

# **Guide 1:**

# **HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ON CARBON PROJECTS IN MY COUNTRY?**



**What are the  
types of carbon  
projects?**

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**Where do I find out  
what types of carbon  
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**How do I find  
out more about a project  
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questions should I  
ask when I find my  
project document?**

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# GUIDE 1 - HOW TO FIND INFORMATION ON CARBON PROJECTS IN MY COUNTRY

**Developed by Carbon Market Watch**  
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## **Assets:**

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# WHY THESE GUIDES?

Carbon projects under Article 6 are poised to rapidly increase. There are over 110 bilateral agreements between countries for Article 6.2 and over 2,000 proposed projects awaiting approval under Article 6.4.<sup>1</sup> But the transparency and pathways for accountability are not keeping pace in a manner that ensures integrity amid the rapid expansion. If you live in a country where a carbon project is taking place, it can be hard to find information about the project, who is involved, and what to expect. Even when information is available publicly, it is often organised in a manner to serve industry stakeholders with complex jargon.

We created this series of guides to help civil society organisations and the public respond to the expansion of Article 6 projects. We hope to make it easier to find information, analyse it, and consider how to foster accountability. This series was created by asking journalists and civil society actors from carbon rich countries the questions they have about Article 6 and the data they find most difficult to parse. We then combed through the first round of Article 6 reports and project documents to understand what information is most often available in which reports. Bolstered by practical examples, we created pathways from the frontline questions to the information disclosed.

These guides can be read separately or sequentially. Guide 1 provides detailed definitions and framing that may be useful throughout the other guides.

**GUIDE 1: How to find information on carbon projects in my country?** *If you are new to carbon projects and are trying to understand what is happening in your country or your community, this is where to start. You will learn about the key terms and processes for carbon projects, how to locate information about the big picture in your country, and how to look for a specific carbon project that might be near you.*

**GUIDE 2: How can I use data from Article 6.2 to better understand what's happening in my country?** *If your country is engaged in transfers under Article 6.2, this guide will help you find out more about what is happening. You will learn how to understand the different types of reporting under 6.2, where to find key project information, and what paths for accountability might exist.*

**GUIDE 3: How can I use data from Article 6.4 to better understand what's happening in my country?** *If there are carbon projects in your country that are being registered under Article 6.4's Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM), this guide will help you know where to look for more information about the projects in your country. The guide will describe the PACM processes and the different types of documents available during the processes.*

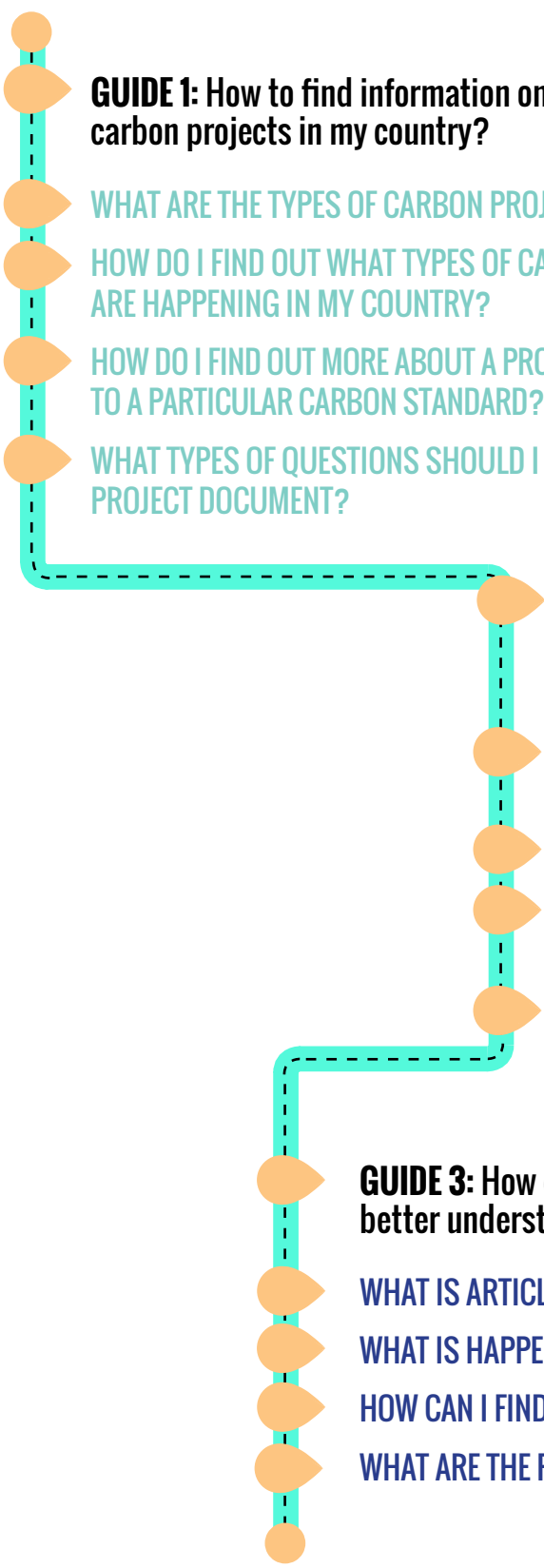


All images with this icon on the right lower corner are screenshots from the platform discussed in that section.



All yellow background parts of pages with this icon at the top are worksheets meant to assist with info collection.

# PATHWAYS TO ARTICLE 6 DATA



**GUIDE 1:** How to find information on carbon projects in my country?

WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF CARBON PROJECTS?

HOW DO I FIND OUT WHAT TYPES OF CARBON PROJECTS ARE HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY?

HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A PROJECT REGISTERED TO A PARTICULAR CARBON STANDARD?

WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK WHEN I FIND MY PROJECT DOCUMENT?

**GUIDE 2:** How can I use data from Article 6.2 to better understand what's happening in my country?

WHAT IS ARTICLE 6.2: KEY TERMS, PROCESSES, AND REPORTS?

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY (BIG PICTURE)?

HOW CAN I FIND OUT A SPECIFIC 6.2 PROJECT IN MY COUNTRY?

WHAT ARE THE PATHS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY?

**GUIDE 3:** How can I use data from Article 6.4 to better understand what's happening in my country?

WHAT IS ARTICLE 6.4: KEY TERMS, PROCESSES, AND REPORTS?

WHAT IS HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY (BIG PICTURE)?

HOW CAN I FIND OUT A SPECIFIC 6.4 PROJECT IN MY COUNTRY?

WHAT ARE THE PATHS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY?



# WHAT ARE THE TYPES OF CARBON PROJECTS?

The categories for carbon projects can be confusing and make it difficult to know where to start analysis or advocacy. This section aims to give you the key terminology to navigate different types of carbon projects so that you will be better equipped to know what questions to ask and where to look for information.

## THE BIG PICTURE: WHAT IS ARTICLE 6 AND THE MAJOR FORMS OF CARBON CREDIT MARKETS?

The [UNFCCC Paris Agreement](#) is a document signed by 194 countries in 2015 that creates a plan of how to address the climate crisis. The big idea of the Paris Agreement is a commitment for every country to make plans, called **Nationally Determined Contributions**, for how they will reduce the amount of carbon emitted in their country. The premise is that by reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere over time, we can reduce the likelihood of negative consequences of a warming planet, such as extreme weather events and rising sea levels. The countries meet together every year at the conference of parties or COP to continue to make rules on how to implement this agreement.

The 6th section or **article** of the Paris Agreement creates rules for countries to cooperate with each other to reach their goals to reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. These paths for collaboration overlap with other efforts that started before the Paris Agreement to reduce or remove carbon from the atmosphere, namely the Voluntary Carbon Market and Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD+). Because these programs started at different times, have different rules, and can overlap, it can be very confusing to understand the terminology.

Here are some key differences and terms to understand about these different carbon programs:

- **Article 6.2:** This is the general framework that is used by countries to make agreements directly with each other to transfer carbon credits. In most cases, there is a host country where the carbon projects take place and a buyer country that pays for a transfer. The traded credits are called **Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs)**. Countries can decide which types of emission reduction or removal they want to trade, potentially including VCM, REDD+, or Article 6.4 projects.
- **Article 6.4:** In this centralised market, project developers register carbon projects with the **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)**, managed by the UNFCCC Article 6.4

- **Supervisory Body.** The projects need to respect the Article 6.4 standards for the quality of credits and be approved by the host country. Once the credits are certified, they can be purchased by other countries or companies.
- **UN REDD+** Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation is a results-based payment program created by the UNFCCC that aims to incentivise countries to preserve and maintain their forests. Participating countries need to meet specific national planning requirements before programs are implemented. While protecting forests is important, UN REDD+ [was not designed as a carbon market system](#) and does not uphold key criteria such as additionality and permanence.<sup>2</sup>
- **Voluntary Carbon Markets (VCM):** Project developers register projects with carbon standards that are validated against the standard's rules. When credits are issued, they can be purchased by companies or governments. Different standards have different rules, resulting in different levels of scrutiny and different pricing.

## TYPES OF CARBON TRADING

Figure 1

### ARTICLE 6.2: Decentralised

Countries make agreements directly with each other to transfer carbon credits. Through bilateral or multilateral agreements **buyer countries** purchase **Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs)** from host countries. Countries can decide what standard to adopt for credits.

**UNIT:** Internationally Transferred Mitigation Outcomes (ITMOs)

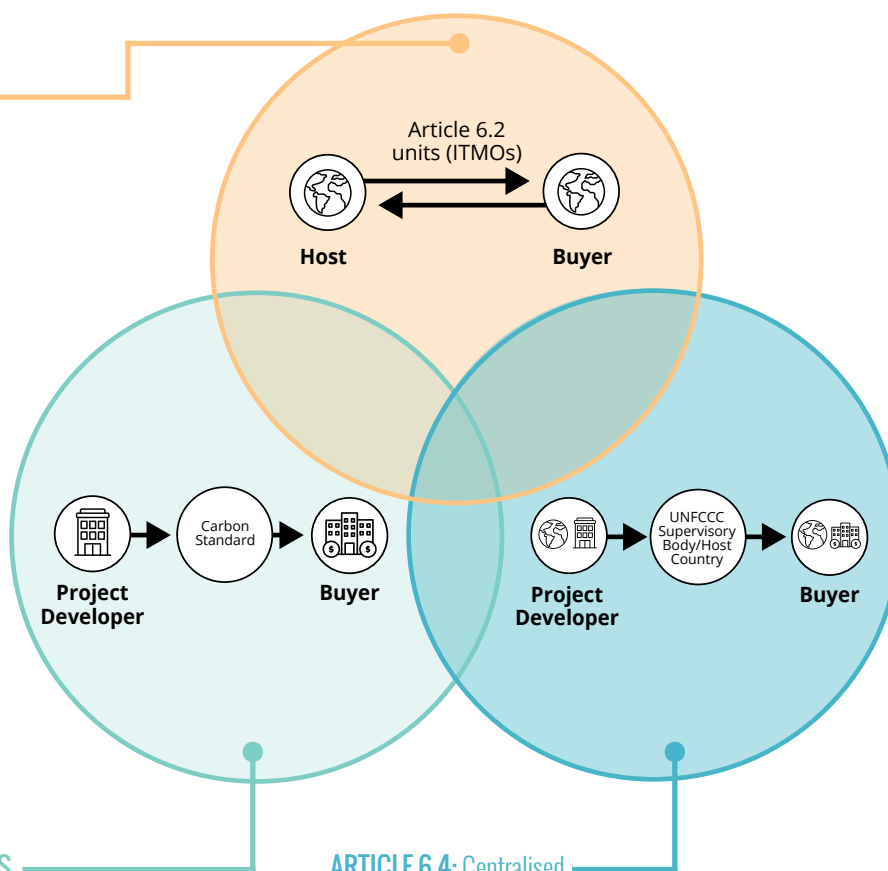
### VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS

Project developers register projects with carbon standards that are validated against the standard's rules.

### ARTICLE 6.4: Centralised

Countries or companies register carbon projects with the **Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM)**, managed by the UNFCCC Article 6.4 Supervisory Body. The credits can be purchased by other countries or companies.

**UNIT:** Article 6.4 Emission Reductions (A6.4ERs)



## WHAT IS THE SCALE OF THE PROJECT?

One way carbon projects are organised is by the scale, or the geographic region, that is covered by the project. The scale of a project can make a big difference in what actors are involved, how revenues are shared, and where to find information. There are three ways carbon projects can be organised.

|                       | SIZE                                                                                                                  | ROLE OF GOVERNMENT                                                               | EXAMPLE                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Jurisdictional</b> | Activity takes place within an entire country or state                                                                | Usually led by a government agency, like the Ministry of Forestry or Environment | <a href="#">Jurisdictional REDD+ project in Guyana</a> <sup>3</sup>                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Project-based</b>  | Usually smaller, defined based on the area where there is relevant activity (e.g. forest in parts of multiple states) | Usually approved by government but led by project developer                      | <a href="#">Pichacay Landfill Gas Project in Ecuador</a> <sup>4</sup>                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Nesting</b>        | Smaller defined project inside of larger jurisdictional projects, with similar aims <sup>5</sup>                      | Combination of government agency and project developer collaboration             | <a href="#">Guatemala</a> has a national REDD+ strategy that includes 12 forest concessions with individual projects; national obligations must be met before individual project credits <sup>6</sup> |



### WORKSHEET: WHAT'S THE SCALE OF MY PROJECT?

If you are trying to figure out whether a project near you is jurisdictional or project-based, these questions might help:

- Who is in charge of the project? \_\_\_\_\_
- How much land is covered by the project? \_\_\_\_\_
- What is the role of the government? \_\_\_\_\_
- Has your country had discussion about REDD+? \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** If a project is jurisdictional, it's probably connected to REDD+ and that will help you know where to look for information.



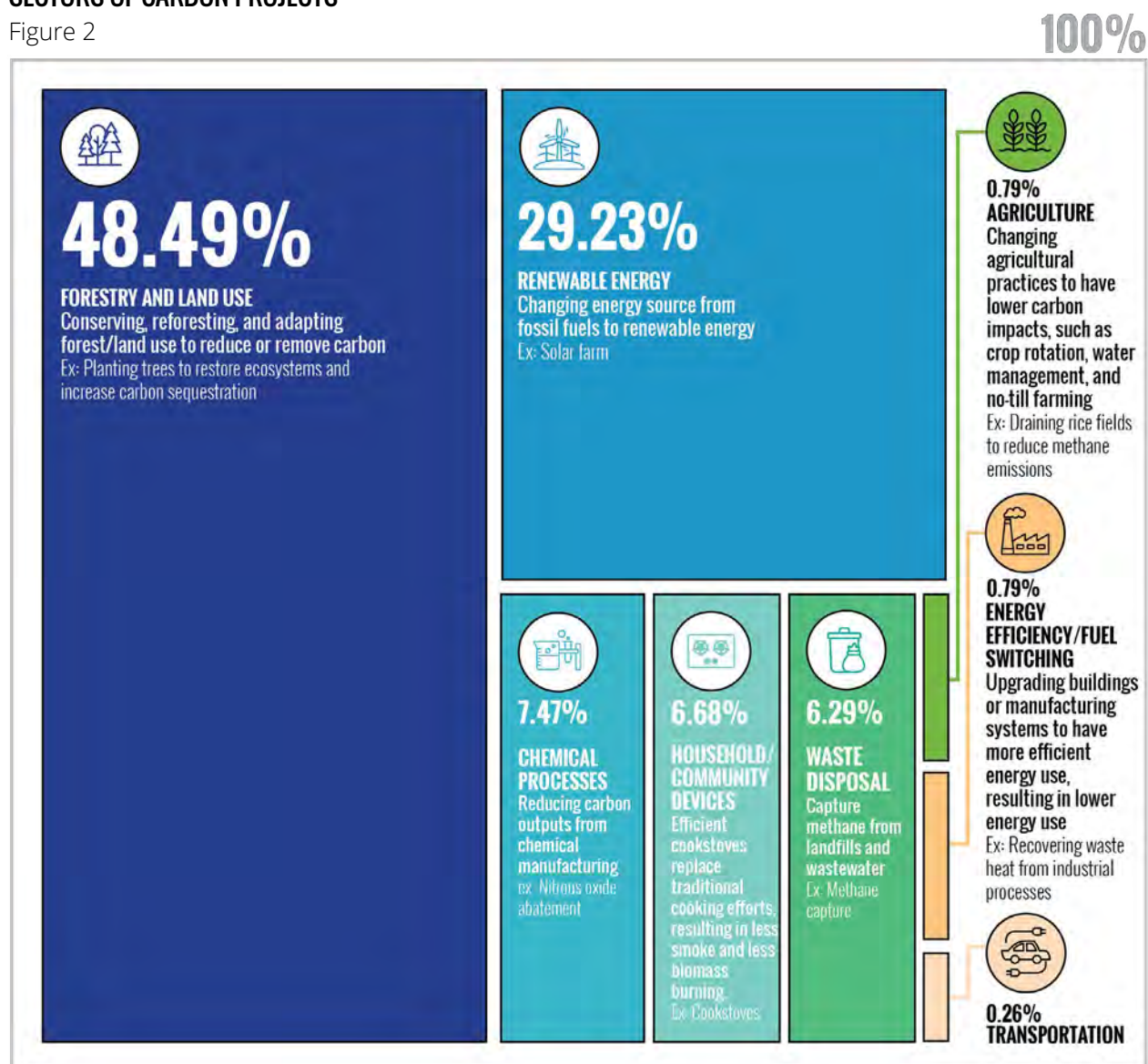
## WHAT SECTOR IS THE PROJECT IN?

Carbon projects are designed to remove or reduce the amount of carbon in the air. The removal or reduction can happen through a lot of different activities, which are divided into categories called sectors.

Databases and carbon registries often sort projects by sector, so it can be useful to understand sector names when looking for information. National governments often make decisions to encourage carbon projects in particular sectors or have rules about what sectors to include in certain types of trading. This guide will show you how to find information about the most active carbon sectors in your country. Knowing what sectors are involved is important because the types of land impacted, employment needed, and human rights risks vary greatly by sector. Figure 2 shows how much each sector was represented in the Voluntary Carbon Market in 2024.<sup>7</sup>

### SECTORS OF CARBON PROJECTS

Figure 2



## WHAT ARE THE FINANCING MOTIVATIONS FOR THE PROJECT?

Carbon projects are organised in different ways based on the motivation of the financial transfer. At the community level of a project, it is often very difficult to tell which type of financing is used. The terminology is important to understand because different systems may have different rules and different access to information. Here are three major financing motivations in carbon markets, but please note that they are not mutually exclusive. Just like the overlaps we discussed before between Article 6 and other areas, a project created under the voluntary carbon market may be purchased as an offset in a compliance market.

| SYSTEM                          | MOTIVATION                                                                                                                                            | EXAMPLE                                                                                                                                                          |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Compliance Markets</b>       | Purchase of carbon credits driven by company or government need to meet goals or requirements for emission reduction (sometimes called cap and trade) | In <a href="#">California's Cap and Invest</a> program, power companies can purchase credits from forest carbon projects to meet emissions targets. <sup>8</sup> |
| <b>Voluntary Carbon Markets</b> | Purchase of carbon credits driven by companies or individuals wanting to offset emissions voluntarily                                                 | Netflix pays Native for credits of Northern Rangelands Trust project verified by the Verra Carbon Standard. <sup>9</sup>                                         |
| <b>Results based payments</b>   | Payment for carbon reduction or removal based on results                                                                                              | Norway pays Liberia to reduce deforestation as part of UN REDD+.                                                                                                 |

# HOW DO I FIND OUT WHAT TYPES OF CARBON PROJECTS ARE HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY?

Understanding the big picture of what types of carbon projects are happening in your country can help you know where to look for more information about a specific project near you. It can also help you prioritise your advocacy in your country and have a better sense of what government or private sector actors might be involved.

This section helps you navigate through three big categories of carbon projects, Article 6, Voluntary Carbon Markets, and REDD+, to get a sense of what is happening in your country. Remember, activities on the ground can be part of more than one of these categories, so there may be more than one place where you can find information.

## UNEP ARTICLE 6 PIPELINE PLATFORM: A SNAPSHOT OF ARTICLE 6 ACTIVITIES

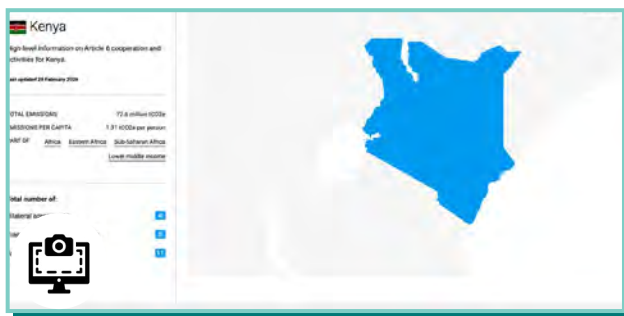


Now that countries have agreed to the major rules for Article 6, many countries started preparing for and implementing new Article 6 projects. In the next two guides, we will discuss in detail how to track this progress on the UNFCCC websites. To get a quick overview, however, it can be helpful to use the UNEP Article 6 pipeline platform. The platform exists to track Article 6 projects across countries and sectors.

Here are some steps to begin understanding what is happening in your country:

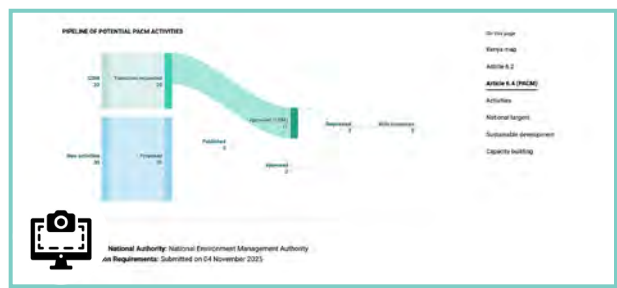
- a) Go to <https://article6pipeline.unepccc.org/>
- b) Click on “Global Data” and select your country

On the bottom left, you can view an initial snapshot of the scale of Article 6 in your country. You can see the number of bilateral agreements (plans for 6.2), ITMOs (6.2 transfers), and approved 6.4 activities (plans for 6.4 projects).



- c) Scroll down to see more information about both Article 6.2 and 6.4 activities. In the Article 6.2 cooperative approaches section, you can see a visual representation of which countries have bilateral agreements with your country. If you select the activities and ITMOs, you will see more information about the number of activities and transfers involved.

In the Article 6.4 section, you can view the progress of projects along the Article 6.4 pipeline. This can give you a sense of whether to expect an increase in project activities over time. If you keep scrolling down to the 'sectors' section, you can toggle between PACM and Article 6.2 projects to see the number and emission size of the sectors involved.



## WORKSHEET: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY UNDER ARTICLE 6

This worksheet is a place where you can keep track of the key information you find on the UNEP Article 6 pipeline page. If your country has multiple Article 6 projects, make sure to read guides 2 and 3 to understand these elements in more detail.

### ARTICLE 6.2

Number of bilateral agreements: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of activities: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of ITMOs (mitigation outcome transfers): \_\_\_\_\_

Countries that are most active with my country: \_\_\_\_\_

Top 3 sectors for 6.2 projects: \_\_\_\_\_

Planned amount of emission outcomes: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of emission outcomes transferred (ITMOs): \_\_\_\_\_

### ARTICLE 6.4

Number of CDM projects approved for transfer: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of proposed projects: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of approved projects: \_\_\_\_\_

Amount of emissions credited: \_\_\_\_\_

Designated National Authority name: \_\_\_\_\_

DNA contact information: \_\_\_\_\_

Top 3 sectors for 6.4 projects by planned emissions: \_\_\_\_\_

Top 3 sectors for 6.4 projects by issued credits (A6.4ER): \_\_\_\_\_

Top 3 sectors for 6.4 projects by activity number: \_\_\_\_\_

## VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS: UC BERKELEY VOLUNTARY REGISTRY OFFSETS DATABASE



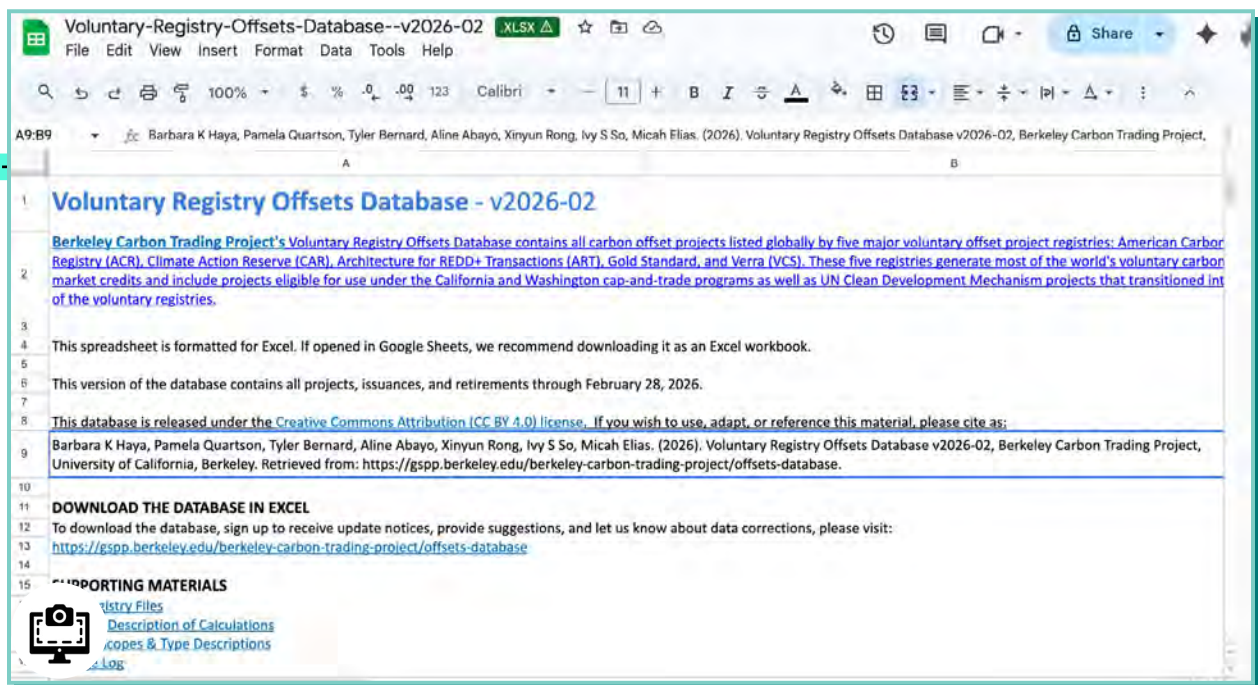
Understanding the scope of voluntary carbon market projects in your country can be intimidating. The market has no central repository or authority, so each carbon standard keeps track of the projects on its own registry. In some countries, there are national repositories of carbon projects within their jurisdiction. These do not exist in all countries, nor are they always comprehensive.

Because of this complexity, the University of Berkeley in California has created a database that includes carbon projects from five major registries: American Carbon Registry (ACR), Architecture for REDD+ Transactions (ART), Climate Action Reserve (CAR), Gold Standard, and Verra (VCS). You can search this database to get an understanding of the scope of voluntary carbon projects in your country. It will not be exhaustive, but it can be a good place to start, especially if there is no national registry in your country.

a) Go to <https://gspp.berkeley.edu/berkeley-carbon-trading-project/offsets-database>.

b) Click on “Download the Voluntary Registry Offsets.”

If you have Excel on your computer, open the file in Excel. If you don't have Excel, you can move the file to a Google Drive and open it in Google Sheet for free. When you open the document, you can read information about what's included on the front page.



c) Click on the 'Projects' tab.

Scroll to the right to find the column titled 'Country.' Click on the triangle in that column to deselect all of the countries and select your country. Now you should see the projects



that are in your country from these registries. There should be a powerful amount of information in front of you. Now you can see the official project name and ID of all the projects on these registries in your country.

Using the columns can give you a sense of the scale of different types of carbon projects in your country. For example, you can sort by registry to see which registry is most influential. Sorting by 'scope' will be analogous to sectors in the UNEP website, giving you a sense of what sector carbon projects are most prominent. You can even sort by project developer name to see if any one developer stands out. When you continue scrolling to the right, you will see the credits issued by year, which will give you a sense of the timeline of different projects.

| Project ID | Project Name                                                                         | Region | Country | State | Project Site Location |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|---------|-------|-----------------------|
| GS12807    | Safe drinking water for Kenyan households and institutions (schools)                 |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12812    | GS11574 GS11691 RVPA-1 CPA-KE-Kenya Samsung Project                                  |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12839    | GS12443 GS12444 RVPA-02: ECC_Multi-country Electric Clean Cooking Programme In Ker   |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12854    | GS11253 GS11790 Jiko Sawa Improved Cookstove Project                                 |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12861    | Changing Lives via Improved Cooking – Kenya 1                                        |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12862    | Changing Lives via Improved Cooking – Kenya 2                                        |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12863    | Changing Lives via Improved Cooking – Kenya 3                                        |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12877    | GS12877 eWATER SERVICES Emission Reduction from Safe Drinking Water Supply and Acc   |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12880    | GS10789 GS10791 RVPA-25: Efficient and Clean Cooking for households in Kenya         |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12884    | GS12544 VPA 03: Rung'eto Farmers Cooperative Society Improved Cook Stove Distributio |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12907    | Composting Facilities for Organic Waste in East Africa                               |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12917    | OYU - Building Sustainable Kenyan Communities                                        |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12918    | OYU - Building Sustainable Kenyan Communities VPA01                                  |        |         |       |                       |
| GS12933    | GS12877 VPA 1- eWATER Emission Reductions from Safe Drinking Water Supply and Accr   |        |         |       |                       |
|            | EcoSafi Clean Cooking Program                                                        |        |         |       |                       |
|            | EcoSafi Clean Cooking Program VPA 02: Kenya                                          |        |         |       |                       |
|            | Kitui Improved Cookstove Project                                                     |        |         |       |                       |
|            | REGENERATION KENYA (RK1)                                                             |        |         |       |                       |



## WORKSHEET: WHAT'S HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY IN THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKETS?

This worksheet is a place where you can keep track of voluntary carbon projects in your country. Remember the data on the UC Berkeley site is a starting point and not comprehensive.

How many projects are in these voluntary registries? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What registry has the most projects? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What sector represents the most projects? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Are there sectors most represented in certain registries? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Which project developer has the most projects? \_\_\_\_\_



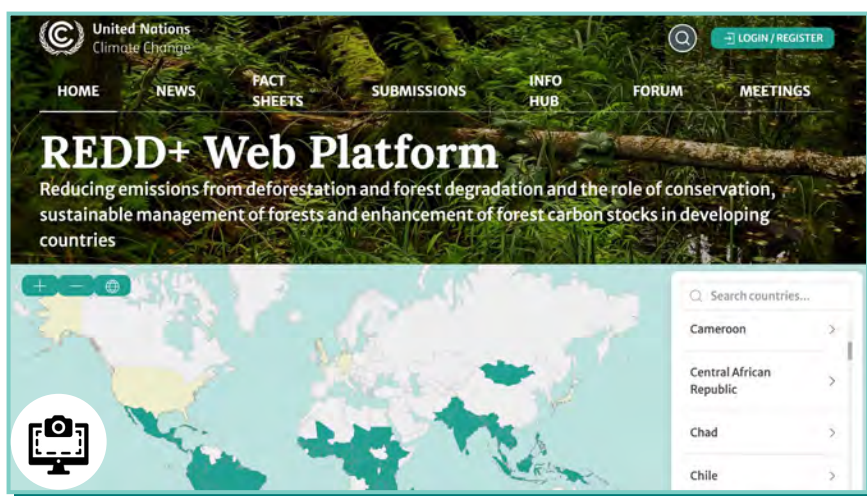
## REDD+ WEB PLATFORM



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation is a results-based payment program created by the UNFCCC that aims to incentivise countries to preserve and maintain their forests. Though these are not traditional offset or carbon market projects, they are often presented in a similar framework nationally and can be confused as carbon market projects. As a result, when getting a sense of the status of carbon programs in your country, it can be helpful to understand the scope of REDD+ work.

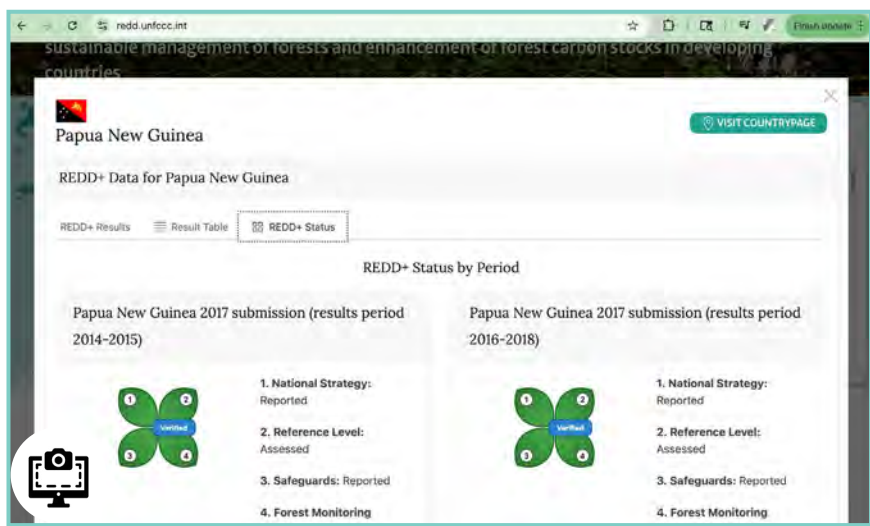
The REDD+ Web Platform is the official site for tracking efforts to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation across the world. It is mandated by a COP decision and run by the UNFCCC based on data submitted by country governments.

- a) Go to <https://redd.unfccc.int/>.



- b) Select your country from the country list.

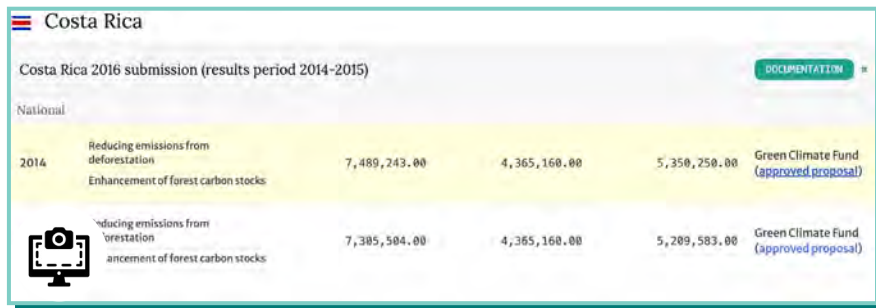
- c) When your country summary appears, you can select REDD+ Results Table to see how many emission reductions are verified for each year.



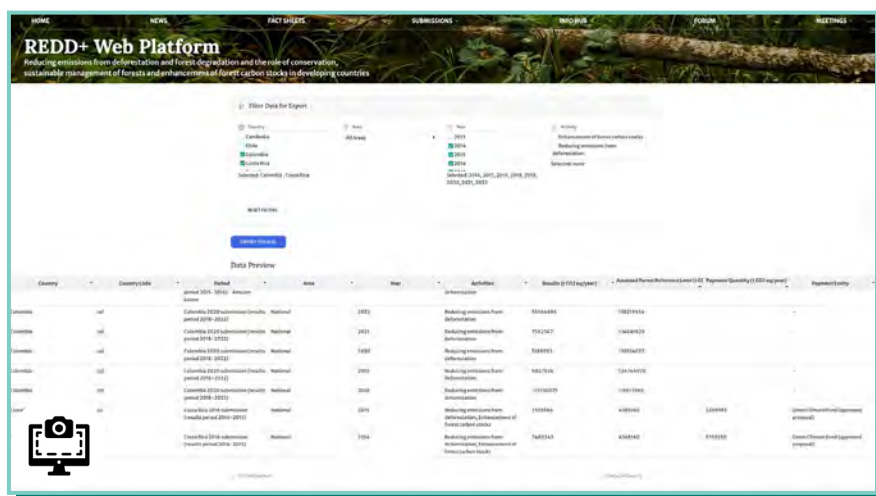
If your country has a website on REDD+ activities, you can click it in the top-right corner. There, you can find more detailed information about country emissions and individual projects.

d) Alternatively, go to <https://redd.unfccc.int/info-hub.html>. Scroll down to your country.

Notice emission reductions and payments for your country, as well as some options to click to more detailed information about the underlying programming. Within the InfoHub, if you go to the 'export assistant', you can select your country and others for comparison. You can select the years and project types to filter by. Then you can view the data on your screen or download it to a file that you can manipulate yourself.



| Costa Rica 2016 submission (results period 2014-2015) |                                       |              |              |              |                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|----------------------------------------|
| National                                              |                                       |              |              |              |                                        |
| 2014                                                  | Reducing emissions from deforestation | 7,489,243.00 | 4,365,168.00 | 5,358,250.00 | Green Climate Fund (approved proposal) |
|                                                       | Enhancement of forest carbon stocks   |              |              |              |                                        |
|                                                       | Reducing emissions from deforestation | 7,385,504.00 | 4,365,168.00 | 5,289,583.00 | Green Climate Fund (approved proposal) |
|                                                       | Enhancement of forest carbon stocks   |              |              |              |                                        |



| Country    | Country Code | Period                                                 | Area     | Year | Activities                                                                 | Results (t CO2e/yr) | Approved Forest Reference Level (t CO2e/yr) | Payment Quantity (t CO2e/yr) | Payment (USD)                          |
|------------|--------------|--------------------------------------------------------|----------|------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Colombia   | COL          | Colombia REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015)   | National | 2014 | Reducing emissions from deforestation                                      | 81644891            | 108274119                                   |                              |                                        |
| Colombia   | COL          | Colombia REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015)   | National | 2015 | Reducing emissions from deforestation                                      | 71924671            | 104896329                                   |                              |                                        |
| Colombia   | COL          | Colombia REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015)   | National | 2016 | Reducing emissions from deforestation                                      | 82889551            | 108264751                                   |                              |                                        |
| Colombia   | COL          | Colombia REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015)   | National | 2017 | Reducing emissions from deforestation                                      | 94875146            | 124764720                                   |                              |                                        |
| Colombia   | COL          | Colombia REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015)   | National | 2018 | Reducing emissions from deforestation                                      | 101563270           | 138011965                                   |                              |                                        |
| Costa Rica | CRI          | Costa Rica REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015) | National | 2014 | Reducing emissions from deforestation, Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks | 1109996             | 4181440                                     | 1109996                      | Green Climate Fund (approved proposal) |
| Costa Rica | CRI          | Costa Rica REDD+ submission (results period 2014-2015) | National | 2015 | Reducing emissions from deforestation, Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks | 74871243            | 4308340                                     | 8193350                      | Green Climate Fund (approved proposal) |



## WORKSHEET: WHAT REDD+ IS HAPPENING IN MY COUNTRY?

This worksheet is a place to keep track of the key information you find about REDD+ in your country.

What is the REDD+ status for my country? \_\_\_\_\_

Who is the government point person for REDD+? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are projects, what land do they cover? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are results, what years are covered? \_\_\_\_\_

If there are results, how many emissions are involved? \_\_\_\_\_

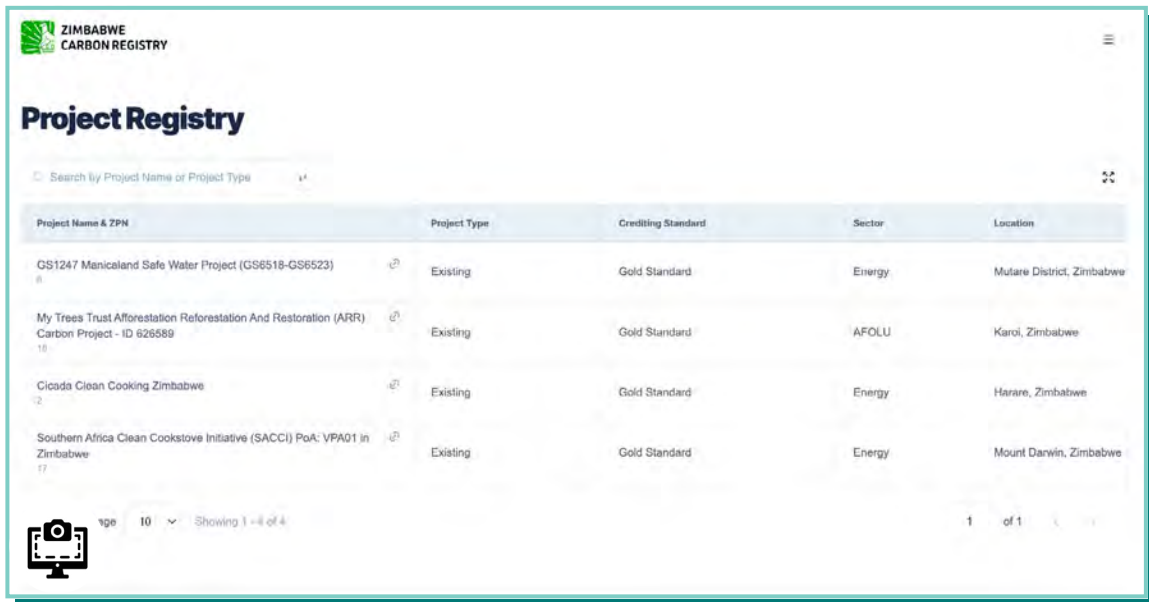
Who is the major funder of REDD+ in my country? \_\_\_\_\_

If there have been payments, how much money was involved? \_\_\_\_\_

## CHECK FOR A NATIONAL CARBON REGISTRY

Some countries create national carbon registries that track some or all of the carbon projects within their country. If your country has a national carbon registry, you can look on that site to find more information about what types of projects are happening where.

- a) Google “YourCountryName National Carbon Registry” to see whether your country has a registry.
- b) For example, Zimbabwe has the ZiCMA web-portal run by the Ministry of Environment, Climate and Wildlife to track carbon projects in the country. [At this link](#). When you look at the project registry, you can see the project names, sector, and location by district.



| Project Name & ZPN                                                                                   | Project Type | Crediting Standard | Sector | Location                  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------|---------------------------|
| GS1247 Manicaland Safe Water Project (GS6518-GS6523)<br>8                                            | Existing     | Gold Standard      | Energy | Mutare District, Zimbabwe |
| My Trees Trust Afforestation Reforestation And Restoration (ARR)<br>Carbon Project - ID 626589<br>18 | Existing     | Gold Standard      | AFOLU  | Karoi, Zimbabwe           |
| Cicoda Clean Cooking Zimbabwe<br>12                                                                  | Existing     | Gold Standard      | Energy | Harare, Zimbabwe          |
| Southern Africa Clean Cookstove Initiative (SACCI) PoA: VPA01 in<br>Zimbabwe<br>17                   | Existing     | Gold Standard      | Energy | Mount Darwin, Zimbabwe    |

- c) The type of information available on a national registry will be different for each country, but many countries are getting support from [UNDP](#) or others to build their national registry.

# HOW DO I FIND OUT MORE ABOUT A PROJECT REGISTERED TO A PARTICULAR CARBON STANDARD?

Now that you have a big-picture understanding of the scale of carbon programs in your country, you may be looking for more information on a specific carbon project. This section will help you learn how to look for specific carbon projects in voluntary carbon markets in your country. Guides 2 and 3 will help you find carbon projects that are under Article 6.2 or Article 6.4, respectively.

## STARTING POINT: THE ROLE OF CARBON STANDARDS

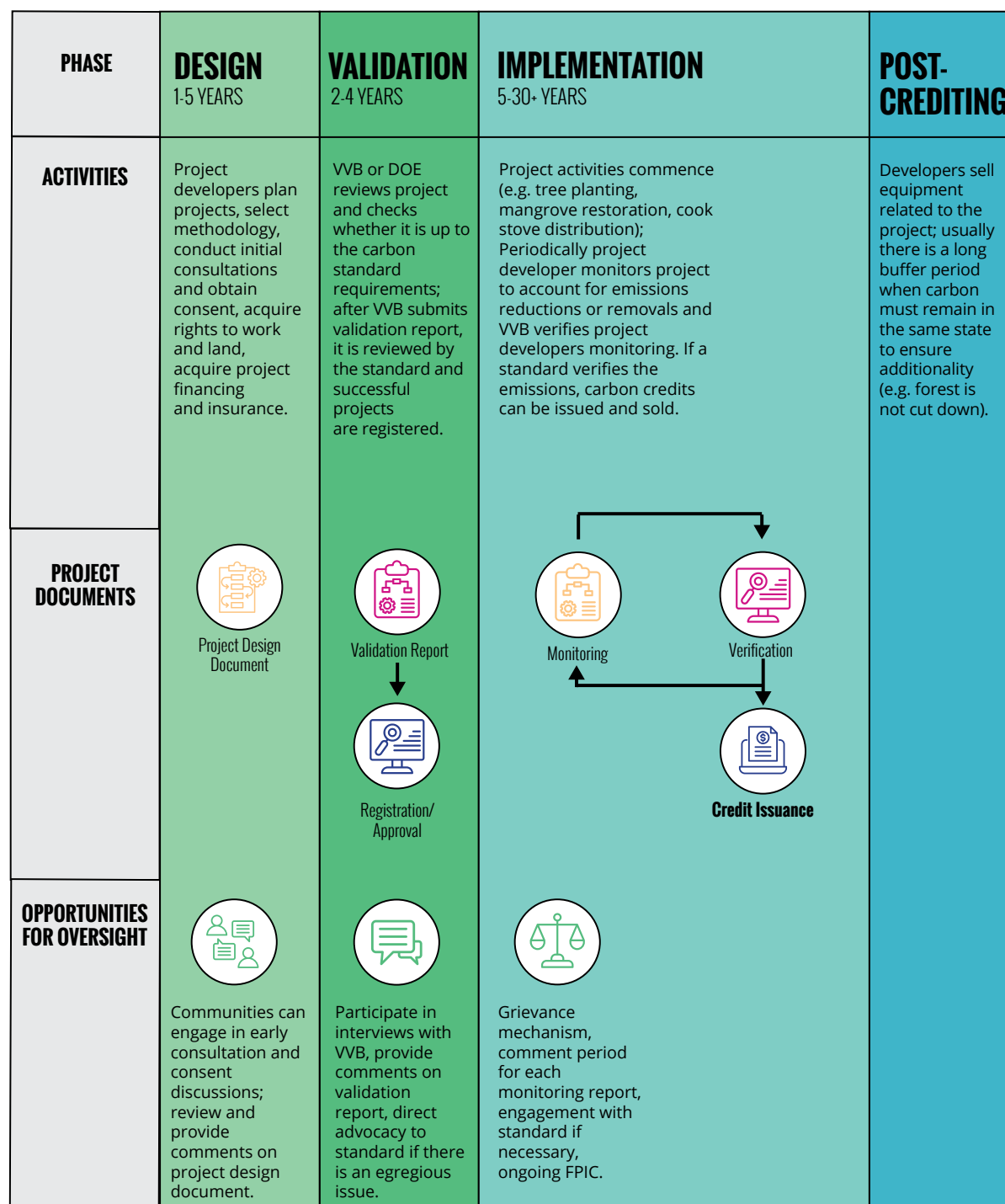
Because there is no central organising authority for carbon markets, the key to finding and understanding individual projects is through the carbon standards. In the voluntary carbon markets, a carbon standard is the organisation that writes the rules for what will count for a carbon project and checks whether those rules are being followed. Every project must submit their work to a carbon standard to demonstrate that it meets the minimum criteria for projects, often with the review of a verification and validation body (VVB). After the project is approved or registered, the standard continues to review or verify monitoring reports to confirm whether the rules are being followed and whether carbon credits should be issued. Figure 3 shows the typical lifecycle of a voluntary carbon project.

Unless you ask a project developer which carbon standard their project uses, it is often difficult to tell from looking at a project on the ground which carbon standard is involved. The investigation you did before to see what is happening in your country overall might have given you a sense of the carbon standards that are most common near you. You may also have heard about a carbon standard from government officials or people working on a project. It's common to colloquially say: "It's a Verra project" or "It's a Gold Standard Project."

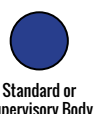
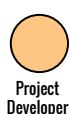
Whether you already know which standard is involved in a project near you or you are looking through different standards to try to find a project, you can use the steps in the section below to know how to find a project and the key project documents. We offer how to look for a carbon project in three common standards.

## CARBON PROJECT LIFECYCLE

Figure 3



### KEY/ACTORS





## WHAT'S NECESSARY FOR A CARBON PROJECT

Though all carbon standards write their own rules for a carbon project there are a few criteria that have become industry good practice for all projects:

- **Additionality:** Whether the projects emission reductions or removals would have happened without the revenue from carbon credits. Projects that aren't additional don't deliver real climate benefits and don't differ from what would have happened without the project.
- **Leakage:** The impacts of the project must not be creating changes in the emission outcomes elsewhere. That is, if a project lowers emissions in one region but they increase in another region as a result that is considered leakage (e.g. protecting forest in one jurisdiction increases deforestation in the neighbouring jurisdiction).
- **Permanence:** The mitigation (e.g. carbon stored in trees due to reforestation) must be long-term. Most carbon crediting standards consider 40-100 years to be sufficient, although this is far below the [1000+ years required by science](#).
- **Baseline:** The baseline scenario estimates how many emissions would have occurred if the carbon project did not take place. This is a key factor to determine how many carbon credits can be created, with many projects overestimating their baseline and generating more carbon credits than they should.<sup>10</sup>
- **Double counting:** The emission mitigations should only be credited and used once.
- **Social impacts:** The project must respect the rights of people impacted by its activities, including Free, Prior and Informed Consent.

These key criteria, which have also been complemented by guidance<sup>11</sup> and additional rules from industry actors,<sup>12</sup> are meant to ensure carbon crediting projects are of good quality. However, many projects do not reliably uphold all of these criteria.

## QUESTIONS TO ASK TO CHECK WHETHER A PROJECT IS THE ONE NEAR YOU

### WHEN CHECKING AGAINST SOMETHING YOU FIND ONLINE

- Does the type of project sector/type match the sort of activities you see?
- Does geographic scope of where you see activities match what is described in the project documents?
- Does the time frame of the project match when you have seen activities start (note, this is not necessarily indicative)?
- Are the project developers a company name that you recognize from the activities (note this is not necessarily indicative)?

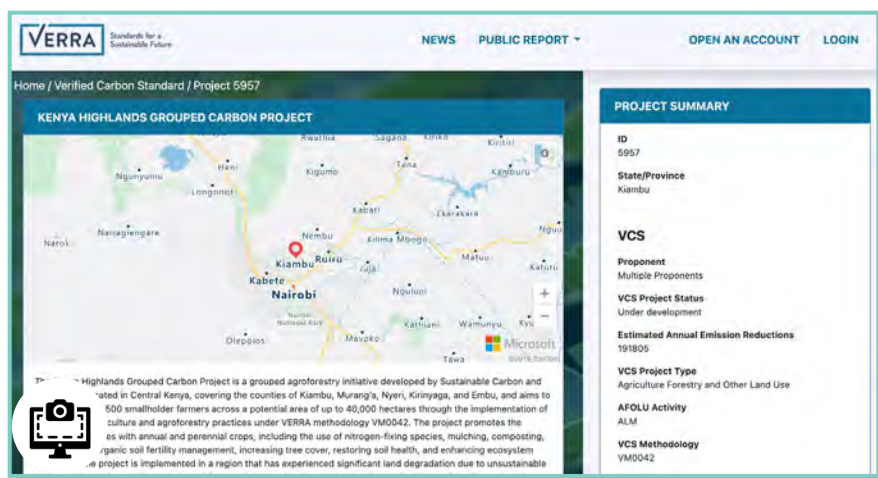
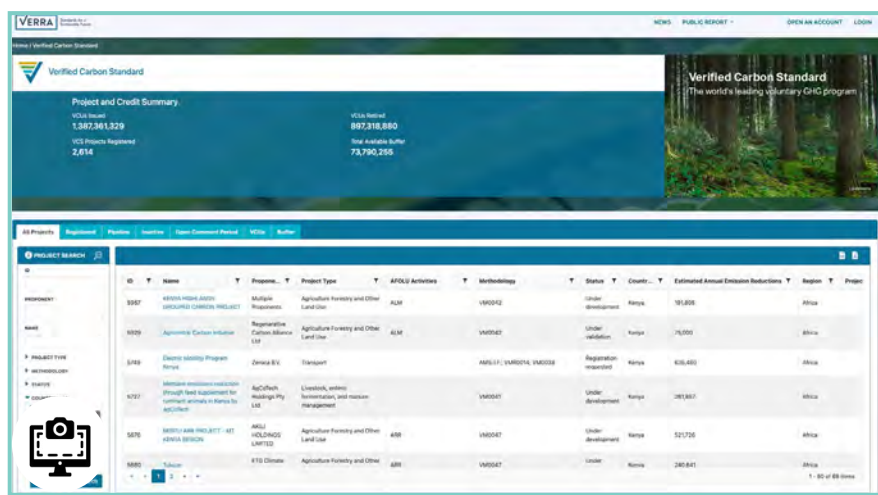
### WHEN ASKING SOMEONE WHO WORKS FOR THE PROJECT

- What is the project name?
- Where is this project registered or what carbon standard is being used?
- Who is the project developer?
- What is the geographic scope of the project?
- What is the activity that is being "counted" to reduce or remove carbon in this project?

## VERRA - VERIFIED CARBON STANDARD

Verra is a non profit organization based in the United States that sets standards for climate action and sustainable development. The [Verified Carbon Standard Program](#) is the world's most used carbon crediting system. Since 2005, projects under the VCS claim to have reduced or removed more than one billion tonnes of carbon.

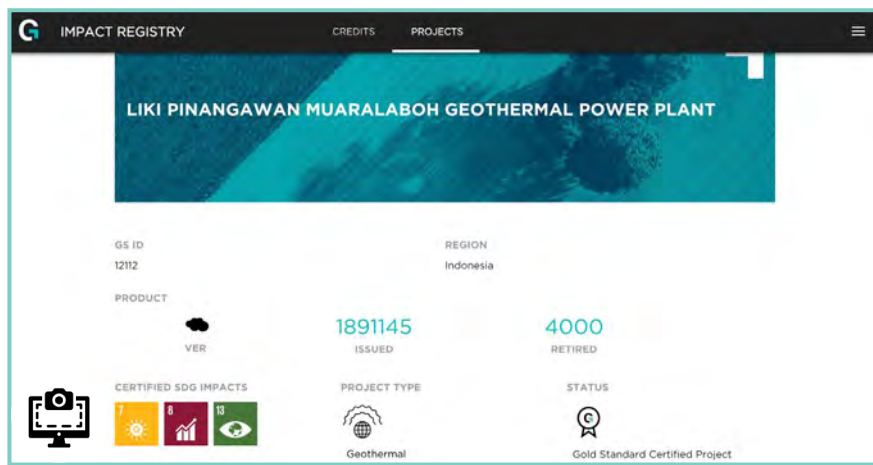
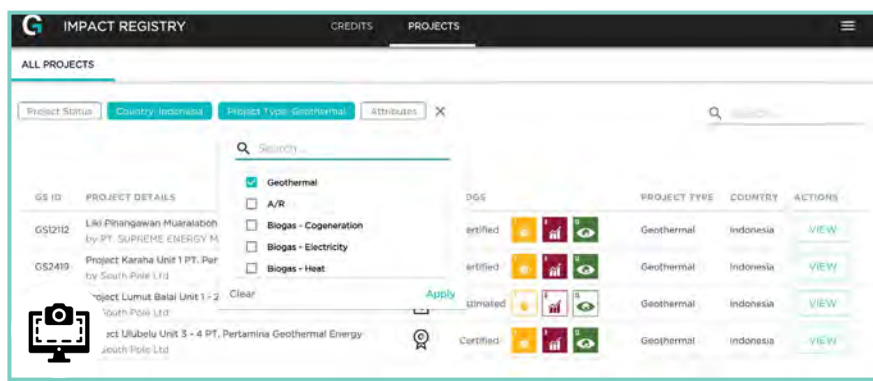
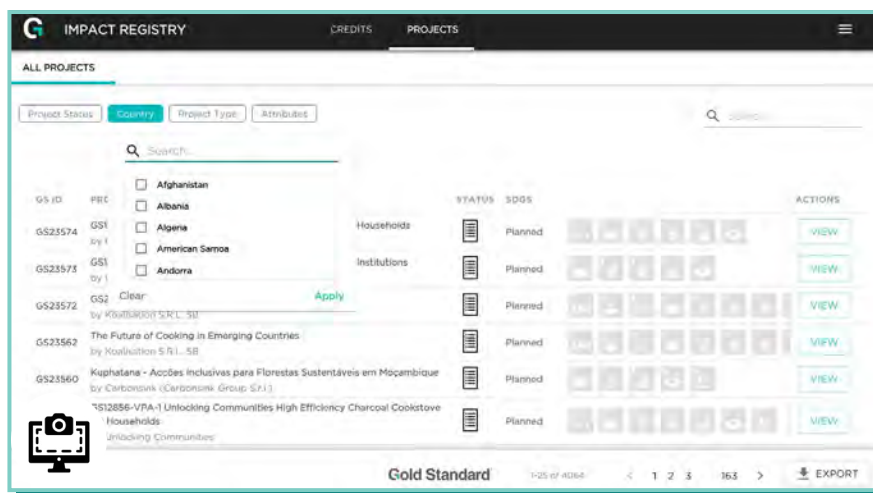
1. Go to <https://registry.verra.org/>
2. On the left side of the screen select your country (you may have to scroll down to do this) and click search.
3. You will see a list of projects in your country. You can sort these by "project type" (sector), name or date. You can also export this list and download it to be able to sort it yourself.
4. When you click on the project name, a new screen will emerge that shows a summary of the project and links to the project documents.
5. Scroll down the page to see additional project documents such as the registration, verification, and monitoring reports



## GOLD STANDARD

[Gold Standard](https://registry.goldstandard.org/) is a carbon standard established in 2003 in Switzerland by a group of environmental nonprofit organisations with the goal of ensuring environmental integrity and sustainable development. The standard is called the Gold Standard for the Global Goals (GS4GG).

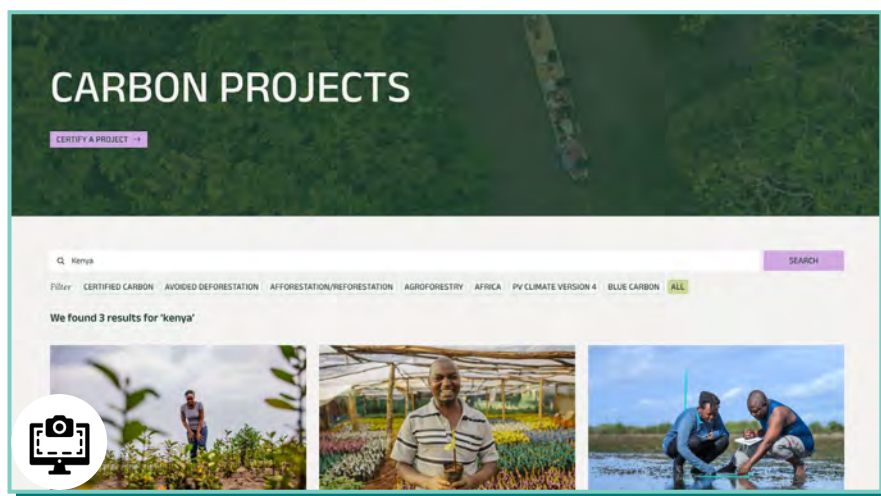
1. Go to <https://registry.goldstandard.org/projects?q=&page=1>
2. Select your country from the country tab.
3. You can filter the list of projects further by project type or project status. You can also export the entire list of projects to Excel and then put them into a Google Drive to open it in free software.
4. When you click on "View" you will be taken to a project page where you can read a summary of the project.
5. Scroll to the bottom of the page and click 'Certification Documents' to open a page with monitoring reports, validation reviews, and stakeholder consultation summaries.



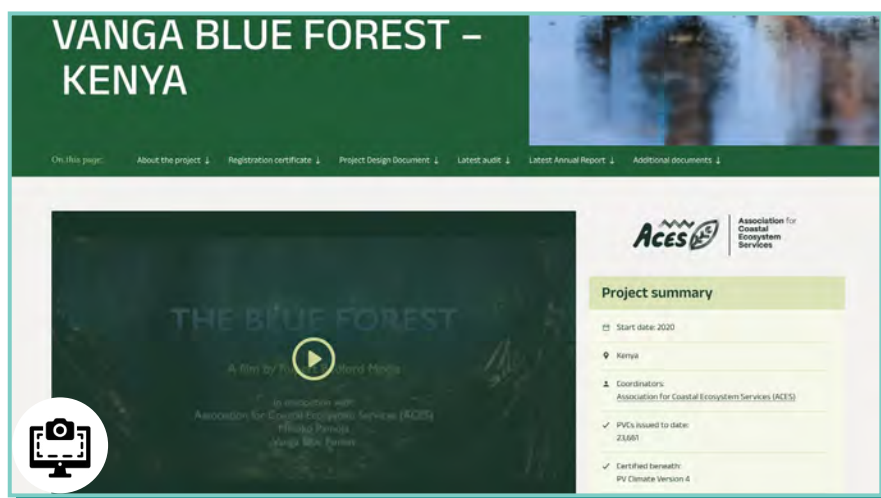
## PLAN VIVO

For 25 years, Plan Vivo has been a standard focused on supporting nature-based community-led projects. Projects certified by the standard account for more than 15.9 million tonnes of reduced or removed carbon emissions. Compared with the other standards, there are much fewer projects certified by Plan Vivo, and each project tends to be smaller.

1. Go to <https://www.planvivo.org/projects/carbon>.
2. Type the name of your country into the search bar.



3. After you click on the project name, you will see a summary of the project. In the same screen you can see links to the key project documents.





## OTHER CARBON STANDARDS

Not all carbon standards have registries that are easy to navigate for the general public. For example the [American Carbon Registry](#) and [Climate Action Reserve](#) both have registries that don't have search bars by country. However, if you scroll all the way to the right you can download an excel file of the registry and sort by country. The availability of key project documents also can vary by registry. A study by Carbon Market Watch found strong inconsistencies in the availability of project documents across and within registries.<sup>13</sup>

| ACR<br>AMERICAN CARBON REGISTRY |                                        |                   |                                   |                            |                                                                                      |                                     |                                     |                                   |                  |                                            |                     |                       |                    |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Home                            |                                        |                   |                                   |                            |                                                                                      |                                     |                                     |                                   |                  |                                            |                     |                       |                    |
| Projects                        |                                        |                   |                                   |                            |                                                                                      |                                     |                                     |                                   |                  |                                            |                     |                       |                    |
| Project ID                      | Compliance Program ID (ARB or Ecology) | Project Developer | Project Name                      | Project Type               | Project Methodology/Protocol                                                         | Initial Crediting Period Start Date | Current Crediting Period Start Date | Current Crediting Period End Date | Voluntary Status | Compliance Program Status (ARB or Ecology) | Project Status Date | Project Site Location | Project Site State |
| ACR586                          | N/A                                    | The Climate Trust | 18 Reserves Forest Carbon Project | Forest Carbon              | Improved Forest Management (IFM) on Non-Federal U.S. Forestlands                     | 01/15/2020                          | 01/15/2020                          | 01/14/2040                        | Registered       | Not ARB or Ecology Eligible                | 01/21/2022          | Near Cleveland        | OHIO               |
| ACR206                          | CAOD5052                               | EOS Climate Inc.  | 2014-P4                           | Ozone Depleting Substances | ARB Compliance Offset Protocol: Destruction of U.S. Ozone Depleting Substances Banks | 04/14/2014                          | 04/14/2014                          | 04/13/2024                        | N/A              | ARB Completed                              | 01/27/2020          | El Dorado             | ARKANSAS           |
| ACR203                          |                                        | EOS Climate Inc.  | 2014-P5                           | Ozone Depleting Substances | ARB Compliance Offset Protocol: Destruction of U.S. Ozone Depleting Substances Banks | 03/02/2014                          | 03/02/2014                          | 03/01/2024                        | N/A              | ARB Inactive                               | 01/27/2020          | El Dorado             | ARKANSAS           |
| ACR521                          | CAOD5521                               | A-Gas US Inc.     | A-Gas 1-2020                      | Ozone Depleting Substances | ARB Compliance Offset Protocol: Destruction of U.S. Ozone Depleting Substances Banks | 10/09/2019                          | 10/09/2019                          | 10/08/2029                        | N/A              | ARB Completed                              | 01/05/2024          | Bowling Green         | OHIO               |
| ACR1000                         | CAOD1042                               | A-Gas US Inc.     | A-Gas 1-2024                      | Ozone Depleting Substances | ARB Compliance Offset Protocol: Destruction of U.S. Ozone Depleting Substances Banks | 03/20/2024                          | 03/20/2024                          | 03/19/2034                        | N/A              | ARB Completed                              | 12/15/2025          | Bowling Green         | OHIO               |
|                                 | JD1185                                 | A-Gas US Inc.     | A-Gas 1-2025                      | Ozone Depleting Substances | ECY Compliance Offset Protocol: Ozone Depleting Substances Projects                  | 12/09/2024                          | 12/09/2024                          | 12/08/2034                        | N/A              | Listed - Active Ecology Project            | 09/20/2025          | Bowling Green         | OHIO               |



# WHAT TYPES OF QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK WHEN I FIND MY PROJECT DOCUMENT?

Congratulations! You have found the official project name and information about the project that is near you. If you've opened a project document or started to look at the summary, it would be common to feel overwhelmed and confused. Carbon project documents include a lot of specific information from several scientific fields. This means that parts of the documents can be hard for people who are not specialists to decipher. Many people who live close to a carbon project have expertise in their landscape or community dynamics, not always in scientific or legal language.

This section aims to give you some questions to start analysing the project document based on what other frontline communities have found helpful. For each question, we will provide you with basic vocabulary and context to get you started with analysis. The questions that are most useful for you to ask when analysing the document will vary based on your goals.

## KEY PROJECT DOCUMENTS

Figure 3 on [page 19](#) shows you how the key project documents manifest during the lifecycle of a project. Here's a quick review of the definitions of each document:



**Project Design Document:** Drafted by the project developer at the start of the project. It defines the project scope, location, methodology, and process.



**Validation Report:** Form filled out by the Validation and Verification Body (organisation separate from the project developer) that assesses whether the proposed project meets the carbon standard requirements.



**Monitoring Report:** Document submitted by the project developer to the VVB to show how the project has progressed in reducing or removing emissions and meeting carbon standard rules.



**Verification Report:** Confirmation of the monitoring report by the VVB, it essentially shows compliance with standard rules and recommends amount of credit issuance.

## WHERE IS THE PROJECT HAPPENING?

### What does it mean and why is it important?

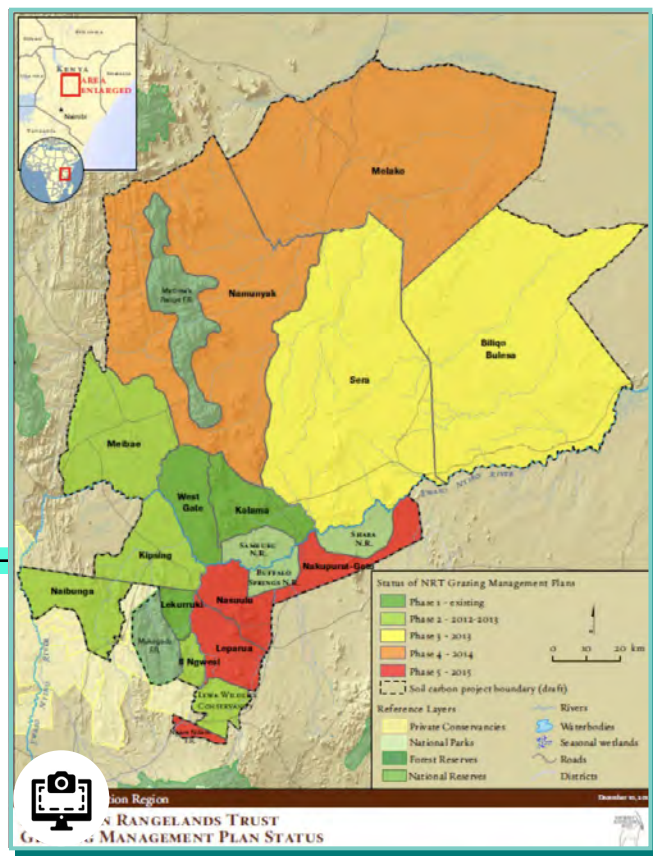
The physical land where a project takes place matters deeply to the community affected by it. Often, a carbon project, especially a nature-based project, requires some changes to the usage of land. Sometimes this includes changes to how people who have lived on the land for generations interact with the land. While International Human Rights law is clear about Indigenous Peoples' rights to Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) and broader rights to all tenure security, in practice, many carbon project developers misunderstand, and sometimes even abuse, Indigenous Peoples' rights, land rights, and tenure rights.<sup>14</sup> Carbon standards have different rules about what project developers must do to respect and protect land rights.<sup>15</sup>

It's important to know where a project is taking place to understand whose rights may be impacted. In some projects, different land areas will be impacted over time, for example as forests mature or protection capacity increases. This may mean that different people are affected as a project proceeds.

### Where to find the information

In the Project Design Document, look for a section that says 'Site Information' or 'Project Location' or 'Boundaries.' You can either look at the table of contents or search the PDF document. The document should include a physical description of the area covered and often, a map. Some standards have rules about the precision of the geographic description, often requiring polygon coordinates.

The description or the map might show phases of the project. Phases are steps of the project. They represent ways in which the project may evolve based on a specific year or on when different activities reach a level of maturity (e.g. when a forest grows or when animals start to inhabit an area).



**Caption:** Example of map with phases from Northern Rangelands Trust project design document in the Verra Registry

## WHO IS INVOLVED?

### What does it mean and why it is important?

Understanding the different actors involved in a project can help you plan advocacy and know where to prompt for accountability.<sup>16</sup> On the ground, sometimes you will hear different company names, but it's important to know their roles so that you understand where the decision-making power exists. For example, while many different companies or organisations may be involved, the project proponent or project developer has the most direct responsibility to ensure the project meets standards and protects the rights of local communities. The table summarises some of the major actors involved in carbon projects.

|                                                                                     |                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|    | <b>Investor</b>                               | Provides the money upfront to get a carbon project started or scaled. They expect a financial return, often through a share of the carbon credits or profits later.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
|    | <b>Project Developer/ Project Proponent</b>   | The official owner or sponsor of the project in the eyes of the carbon standard. They are legally responsible to design and manage the carbon project from idea to reality. Some standards use the term 'project developer' and others use 'project proponent,' and some use both terms with a slight difference in meaning between the entities. Check the standard for your project for the specific definition and be careful that the entity you are referring to is the one listed at the standard. |
|   | <b>Implementing organization</b>              | The group that does the on-the-ground work. They carry out activities like planting trees, distributing clean cookstoves, or restoring land.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|  | <b>Broker</b>                                 | A middleman who connects sellers of carbon credits with buyers. They don't usually own the credits but they negotiate and arrange deals, often with heavy additional fees. <sup>17</sup>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|  | <b>Buyer</b>                                  | Purchases carbon credits, usually to offset their emissions or meet climate goals. Buyers are often companies, governments, or organisations.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|  | <b>Validation and Verification Body (VVB)</b> | An independent auditor who checks that the project is real and working as claimed. They validate the project design before it starts and verify the actual emissions reductions after implementation.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|  | <b>Carbon Standard</b>                        | They create the rules for how projects measure emissions reductions. They issue and track carbon credits in official registries.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|  | <b>Local community</b>                        | People living on or owning the land where the project happens. They may participate in the project directly (e.g., farmers, forest communities), receive benefits (jobs, revenue sharing) and/or be affected by project outcomes.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|  | <b>Host government/ regulator</b>             | National or local governments where the project takes place. They may approve or authorise projects, set rules on carbon ownership, and decide whether credits can be exported.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

Unfortunately, knowing who is involved is not always clearcut. Sometimes the term ‘project developer’ is used interchangeably with other roles. Other times, organisations will be involved as a project proponent early in a project before passing that role to another organisation over time. Knowing the names of the actors can also help you spot trends among project developers, verifiers or standards across projects.

## Where to find the information

The summary page of the project design document often lists a ‘project proponent’, ‘managing entity’, or ‘project developer.’ Usually, within the document, you will find a section titled ‘entities involved’ or ‘project proponent’ and ‘other entities’. Reading this section is important because it can tell you the roles and responsibilities of different organisations. Sometimes, you will find each organisation listed with their contact information and roles. Other times, you may find vague language in the document that says that other entities may be named in the future.

**1.5 Other Entities involved in the Project**

**Grevy's Zebra Trust (GZT)** has been and will continue to be instrumental in education of pastoralist communities regarding the rotational grazing of bunched herds as a desired management objective. Their training led to adoption of rotational grazing in the first two Conservancies in NRT, and subsequent workshops helped expand rotational grazing concepts to additional Conservancies.

Contact: Belinda Low Mackey, Executive Director, Grevy's Zebra Trust, Nairobi, [belinda@grevyszebratrust.org](mailto:belinda@grevyszebratrust.org)

**International Centre for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT)**. This organization has and will provide the analyses of soil carbon and plant tissue lignin and cellulose for the project. CIAT also conducted some of the soil sampling used to determine the baseline carbon stocks in the project area.

Contact: Dr. Leigh Winowiecki, Soil Scientist I, International Centre for Tropical Agriculture, Nairobi, [leigh.winowiecki@gmail.com](mailto:leigh.winowiecki@gmail.com)

**International Centre for Agroforestry (ICRAF)** conducted some of the soil sampling used to determine the baseline carbon stocks in the project area and has developed a remote-sensing based model for estimating soil carbon stocks.

Contact: Tor-Gunnar Vagen, Senior Scientist, International Centre for Agroforestry, Nairobi, [tvagen@cgiar.org](mailto:tvagen@cgiar.org)

**Syracuse University** will license the SNAP soil carbon model used in determining greenhouse Trovals as a consequence of changing grazing management.

Dr. Mark Ritchie Department of Biology, Syracuse University, Syracuse NY 13244, +1-315-461-1612, [meritchi@syr.edu](mailto:meritchi@syr.edu)

**Entities involved**

Mittilabs will be the Coordinating Management Entity (CME) and the owner of the carbon credits generated by the project. The revenue from the sale of carbon credits will be used as a financial tool to ensure the continuity and expansion of the project activities while maintaining environmental, social, and financial sustainability.

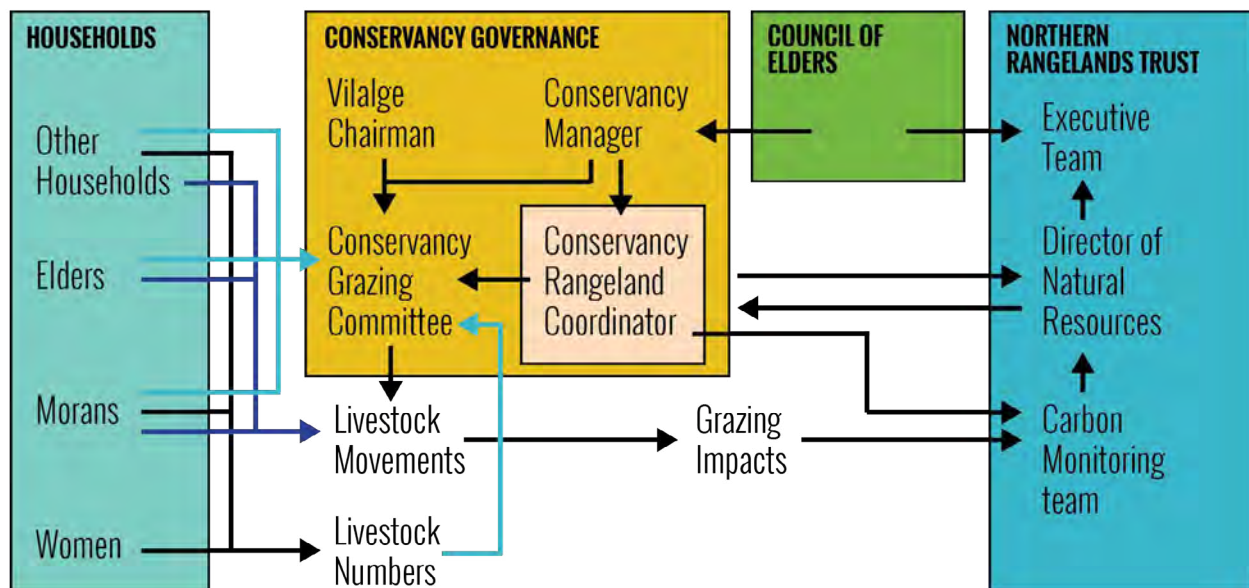
Local organizations or entities may act as implementing partners in the PoA depending on their expertise and available human resources. The implementing partner is expected to carry out the necessary field work, management of operations, record keeping, and monitoring.



**Caption:** These two project documents, one from the Northern Rangelands Trust in the Verra Registry and one from Mitti Labs: Supporting Climate Smart Rice Farming Across India in the Gold Standard registry, show significantly different levels of detail.

If the project near you has proceeded to a different phase, you can look at the more recent documents, either a validation report, monitoring report, or verification report to see whether the entities involved in a project have changed.

In addition to contact information about the current organisations involved, these reports should also have descriptions of ‘stakeholder consultation.’ The level of detail of stakeholder consultation varies, but usually it includes descriptions of where consultations took place, who was involved, and whether there was consensus. Descriptions of stakeholder consultation can be helpful to understand what a company knows about the local dynamics and who they have been talking with. It can be helpful to check whether these consultations match with what different members of the community understand of when and where consultations took place. If some parts of the community are not aware of the official consultation timelines, because of gender or ethnic group, it can highlight where there may be bias in a consultation process.



**Caption:** Diagram in Northern Rangelands Trust Monitoring Report on Verra Registry showing company understanding of stakeholder decision making about grazing.

## WHAT IS THE TIMELINE OF THIS PROJECT?

### What does it mean and why is it important?

Carbon projects often take years or even decades to complete. Nature-based carbon projects are particularly long-term commitments. It's important for a community living near a project to understand how long their land will be impacted and the restrictions on other land uses imposed by the project. That is, if a project is to protect a forest for 30 years, that means that land can not be used for other economic activities for those 30 years.

It is also often helpful for a community to understand where they are in the lifecycle of a project. If a project has been going on for several years, it's likely that credits have been issued and that some money is involved. Figure 3 on [page 19](#) shows the lifecycle of a typical carbon project with estimates for the time frame.

### Where to find the information

One quick way to understand at what stage in the life cycle the project is to see which documents are published on the registry. If there is only a project design document, you will know that the project has not been validated and no credits have been issued. In contrast, if you see a verification report, you know that the project has been going on for several years.

The project design document will have a section that outlines the start date and the duration of the project. Monitoring reports will provide updates about the status of implementing the project. These reports can get very scientific very quickly, but there is often a project update in the beginning that can give a reader an understanding of the progress of the project.



## WHAT METHODOLOGY IS USED TO ESTIMATE THE EMISSION OUTCOMES FOR THIS PROJECT?

### What does it mean and why it's important?

The **methodology** for a carbon project is the technique that is used to estimate how much carbon is removed or reduced by the project. Each carbon standard has specific methodologies that it approves for different project types, some of which are consistent across standards.

Knowing how carbon storage is being counted is important because it highlights which activities are essential to the success of the carbon project. It is common for carbon projects to include many activities, but only some of those activities will be linked to the benefits of carbon sales. Understanding deeply which activities are most closely linked to carbon crediting might influence how your community prioritises different activities.

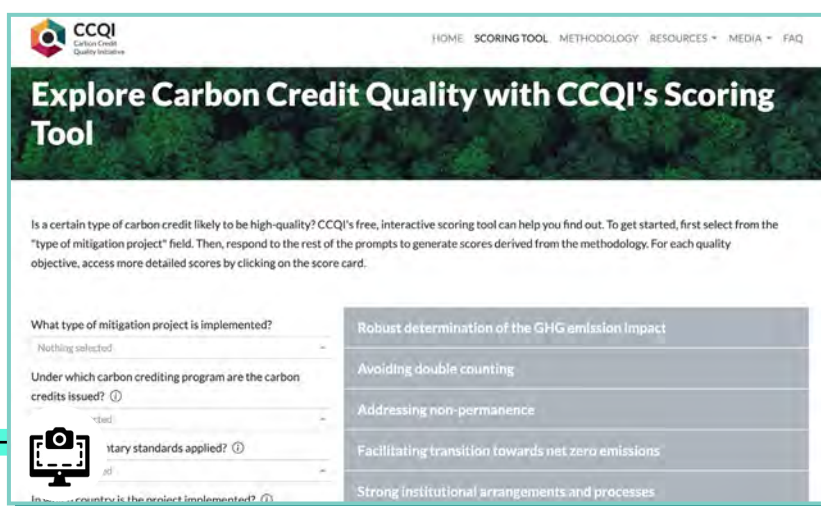
In addition, some methodologies have been found by independent researchers to produce less credible carbon estimations than others.<sup>18</sup> If the project near you uses a less reliable methodology, that may influence how environmentally effective you view the project.

### Where to find the information

The methodology used by a project will be listed in the project design document, and usually the landing page of the registry. In addition to listing the official name of the methodology, the Project Design Document will also likely have a section that describes how that methodology is applied in this project.

Once you know the name of the methodology, you can find the full description of how it works to count emission reductions or removals by searching for that name within the standard's website. You can also look for other projects that use that methodology and learn about their effectiveness. The [University of Berkeley Carbon Trading Project](#)<sup>19</sup> and the [Carbon Credit Quality Initiative](#)<sup>20</sup> have pulled together research about methodologies for different standards and project sectors. These can be useful in understanding the quality or risk factors in a given methodology.

The Carbon Credit Quality Initiative also has a tool where you can enter information about your project and it will provide you with ratings on whether methodologies employed in a given place are likely to meet their goals.<sup>21</sup>



## HOW MUCH CARBON IS INVOLVED?

### What does it mean and why it is important?

The goal of carbon projects is to help mitigate the climate crisis and reduce the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. When considering the local impacts of a project, it is often helpful to understand how much carbon the project is claiming to reduce/absorb. If you know how much carbon the project is claiming to reduce/absorb you can better understand the relative value of the project compared to other emissions activities or other carbon projects. Figure 4 may help you in understanding the relative scale of your carbon project. However, it is critical to understand that a project's claims of how much carbon it is reducing/absorbing may not be accurate. There have been many cases of projects claiming more carbon than they should have. There are financial and reputational incentives for project developers to claim bigger emission reductions than what might be taking place.

This chart shows some of the relative size of emission reduction of different types of projects. You can note that there are very big ranges in the claimed size of projects within each category. However, figure 4 may be helpful in establishing a sense of scale of the claims for emission reductions in the project near you. That is, because emission reduction numbers tend to be very large, it can be useful to know whether the numbers for your project are large or small relative to other projects of that type.

### ANNUAL CARBON CREDITS PER PROJECT

Figure 4



## Where to find the information

The project design document should include rough estimates of how much carbon the project is expected to reduce or remove. When credits are issued for a project, a verification or issuance report should note the number of credits that are being claimed. These numbers are also often found on the project landing page on the carbon standard site.

## WHAT CAN I FIND OUT ABOUT BENEFIT SHARING?

### What does it mean and why it is important?

When carbon projects take place on land owned or stewarded by others for generations, the people who hold rights to the land often also have rights to share in the project's benefits. Many communities assess the value of a carbon project when they can understand the total revenues of a project and the amount of revenues coming to their community. When this information isn't clear it has led to confusion and resentment among communities involved in the project. Understanding the benefit-sharing arrangement is often one of the top priorities of communities impacted by carbon projects. What is included in benefit-sharing can vary across projects, but often includes the revenues, jobs, and by-products of the project.<sup>30</sup>

### Where to find the information

Some new standards require information about benefit sharing to be included in the project design document. For example, Plan Vivo projects are required to denote the livelihood benefits of a project. However, other standards do not have requirements to include benefit-sharing information in project documents. While the number of credits issued is commonly disclosed, it's uncommon to require information about the sale price or total revenue from sales to be disclosed. For example, under Article 6.2, there is no requirement to share any of the financial information of the transfer between governments, let alone to project participants.

### HOW MUCH MONEY SHOULD WE EXPECT? CARBON CREDIT PRICING

One reason that communities are interested in understanding benefit sharing is because they want to know how much money to expect. Some advocates, like Namati and the Vance Center for International Human Rights, have done strong work recently to break down the different [components of the equation](#) of how much money communities should or could receive. In addition to knowing the benefit sharing equation, once communities know how many credits have been issued, they often want to know the sale price.

Unfortunately, no carbon standard requires project developers - or their brokers - to disclose sale prices. Some newer standards, like [Verra's Verified Carbon Standard 5.0](#), are increasing transparency, including requiring project revenue disclosure. Within this lack of information, understanding whether carbon prices make sense for a project can be tricky. The price of carbon credits can vary based on the location, sector of the project, perceived integrity, and interest of the buyer. Some investor or buyer facing analysis, like [MSCI](#) or [Ecosystem Marketplace](#), can be helpful to look at to get a sense of trends in carbon prices.



## WORKSHEET: KEY INFORMATION ABOUT A CARBON PROJECT

Name of the project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Starting date: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Credit period: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Phase of project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Location of project: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of carbon likely to be sequestered: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Amount of carbon sequestered so far: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Sector:

Methodology used: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Key organisations involved:

Investor \_\_\_\_\_

Project Developer \_\_\_\_\_

Project Proponent \_\_\_\_\_

Implementing organization \_\_\_\_\_

Broker \_\_\_\_\_

Buyer \_\_\_\_\_

Validation and Verification Body \_\_\_\_\_

Carbon Standard \_\_\_\_\_

Local community \_\_\_\_\_

Host government/regulator \_\_\_\_\_

# ENDNOTES

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# CARBON MARKET WATCH

**For more information, see:**

[www.carbonmarketwatch.org](http://www.carbonmarketwatch.org)

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