ASES ON-CHAIN PROTOCOL

VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION STANDARD

II. Standards V1.0





TABLE OF CONTENTS

Ac	oduction 5 oduction 6 Purpose 7 General requirements 7 1. Validation Requirements 9 II.1.1. Validation and Verification Scope 9 II.1.2. Validation and Verification Approach 10 II.1.3. Use of applicable Forms and Templates 10 II.1.4. CO2 capture measurement 11 2. aOCP Validation prior to registration 11 II.2.1. Project Validation 11 II.2.2. Objective of Project Validation 11 II.2.3. Validation Approach 11 II.2.4. Validation using Standard Auditing Techniques 12 II.2.5. Criteria for Site Visits 12 II.2.6. Non-conformities and corrective action request 12 3. aOCP Verification prior to issuance 13 3.1. Emission Reduction/Removal, Biodiversity and Water-related Verification 13 3.2. Objective of Verification 14 3.3. Verification approach 14 3.4. Quality of evidence 15	
Int		
I.	Purpose	7
II.	General requirements	7
l	II.1. Validation Requirements	9
	II.1.1. Validation and Verification Scope	9
	II.1.2. Validation and Verification Approach	10
	II.1.3. Use of applicable Forms and Templates	10
	II.1.4. CO ₂ capture measurement	11
	II.2. aOCP Validation prior to registration	11
	II.2.1. Project Validation	11
	II.2.2. Objective of Project Validation	11
	II.2.3. Validation Approach	11
	II.2.4. Validation using Standard Auditing Techniques	12
	II.2.5. Criteria for Site Visits	12
	II.2.6. Non-conformities and corrective action request	12
	II.3. aOCP Verification prior to issuance	13
	II.3.1. Emission Reduction/Removal, Biodiversity and Water-related Verification	13
	II.3.2. Objective of Verification	14
	II.3.3. Verification approach	14
	III.3.4. Quality of evidence	15
l	III.3.5. Verification using Standard Auditing Techniques	15
l	II.3.6. Criteria for site visits	16
-	II.3.6. Non-conformities and corrective action request	16
III.	Specific Validation and Verification Requirements	17
	III.1. Validations Requirements	17
	III.2. Sustainability validation requirements	17
	III.3. Environment and Social Safeguards Verification Requirements	17

IV.	Validation / verification and Certification Statement	. 17
IV.	1. Validation and certification statement	. 17
IV	2 Verification and certification statement	18

INDEX OF TABLES

Table 1. Function and activities of the aOCP-v and aOCP-VE		
INDEX OF FIGURES		
Figure 1. Project compliance requirements	7	
Figure 2. Competencies of the members of the expert panel	8	

ACRONYMS

aOCP-V	Ases On-Chain Protocol Validator	
аОСР	Ases On-Chain Protocol	
EP	Expert Panel	
ERCS	S Emission Reduction Certification Statement	
ERVO Emission Reduction Verification Opinion		
FIR	First Inception Report	
NPCs	NPCs Nature Positive Credits	
PCS	Project Certification Statement	
PMR Project Monitoring Report		
PSF Project Submission Form		
PVO	Project Validation Opinion	
SI	SI Supplemental Information	
TMR	Technical Modification Request	
VB	Validation Body	
VO	Verification Opinion	

INTRODUCTION

The aOCP was developed based on international best practices, including: ensuring transparency through stakeholder engagement; creating an institutional structure to develop standards (for example, baseline and monitoring methodologies); create robust project cycles that include clear and streamlined project registration and nature positive credits, issuance procedures, a international blockchain-based carbon registry, and effective approval of project valid.

According to the aOCP Project Standard, Project Proponents must specify the kind of project they want to work on and then fill out a Project Submission Form (PSF) for each Project Activity they are considering. They must specifically state in the PSF form the standards for certifying labels and/or market eligibility that they desire to pursue. A aOCP Verifiers and an aOCP Validators, as well as the aOCP Operations Team and Steering Committee, shall analyze and evaluate the project throughout the project cycle based on the decisions made by Project Proponents in the PSF (including on the cover page).

Ex-ante choices made by project owners must be included in the PSF and reflected in project monitoring reports (PMRs) for each project activity. Both the project validation and the project verification must be conducted by an approved expert panel.

The Program Manual, the main aOCP program document that offers connections to other aOCP publications detailing the regulations and requirements regulating the aOCP Program, served as the foundation for the development of this Validation and Verification Standard.

I. PURPOSE

In order for the Expert Panel (EP) to vouch that projects are in fact in conformity with the following, the process for conducting independent third-party Validation and Verification on an aOCP project is described in this document.

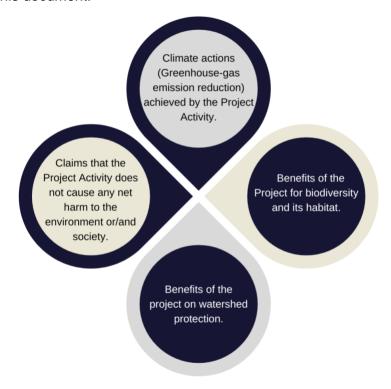


FIGURE 1. PROJECT COMPLIANCE REQUIREMENTS

II. GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

Project Proponents who want to submit projects for registration and the awarding of Nature Positive Credits (NPCs) under the aOCP Program must first validate the project activities by authorized aOCP Validators.

Prior to two phases in the aOCP Project cycle, a certified aOCP Validator must conduct an independent third-party external validation of the Project Activity for the aOCP Program. There are two stages:

- 1. aOCP Project Registration
- 2. aOCP NPCs Issuance.

As part of the aOCP Program, the decentralized group of trained experts known as the Expert Panel (EP) is made up of the aOCP Validators (aOCP-V) and aOCP Verifiers (aOCP-Ve), who

validate projects related to carbon offset, biodiversity, and water restoration and make sure they comply with aOCP requirements.

The group of experts must be capable of carrying out the two tasks listed in Table 1; but, in order to preserve the project's dependability, a third party serving as a Validator in an aOCP project cannot also serve as a Verifier. Therefore, carrying out both tasks inside a single project is forbidden.

TABLE 1. FUNCTION AND ACTIVITIES OF THE AOCP-V AND AOCP-VE

Function	Activities	
aOCP Validators (aOCP-V)	Choose the projects that comply with the requirements of the aOCP and are eligible for certification.	
aOPC Verifiers (aOCP-Ve)	Issue a technical and objective opinion on the results of the Project according to the expected carbon sequestration in the PSF for the release of NPCs.	

All outside people who are interested to serve on the Panel of Experts must acquire the requisite expertise and certification through our courses, which focus on five competencies:

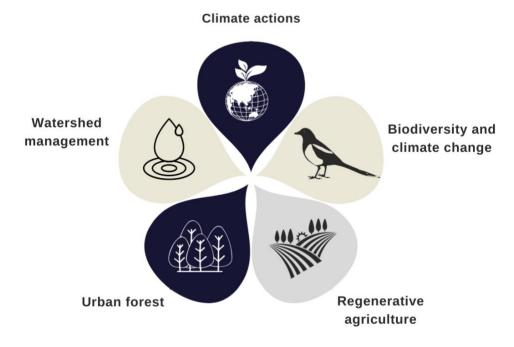


FIGURE 2. COMPETENCIES OF THE MEMBERS OF THE EXPERT PANEL

The members of the Expert Panel will only be able to validate and verify projects for the competences they have authorized, with the option of becoming full members of the aOCP-V and aOCP-VE if they do so (Figure 2).

II.1. VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

It is stated in Clause 1 of ISO 14064-2:2006 and ISO 14064-3:2006, respectively, that GHG programs' requirements, such as the aOCP's, are in addition to those of ISO 14064. While the specific mandatory requirements of the aOCP Program and Project Activities are specified in the Project Standard and the verification requirements are specified in the Verification Standard (this document) and respective methodologies, the general requirements of the aOCP Program are based on International Standards ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3. The Project Standard's Appendix 1 links the ISO 14064-2 requirements with the aOCP guidelines and specifications for Project development, implementation, and monitoring. The Verification Standard's Appendix 1 (this document) links the ISO 14064-3 requirements with Project and Emission Reduction Verification.

II.1.1. VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION SCOPE

Project Validators and Verifiers must carry out Emission Reduction/Removal, Biodiversity, and Water-Related Verifications of aOCP Project Activities based on the aOCP rules1 as outlined in the following:

- i. International Standards ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, which provide a broad framework and requirements;
- **ii.** Validation and Verification Standard (this document), which provides specific requirements of the aOCP Program, for validate a Project Activity on various aspects including emission reductions, biodiversity, water restoration, sustainability and environmental and social do-no-harm criteria;
- **iii.** The following specific documents:
 - a) aOCP Program Framework and aOCP Program Manual, which provides a broad overview of overall aOCP Program and the role of verification;
 - b) Procedure for Approval of aOCP Validators and Verifiers, which provides requirements for selecting the Validation and verification Body;
 - aOCP Project Standard, which provides the specific requirements applicable to Project Activities as contained in the Project documentation package, including the Project Submission Form and the Project Monitoring Report Form;
 - d) aOCP Procedures, which provides a broad overview of the overall process of verification, registration and issuance.

II.1.2. VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION APPROACH

The Expert Panel (EP) will be made up of a group of extremely knowledgeable experts with the skills required to carry out the validation and verification of integral or sectoral projects, such as initiatives for carbon offset, biodiversity preservation, and water restoration.

In carrying out validations, aOCP-V and aOCP-VE shall:

- **a)** Adhere to this Validation and Verification Standard and incorporate its provisions into the quality management systems of the aOCP Validators/Verifiers;
- **b)** As of the reference date specified by the Project Standard, implement the most recent applicable aOCP regulations and decisions;
- c) Ascertain if each aOCP Project Activity complies with all applicable aOCP guidelines and standards, including those outlined in the Project Standard, used methodologies/methodological tools, and any other requirements;
- **d)** Evaluate the information supplied by the Project Proponents in the Project papers (e.g., PSF, PMR, etc.) and as required by the Project Standard for accuracy, conservatism, relevance, completeness, consistency, and transparency;
- **e)** Ascertain the veracity and credibility of the information submitted by the Project Proponents;
- f) Determine if land ownership documentation is valid and reliable;
- **g)** Apply consistent verification criteria:
 - i. To the requirements of the selected methodologies and other applied methodological tools throughout the crediting period(s);
 - ii. To aOCP Project Activities with similar characteristics, such as a similar application of the selected methodologies and other applied methodological tools, use of technology, time period or region;
 - iii. To expert judgements, over time and among aOCP Project Activities;
- h) Base their judgments and results on factual information, and carry out all verification procedures in compliance with aOCP policies;
- i) Not exclude information that might change the verification opinion;
- j) Document all assumptions, give sources for background information, and note any modifications to the documentation in the verification and certification report in a factual, impartial, and cogent manner;
- **k)** Protect the privacy of all data created or acquired during the verification.

II.1.3. USE OF APPLICABLE FORMS AND TEMPLATES

On the reference date specified by the Project Standard, aOCP Validators hired to undertake Project validation for registration of a proposed aOCP Project Activity shall prepare a Project Validation Report (PVR) using the current version of the applicable PVR form/template.

The quarterly Satellite Verification Reports (SVR) that will be generated for each aOCP Project will be used by the aOCP Verifiers contracted to carry out the verifications for the emission of ex post credits to provide their technical opinion through a Verification Opinion (VO) that corroborates that the CO₂ capture is being adhered to as established in the PSF.

II.1.4. CO₂ CAPTURE MEASUREMENT

To continue issuing ex-ante and ex-post credits, the aOCP Verifiers must confirm that CO2 capture is occurring as specified in the PSF and objectively assess compliance with the Project's goals.

II.2. AOCP VALIDATION PRIOR TO REGISTRATION

II.2.1. PROJECT VALIDATION

Prior to project registration, project validations must be carried out with the goal of providing an unbiased assessment of proposed aOCP project activities against the regulations and on the basis of the data supplied in the project submission form (PSF) and other submitted documents.

PVRs must be submitted by aOCP Validators to the Project Proponents and the aOCP Program. A Project Validation Opinion is the written judgment of an aOCP Validator regarding a Project Validation (PVO). A Project Certification Statement is the written guarantee provided by an aOCP Validator based on a Project Validation Opinion (PCS).

Statements of Project Certification must attest to the following aOCP Project Activities:

- Comply with aOCP rules and requirements;
- Are anticipated to achieve the projected actual and extra reductions/removals of GHG emissions, benefits to the local biodiversity and its habitat, and/or water-related effects, as mentioned in the PSF;
- Have implemented safeguards that are expected to provide protection against negative environmental/social impacts and will not cause any net harm to the environment or/and society;
- Depending upon the Project Proponent's selections in the PSF, may also state that Project
 Activities are expected to contribute to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable
 Development Goals (SDGs, preferably those prioritized by the host country), as committed
 voluntarily in the PSF.

II.2.2. OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT VALIDATION

The planned aOCP Project Activities will be thoroughly and independently ex-ante assessed for compliance with commitments and targets based on anticipated GHG emission reductions/removals, the benefits to biodiversity, sustainability, and environmental and social dono-net-harm.

II.2.3. VALIDATION APPROACH

In carrying out Project Validations, aOCP Validators shall:

- Determine whether proposed aOCP Project Activities comply with ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 and aOCP rules and requirements;
- Assess the objectives in PSFs. The evidence used in such assessments shall not be limited to that provided by the Project Proponent.

II.2.4. VALIDATION USING STANDARD AUDITING TECHNIQUES

During the process of global stakeholder consultation, aOCP Validators will evaluate the data provided by the project proponent and the stakeholder comments.

The methods of verification outlined in ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, this Validation and Verification Standard, and, when appropriate, industry-recognized auditing procedures, including but not limited to:

- a) Document review, involving:
 - i. A review of data and information;
 - ii. Cross checks between the information provided in the PSF and information from sources other than those used; if available, the aOCP Validators sectoral or local expertise; and, if necessary, independent background investigations;
- **b)** Follow-up actions (e.g., satellite verification, on-site inspection, interviews by phone, video call or email), including:
 - i. Interviews with landowners or community stakeholders to assess knowledge of project design and implementation;
 - ii. Cross checks between information provided by interviewed personnel (i.e., by checking sources or other interviews) to ensure that no relevant information has been omitted:
 - iii. Satellite verifications of the project area using high resolution imagery.
- **c)** Review, based on the selected methodologies and applied methodological tools, of the appropriateness of allometric formulae and accuracy of calculations;
- d) Review of the claims regarding the SDG labels.

II.2.5. CRITERIA FOR SITE VISITS

For proposed aOCP Project Activities, on-site visits and inspections by aOCP Validators are required during project validation if:

- a) The Project Activity's estimated average annual GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals are more than 100,000 t CO₂ or ;
- **b)** There is pre-project information that is relevant to the registration requirements for the Project Activity and that may not be traceable post registration.

On-site visits and inspections for project validation are optional in situations when the restrictions in the preceding sentence do not apply. The aOCP Validator shall detail the alternative modes of validation employed and justify that they are adequate for project validation purposes if an on-site visit/inspection is not carried out.

In cases where this standard does not provide a specific method of validation, aOCP Validators must instead use the common auditing procedures outlined in section II.2.4.

II.2.6. NON-CONFORMITIES AND CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST

In order to determine whether the Project Activity complies with aOCP rules and requirements and can achieve credible GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to biodiversity, and/or

water-related issues, the aOCP Validator may identify issues that need additional elaboration, research, or expansion. In this case, the aOCP Validator must make sure that these issues are accurately identified, formulated, discussed, and resolved in the PVR.

If any of the following scenarios arise, the aOCP Validator will issue a Technical Modification Request (TMR):

- a) The planned aOCP Project Activity may not be able to achieve actual, measured, verifiable, and extra reductions or removals of GHG emissions because of errors in the PSF:
- **b)** The proposed activities do not contribute positively to biodiversity and/or water restoration;
- c) Applicable aOCP rules and requirements have not been met;
- d) There is a risk that the expected outcomes cannot be monitored or calculated;
- **e)** There is a risk that the claims made in the PSF regarding contributions to SDGs may not be achieved or cannot be demonstrated:
- f) There is a chance that the environmental and social protections described in the PSF won't be effective or that the project activity will really harm the environment and/or society.

If there is insufficient information or information that is not sufficiently clear to establish if the relevant aOCP standards and requirements have been met, the aOCP Validator will raise a request for Supplemental Information (SI).

Only if the Project Proponent changes the project design, corrects the PSF, and/or offers further justifications or proof that allays the aOCP Validator's worries will the TMRs be resolved or "closed out." The aOCP Validator must complete and submit a PVR for the proposed aOCP Project Activity if this is not done.

All SIs and TMRs must be reported by the aOCP Validator in its PVR. This reporting must include an explanation of the issues brought up, the Project Proponent's responses, the methods used to verify those responses, and any references to modifications made to the PSF or supporting annexes as a result.

II.3. AOCP VERIFICATION PRIOR TO ISSUANCE

II.3.1. EMISSION REDUCTION/REMOVAL, BIODIVERSITY AND WATER-RELATED VERIFICATION

Before Nature Positive Credits (NPCs) are issued, verifications are carried out by aOCP Verifiers with the goal of providing periodic independent evaluation and ex-post determination of GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to biodiversity, and/or water-related that have occurred as a result of implementing the registered aOCP Project Activity during the designated monitoring period.

The aOCP rules and requirements, as well as the data in the registered project documents, such as the Project Submission Form, Project Monitoring Report Form, and other submitted documents, are compared to the reported GHG emission reductions.

Project Proponents and the aOCP Program both need to receive VRs from aOCP Verifiers. An "Verification Opinion" is the written judgment of an aOCP Verifier regarding its Verification of a registered aOCP Project Activity (VO). A Certification Statement is a formal guarantee of emission

reductions or removals, benefits to biodiversity, and/or water-related improvements provided by an OCP Verifier (CS).

CS shall confirm that the registered aOCP Project Activity, during a specified monitoring period:

- a) Has complied with aOCP rules and procedures;
- b) Has been implemented as reported in the registered PSF;
- **c)** Has achieved the quantity of reported GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to local biodiversity and its habitat and/or water-related as verified;
- **d)** Has implemented safeguards that have provided protection against negative environmental/social impacts and the Project Activity does not cause any net harm to the environment or society;
- **e)** Depending on the choices made by the project proposers in the PSF, it may also be said that the project activity has helped to attain the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that were voluntarily adopted and described in the registered PSF.

II.3.2. OBJECTIVE OF VERIFICATION

Ex-post evaluations of the implementation of Project Activities, reported GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, sustainable development contributions made, and environmental and social do-no-harm performance by registered aOCP Project Activities must be done thoroughly and independently by aOCP Verifiers in accordance with applicable aOCP rules and requirements.

If the Project meets the requirements in clause II.3.6, the aOCP verifiers shall elaborate the expost evaluations using the Satellite Verification Reports and incorporate on-site visits.

II.3.3. VERIFICATION APPROACH

In carrying out Verifications, aOCP Verifiers shall:

- Examine whether registered aOCP Project Activities adhere to aOCP regulations;
- **b)** Assure that verification processes begin following the posting of the Project Monitoring Report on the website for aOCP projects;
- **c)** Evaluate the project documentation's disclosure of quantitative and qualitative data on GHG emission removals and reductions;
- **d)** Assess and determine whether the implementation and operation of registered aOCP Project Activities, and the steps taken to report GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, comply with aOCP rules and requirements;
- e) Determine whether the data collection methods used to create the monitoring plan satisfy the specifications listed in the registered PSF and shown in the tools and methodology employed;
- f) In addition to the monitoring documentation, the aOCP Verifier shall review:
 - i) The registered PSF including the monitoring plan;
 - ii) The Project Verification Report;
 - iii) Previous Emission Reduction Verification Reports, if any;
 - iv) The applied methodology (ies) and the other applied methodological tools;

v) Any other data, information and references relevant to the GHG emission reduction or net anthropogenic GHG removals resulting from the registered aOCP Project Activity.

III.3.4. QUALITY OF EVIDENCE

AOCP Verifiers shall confirm that there is an audit trail that contains evidence and records that substantiate or invalidate stated figures when verifying alleged GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to local biodiversity and its habitat, and/or water-related claims. The source documents that serve as the foundation for the hypotheses and other data that underlie the GHG data must be included in the audit trail.

When assessing the audit trail, the aOCP Verifier shall:

- a) Examine whether there is enough evidence in terms of reporting frequency (distance between evidence) and coverage (the entire monitoring period);
- **b)** Describe the source and type of the evidence (oral or written, internal or external);
- c) Verify the accuracy of the claimed numbers by cross-referencing the Project Monitoring Report (PMR) with additional sources (such as comparable data, when available, from sources other than those used in the PMR).

III.3.5. VERIFICATION USING STANDARD AUDITING TECHNIQUES

Project Proponents' information will be evaluated by aOCP Verifiers. When evaluating the data, aOCP Verifiers must follow the verification procedures outlined in ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, this Verification Standard, and, when necessary, accepted auditing procedures, such as but not limited to:

- a) Document review, involving:
 - i) A review of data and information;
 - ii) An examination of the registered PSF, its monitoring strategy, and the methodology(ies) and instruments used, with special focus on the frequency of measurements, the caliber of the metering equipment, including the need for calibration, and quality assurance and quality control methods;
 - iii) A review of data management, quality control practices, and assurance methods in relation to their impact on the calculation and reporting of net anthropogenic GHG removals or reductions in GHG emissions;
 - iv) Cross checks between the information provided in the documentation and information from sources other than those used; if available, the aOCP Verifier's sectoral or local expertise; and, if necessary, independent background investigations;
- **b)** On-site visit and inspection, involving:
 - i) An assessment of the implementation and operation of the registered aOCP Project Activity as per the registered PSF;
 - i) A review of information flows for generating, aggregating and reporting monitored parameters;
 - ii) Interviews with relevant personnel to determine whether the operational and datacollection procedures have been implemented in accordance with the registered PSF and its monitoring plan;

- iii) A check of the monitoring equipment including calibration performance and observations of monitoring practices against the requirements of the PSF, the applied methodology(ies) and other applied tools;
- iv) A review of calculations and assumptions made in determining the GHG data and GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to local biodiversity and its habitat and/or water-related:
- v) An identification of quality control and quality assurance procedures in place to prevent, or identify and correct, any errors or omissions in the reported monitoring parameters;

II.3.6. CRITERIA FOR SITE VISITS

When aOCP Project Activities are registered, aOCP Verifiers are required to undertake on-site visits and inspections to verify emission reduction:

- **a)** It is the first emission reduction verification performed by the aOCP Verifier for the specific Project Activity; or
- **b)** One year have elapsed since the last on-site visit/inspection conducted for emission reduction verification for the Project Activity; or
- c) The Project Activity has achieved more than 300,000 t CO_{2eq} of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals since the last emission reduction verification when an on-site visit/inspection was conducted.

II.3.6. Non-conformities and corrective action request

If the aOCP Verifier finds problems with the monitoring, execution, or operations of the registered aOCP Project Activity that may have hindered the Project Activity's ability to achieve GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to the area's local biodiversity and its habitat, and/or water-related issues, or affected the monitoring and reporting of the former, the aOCP Verifier shall make sure that these problems are accurately identified, formulated, discussed, and resolved.

The aOCP Verifier shall raise a Technical Modification Request (TMR) if any of the following situations occur:

- a) When reading the Monitoring Report, it is found that the registered PSF, its monitoring plan, the employed methodology(ies), and/or tools are not being followed, that the Project Proponents have not sufficiently documented reporting, and/or that the evidence offered to show conformity is insufficient;
- **b)** The Project Proponents have not adequately documented changes to the implementation, operation, and/or monitoring of the registered aOCP Project Activity;
- c) The Project Monitoring Report or documentation contains errors in applied assumptions, data, or calculations of net anthropogenic GHG removals or emission reductions that affect the claimed amount of removals or emission reductions;
- **d)** Claims made in the PSF and PMR regarding SDG contributions have not been achieved or has not been demonstrated;
- e) Claims made in the PSF and PMR regarding environmental and social safeguards have not been achieved or effective or the Project Activity may lead to net-harm to the environment and society.

If there is insufficient information or information that is not sufficiently clear to establish if the relevant aOCP standards and requirements have been satisfied, the aOCP Verifier will raise a request for Supplemental Information (SI).

Only if the Project Proponent changes the project design, corrects the PSF, and/or offers further justifications or proof that allays the aOCP Verifier's worries will the TMRs be resolved or "closed out." The aOCP Verifier must complete and submit a PVR for the proposed aOCP Project Activity if this is not done.

All SIs and TMRs must be reported by the aOCP Verifier in its PVR. This reporting must include an explanation of the issues brought up, the Project Proponent's responses, the methods used to verify those responses, and any references to modifications made to the PSF or supporting annexes as a result.

III. SPECIFIC VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

III.1. VALIDATIONS REQUIREMENTS

Project Submission Forms and Project Monitoring Reports are just two examples of the project paperwork that must be developed according to the Project Standard.

III.2. SUSTAINABILITY VALIDATION REQUIREMENTS

The aOCP Program offers Project Proponents the chance to voluntarily demonstrate that their Project Activity helps to achieve the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals in addition to lowering GHGs (SDGs).

The results from the project proponent's use of the online SDG Impact Assessment Tool will be used to evaluate the project's contribution to the SDGs during both project validation and project activities verification. The findings must be supported by all pertinent data that can support the alleged direct and indirect consequences.

III.3. Environment and Social Safeguards Verification Requirements

Project Proponents must prove to the aOCP Program that their Project Activity does not have any overall negative effects on the environment or society.

The standards for third-party independent verification and certification of assertions that aOCP Project Activities do not netly impact the environment and/or society are laid out in the Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard.

IV. VALIDATION / VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

aOCP Verifiers shall provide verification and certification statements in their Verification Reports.

IV.1. VALIDATION AND CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The aOCP Project Validator shall verify and certify that the aOCP Project Activity:

a) Has accurately outlined the Project Activity in the Project Submission Form (version XX, dated DDMMYYYY), including the applicability of the approved methodology [reference number of aOCP/CDM methodology, version XX] and meets the methodology applicability

- conditions, is additional and is anticipated to achieve the forecasted real and additional GHG emission reductions/removals, benefits to local biodiversity and its habitat and/or water-related, and complies with the monitor;
- b) Complies with all applicable aOCP rules, including ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, and is likely to generate GHG emission reductions amounting to the estimated [XXXXX] t CO₂, as indicated in the PSF, which are additional to the reductions that are likely to occur in the absence of the Project Activity; as a result, the Project Activity requests registration with the aOCP Program;
- c) Is likely to have the specified benefits to biodiversity, expressed as increments in the Shannon-Weiner Diversity Index, for the ecological communities (taxocenosis) specified in the PSF.
- **d)** Is not likely to cause any net-harm to the environment and/or society and complies with the Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard, and therefore requests the aOCP Program to register the Project Activity;
- e) If the project is water-related, it is likely to achieve the expected benefits in terms of water quality, volume of flow, height of water table, etc, as specified in the PSF; and
- f) Is likely to contribute to the achievement of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and contribute to achieving a total of [XX] SDGs.

IV.2. VERIFICATION AND CERTIFICATION STATEMENT

The aOCP Verifier shall verify and certify that the registered aOCP Project Activity:

- a) Has been implemented as indicated in the registered Project Submission Form (version XX, dated DDMMYYYY) and as reported in the Project Monitoring Report (version XX, dated DDMMYYYY);
- b) Has resulted in GHG emission reductions totaling [XXXX] t CO₂, which are additional to the reductions that would have occurred in absence of the Project Activity and is in compliance with all applicable aOCP rules and requirements, including ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, and therefore requests the aOCP Program to issue [XXXX] Nature Positive Credits:
- c) Has not caused any net harm to the environment and/or society and is in compliance with the Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard;
- d) Has resulted in improvements to local biodiversity and its habitat;
- e) If water-related, has achieved the expected outcomes, measure accordingly to the assessed parameters; and
- f) Has made contributions to achieving a total of [XX] of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and therefore requests the aOCP Program to tag the issued NPCs, with the SDGs the project has contributed directly.

DOCUMENT HISTORY				
Version	Date	Comments		
V1.0	11/01/2023	 Initial version released for review by the aOCP Steering Committee under the aOCP Version 1. 		