Standardized Crediting Framework (SCF)

Program Standard

Madagascar

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| --- | --- |
| Version | Date |
| 1.0 | 27/03/2025 |

# Introduction

The SCF is a national standard that allows countries to manage the rules and procedures for generating carbon credits in a national registry—similar to existing international credit frameworks (VERRA, Gold, Article 6.4).

This standard describes the rules and procedures of the Standardized Crediting Framework (SCF). Most sections of this program standard are divided into two parts:

● The actual rules for implementing the SCF, in standard black text.

● An explanation of the rationale for the rules, if applicable, or other comments on how they were developed, in black italics and indented text.

# Governance of the SCF

In accordance with Order N°14683/2025 from May 28, 2025, the Designated National Authority (DNA) for Carbon Markets is mandated to promote the development of programs, projects, and activities within the framework of Madagascar's various carbon markets.

To this end, it created the SCF, whose efficient and streamlined governance structure builds on the existing institutional structure of the DNA. This framework will create synergies between the SCF and Article 6 credit allocation procedures and results-based climate finance more broadly.

The SCF’s governance applies lessons learned from various carbon market standards, more clearly distinguishing policy and implementation functions from administrative ones. The institutional arrangements for implementing the SCF in Madagascar are presented in Figure 1. The composition and functions of these bodies are detailed in the following sections.

Figure 1. Governance structure of the SCF

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Description automatically generated

## Governing Board

The Governing Board (GB) performs the **policy and executive functions** for the SCF and provides the overall authority and strategic direction for the SCF implementation.

**Presided by**: The coordinator of the Bureau National du Changement Climatique et REDD+ (BNCC-REDD+).

**Composition:** The Governing Board of the Designated National Authority (DNA), as defined by Order N°14683/2025 from May 28, 2025, acts as the SCF’s Governing Board.

**Main responsibilities:**

* Establish principles and define the strategy for the development of the CNC.
* Adopt regulations to codify the CNC.
* Coordinate and interact with international financiers and donors.
* Review and approve rules, methodologies, models, and tools.
* Oversee administrative and technical functions.
* Approve accreditation standards (in the future).

**Decision-making process**: GB decisions will be made in meetings of the members. After the inaugural meeting to approve the Program Protocol and other related rules, meetings would be convened by the Administrator on an as-needed basis, including to review the lessons learned from the SCF.

**Meetings:**

The SCF Governing Board meets as needed to make decisions. As the SCF Governing Board is also the DNA Governing Board, synergies are possible.

## Technical Committee

The TC performs **technical advisory functions** for the SCF and provides technical inputs and recommendations to the Board. The Technical Committee strengthens the technical capacity of the GB.

**Presided by:** Madagascar's National Focal Point for Article 6.4 of the Paris Agreement. In the event of impediment, this Focal Point may be replaced by Madagascar's National Focal Point for Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement.

**Composition**: The technical committee of the Designated National Authority (DNA), as defined by Order N°14683/2025 from May 28, 2025, acts as the SCF’s technical committee.

**Main responsibilities**:

* Review proposed rules, methodologies, templates, and tools and make recommendations.
* Assess impact of transferring mitigation outcomes on the NDC goals.
* Ensure that the activities implemented preserve environmental integrity.
* Issue a letter of approval or no objection for carbon projects that are submitted.

**Decision-making process:** The TC serves as an advisory body rather than a decision-making one and meets on an ad-hoc basis, as necessary or as suggested by the GB.

## Administrator

The Administrator carries out most of the day-to-day **administrative functions** of the SCF.

**Composition**: The role of administrator of the SCF is assumed by the Bureau National du Changement Climatique et REDD+ as the secretariat of the DNA of Madagascar, as defined by Order N°14683/2025 from May 28, 2025.

**Main responsibilities**:

* List programs after completeness check, based on approved rules.
* Maintain registry of projects and mitigation outcomes that are issued, authorized, and transferred.
* Approve and list eligible Designated Operational Entity (DOE) based on approved rules (currently).
* Support the issuance, processes by conducting completeness checks on submitted documentation.
* Coordinate and support meetings of other bodies.
* Initial reporting and annual reporting to the UNFCCC
* Accredit DOEs based on an approved accreditation standard (in the future).

**Decision-making process**: The BN-CCREDD+ leads the Administrator and draws upon other staff as required. The Administrator operates on a continuous basis and does not have decision-making power but rather facilitates timely implementation of the steps required for SCF implementation.

As institutional capacities and resources increase, the GB may choose to widen the scope of the SCF Administrator roles, such as guiding and approving the work of the Technical Committee.

# Sustainable development

The activities that generate carbon credits under the SCF contribute significantly to Madagascar’s sustainable development goals, including benefits that directly address SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 7 (affordable and clean energy) and SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth).

Table 1: Examples of Sustainable development benefits related to renewable fuel cookstoves.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| SDG 1  No poverty | Improving living conditions among people in rural and urban households through cleaner cookstoves, improved food supply and economic activity |
| SDG 2  Zero Hunger | Ethanol cookstoves reduce amount of non-renewable fuel needed to cook and thus reduces the burden of households to collect, buy or trade it for food. |
| SDG 3  Good health and well-being | Reduced smoke emissions lead to a decrease in air pollution and improves health, especially of women and children |
| SDG 7  Affordable and clean energy | Ethanol cookstoves address energy poverty and improve energy security of households |
| SDG 8  Decent work and economic growth | Energy access sector enables higher productivity, inclusive growth and has the potential create job opportunities. |

Given the inherent benefits listed above, the SCF process does not ask for activity participants to provide additional information on SD impacts of their specific activity. The information above may be used, however, by the government to justify that fact these activities have positive SD impacts.

# Environmental Integrity

The SCF methodology validated as part of the SCF builds on other internationally recognized standards (e.g. the CDM and Gold Standard), uses the most recent data for key parameters, and is line with international best practice (e.g. the most recent versions of the relevant methodologies in other standards). Additionally, the SCF methodology customizes key parameters to local contexts specific to Madagascar and applies conservative values to determine the volume of emission reductions generated from the mitigation activity.

The emissions reductions generated from the mitigation activity fulfill the requirements of high environmental integrity, particularly as they relate to carbon credit quality (e.g. additionality, conservative baselines,).

However, the SCF seeks a balance between this conservative approach, which may result in a reduction in the total volume of emission reductions compared to previous versions of carbon market standards but also higher prices on international carbon markets, and the need to generate sufficient carbon revenues for project developers – the aim being to maximize development impact.

# Scope and eligibility

## Sectors, technologies, and activity types covered

The SCF initially focuses on thermal energy production from renewable energy technologies for end users that replace the use of non-renewable biomass. Examples of these technologies include, but are not limited to, renewable biomass stoves, biogas stoves, and bioethanol stoves. Mitigation outcomes are claimed for the replacement of firewood and/or charcoal to meet domestic cooking needs in the baseline scenario.

The list of technologies and activity types covered in the SCF includes the following:

* Renewable fuel cookstoves

## The GB may choose, at its discretion, to include other technologies in the SCF over time. Geographic scope

The geographic scope of activities under the SCF is the entire country of Madagascar.

## Greenhouse gases covered

Mitigation outcomes under the SCF cover carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O).

## Activity Participants

Any individual or legal entity, Malagasy or foreign, recognized by the government is eligible to apply for registration of a project in the CNC.

*This section is provided in case Madagascar wishes to specify the qualifications or criteria for participation in the SCF.*

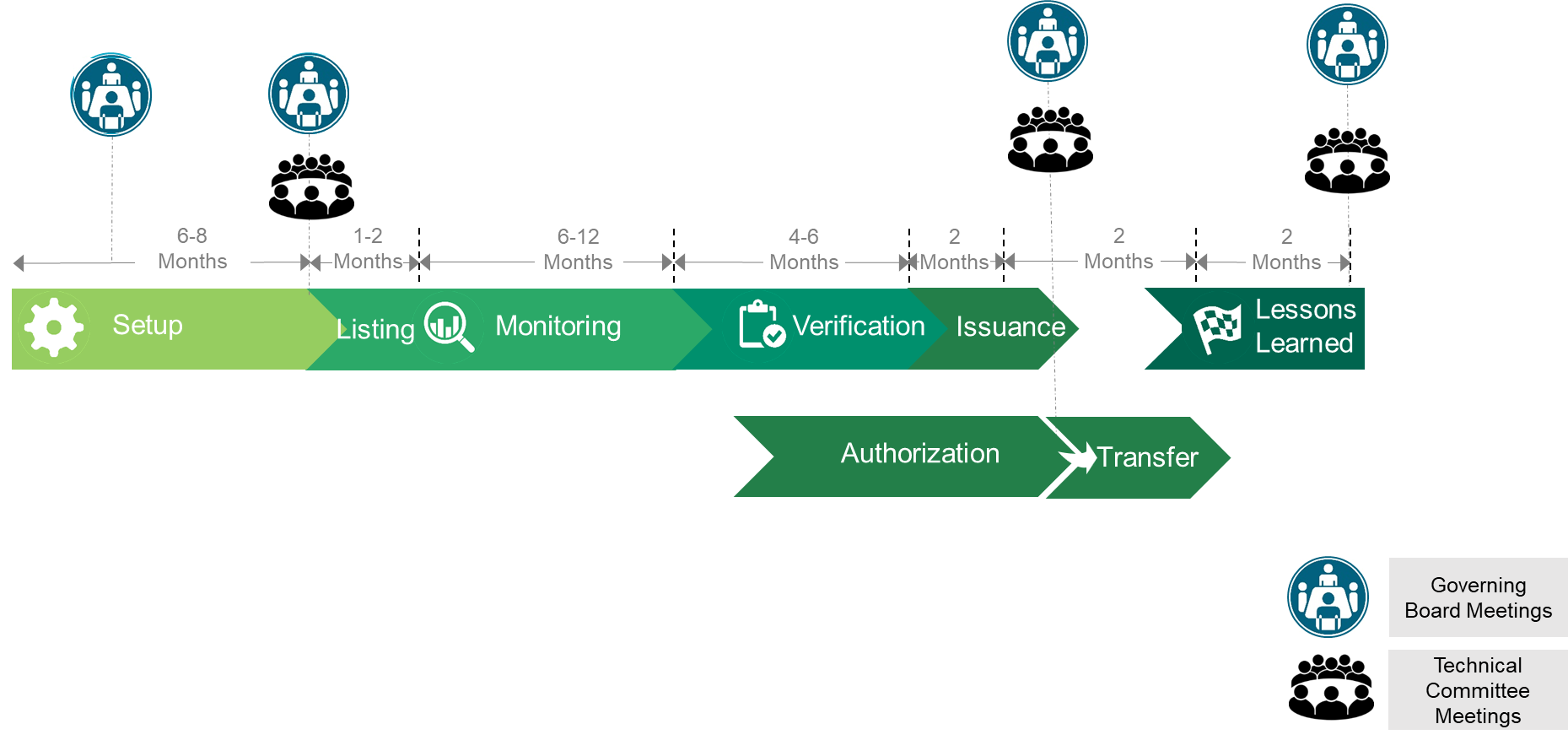
## Activity start date

The Activity start date is the start of actual implementation of the technologies and activities included in the scope of the Activity, supported by relevant documentation (e.g., installation reports, commissioning reports, operational reports). If no implementation has begun at the time of listing, the start date will be after the listing date and should reflect the Activity Participant’s best estimate of when implementation will start. Only activities (e.g., individual installations) starting after 1 January 2021 may be included in the SCF – except for activities transitioning from the Clean Development Mechanism.

# Activity cycle

The Activity Cycle for SCF activities is described in this section. First, section 6.1 explains the national crediting standard set up under the SCF, which consists of the process whereby the Government of Madagascar (i.e., the host country government) defines the steps, process, and decision criteria largely on the basis of national policies and priorities. This part of the activity cycle is similar to other existing independent crediting mechanisms but is governed domestically rather than by an independent or international body. This cycle ends at the issuance of verified mitigation outcomes.

Figure 2: Estimated Duration of the phases of the SCF's activity cycle



## Overview of activity cycle for SCF national crediting standard

The SCF has based its procedures on the traditional project cycle used for other crediting mechanisms.

This project cycle defines the process from crediting through to the issuance of verified emission reductions, regardless of whether these units will be used for domestic purposes or international transfers (i.e., for use within the framework of NDCs).

The listing of programs and the verification of their performance is governed by Madagascar’s policies, while building on the experience of international carbon markets and the lessons from the SCF pilot phase in 2020 in Senegal. This national crediting standard is a tool for Madagascar to support projects and programs that are aligned with its priorities.

The activity cycle for the SCF national crediting standard is presented in Figure 3.

Figure 3: SCF national crediting standard activity cycle

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* *Preparation*: The Activity Participant develops a program concept and presents the program by filling in the Listing Document Template using the Listing Document Guidance.
* *Listing*: The Administrator, using the Completeness Check Template and Completeness Check Guidance, conducts a completeness check on the contents of the Listing Document. If the Listing Document is incomplete, the Administrator will request changes from the Activity Participant. If the Document is complete and meets all requirements, the Administrator will inform the Activity Participant using the Listing Notification Template and will inform the GB of the acceptance of the program, and it will be listed in the official SCF registry.
* *Monitoring*: The Activity Participant monitors the performance of the program and uses the monitoring data and the Monitoring Calculation Tool[[1]](#footnote-2) to complete the Monitoring Report Template referring to the Monitoring Report Guidance. At the end of the monitoring period, when the Monitoring Report is complete, the Activity Participant requests the Administrator to identify a list of designated operational entities (DOEs). The Activity Participant selects a DOE from this list.
* *Verification*: The DOE verifies the monitoring data presented in the Monitoring Report using the Verification Report Template and Verification Guidance.
* *Issuance*: The Activity Participant will request issuance of emission reduction units from the Administrator. The Administrator will check the completeness of this submission, and advise the GB, which will, in turn, issue the emission reduction units into the national registry for mitigation outcomes under the account of the Activity Participant.

## Overview of further steps related to Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement

Carbon credits from the SCF can be considered for international transfers under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement, just like carbon credits from other standards. To do so, they must follow the authorization and transfer procedures set out in Malagasy regulations.

International transfers must follow the official accounting guidelines for Article 6.2 of the Paris Agreement agreed upon at COP26 in 2021. This guidance requires that any mitigation outcome be first "authorized" by the host government (in this case, the Government of Madagascar) and then "transferred" only after verification of mitigation impacts using a registry option covered by the Article 6.2 guidance.

Authorization and transfer are political decisions because the international transfer could affect Madagascar's achievement of its NDC. Madagascar may choose to develop a comprehensive Article 6 strategy that would cover all sectors and types of activities, but this process is not yet complete. In the meantime, Madagascar can make decisions on the authorization and transfer of mitigation results on a case-by-case basis. Credits generated under the SCF follow regular authorization procedures, like any carbon standard.

## Listing process

Estimated duration: 1–2 months

The process for listing is shown in Figure 4 and the steps are explained below.

* The Activity Participant should use the current version of the Listing Document Template and related Listing Document Guidance, covering general activity information, eligibility, mitigation outcomes and monitoring, stakeholder consultation, and environmental impacts. The Activity Participant should submit the completed Listing Document to the Administrator electronically.
* The Administrator will conduct a Completeness Check, referring to the Completeness Check Guidance, and notify the Activity Participant if changes are required.
* The Activity Participant will make any required changes and send the revised Listing Document to the Administrator.
* Once the Administrator judges that the Listing Document is complete, they will notify the Activity Participant and enter the data for the listed activity.[[2]](#footnote-3) The listing date will be the date that the Activity Participant sent the final version of the Listing Document to the Administrator.

Figure 4. Listing process

## Monitoring requirements and process

Estimated duration: 6–12 months. Estimated 6 months for activities under implementation, and 12 months as standard monitoring period for new activities.

The process for monitoring is shown in Figure 5 and the steps are explained below.

* The Activity Participant will implement the activity.
* The Activity Participant should use the current version of the Monitoring Calculation Tool and Monitoring Report Template, as well as related Monitoring Report Guidance to present the monitoring data. A standard monitoring period after the rollout of the SCF would be 12 months, as for most other crediting standards. However, given that the crediting period can start before the listing date, a shorter monitoring period is sometimes possible.
* The calculated emissions will be compiled in a monitoring report that is subject to verification by an accredited third party. Ideally two months prior to the end of the monitoring period the Activity Participant will request the Administrator to provide a list of designated operational entities (DOE) or eligible verifiers.
* The Activity Participant will then select and contract a DOE.

Figure 5. Monitoring process

## Verification process

Estimated duration: 4–6 months.

The verification process is shown in Figure 6 and the steps are explained below.

* The Activity Participant will submit the completed monitoring calculation tool and monitoring report, along with all relevant supporting documentation, to the DOE.
* The Activity Participant may notify the Administrator of the initiation of the verification process.
* The DOE will conduct the verification based on the current version of the verification report template and related verification guidance.
* The DOE will submit a verification report to the Administrator, including an unqualified verification opinion. The DOE will clearly justify a positive or negative verification opinion.

Figure 6. Verification process

## Issuance process

Estimated duration: 2 months.

* The Activity Participant will request issuance using the issuance request template.
* In the case of a positive verification opinion, the Administrator will check that the Verification Report and process follows the SCF rules.
* The Administrator will then forward the verification report to the GB, which will approve issuance of the mitigation outcomes.
* In the case of negative verification opinion, the Activity Participant will have a period of 30 working days in which to appeal to the GB. In this case, the GB would review the submission from the Activity Participant and the DOE and request additional clarifications and evidence, as necessary. The GB may also choose to enlist ad-hoc technical support to evaluate an appeal.
* If the GB supports the negative verification opinion, then the issuance request is rejected, and no SCF Emission Reductions (ERs) are issued by the Board.
* If the GB disagrees with the negative verification opinion, then it may approve issuance of SCF ERs based on justification and evidence gathered during the review process.
* The Administrator, or registry administrator (i.e., if the country already has one), will issue mitigation outcomes in the name of the Activity Participant in the relevant registry. In this case, the DNA can already authorize the use of credits for an international transfer in a letter provided that the volume to be transferred is clearly indicated.

Figure 7. Issuance process

## Crediting period

* A five-year crediting period, which may be renewed up to twice by the GB, applies to all activities – total of 15 years.
* For activities that were not implemented prior to January 2021 (i.e., all activities except the initial activity from the Ci-Dev portfolio), the crediting period should start on the Activity Start Date
* As a transition provision in the SCF, for Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) activities whose implementation began before 1 January 2021, the CNC crediting period will start on 1 January 2021. If the end of their CDM crediting period (according to the CDM CPA) was before December 31,2025, the renewal of the crediting period is automatic but only up to December 31, 2025. After that, they can only be renewed once more.
* For the transitioning CDM activities, devices installed before 2021 can generate SCF emission reductions (ERs) for 15 years. Any device that has reached 15 years while the overall SCF activity is still ongoing would be removed from the program database. Devices installed after 2021 would also have a maximum of 15 years of credit, while the overall SCF activity would be subject to a baseline reassessment every 5 years.
* For activities that were not implemented prior to January 2021, the end of the first crediting period should be five (5) years after the start date of the crediting period.
* Subsequent five-year crediting periods, where approved by the GB, should align with the timeline for revising NDC commitments under the Paris Agreement. The GB will agree on a process for crediting period renewal, including the impact on the baseline and activity emissions calculation parameters.
* The crediting period should generally align with the timeline of NDC revisions because updates to the NDC commitments may affect baselines for crediting.

# Methodologies

## Baseline and additionality principles

Additionality is addressed using a “positive list” approach. The following technologies are considered automatically additional, based on rules developed under the CDM and other international crediting standards.

* Renewable energy technologies (renewable biomass stoves, biogas stoves, bioethanol stoves) that replace the use of non-renewable biomass. These may include portable stoves, in-situ stoves, or multi-pot stoves. This technology targets rural and urban households using firewood and/or charcoal to meet their domestic cooking needs in the baseline scenario.

As non-renewable biomass has been used in Madagascar since December 31, 1989, participants in the activity do not need to provide further evidence to justify this additionality criterion. The conditions of application are defined in the methodology.

**Double counting:** Programs should provide information on any other registration under a independent crediting mechanism in the voluntary carbon market. Where the program is registered in more than one mechanism, the verification process will confirm that there is no double issuance of emission reductions being requests for the same time period in more than one mechanism.

## Methodologies and tools included in the initial program protocol

The following methodologies are included in this initial version of the program protocol:

* Methodology for renewable ethanol cookstoves in Madagascar (version 1.0).

Methodologies, and the related templates and guidance documents, may be updated periodically by the TC and GB.

Additional methodologies approved later will be added to this list.

## Process for approval of additional methodologies

Methodology proposals can be submitted by any entity eligible for the SCF and are addressed to the SCF Administrator. Methodologies can also be developed by the Technical Committee or the SCF Administrator himself.

Proposed methodologies are reviewed by the Technical Committee for its opinion and validated by the Governing Board.

The Technical Committee and the Governing Board may simply accept methodologies already approved under other standards (e.g., CDM, VCS, Gold Standard) or develop new methodologies specific to Madagascar's SCF.

# Stakeholder participation and engagement

The SCF program should provide an opportunity for a public consultation with local stakeholders. The consultation process – including the identification of stakeholders, presentation of the project design, solicitation of comments, and answering those comments - should follow relevant national guidelines. The process should also explicitly say that the program will be used to generate quantified emission reductions (i.e., not simply be a presentation of the underlying technology).

The stakeholder consultation may occur after listing but must be completed prior to the start of verification. A record of the consultation process and outcomes shall be included in the monitoring report so that it can be checked by the DOE.

Where an SCF activity is already registered under the CDM or a voluntary carbon market standard, the original stakeholder consultation process conducted as part of that registration is sufficient and no additional consultation is required.

# Accreditation and DOEs

During the SCF rollout, any one of the following entities may serve as a DOE:

* Companies accredited as DOEs by the CDM Executive Board[[3]](#footnote-4) under “Sectoral scope 1. Energy industries (renewable - / non-renewable sources)”.
* Companies accredited as accredited independent entities (AIEs) under the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee[[4]](#footnote-5) under “Sectoral scope 1. Energy industries (renewable - / non-renewable sources)”.
* Companies accredited as validation/verification bodies by the Verified Carbon Standard[[5]](#footnote-6) under “Sectoral scope 1. Energy (renewable/nonrenewable)”.

While the SCF GB may decide to enlarge this list to include more local certification organizations in the future.. Local entities could, however, be involved in verification as observers and participate in capacity-building workshops run by the DOEs.

# Registry and public access to information

The SCF will provide publicly available information on the status of any listed SCF Activity. Upon successful listing of an SCF Activity, the Administrator will publish the approved Listing Document on the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development/BN-CCREDD+ website. At the completion of verification, the Administrator will also publish the completed Monitoring Report and Verification Report, as well as the date when the mitigation outcomes were issued by the GB. Reporting on authorization and transfer will be covered by Madagascar’s Article 6 reporting processes required by the Paris Agreement.

# Fees

In the future, the GB may choose to levy fees during listing and/or certification to support the costs of administering the SCF.

# Templates and guidance documents

The section lists the templates and guidance documents that are used in the SCF. If any of this documentation is revised, the most recent version will appear on the SCF Madagascar website or another designated website.

Templates and guidance documents for renewable fuel cookstoves:

* Listing document template for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Completeness check template for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Listing notification template for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Monitoring calculation tool for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Monitoring report template for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Verification report template for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Verification guidance for renewable fuel cookstoves.
* Issuance request template.
* Issuance completeness check template.

The website will also include the current version of approved methodologies. For the rollout of the SCF, this will be the methodologies “Renewable fuel cookstoves in Madagascar”.

# Complaints and appeals

The proposed SCF governance arrangements aim to provide transparent and objective complaints and appeals procedures for any stakeholder (Activity Participants, methodology developers and other stakeholders). The SCF could include formalized procedures for individuals who wish to make a complaint about its performance, a verification body’s performance, or register any suspected non-compliance of an activity under the SCF approach.

A **complaint** is an objection or an expression of dissatisfaction by any stakeholder about to a decision taken by the SCF GB or Administrator or a claim that the SCF rules have had an unfair, inadvertent, or unintentional adverse effect. Complaint letters could be addressed to the SCF Administrator. Any complaints and appeal procedures could be formalized and handled by the SCF Administrator. The SCF GB would communicate the decision regarding the resolution, including the reasons for the decisions. The SCF GB would prepare a written response, which the BN-CCREDD+ would provide to the appellant. The SCF GB’s decision would be final and binding. In the case that the issue cannot be solved to the satisfaction of the parties within a pre-determined amount of time, an appeal procedure external to the SCF governance framework could be initiated.

The GB may choose to review these provisions.

# Version history

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Version | Date | Contents revised |
| 1.0 | 27/03/2025 | Initial adoption |

This program standard may be amended in accordance with future national provisions on carbon markets.

1. Glossary

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| --- | --- |
| **Term** | **Definition** |
| Activity participant | The public or private entity that is the developer or owner of the activity (i.e., project or program) and/or has the legal right to the mitigation outcomes. |
| Activity | The activity (i.e., projects or programs) described in the activity documentation under the CDM, SCF, Article 6.4 mechanism, or another crediting mechanism, capable of generating emission reductions under a crediting mechanism. |
| Acquiring Party | Country government receiving authorized mitigation outcomes, ITMOs, as part of a transfer between two or more country government. |
| Crediting mechanism | A policy instrument used to generate and issue emissions reduction or emission removal units to mitigation activities, in recognition of quantified and verified emissions reductions or removals.  Crediting mechanisms may be governed by international agreements (e.g., the CDM under the Kyoto Protocol), national law (e.g., a domestic crediting mechanism) or by independent private or non-profit bodies (e.g., the voluntary carbon market standards). |
| Designated operational entity (DOE) | The accredited entity designated under the relevant crediting mechanism, which performs verification of the activity performance and eligibility. |
| Issuance | Creation of ER units for an activity in the pending account (if applicable), trustee’s account or other appropriate aegistry account pursuant to the protocols or procedures of the relevant crediting framework(s) specified in the Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement (ERPA). |
| Host Party | The country where the activity is located as specified in the ERPA. |
| Listing | The process by which the Administrator of the SCF confirms that an activity meets the eligibility requirements of the SCF and accepts the activity as a part of the SCF and eligible to generate GHG reductions. |
| Listing document | The document that provides relevant technical information about an Activity and is submitted to the Administrator by the Activity Participant for the purposes of listing such an activity under the SCF. |
| Mitigation outcomes | Emission reductions and emissions removals measured in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO2e). |
| SCF emission reduction (ER) | A verified and issued ER unit pursuant to the SCF rules, which is equal to one metric ton of CO2e, calculated in accordance with approved SCF methodologies. |

1. For activities transitioning from the CDM or other crediting mechanisms, the monitoring tools from earlier verifications may also be used. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Relevant data for the registry at the time of listing would include Activity Participant, program start date, program crediting period start date, listing date, technologies included and estimated annual mitigation outcomes. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. For the full list of DOEs, see <http://cdm.unfccc.int/DOE/list/index.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. For the full list of AIEs, see <http://ji.unfccc.int/AIEs/List.html>. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. For the full list of VVBs, see http://verra.org/project/vcs-program/validation-verification/. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)