Biodiversity Programme

Terms and Definitions

of the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme

CERCARBONO
Certified Carbon Standard

Terms and Definitions of the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme

Biodiversity: no one should be left behind.

Version 1.0

Foreword

The terms and definitions document has been prepared by Cercarbono Biodiversity Certification Programme (CBCP) to facilitate the understanding of the terms or definitions used in the documents produced under its programme, such as:

- Biodiversity certification programme protocol.
- Methodologies for the development of projects.
- Technical, regulatory, and procedural documents to learn about or operate in the programme.

This document is especially aimed at CBCP customers and users for the formulation and development of Biodiversity Crediting Project (BCP) and the emission and registration of Voluntary Biodiversity Credit (VBC).

Terms and definitions

A

acquisition and formalisation of OECM status

The process of officially obtaining and categorising a geographically defined area as an 'Other Effective Area-Based Conservation Measure' (OECM) per criteria set out by CBD Decision 14/8. It entails governance and management activities designed to achieve long-term positive impacts on in situ biodiversity conservation, along with ecosystem functions, services, and, where applicable, local cultural, spiritual, and socio-economic values.

adaptation to climate change

In the context of the biodiversity programme, strategies and actions taken to help ecosystems and species cope with and adjust to the impacts of changing climate conditions while maintaining biodiversity.

additionality

The concept that a project or conservation action generates additional or extra benefits for biodiversity beyond what would have occurred naturally or is legally required, thus providing a net positive impact on biodiversity.

agrobiodiversity

The diversity of crops, livestock, and other organisms involved in agriculture.

agrobiodiversity enhancement

Actions to increase the diversity of plant and animal species cultivated for food, agriculture, and related activities. It includes traditional crop varieties, livestock breeds, and other elements of agricultural biodiversity.

area-based biodiversity activity

Biodiversity restoration or conservation action that is applied on or directly related to a defined geographical area usually expressed in units of land such as hectares. Examples include habitat restoration, improved land management practices, forest conservation, and agrobiodiversity.

B

biodiversity offsetting

A conservation strategy that aims to compensate for the negative impacts on biodiversity caused by human activities resulting in the loss or degradation of natural habitats, Biodiversity offsetting involves implementing conservation actions elsewhere to counterbalance these impacts.

C

collection and conservation of crop wild relatives

The gathering and conservation of wild plant species closely related to cultivated crops. These wild relatives may contain valuable genetic traits for crop improvement and resilience.

community-led biodiversity project

Project in which local communities, including indigenous peoples or residents, play a central and active role in the planning, decision-making, implementing, and managing biodiversity conservation and restoration efforts. Community-led projects often prioritise community engagement, traditional ecological knowledge, and sustainable practices.

connectivity enhancement

The creation or restoration of corridors and pathways that allow species and genetic material movement between fragmented habitats, promoting genetic diversity and helping species to adapt to changing environments.

conservation

The sustainable and responsible use of natural resources in a way that ensures their long-term availability and benefits for present and future generations. It involves managing ecosystems, wildlife, and natural resources to balance human needs with the need to maintain the health and integrity of ecosystems.

conservation activities

According to the definitions outlined in the CBD, conservation refers to the conservation of ecosystems and natural habitats, the maintenance and restoration of viable species populations within their native environments, and, for domesticated and cultivated species, within the environments where their distinct characteristics have developed. It also involves the sustainable management of biological diversity. Additionally, conservation extends to the protection of components of biological diversity outside their natural habitats through ex situ conservation measures.

conservation of livestock genetics

Actions to prevent the loss of genetic diversity of domesticated animal populations to improve their health and adaptability.

E

ecological restoration

Ecological restoration is the process of assisting the recovery of an ecosystem that has been degraded, damaged, or destroyed. The goal of ecological restoration is to return a degraded ecosystem to its historic trajectory, not its historic condition. The ecosystem may not necessarily recover to its former state since contemporary ecological realities, including global climate change, may cause it to develop along an altered trajectory, just as these same realities may have changed the trajectory of nearby undisturbed

ecosystems. History plays an important role in restoration, but contemporary conditions must also be taken into consideration.

ecosystem adaptation to climate change

In the context of the biodiversity programme, the managed adjustments within an ecosystem's structure and function in response to changing climate conditions. This can include shifts in species composition, altered nutrient cycles, and changes in ecosystem services, aimed at enhancing resilience and reducing vulnerability to climate-induced stressors.

ecosystem conservation

Sustainable management and protection of ecosystems to ensure their long-term health and ecological functioning. It includes measures to maintain biodiversity, manage resources, and mitigate threats while allowing for human use and benefits.

ecosystem preservation

The proactive and ongoing efforts to protect and maintain natural ecosystems in their current state, minimising human-induced changes, or degradation to safeguard ecosystem integrity and biodiversity.

ecosystem recovery

Actions focused on ecological healing and rejuvenation after disturbances or degradation through natural or assisted regeneration of ecosystems, leading to the restoration of their ecological functions.

ecosystem restoration

Actions to return degraded or damaged ecosystems to a more natural and functional state. It involves actions such as habitat rehabilitation, reforestation, and the removal of alien invasive species to improve ecosystem health.

eradication of alien invasive species

The complete and permanent removal of non-native species that have established a presence in a specific ecosystem and are causing significant harm to native biodiversity, ecosystem function, or human well-being. The goal is to eliminate the alien invasive species from the targeted area to restore the ecosystem's natural balance.

ex-situ species conservation

The conservation of species outside their natural habitats. This may include captive breeding programmes, seed banks, or other methods to safeguard species' genetic diversity.

exotic species

Exotic species are those that have been intentionally or unintentionally introduced by humans into an ecosystem in which they did not evolve. Such introductions probably occur frequently as natural phenomena.

externally-led biodiversity project

Project where external organisations, such as governmental agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), research institutions, or private companies, lead in designing, funding, and managing biodiversity conservation or restoration initiatives. While external-led projects may involve local stakeholders, they typically have a more prominent role in decision-making and resource allocation.

G

genetically modified organism

See 'living modified organism'.

I

inclusion of protected areas in the IUCN Green List Standard

Achievement of the “Green List” status under the IUCN Green List Standard. Inclusion in the Green List indicates that a protected area is effectively managed and contributes to biodiversity conservation.

indicator

A measure based on verifiable data that conveys information about more than just itself. Indicators are purpose-dependent - the interpretation or meaning given to the data depends on the purpose or issue of concern.

insetting

A variation of biodiversity offsetting where compensatory conservation actions are implemented within the vicinity of the project boundary itself or in nearby areas that are impacted by the project's supply chain activities. Insetting seeks to strengthen onsite protection of ecosystems and adjacent habitats through activities like habitat restoration, species reintroduction, etc.

in-situ species conservation

Conservation of species in their natural habitats through their protection and management in their natural habitat.

intactness

Intactness refers to the condition where all ecological niches are available to native species and are fully occupied accordingly.

L

living modified organism

Any biological entity capable of transferring or replicating genetic material, including sterile organisms, viruses, and viroids, that possesses a novel combination of genetic material obtained through the application of in vitro nucleic acid techniques or fusion of cells beyond the taxonomic family that overcome natural physiological reproductive, or recombination barriers or other techniques not used in traditional breeding and selection.

local community

A community that, albeit having unique ways of relating to people and the environment in its locale, does not have all the characteristics that would identify them as Indigenous Peoples.

N

Nature-based Solutions

As defined by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, "actions to protect, regeneratively manage and restore natural or modified ecosystems that address societal challenges effectively and adaptively, simultaneously providing human well-being and biodiversity benefits".

non-area-based activity

Biodiversity conservation or restoration measure that is not directly linked to a defined land area. Examples include ex-situ conservation of crop wild relatives, captive breeding programs, and species reintroduction to open habitats.

O

offsetting

In the context of the biodiversity programme, conservation or restoration activities intended to compensate for unavoidable harm to biodiversity caused by industrial development projects, infrastructure construction, etc. Offsetting aims to achieve no net loss or, preferably, a net gain of biodiversity values. It involves measuring losses attributable to a project's impact and the gains from targeted conservation actions.

P

preservation

In the context of the biodiversity programme, the proactive measures taken to safeguard natural areas, ecosystems, species, and landscapes from adverse human activities, maintaining these areas in their existing states, and minimising human intervention or development to prevent ecological disturbances or alterations.

R

reducing PADDD and other threats to the conservation of official Protected Areas

Actions and strategies aimed at preventing protected area downgrading, downsizing, and deregulation (PADDD) from officially designated protected areas and address various other threats that endanger the conservation and integrity of these areas to ensure the continued effectiveness of officially protected areas in safeguarding biodiversity and natural values.

regenerative agriculture

A farming approach that emphasises soil health, biodiversity conservation and enhancement, and sustainable practices to restore and improve ecosystems while maintaining agricultural productivity.

regenerative aquaculture

An approach of aquatic organisms farming that emphasises ecosystem health, biodiversity conservation and enhancement, and sustainable practices to maintain or increase productivity while minimising environmental impacts.

S

species adaptation to climate change

In the context of the biodiversity programme, deliberate interventions and management strategies aimed at facilitating the ability of a species to cope with changing climate conditions. This may include actions such as creating wildlife corridors for easier migration, assisted colonisation to more hospitable areas, habitat restoration to withstand new climatic conditions, or even genetic interventions to improve resilience to temperature extremes, disease, or other stressors related to climate change.

species conservation

A comprehensive and holistic approach aimed at protecting, managing, and ensuring the long-term survival of species within its ecosystems, balancing it with the human needs.

species preservation

Actions and strategies for ensuring the survival and continuation of individual species, especially those that are threatened or endangered, maintaining them free of harmful human activities. It involves taking measures to prevent their decline or extinction.

species restoration

The process of reintroducing a species into its former habitat or a suitable new habitat after it has been extirpated or significantly reduced in numbers.

U

urban biodiversity

Actions taken to promote and increase biodiversity in urban environments and manage urban spaces in ways that support wildlife and natural systems.

Document history

Version	Date	Comments or changes
1.0	14.06.2024	Initial version.