy because on it He rested from all the work of Creation that he had done."

It is important to understand our role on Earth and to remember that life is a blessing and a gift from God that we received from the beginning of the Earth.

We believe that all scientific evidence and the Universe's order confess to the almightiness of God and His wonderful principles of life. Our values are based on maintaining the principles of life and its continuity: love, patience, humility, compassion, and happiness. We want to preserve these principles of life, protect our Earth, which is our home, and provide solutions for helping our neighbors using our advanced technology and science-based system.

We acknowledge that climate change affects us all, yet the rise of greenhouse gas emissions caused by human activities is not the only cause of it; there are other relevant causes, such as the sun's energy intensity, which is out of humanity's control. We decided to focus on what we have the power to impact within our capabilities. We use technology to our benefit, and do not let it take control over us. We were endowed in respect of God's principles and values, and we do not consider ourselves gods who can change the well-defined path of the Earth or save the world. We would like to give the new generations a better home to live in, and we consider that this is linked not only to environmental protection or ESG criteria but to maintaining the principles of life and its continuity. If all these principles are called by science sustainable actions, then we do believe in sustainability.

Aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), we actively pursue these principles, integrating environmental protection with social and



economic considerations. While we acknowledge the widespread impact of climate change, we focus on addressing what is within our power to influence, leveraging technology responsibly without succumbing to its control. We humbly accept our limitations, understanding that we cannot alter the Earth's course or single-handedly save the world.

Our aim is to provide future generations with a thriving home by aligning environmental protection with the timeless principles of life and continuity. We view sustainability not merely as a scientific concept but as a holistic approach that integrates ethical, social, and environmental considerations, in line with the objectives outlined in the SDGs.

## DEFINITIONS

Definitions as set out in the **RED Definitions Document**, ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3, ISO 14065 and ISO 14066 and shall apply to all RED Standard documentation.

## ABBREVIATIONS

AFOLU	Afforestation, Forestry, and Other Land-use
CA	Corresponding Adjustments
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
FR	Franchisee
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
IA	Initial Assessment
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
IVVB	Independent Validation and Verification Body

KYC	Know Your Customer
PD	Project Developer
PDD	Project Design Document
QA/QC	Quality Assurance and Quality Control
SDG	Sustainable Development Goals
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Accreditation Principles

The following principles of accreditation, as shown in figure-1 below, are applied in the preparation of this document. These principles for verification bodies (IVVBs) are elaborated in the accreditation programs of CDM and accreditation bodies that accredit the verifiers following ISO 14064, ISO 14065 and ISO 14066 requirements.

To ensure the credibility of these carbon credits, independent third-party entities known as validators and verifiers play a crucial role. Validators check project designs to ensure they meet certain standards, while verifiers assess whether projects have actually achieved the emissions reductions they claim.

Here are some of the core principles that validators and verification bodies typically follow:

**Impartiality:** Validators and verifiers must operate in an unbiased manner, without conflicts of interest. This ensures that their judgments are based solely on evidence and not influenced by external pressures or interests.

About the impartiality of validators, we can mention:



**Incentives:** Validators are typically rewarded for their services, often receiving transaction fees or newly minted tokens. Impartiality means that these rewards should be distributed fairly among validators according to the rules of the network, rather than benefiting a select few.

**Conflict of Interest:** Validators should avoid any conflicts of interest that could compromise their impartiality. This means refraining from endorsing or promoting specific projects, coins, or participants within the network.

**Transparency:** Impartial validators should be transparent about their operations, including their hardware and software setups, their stake, and their performance. Transparency builds trust among network participants.

**Auditing:** Impartial validators may undergo regular audits to ensure they are adhering to the network's rules and are not engaging in any actions that could compromise the network's security or fairness.

In summary, impartiality of validators is critical for the integrity of blockchain networks. It ensures that the network operates fairly, transparently, and securely, and that no single entity or group can exert undue influence. Validators must act in the best interests of the network and its participants while avoiding conflicts of interest and upholding the principles of decentralization and fairness.

**Transparency:** Processes and criteria used for validation and verification should be transparent and well-documented. This ensures that all stakeholders have a clear understanding of how decisions are made.

**Consistency:** Methods and approaches used in the validation and verification processes should be consistent. This means applying the same rules and principles across different projects or scenarios.

Certainly, consistency in the methods and approaches used in the validation and verification processes is essential for ensuring the reliability, fairness, and repeatability of these processes. When the same rules and principles are consistently applied across different projects or scenarios, it has several advantages:

**Fairness:** Consistency ensures that all projects or scenarios are evaluated and treated in the same manner, eliminating any potential bias or discrimination. It promotes a level playing field for all participants.



**Predictability:** When rules and principles are consistent, stakeholders can predict how the validation and verification processes will be conducted. This predictability helps in planning and decision-making.

**Reproducibility:** Consistency makes it possible to replicate the validation and verification procedures for similar projects or scenarios. This is crucial for quality control, as it allows for the comparison of results and the identification of trends and improvements.

**Reduced Error Rates:** When consistent methods and approaches are employed, the chances of errors or oversights are reduced. This leads to more reliable results and conclusions.

**Comparability:** Consistency enables meaningful comparisons between different projects or scenarios. It allows organizations and regulators to assess performance, compliance, and other key metrics across a wide range of cases.

**Efficiency:** Standardizing and making processes consistent can enhance efficiency. Personnel involved in validation and verification become more adept at performing tasks when they know what to expect, and it can lead to time and cost savings.

**Compliance and Accountability:** In regulated industries, consistency in validation and verification methods is often a requirement to ensure compliance with industry standards and legal regulations. It also helps in demonstrating accountability for the methods used.

In summary, consistency in the validation and verification processes is a critical factor for ensuring reliability, fairness, and efficiency. It involves standardizing methods and approaches, promoting fairness, and allowing for meaningful comparisons and reproducibility. Achieving and maintaining consistency often requires a combination of clear guidelines, training, documentation, and a commitment to quality assurance.

**Accuracy:** Validators and verifiers must ensure that the data and methodologies they rely on are accurate, to provide a true representation of a project's emissions reductions or carbon sequestration.

Accuracy is a fundamental requirement when it comes to validating and verifying data related to emissions reductions or carbon sequestration in the context of environmental and sustainability initiatives. Ensuring data accuracy is crucial for several reasons:



1. **Trust and Credibility:** Accurate data instills trust and credibility in the validation and verification processes. Stakeholders, including project developers, investors, regulatory bodies, and the public, rely on the accuracy of emissions reduction or carbon sequestration data to make informed decisions and assess the effectiveness of sustainability projects.
2. **Transparency:** Accuracy goes hand in hand with transparency. Transparency in data collection and validation processes is essential to demonstrate that the methodology and data sources are sound and reliable.
3. **Accountability:** Accurate data holds stakeholders accountable for their sustainability claims and actions. It ensures that organizations are accurately reporting their environmental impact and adherence to sustainability goals.
4. **Informed Decision-Making:** Accurate data allows for informed decision-making. When stakeholders have confidence in the accuracy of emissions data, they can better evaluate the environmental, social, and economic implications of a project or initiative.

To ensure accuracy in the validation and verification of emissions reductions or carbon sequestration, several key practices and considerations are essential:

1. **Data Sources:** Ensure that the data sources used are reliable and verifiable. This may involve using sensors, monitoring equipment, historical records, and other data collection methods that are recognized for their accuracy.
2. **Methodology:** Develop and adhere to standardized and recognized methodologies for calculating emissions reductions or carbon sequestration. These methodologies are often established by industry organizations, regulatory bodies, or international standards.
3. **Quality Assurance and Quality Control (QA/QC):** Implement robust QA/QC procedures to regularly review and verify data for accuracy. This can involve periodic audits, data validation checks, and independent third-party assessments.
4. **Independent Verification:** In many cases, independent third-party verifiers are used to provide an unbiased assessment of the data's accuracy. These verifiers use their expertise to evaluate the data and the methodologies applied.
5. **Consistency:** Consistency in data collection and reporting is crucial for ensuring accuracy. Any changes in data collection methods or reporting standards should be well-documented and explained.
6. **Documentation:** Maintain detailed records of data sources, calculations, and any adjustments made to the data. This documentation is essential for transparency and traceability.





7. **Data Validation:** Data validation involves checks to identify anomalies, errors, or inconsistencies in the data. Any issues discovered should be resolved, and the data recalibrated as needed.
8. **Training and Competence:** Personnel responsible for data collection and validation should be well-trained and competent in the relevant methodologies and tools.
9. **Timeliness:** Ensure that data is collected and reported in a timely manner to maintain its relevance and accuracy. Delayed data may not provide a true representation of a project's emissions or sequestration activities.
10. **Feedback and Continuous Improvement:** Regularly gather feedback and use it to improve data accuracy and the validation process.

In summary, accuracy in the validation and verification of emissions data is fundamental to the credibility of sustainability initiatives. It involves using reliable data sources, established methodologies, and rigorous quality control procedures to ensure that the data accurately represents a project's environmental impact. This accuracy is essential for accountability, transparency, and informed decision-making in the field of sustainability and environmental management.

**Completeness:** All relevant data sources and methodologies should be considered and included in the validation and verification processes to ensure a comprehensive assessment.

**Confidentiality:** Validators and verifiers must respect the confidentiality of information shared by project developers or other stakeholders, especially when it pertains to sensitive business or proprietary information.

**Professionalism:** Validators and verifiers should maintain high professional standards, including ongoing training and adhering to industry best practices.

**Thoroughness:** Validators and verifiers need to ensure that they conduct comprehensive checks, reviewing all necessary documentation and performing site visits if necessary.

**Responsiveness:** They should be open to feedback, ready to address any concerns raised by project developers or other stakeholders, and adapt if new information becomes available.

**Continuous Improvement:** Validators and verifiers should strive for continuous improvement in their processes, incorporating feedback and lessons learned from previous projects.

Continuous improvement is a fundamental principle in various fields and processes, including the validation and verification of environmental data and sustainability projects. Striving for continuous improvement ensures that validators and verifiers



refine their methodologies, enhance their performance, and adapt to evolving standards.

## **1.2 Accreditation Description**

This document contains RED Carbon Standard requirements for the Accreditation and re-accreditation of IVVBs, for certification under the RED Carbon Standard. The principles, rules and requirements set out in this document are applicable to all IVVBs that will conduct Validations and Verifications for certifying RED Carbon Standard Projects.

Validation and verification are essential elements to ensure the integrity and quality of projects registered in RED Carbon Standard programmes and methodologies. These processes are carried out by Validation/Verification Bodies (IVVBs) - qualified and independent third-party auditors who are approved by the RED Carbon Standard. IVVBs are experts in the programme and sector scope or technical area they audit.

## **1.3 Accreditation Eligibility and Requirements**

The requirements below should be met by all IVVBs that wish to certify projects under RED Carbon Standard.

All IVVBs should have justified auditing skills & knowledge of Validation and Verification Process, knowledge of RED Carbon Standard rules & methodologies, knowledge of additionality within RED Carbon Standard and financial expertise, knowledge of Sustainable Development Goals and Do-No-Harm Criteria, general & sectoral technical competences and communication and reporting skills.

## **1.4 Accreditation Process**

RED Carbon Standard accepts UN-accredited CDM auditors by project type, and encourages local auditors to apply for RED approval.

For the accreditation the following documents completed need to be send at [certification@redcarbonstandard.org](mailto:certification@redcarbonstandard.org) with the subject "Independentverificationbody\_Name\_Data" :

- KYC for auditors
- The certification proof of the Validation and Verification body (ISO 14064-3, ISO 14065:2020, ISO/IEC 17029:2019, ISO 14066:2011 or others) or other relevant



certification/documents that proves experience in the field of the specific type of project.

- The bodies must achieve the General Principles and Requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information (ISO 14065:2020, ISO 14066:2011 or others) (if applicable).

After the validation and the verification project the Independent Verification Body must complete the Validation Report template or the Verification Report template depending on the stage of the project and send them to the Project Developer, Franchisee and RED Carbon Standard by email [certification@redcarbonstandard.org](mailto:certification@redcarbonstandard.org) ("ValidationReport\_Nameproject\_Data" and "VerificationReport\_Nameproject\_Data")

The RED Carbon Standard verifies that the data in the Validation/Verification report was issued by an accredited verification body prior to the date of the report and that it was accredited for the relevant type of the project.

## **2. ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

This section describes the criteria that an IVVB must meet to become an eligible member and maintain its qualification to carry out validation and verification assessments in support of Red Carbon Standard certification.

An approved IVVB is known as a RED Standard IVVB and is eligible for all types of projects that have experience and competence to carry out this activity and is registered with it.

## **3. ACCREDITATION AND RE-ACCREDITATION OF THE INDEPENDENT VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION BODIES**

### **3.1 Initial Accreditation**

To obtain accreditation for becoming a RED IVVB, applicants must provide all requested information and consider all conditions and latest updates under ISO 14064, ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, or the regulations specified in the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism or Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4, under the oversight of the Supervisory Body.

### **3.2 Performance Assessment**

The auditor is a specialized independent third party who is responsible for assessing the application and accredited organizations in accordance with the audit activities set out in the procedure in order to provide an independent opinion on whether or not the organization complies with the rules in the procedure.

The IVVB assesses compliance and grants accreditation. The IVVB shall apply normally accepted audit practices at the review level for documentation and evaluation.

The IVVB may make recommendations for improvements to the procedure or program.

The purpose of a performance review is to assess the implementation of verifier's RED Carbon Standard systems and competence within an approved scope of the RED Carbon Standard through an assessment of a specific verification project and/or a verification/certification activity.

### **3.3 Re-accreditation of IVVBs**

For the re-accreditation process, the IVVB must follow the same rules as in the accreditation process. He is required to sign the re-accreditation form and is added to the list of approved auditors.

### **3.4 Loss of Accreditation**

An IVVB becomes inactive when its accreditation is terminated or suspended by the body to which it is accredited or if the RED Carbon Standard suspends or terminates its agreement with the IVVB.

An inactive or suspended IVVB may not produce validation or verification reports of the RED Carbon Standard until RED restores its eligibility.

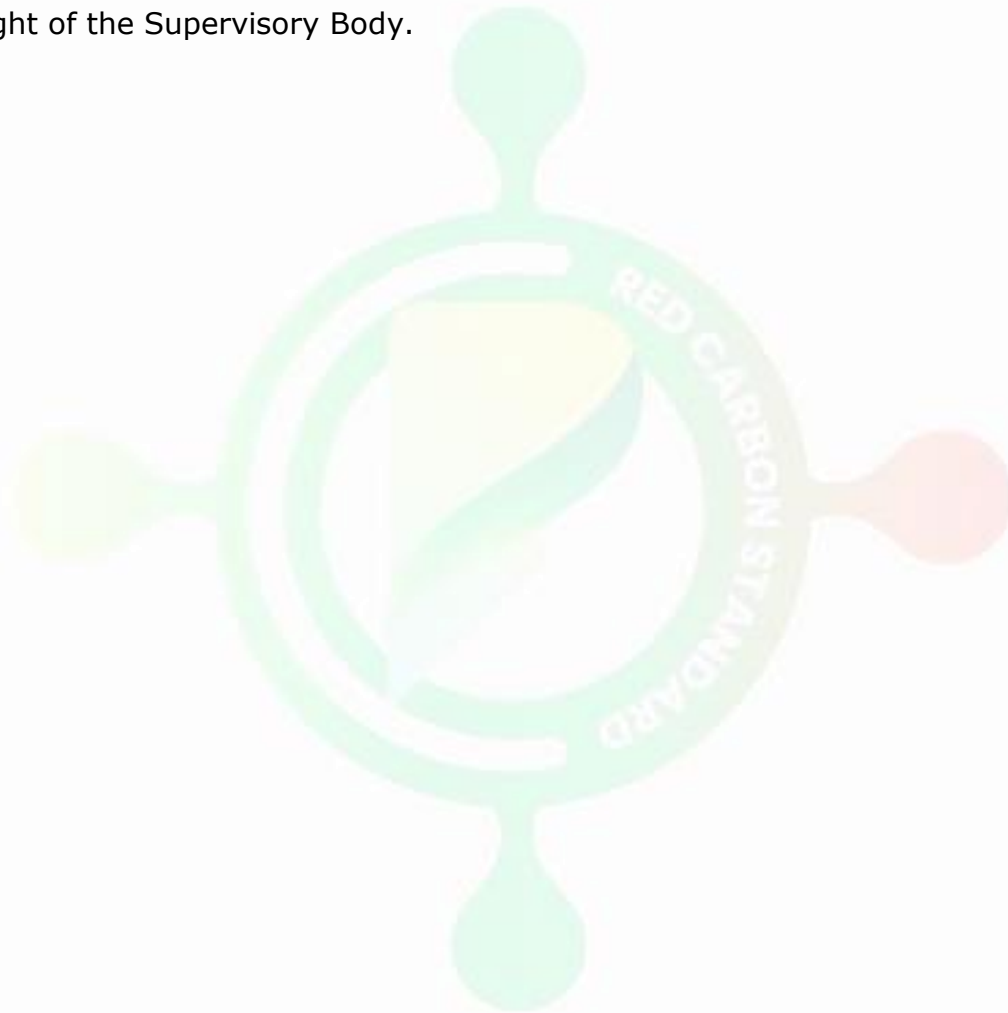
## **4. LEGAL STATUS**

The IVVBs must follow the requirements from this document and comply with the rules and policies of the RED Carbon Standard.



RED Carbon Standard holds exclusive authority to make determinations concerning the approval, suspension, or revocation of IVVBs approval status in accordance with the outcomes of oversight activities.

Mandatory accreditation of IVVBs is essential, and it must adhere to a globally recognized accreditation standard, such as the latest editions of ISO 14064, ISO 14065 and ISO 14066, or the regulations specified in the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism or Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4, under the oversight of the Supervisory Body.



## 5. DOCUMENT UPDATE

Version	Date	Comments or additional information
1	07.07.2024	Initial version of the document.