

# Terms and Definitions of the Voluntary Certification Programme of Cercarbono

• **Carboncer**  
carbon market  
methodology

• **credit** deforestation  
reduction accreditation certification  
removal principle  
developer protocol  
biomass commitment instance



# Terms and Definitions of the Voluntary Certification Programme of Cercarbono



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® CERCARBONO

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## Foreword

The terms and definitions document has been prepared by Cercarbono to facilitate the understanding of the terms or definitions used in the documents produced under its voluntary carbon certification programme, such as:

- Voluntary carbon certification protocol.
- Methodologies for the development of climate change mitigation programmes or projects in different sectors.
- Technical, regulatory, and procedural documents to learn about or operate in the Cercarbono certification programme.

This document is especially aimed at Cercarbono customers and users for the formulation and development of Climate Change Mitigation Programmes or Projects (CCMP) and the emission and registration of carbon credits (Carboncer) in different economic sectors. It can also be quite useful for other actors who are part or not of the carbon market who wish to understand or contextualise themselves on the problem of climate change and how to contribute to its solution.

For the preparation of this document, the ISO 14064-1:2018, ISO 14064-2:2019, ISO 14064-3:2019, ISO 14065:2013 standards were consulted, as well as the IPCC definitions, the definitions of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, and the latest version of the Cercarbono's Protocol.

## Conventions and considerations

~ Sign that replaces the term or entry.

**Syn.** Synonym.

## Terms and definitions

### A

#### *above ground biomass*

Total living plant matter, located above ground level in each area. Includes stems, branches, bark, seeds, and foliage.

#### *accreditation*

In the context of climate change mitigation, a process voluntarily requested by an organisation to be accredited as being able to measure the quality of services or products and the performance offered by a specific site, area, or facility; thereby generating recognition or assurance under a programme, standard or regulatory framework.

#### *accreditation period*

The period during which a climate change mitigation programme or project may apply for verification of GHG emission removals or GHG emissions reductions, as appropriate, for carbon credits.

#### *activity data*

Information that corresponds to the behaviour of GHG emissions or removals in a specific project type and time. For example, in REDD+ projects, in the case of deforestation, it corresponds to the annual amount of GHG emissions generated in the hectares of forest that pass to other forest cover; in the case of degradation due to forest fragmentation, it corresponds to the GHG emissions generated in the areas of forest cover that remain as such; In the case of sustainable forest management, it corresponds to the amount of GHG emissions generated by timber harvesting; and in the case of carbon stock enhancement, it corresponds to the annual GHG removals generated in non-forest areas with forest suitability. In industrial projects, it corresponds to the amount of coal used as a fuel source in furnaces. In energy projects, it corresponds to the total amount of annual fuel burned. In waste management projects, it corresponds to the amount of methane in the biogas burned or the amount of fossil fuel consumed in ancillary activities, among others.

#### *additionality*

A requirement for Climate Change Mitigation Programmes or Projects (CCMP) such that the CCMP activities remove more GHG (in the land use sector) than would have been removed in the absence of the CCMP, or that such activities reduce GHG emissions (in any sectoral area) that would have occurred in the absence of the CCMP. Additionality allows demonstrating that mitigation actions resulting from the implementation of a programme or project generate a net benefit to the atmosphere.

#### *agricultural activity*

Set of operations or tasks involved in cultivating or tilling the land.

***agricultural land***

Area of land suitable for use in agricultural production.

***agroforestry system***

Land on which trees to produce timber or other forest products are grown in association with other species for agricultural use, to produce food or other products for domestic or industrial use. In its broadest sense, an agroforestry system may also include, in addition to or instead of the agricultural component, association with livestock production.

***alternative fuel***

Non-conventional material or substance that can be used as a replacement for a conventional fuel. Includes waste from fossil sources such as tires, plastics, polymer or rubber textiles, biomass waste and renewable biomass.

***anaerobic digestion***

Degradation and stabilisation of organic materials by the action of anaerobic bacteria that produce CH<sub>4</sub> and CO<sub>2</sub>. Typical organic materials that undergo anaerobic digestion are solid waste, animal manure, sewage, organic industrial effluents, and biosolids from aerobic wastewater treatment plants.

***anthropogenic***

Of human origin. Man-made.

***appeal***

Request to the body for reconsideration of a decision it has made with respect to the issuance of a validation or verification opinion.

***associated gas***

Volatile, low-density fluid extracted in conjunction with oil extraction. This may be gas obtained from the oil separation process or gas released from wells.

***automobile***

Vehicle that can be guided to move along an ordinary road without the need for rails and that has an engine, generally internal combustion or electric, that propels it.

***automobile fleet***

Set of automobiles at the disposal of a natural or legal person to provide internal or external land transportation services in the public or private sphere.

***avoidance of greenhouse gas emissions***

A set of actions to prevent the emission of GHG into the atmosphere.

## **B**

### ***baseline demand (Syn. baseload)***

In an electricity supply system, minimum level of electricity demand during a specific period.

### ***baseline scenario***

Hypothetical reference case that best represents the conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a proposed climate change mitigation programme or project.

### ***baseload (Syn. baseload demand)***

In an electricity supply system, minimum level of electricity demand during a specific period.

### ***below ground biomass***

Total living matter of plant roots in a specific area. Includes living roots, but fine roots less than 2 mm in diameter are sometimes excluded, as they are often indistinguishable from soil organic matter or litterfall.

### ***biofuel***

Fuel obtained by physical or chemical treatment of plant matter or organic waste.

### ***biogas***

Biogenic gas mixture composed mainly of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) produced from the decomposition of residual organic matter under anaerobic conditions. In the case of waste management programmes or projects, it is applicable to that generated in the landfill vessel or cells and to that generated in auxiliary systems (e.g., leachate lagoons).

### ***biogas capture***

A process carried out to avoid the direct emission of biogas into the atmosphere at the sites where it is generated by means of collection systems that convey it to places of utilisation or destruction.

### ***biogas capture system***

A related set of elements or structures to capture the gases produced in a landfill for venting, flaring or utilisation. It may be passive, active or a combination of active and passive components.

### ***biogas destruction***

Burning the biogas in flares or burners (without any type of utilisation), with the aim of converting the methane present in its composition into CO<sub>2</sub>, which has a lower environmental impact.

***biogas processing facility***

Facility that processes, treats, and compresses or liquefies the biogas collected from a sanitary landfill, with the purpose of using it.

***biogas utilisation***

Development of any of the activities related to the productive use of biogas, including the generation of electricity, generation of thermal energy, replacement of fossil fuels (through distribution in networks dedicated exclusively to biogas, in tank trucks, or by other means), distribution in natural gas systems for use in co-firing, among others.

***biomass***

Non-fossilised and biodegradable organic material from microorganisms, animals, and plants (including their surface and below ground components, living or dead, from trees, shrubs, grasses, litterfall, roots, etc.). It includes agricultural, forestry, industrial and related products, by-products, residues, and wastes. It also includes gases and liquids recovered from the decomposition of non-fossilised and biodegradable organic materials.

***biomass energy***

Energy obtained from non-fossilised and biodegradable organic materials from microorganisms, animals, and plants, including gases and liquids recovered from the decomposition of such materials.

***biomass waste***

Non-fossilised, biodegradable organic material from plants, animals and microorganisms, by-product, residue or waste stream from agriculture, forestry, and related industries.

***bus***

Motor vehicle intended for the collective transport of persons and their luggage, duly registered in accordance with the special regulations and characteristics in force, used for the provision of urban and interurban passenger transport services.

***bush***

Woody plant, whose growth potential does not reach five meters in height, without a preponderant trunk, because it branches from the base.

***bypass dust***

By-product of Portland cement manufacture, either uncalcined, partially, or fully calcined, produced in the kiln at high temperatures or on the pyro processing line. It differs from CDK in that the latter also includes dust from bypass systems, which can be partially or fully recycled.



## C

### *calcination*

The chemical process of cement or lime manufacture, in which raw materials, mainly carbonates, are heated in kilns to produce metal oxide and carbon dioxide. For example:  $\text{CaCO}_3 + \text{heat} = \text{CaO} + \text{CO}_2$ . In the most general case, calcination is a process of heat-induced expulsion of structurally bound volatile elements, except of water.

### *calibration*

In land use programmes or projects, a process by which predictive models use local measurements to determine their parameter values, making the models more representative of the project area. For equipment or instruments, the process of comparing and documenting the measurement of a device against a traceable reference standard.

### *camper*

A motor vehicle with all-wheel drive, with a capacity of up to nine passengers and up to three-quarters of a ton.

### *capacity addition*

In energy programmes or projects, action taken to increase electricity production capacity by adding new generating units to existing power plants/power stations.

### *carbon buffer*

Percentage of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions (where applicable) from all climate change mitigation programmes and projects related to land use that are retired and left as a guarantee of long-term permanence of such removals or reductions, to cover the risk of reversals of the removals achieved.

### *carbon credit*

A tradable, non-tangible instrument that represents a unit of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) -usually one tonne- that is removed or reduced by a climate change mitigation programme or project and is verified/certified to an internationally recognised carbon accounting standard. Cercarbono defines it as a Carboncer.

### *carbon credit emission certificate*

In the context of Cercarbono, a document issued by the certification programme stating that a climate change mitigation programme or project complies with the requirements of the voluntary carbon certification process. This document lists the carbon credits generated by the programme or project with a unique serial number.

### *carbon credit registry*

A physical or virtual place where climate change mitigation programmes and projects developed under a specific programme or standard are registered, accounted for, and

centralised, along with their corresponding emissions, monitoring, transfers, and removals of carbon credits.

### **carbon dioxide equivalent**

A measure of any amount of GHG, calculated by their carbon dioxide equivalence, in terms of their global warming potential over a 100-year reference period.

### **carbon footprint**

Environmental indicator that reflects the amount of direct and indirect GHG emissions produced by an individual or organisation, measured as CO<sub>2</sub>e.

### **carbon market**

A trading system in which governments, companies or individuals trade units of GHG removal or GHG emission reduction, known as carbon credits, to meet mandatory or voluntary commitments to reduce GHG emissions.

### **carbon offset**

An action or activity that offsets the emission of carbon dioxide or other GHG into the atmosphere. It occurs when an individual or organisation, directly or indirectly (by funding activities elsewhere), removes GHG from the atmosphere or prevents a certain amount of GHG from being released.

### **carbon pool**

A component of non-fossil biological origin that has the capacity to accumulate, store and release carbon. In land use projects, *in situ* pools are above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, dead organic matter (including litter and dead wood) and soil organic carbon. Other carbon pools outside the source ecosystems are wood products and charcoal used for carbon capture and storage.

### **carbon stock**

The amount of carbon contained in a GHG reservoir.

### **carbonate**

Compound containing the CO<sub>3</sub><sup>2-</sup> radical. In industrial programmes or projects, during calcination, the carbonate radical decomposes and is transformed into carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). Common carbonates consumed in the minerals industry include calcium carbonate (CaCO<sub>3</sub>) or calcite, magnesium carbonate (MgCO<sub>3</sub>) or magnesite, and calcium magnesium carbonate (CaMg(CO<sub>3</sub>)<sub>2</sub>) or dolomite.

### **Carboncer**

Certified carbon credit that is generated under Cercarbono's voluntary carbon certification programme. Each Carboncer represents the removal or reduction one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent achieved by a programme or project activity.

### ***Carboncer withdrawal***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, allocation of Carboncer to a specific beneficiary for its exclusive use and retire of these for any further use.

### ***causal relationship***

In the context of contributions to the SDGs, link between SDGs and climate change mitigation programme or project that shows how impact was reached. List of activities that had to be carried out to contribute to each identified SDG.

### ***CCMP activity***

A set of operations or tasks within a climate change mitigation programme or project. (See definitions of *programme activity* and of *project activity*).

### ***CCMP area***

Geographical extent where the GHG removal or GHG emission reduction activity is implemented, where land and associated resources are directly affected. In the land use sector, the extent to which the programme or project activity is implemented.

### ***CCMP developer***

Natural or legal person directly responsible for designing, formulating, implementing, or supervising a climate change mitigation programme or project.

### ***CCMP duration***

The period during which the programme or project is operational, from the start date to the end date of the last crediting period. In land use programmes or projects, several harvesting shifts or crop cycles may occur.

### ***CCMP holder***

Natural or legal person, public or private, that has the legal representation of a climate change mitigation program or project. In some cases, the developer of the program or project can act as its holder, through a special power granted.

### ***CCMP legal representative***

Person legally mandated to act on behalf of a climate change mitigation programme or project.

### ***CCMP lifespan***

Period during which a climate change mitigation programme or project is expected to fulfil the function for which it has been created.

### ***CCMP operator***

Natural or legal person in charge of executing the activities implemented in a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***CCMP ownership***

Legal right to control and operate the programme or project activity.

***CCMP start date***

Date on which the first direct action was implemented or is planned to be implemented in a programme or project area or facility leading to mitigation results, i.e., the date on which GHG removals or GHG emission reductions from field actions were or will be initiated.

***certification***

In the context of Cercarbono, the process by which the programme certifies that a climate change mitigation programme or project meets the requirements of the voluntary carbon certification process set out in its protocol.

***certification programme***

In the context of climate change mitigation, a voluntary or mandatory, national or international system with a set of principles and requirements for the formulation, development, validation and verification of results against the design and implementation of climate change mitigation programmes or projects.

***certifier user***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, type of user with the capacity to certify implementation results of a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***chiller***

Liquid chiller unit that can use refrigerants with high global warming potentials.

***CKD***

Any by-product of Portland cement manufacturing, whether uncalcined, partially, or fully calcined that is produced in the kiln at high temperatures, in the pyro processing line or in the bypass systems.

***client***

In the context of Cercarbono, a person or organisation that needs to register a climate change mitigation programme or project or certify the emission and registration of its carbon credits. In the validation, verification and certification processes, the client represents the holder of the initiative.

***climate change mitigation***

A set of actions taken to limit the variation in the state of the earth's climate system due to human actions and their related effects.

***climate change mitigation action***

A measure taken to remove GHG or reduce GHG emissions to help stabilise their concentration in the atmosphere. This may involve reducing GHG emissions by sources or removing GHG by increasing carbon stocks in the pools.

***climate change mitigation initiative***

Programme, project, actions or activities developed at international, national, regional, local or sectoral level aimed at the removal of GHG or the reduction of GHG emissions.

***climate change mitigation programme***

A set of climate change mitigation initiatives implemented in an official territorial division of third level or higher, under more than one methodology, in one or more sectors, focused on the removal of GHG or the reduction of GHG emissions, which allows for the addition of instances, methodologies and activities.

***climate change mitigation project***

Climate change mitigation initiative implemented under a single methodology and in a single sector, focused on the removal GHG or reduction of GHG emissions in a specific area or facility and over a specific period.

***clinker***

A substance resulting from the calcination of limestone and clay in kilns at high temperatures.

***clinker production***

The process of obtaining clinker (a granulated product used in the manufacture of cement) by grinding, mixing, and calcining tricalcium and dicalcium silicate, tricalcium aluminate and tetra calcium aluminoferrite.

***closed flare***

A device in which waste gas is burned in a cylindrical or rectilinear enclosure, wherein the flame enclosure is more than twice the diameter of the enclosure. The device includes a combustion system and an air intake system based on natural or forced draft for the combustion reaction.

***co-benefit***

In the context of climate change mitigation, social, environmental, or economic gain from a climate change mitigation programme or project other than those intrinsically linked to GHG removals or GHG emission reductions.

***co-combustion***

Combined combustion of two fuels in the same thermal system. In energy programmes or projects, combustion of biomass (or other alternative fuel) that replaces part of the original fossil fuel.

***co-composting***

Composting process where solid waste and wastewater containing solid biodegradable organic material are degraded together.

***co-generation***

Process for simultaneously obtaining useful electrical and thermal energy (heat, steam, hot or cold water).

***commitment***

In validation and verification processes, it is the agreement (usually specified in the form of a contract) between a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) and a client, with terms for performing services, among which it is determined that the client shall communicate to the VVB any facts that may affect the validity of an issued opinion.

***composting***

Biochemical degradation process of organic waste under aerobic conditions to obtain humus.

***compressed natural gas for vehicles***

Natural gas mixture composed primarily of methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and small amounts of other gases such as ethanol, carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) and water steam.

***confidential information***

Commercial, financial, scientific, technical, or other information not available to the public (but available to judicial authorities and control and oversight bodies upon request), the disclosure of which could reasonably be expected to result in a loss, damage in negotiations or otherwise to those to whom such information relates.

***conflict of interest***

A situation where a person or organisation is or could be involved in multiple interests, financial or otherwise, and where serving one interest could involve working against another. Typically, this refers to situations where self-interest leads to making decisions and acting for one's own benefit or for the benefit of a third party.

***confusion matrix***

A two-dimensional array of numbers used to evaluate the performance of a classification model. Each column represents the number of predictions for each class, while each row

represents the instances in the actual class. The number of correct and incorrect predictions are summarised with the count values and broken down by each class.

***contract***

In the context of Cercarbono, a pact or agreement that establishes the conditions of the voluntary carbon certification service between Cercarbono and the holder or proxy of a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***criteria***

Policy, procedure, or requirement used as a reference to establish a concept (e.g., additionality, validation/verification statement).

***cumulative rounding error***

Sum of all rounding errors made during the calculation of a value.

**D**

***dead wood***

Non-living woody biomass, other than litterfall, whether standing or on the ground. Includes wood lying on the surface, dead roots, and stumps greater than or equal to 10 cm in diameter.

***decarbonisation***

Activity or set of activities that are aimed at reducing and subsequently eliminating the amount of fossil carbon consumed and thus reducing the GHG emissions generated.

***erroneous declaration***

Error, omission, misstatement or misrepresentation of an environmental information statement.

***deforestation***

Detectable, direct, or induced conversion from forest cover to other land cover in a specific period.

***destruction of greenhouse gas***

Decrease in GHG emissions quantified by the difference between the emissions of a validated baseline scenario and the net destroyed emissions obtained by the implementation of a climate change mitigation project. It is differentiated from the reduction (avoidance or displacement) of GHG emissions by the techniques or tools used by the project to effectively reduce GHG emissions.

***developer user***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, type of user in charge of uploading design information and supporting documentation of a climate change mitigation programme or project to the EcoRegistry platform.

***direct emission***

In the context of climate change mitigation, release of GHG into the atmosphere by emission sources directly related to and under the control of a particular climate change mitigation program or project that operates in a sector, scenario, or process.

***displacement of a more-GHG-intensive output***

Decrease in GHG emissions due to the replacement of an existing activity or process occurring outside the project area by an activity or process with lower GHG emissions.

***double counting***

Scenario under which the same GHG removal or reduction of GHG emissions is accounted for separately by two different entities. It also includes double-claiming, when such removal or reduction is used more than once to demonstrate compliance with national or international mitigation targets.

***dump truck***

Motor vehicle intended primarily for the transport of construction materials, equipped with a body that can be emptied by transverse or vertical rotation on one or more axles.

***dust return***

In cement industry processes, part of the kiln feed that is not consumed during clinker production or to form bypass dust but is re-included in the production cycle.

**E**

***electric power generation***

The process of transforming any primary energy source into electrical energy.

***electrical energy***

Energy obtained from the movement of electric charges or electrons with a specific force within conductive materials. Depending on the method of generation, it can be considered renewable energy, for example, when generated in hydro, wind, solar, geothermal, or biomass power plants.

***electrical system***

A set of elements useful for generating, transporting, and distributing electricity. It can be an interconnected or non-interconnected electricity grid, depending on the plant or generation unit of the climate change mitigation programme or project to which it is connected.



***electricity mix***

A combination of different energy sources that are used to satisfy a specific energy demand, in a defined geographical area and in a specific period.

***electronic signature***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, authentication parameters (usernames and passwords) that EcoRegistry assigns to a specific user, allowing the identification of the authorship of messages and data generated or uploaded to the platform.

***eligibility***

Determination that a specific area of land meets the conditions required to be included in a climate change mitigation programme or project activity in the land use sector.

***emission factor***

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, a ratio linking specific data of the programme or project activity to its respective GHG emission.

***emission factor of the electrical energy matrix***

Coefficient that relates the amount of GHG produced because of generating a certain amount of electricity in a defined period and geographical environment.

***energy crop***

Agricultural, forestry or aquatic crop, part or all whose production is used as raw material to generate usable energy.

***energy efficiency***

Improving the service delivered per unit of power in climate change mitigation programmes or projects by increasing the unit efficiency of traction, work, electricity, heat, or light.

***environmental information statement***

Previously named GHG Declaration (ISO 14064-2:2019) or achieved (ISO/IEC 17029:2019). It is the statement on the performance of the climate change mitigation program or project, which is usually made by the same proponent. It can represent a point in time, or it can cover a period. It must be provided by the responsible party, must be clearly identifiable and capable of consistent assessment or measurement against appropriate criteria by a validator or verifier. It is a factual and objective statement that provides the object of validation or verification. In the Cercarbono context, it corresponds to the programme or project design document and the monitoring report.

***environmental performance***

Measurable results related to the management of environmental aspects.

***evaluation***

In the context of Cercarbono, the process that a climate change mitigation programme or project undergoes in the validation and verification stages by a validation and verification body.

***evidence***

In the context of *Cercarbono's Tool to Report Contributions from Climate Change Mitigation Initiatives to the Sustainable Development Goals*, support showing reported contributions, either through publicly available referenced documents, internal documents or formal documents issued by third parties.

***ex-ante evaluation***

Evaluation of the design of the climate change mitigation programme or project prior to its implementation.

***exhaust gas***

Combustion gas emitted by the burning of methane contained in the biogas from a landfill.

***ex-post evaluation***

Evaluation of the implementation of a climate change mitigation programme or project and the monitored results of its activities.

***external transfer***

Moving a carbon credit from one account in one registry to another registry.

**F**

***field***

Natural accumulation of hydrocarbons in the underground, contained in porous or fractured rocks.

***first of its kind***

In the context of climate change mitigation, a programme or project that due to its characteristics is considered to be new or innovative in a specific geographical area.

***flare***

Device for burning without energy recovery of volatile organic compounds in exhaust gases.

***forest***

Area of land normally permanently covered by trees, according to the parameters of area, tree cover and minimum height of mature trees established by each country under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

For climate change mitigation programmes or projects focused on reforestation and forest restoration, this includes areas that are part of a forest area that may be temporarily without standing timber stocks as a result of human intervention, such as harvesting, or natural causes, but are expected to regain them. For REDD+ programmes or projects, this includes areas normally covered by trees or, in the case of forest carbon stocks enhancement, areas that were recently deforested through no fault of the holders or managers of such areas.

***forest activity***

Set of operations or tasks involved in the management and use of forests.

***forest degradation***

Persistent reduction in carbon content due to anthropogenic activities in an area that remains in the forest category. In REDD+ projects, in an overlap scenario, for the purposes of the consistency principle, the definition of degradation established by the country in its FREL shall be adopted.

***Forest Emissions Reference Level***

A set of GHG emissions in the forestry sector in a specific region or country, over a set period, used as a point of comparison to assess forest emissions avoided through the implementation of activities to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, through sustainable forest management and the conservation and enhancement of carbon stocks.

***forest land***

An area of land with a minimum size equal to the definition of forest adopted by the country under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and with no restrictions on forest use.

***forest plantation***

Land on which trees are grown to produce timber or other forest products, with a design that has the potential to meet the forest definition of the country in which the crop is located.

***forest suitability area***

Extent of land (continuous or discrete) whose vocation is to have forest, located within the reference area whose optimal use, because of its biophysical characteristics, is the conservation of forests or the establishment of forest restoration processes.

***fossil energy source***

Substance of organic origin or a remnant of an organism belonging to another geological era, such as oil, coal, and natural gas, that can be used to obtain energy.

***fossil fuel***

Fuel formed from the refining or processing of materials extracted from underground. These materials result from the action of specific geological conditions on organic remains over millions of years. Includes liquid fuels (crude oil and petroleum products), solid fuels (coal and coal products) and natural gas.

***fuel efficiency per trip***

Ratio between the distance a vehicle can travel, and the fuel consumption required to travel that distance. This relationship may not be constant, depending on the individual's driving habits, the characteristics of the vehicle, the topographical and climatic conditions of the place where it is driven, among others.

***fuel or feedstock switching***

Reduction of GHG emissions due to the fuel or feedstock switching used in an existing activity or process, which generate lower GHG emissions.

***fugitive emission***

Emission from accidental discharges, equipment leaks, evaporation losses or accidental discharges or during filling, flaring, pipeline leaks, storage losses, venting or any other direct emissions, except those from fuel use.

**G**

***gasification***

Process of thermal decomposition of organic compounds at high temperatures (over 800 °C). Gasification converts organic compounds of both biogenic and fossil origin into fuel gas.

***general account user***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, type of user in charge of the registration of climate change mitigation programmes or projects and the retirement of carbon credits. This type of user can send and receive carbon credit transfers.

***geothermal energy***

Energy obtained from ground heat to generate electricity or for use in thermal energy applications, in particular heating or cooling. Climate change mitigation programs or projects focused on geothermal energy may include the development of high temperature steam power plants, plants, or facilities at any level of reservoir depth.

***global warming potential***

Value that makes it possible to compare the relative effect of the different GHG, in relation to the greenhouse effect caused by CO<sub>2</sub>.

***governance***

All processes of interaction whether through the laws, rules, power or language of an organised society over a social system, carried out by the government of a state, by a market or by a network.

***grassland***

Extension of land covered mainly with herbs, grasses, and other smaller species. Grasslands can be natural or man-made.

***greenhouse gas***

A gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds, a property that causes the greenhouse effect. The main GHG are carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>), nitrous oxide (N<sub>2</sub>O), methane (CH<sub>4</sub>) and ozone (O<sub>3</sub>).

***greenhouse gas emissions***

Release of GHG into the atmosphere from sources or reservoirs.

***greenhouse gas emissions source***

Source element of GHG emitted into the atmosphere.

***greenhouse gas information system***

A set of standards, processes, and procedures for establishing, managing, maintaining, and recording information on GHG fluxes in a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***greenhouse gas removal***

The process by which a quantity of GHG is removed from the atmosphere and stored in a pool for a specified period.

***greenhouse gas storage***

Process to retain GHG in pools so that they do not reach the atmosphere.

***grouped project***

In the context of climate change mitigation projects, an initiative implemented under one or more methodologies in the same sector, focused on GHG removals or GHG emission reductions in a specific area or facility and period, which is structured to allow for the addition of one or more instances of the mitigation activity and its scaling up after validation.

## H

### *historical reference period*

In REDD+ projects, the range of years prior to the start of the project in which the trend of deforestation and forest degradation processes is measured, as a basis for estimating future deforestation (and if applicable, forest degradation) data.

### *holdership*

Ownership of something legally recognised.

### *hybrid vehicle*

A means of automotive transportation that combines an internal combustion engine and one or more electric motors.

### *hydroelectric energy*

Energy generated from the potential energy of a body of water in dams with reservoirs, along a river or in the middle of a stream.

## I

### *independent reviewer*

Competent person, who is not a member of the validation or verification team, who reviews the verification or validation activities and conclusions.

### *indirect emission*

In the context of climate change mitigation, release of GHG emissions into the atmosphere because of the activities of a specific climate change mitigation program or project that operates in a sector, scenario or process.

### *individual carbon buffer*

Variable percentage of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions (where applicable) that are retired (and therefore not issued as credits) from all climate change mitigation programmes and projects related to land use. This buffer is accumulated in the certifications and retained until release (if it occurs) or indefinitely (in the case of programmes or projects that are abandoned before the end of their lifespan or that have reversals in the mitigations achieved).

### *environmental information*

Topic of a qualitative or quantitative nature that is related to environmental conditions or environmental performance. It may include statements on GHG, emissions, GHG removals or GHG emission reductions from programmes or projects.

### *information and communication technologies*

A set of technologies that emphasise the role of unified communications, the integration of telecommunications and computers, the necessary software, storage, and audio-visual systems that enable users to access, store, transmit and manipulate information through different media, such as smartphones, handheld devices, computers, drones, video cameras, wearable technology, and artificial intelligence.

### *installed capacity*

Production potential or maximum volume of production that a particular company or facility can achieve using certain resources and during a certain period.

### *instance*

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, each occurrence in which areas, modules, productive units or participants are added to one of them.

### *interconnected power grid*

An electricity grid that interconnects several micro-grids or several energy producers with the consumers of energy, through a complex system of grids, substations, and other components, and which therefore has a greater back-up to meet the demand for electricity. (See definition of *National Interconnected System*).

### *Interconnected Zone*

In different countries, it refers to the set of municipalities, townships, localities, and hamlets connected to the National Interconnected System.

### *interested party*

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, a person or organisation that may affect, be involved in, or be perceived to be involved in or affected by a decision or action of a programme or project.

### *inventory*

In the context of climate change mitigation, a record of the quantification of GHG from a programme or project, including the emission sources that generate them.

## **K**

### *kiln*

In the context of the Cercarbono cement industry methodology, a tubular heating apparatus used in the production of clinker, which reaches temperatures of more than 1200 °C.

### *kiln feed*

In industry programmes or projects, use of raw materials, often processed as concrete, which are fed to a preheater or directly to the kiln system. The kiln feed often contains a

certain amount of recycled dust that is returned from the preheater or kiln system (see also *dust return*).

### *kiln fuel*

Raw material that feeds a kiln system, along with the other raw materials that are used for drying or processing for clinker production.

## **L**

### *land use*

Anthropogenic actions, activities, and interventions on a certain type of surface to produce, modify or maintain it. In the context of Cercarbono, the term “land use” is used to indicate the category that groups together the forestry and agricultural sectoral areas.

### *landfill*

Space where the solid waste of a city or community is deposited after having received certain treatments.

### *landfill gas*

Gas generated by the decomposition of solid waste. It consists mainly of CH<sub>4</sub>, CO<sub>2</sub> and small fractions of ammonia and hydrogen sulphide.

### *leakage*

Any increase in GHG emissions from emission sources outside the climate change mitigation project area, relative to the baseline scenario, because of programme or project activities.

### *leakage management area*

In REDD+ programmes or projects, extension within the reference area, but outside the project area, in which activities associated with the project are established to control leakage.

### *level of assurance*

The level of detail that a Validation and Verification Body uses to determine whether there are errors, omissions, underestimates, overestimates or misinterpretations in the validation or verification process of a GHG mitigation programme or project.

Degree of confidence in the claim. The levels of assurance and the conditions to achieve them can be defined in the programme (e.g. absolute, reasonable, limited).

### *level of service*

Performance indicator that reflects the conditions under which a specific transport service, whether passenger, animal, freight, or mixed, is being provided. In general, the level of service responds to the number of passengers or volume units of animals or cargo being transported, in a specific time, under certain operating conditions.



***liable party***

Person or persons responsible for the provision of the environmental information statement and the supporting information.

***liquefied petroleum gas***

Natural gas mixture composed primarily of ethane, propane, and butane, with small amounts of pentane plus (C5+) in any combination.

***litter***

Non-living biomass of small size in various stages of decomposition, above mineral or organic soil, including living fine roots smaller than the diameter threshold for below-ground biomass and humic and humic layers.

***low carbon electricity***

Electricity from technologies that emit low amounts of carbon dioxide compared to conventionally used fossil fuels, such as nuclear, wind and hydroelectric power.

***low carbon fossil fuel***

A type of fossil fuel that has not been used in the project plant during the last three years prior to the start of the project activity, and that has a lower CO<sub>2</sub> emission factor and calorific value than any type of fossil fuel that has been used in that plant.

***low-emission energy***

Fuel or energy source that produces GHG and particulate matter emissions under limits established by a standard for this purpose.

**M**

***managed landfill***

A type of landfill that has controlled disposal of waste, which is directed to specific deposition areas, with a level of collection control and a level of fire control and which includes at least one of the following: (i) cover material, (ii) mechanical compaction and (iii) waste levelling. In the context of Cercarbono, a landfill that does not meet this definition is considered an unmanaged landfill.

***mangrove***

Land that in the tropical zone is covered with water by the tides, full of estuaries that cut through it forming many low islands, where the trees that live in the saltwater grow.

***marketer user***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, type of user established by opening an account in EcoRegistry, who has the power to buy or sell carbon credits.

### **mass transit vehicle**

A motor vehicle for mass public passenger transportation, whose circulation is done through exclusive lanes and special infrastructure for passenger access.

### **material error or discrepancy**

Individual error or set of actual errors, omissions, or distortions in the quantification of GHG in climate change mitigation programmes or projects, which results in an erroneous reported quantity and whose value generates a change in the emissions result.

### **materiality**

In validation/verification process is the concept that misstatements, individually or aggregated, can influence the reliability of the claim or decisions made by the intended user. Materiality can be qualitative or quantitative.

In the context of *Cercarbono's Tool to Report Contributions from Climate Change Mitigation Initiatives to the Sustainable Development Goals*, components of sustainable development, represented by the SDGs, whose likelihood of being positively or negatively impacted by programme or project activities is reasonably high.

### **methodological reconstruction**

In REDD+ projects, calculation of expected GHG emissions in the project area, in the reference area and in each segment with overlap, consistently using the variables used in a national reference level, as a minimum: the definition of forest, emission factors by forest type, historical data of the activity and its method of estimating emissions and their projection over time.

### **methodological tool**

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, a type of module used by a methodology that provides a procedure for carrying out a specific analysis.

### **methodology**

A specific set of criteria and procedures that apply to specific GHG mitigation activities to quantify, *ex-ante* and *ex-post*, the GHG net removal or GHG emissions net reduction and specify monitoring procedures and other relevant aspects for carbon credit issuance purposes.

### **microbus**

Vehicle used to transport people with a capacity of 10 to 19 passengers, used for the provision of urban and interurban passenger transport services.

### **mode shift**

Variation in the distribution of the use of different modes of transport for efficient and sustainable mobility.

### *monitoring*

A set of measurement and control activities that allow all technical aspects of the climate change mitigation programme or project to be quantified and recorded in a verifiable manner, especially those related to the flow of GHG during its implementation.

### *monitoring report*

Document describing how the climate change mitigation programme or project has been implemented in accordance with its validated PDD and recording data to enable the assessment of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions generated by the programme or project during a specific period, in accordance with the established monitoring plan.

## **N**

### *national circumstances*

A specific country context in which a certain parameter or variable is analysed to assign it a justified value.

### *National Interconnected System*

An electrical network made up of a majority set of power transmission lines and substations present in a country to transport energy from generation plants to areas (cities, peripheral areas, towns, communities, etc.) where the populations where it is consumed are established.

### *natural forest regeneration*

Forest restoration by entirely wild means or assisted by human intervention in activities such as soil scarification, wildlife protection fencing or fencing to prevent grazing by domestic animals. Action contemplated within the REDD+ activity of increasing forest carbon stocks.

### *natural gas*

Hydrocarbon, mixture of light gases of natural origin, containing mainly methane, usually varying amounts of other alkanes, and sometimes a small percentage of carbon dioxide, nitrogen, hydrogen sulphide or helium.

### *net electric power generation*

The difference between the total amount of electrical energy generated by the plant and the sum of the self-consumption of the facility for its operation (also known as parasitic load). Net electrical energy is the energy supplied to the electricity system.

### *no carbon taxation*

Rule establishing a provision on the conditions under which the carbon tax does not apply (Colombia).

***non-compliance***

In the context of Cercarbono, non-compliance by a climate change mitigation initiative to be validated or verified with a specific procedure or requirement related to the validation or verification of a programme or project, as set out in the programme's protocol and other regulatory documents, as well as in the methodology and tools applicable to the initiative.

***non-forest***

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects related to land use, is the area that does not meet the definition of forest according to national parameters.

***non-interconnected or isolated power grid***

In some countries, an electricity grid with a smaller installed capacity than the National Interconnected System, which is isolated, i.e., not connected to another electricity grid. It usually serves only some specific industrial or commercial users and some small communities (usually far from large cities).

***Non-Interconnected Zone***

In different countries, it refers to a subdivision of the national territory (municipality, locality, or hamlet) not connected to the National Interconnected System.

***non-permanence***

In the context of climate change mitigation, the temporary or reversible nature of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions (when applicable) achieved by a programme or project.

**O**

***ocean current energy***

Energy obtained from the movement of water in the oceans. Climate change mitigation programs or projects focused on ocean currents may involve the development of power plants, plants or facilities using any type of technological device and current energy density.

***official service vehicle***

Means of automotive transport destined to the service of public entities.

***offset mechanism***

In the context of climate change mitigation, a system designed to offset the GHG emissions of a person, entity or project by financing activities that remove or reduce such emissions.

***open flare***

Device in which the waste gas is burned in an open-air nozzle, with or without the aid of auxiliary fluid or a flare with a vertical cylindrical or rectilinear enclosure, for which the flame enclosure is less than twice the diameter of the enclosure.

*overlap*

In REDD+ projects, a circumstance in which the baseline scenario of a project is superimposed on an official reference level under a results-based payment scheme or another REDD+ project, partially or fully, in the variables of area, activities or crediting period.

*overlap between a REDD+ project and a NREF*

Circumstance in which the baseline scenario of a REDD+ project overlaps with an NREF under a results-based payment program or another REDD+ project, partially or totally, in the variables of area, REDD+ activities or crediting period. Therefore, compatible, or non-compatible overlaps may occur. The first case occurs when there is an overlap in the area (partial or total) and the second case occurs when there is an overlap in the three variables mentioned.

**P**

*passenger transportation service*

Activity offered to third parties for the mobilisation of people from one site to another, in public service motor vehicles.

*pick-up truck*

Motor vehicle used to transport people in the cab and cargo in the flatbed.

*plot (measurement)*

In climate change mitigation programs or projects in the land use sector, it corresponds to a small portion of the land used to make measurements for statistical and modeling purposes.

*pooled carbon buffer*

Fixed percentage of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions (when applicable) that is withdrawn (and therefore not issued as credits) from all climate change mitigation programmes and projects related to the use of the land and that is left as a long-term collective guarantee of the permanence of such removals or reductions.

*potential leakage area*

In REDD+ programmes or projects, extent within the reference area, but outside the project area, where displacement of deforestation and (if applicable) forest carbon degradation activities would occur.

*potentially significant emission*

Emission that may eventually, under certain circumstances, reach a significant level. Significant are those sources that, added together, equal or exceed 90 % of the total (feasibly measured) emissions generated by the climate change mitigation programme or project over its period of performance.

***power grid***

Electricity supply system to which power plants and many consumers are connected through transmission and distribution lines.

***power plant***

A facility that generates electrical power. Several power units at a site comprise a power plant, whereas a power unit is characterised by the fact that it can operate independently of other power units at the same site. When several identical power units (i.e., of the same capacity, age and efficiency) are installed at a site, they may be considered as a single power unit.

***previous commitment***

In validation and verification processes, it is the prior agreement between a Validation and Verification Body (VVB) and a client with terms to perform services. For this, the VVB requests sufficient information from the client to carry out a review prior to the validation or verification engagement. The previous commitment may include a validation, a verification or both.

***principle***

Rationale or rule that must be met by climate change mitigation projects to obtain real results in GHG removal or GHG emissions reduction.

***programme activity***

In the context of climate change mitigation, a specific set of technologies, measures, and results (described in one or more methodologies) for a specific sector, which are implemented in a coordinated manner and whose joint objective leads to removals of GHG or reductions of GHG emissions by a programme.

***project activity***

In the context of climate change mitigation, a specific set of technologies, measures, and results (described in a methodology applied to the project), which alter the conditions identified in the baseline scenario and result in removals of GHG or reductions of GHG emissions by a project.

***project cycle***

The sequence of phases through which a climate change mitigation programme or project passes, from conception and design to crediting.

***Project Description Document***

In the context of Cercarbono, a document that describes a climate change mitigation project and the ways in which it meets each of the requirements of the Cercarbono Protocol and the methodology used.

***project limit***

Effective scope of a climate change mitigation project in terms of its location, timing, and sources, which enables the comparative framework of the baseline scenario and the GHG removal or of GHG emissions reduction of the project scenario.

***project scenario***

Hypothetical reference case that best represents the events or conditions of the planned activities to be implemented as a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***projection period***

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, the range of years from the expected start date for which calculations and estimates of the relevant scenarios of a programme or project are made to estimate in advance its net mitigation potential.

***property right***

Legal or customary right of tenure, use, access or management of lands, territories, facilities or resources.

***pyroprocessing***

Process in which a material is subjected to high temperatures (typically greater than 800 °C) to obtain a physical or chemical change in the material. Includes processes such as mineral roasting, calcination, and sintering.

**Q**

***quicklime production***

The process of obtaining calcium oxide by crushing and calcining limestone in kilns at high temperatures.

**R**

***raw material***

Element of natural or artificial origin that is transformed to create a product. In the context of cement industry programmes or projects, an element used for the preparation of concrete such as limestone, iron ore or sand.

***reasonable assurance***

Level of assurance where the nature and extent of the verification, activities have been designed to provide a high but not absolute level of assurance on historical data and information.

***REDD+ activity***

Climate change mitigation activity under the mechanism for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and other actions in this sector (REDD+).

In Cercarbono context, the REDD+ activities included are:

- Reducing emissions from deforestation.
- Reducing emissions from forest degradation.
- Enhancement of forest carbon stocks.
- Sustainable forest management.
- Conservation of forest carbon stocks.

***Reduction of Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation and other actions in this sector (REDD+)***

Climate change mitigation mechanism through forest management framed by UNFCCC decisions and articulated voluntary rules, which aims to remove GHG and reduce GHG emissions through the implementation of activities to reduce emissions from deforestation, degradation and other forest activities.

***reduction of greenhouse gas emissions***

GHG emission reductions quantified by the difference between the emissions of a validated baseline scenario and the net reductions achieved by the implementation of a climate change mitigation programme or project.

***reforestation***

Set of actions that lead to the establishment or planting of woody tree species, with conditions to reach the definition of forest, for conservation, production, or forestry use.

***regasification***

The set of stages through which natural gas passes from its extraction in the field to the final consumers.

***regulated carbon market***

A rules-based trading system whereby national or sub-national governments can buy or sell units of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions to meet their emission limits imposed under a specific agreement.

***rehabilitation (or renovation)***

In the context of energy projects for climate change mitigation, a set of actions aimed at restoring existing plants, power plants or power units that have been severely damaged or destroyed due to foundation failure, excessive seepage, earthquakes, liquefaction, or flooding, to restore their performance. It can also lead to an increase in efficiency, performance, or power generation capacity by adding new centrals, power plants or power units.

***remote audit***

Facilitation of conformity assessment by a validation and verification body from a location other than where the conformity is physically located.



***removal factor***

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, a coefficient that relates specific project activity data to their respective GHG removals.

***renewable energy***

Energy obtained from natural sources, which can be regenerated in a time less than or equal to the time of consumption.

***replacement***

In the context of climate change mitigation energy programmes or projects, installation of new power plants/plants/units to replace one or several existing units, usually with the same or higher power generation capacity than those that were replaced.

***requirement***

In the context of Cercarbono, request established in its protocol or in the methodologies of or accepted by Cercarbono, which guides the validation and verification processes and supports the certification process.

***reservoir***

Accumulation of water in the bed of a river or stream that partially or totally closes its channel for the construction of a dam.

***restoration***

Set of actions that lead to the establishment of woody tree and shrub species in areas with a forest vocation aimed at re-establishing or conserving its vegetation cover and the ecosystem services that existed in a specific area prior to its degradation or destruction.

***retroactivity period***

In the context of Cercarbono, the maximum period prior to the time of registration of a climate change mitigation initiative that is allowed as the start of implementation of the activities to be registered.

***retrofitting***

In the context of climate change mitigation energy programmes or projects, the process of repairing or modifying existing operating power generation plants or units (beyond periodic maintenance), with the purpose of increasing efficiency, performance, or power generation capacity.

***reversal***

Loss of support for the permanence of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions achieved and certified by a climate change mitigation initiative in the land use sector.

### *rising gas*

That gas that is lighter than atmospheric gases under normal conditions, which consequently serves to create buoyancy in aerostats.

### *risk factor*

In the context of climate change mitigation, an event or circumstance that increases the likelihood of the occurrence of a negative event that may decrease the mitigation potential of a programme or project activity.

### *risk mitigation*

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, action taken that contributes to counteracting, reducing, or eliminating a risk.

## **S**

### *saline gradient energy*

Energy obtained by harnessing the difference in osmotic pressure between two volumes of water with different salinity. Climate change mitigation programmes or projects focused on saline gradient energy may involve the development of plants or facilities with internal electro-dialysis systems, pressure-delayed osmosis or capacitive method, open or closed cycle.

### *scope of validation and verification*

Identification of:

- The assertion that is the subject of validation or verification, including its scope.
- The applicable validation or verification programme.
- The standards and other normative documents, including their publication date, under which the assertion is validated or verified.

### *SDG indicator*

A metric that allows to determine contributions to a specific SDG target during the reporting period. The SDG Tool uses both some official indicators defined by the United Nations (identified by their official number) and other indicators created by Cercarbono, inspired by the SDGs, and limited to the context of climate change mitigation programmes and projects.

### *sectoral scope*

Category of emission sources by sectors that are applied to programme or project activities, based on the sectors and categories established in Annex A of the Kyoto Protocol. A project activity can be present in more than one sectoral scope. The sectoral scopes are: 1. Energy generation; 2. Energy distribution; 3. Energy demand; 4. Manufacturing industry; 5. Chemical industry; 6. Construction; 7. Transport; 8. Mining and mineral production; 9. Metal production; 10. Fugitive emissions from fuels; 11. Fugitive emissions from the production and consumption of halocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride; 12. Use of solvents; 13. Waste Management; 14. Land use: Forestry and 15. Land use: Agricultural.

*segment*

In the context of climate change mitigation programmes or projects, a set of areas dedicated to the same type of mitigation activity. In REDD+ projects, each segment may contain different forest strata or be a non-forest area (in the case of the carbon stock enhancement segment). In reforestation, restoration and woody crops projects, each segment may contain areas devoted to such activities implemented with different species or management arrangements.

*shuttle bus*

Motor vehicle intended for the transport of persons with a capacity of twenty to thirty passengers and a distance between axles of less than 4 m, used for the provision of urban and interurban passenger transport services.

*silvopastoral system*

One of several forms of agroforestry that integrates trees, fodder and grazing of domestic animals in a mutually beneficial way under different production arrangements.

*similar technology*

A set of instruments and procedures in a specific sector for obtaining, processing or transporting one or more natural products that can be considered analogous or similar to an existing one.

*sink*

In the context of climate change mitigation, an element or process capable of capturing any of the GHG and retaining them in a reservoir.

*small hydropower energy*

Energy obtained from sources based on small-scale water bodies. Climate change mitigation programs or projects focused on small hydropower may consist of the development of power plants or facilities with installed power of less than 10 megawatts (MW) at the turbine axis; with flowing water reservoir or integrated into water networks, with or without the possibility of accumulation by pumping, not interconnected or connected to the network and responding to base or peak demand.

*soil organic carbon*

Carbon from living things present in mineral and organic soils (including peat) at a specified depth, defined consistently throughout the period of analysis. Fine living roots (less than the diameter limit of belowground biomass) are included as soil organic matter since they cannot be distinguished. In organic soils, soil organic carbon covers the entire depth of the organic layer (i.e., down to the depth of the mineral substrate). In the case of peatlands, this depth can be several meters.

### *solar energy*

Energy generated through activities that exploit the energy radiated by the sun to produce electricity through photovoltaic processes or by solar concentration, generating thermal energy (for heating or cooling purposes by passive or active means), for direct lighting uses, to produce fuels for transportation and other sectors, with or without storage.

### *solid waste*

Insoluble material (including tanks, cans and other containers with gases or liquids), leftover or by-product of any process.

### *standard pressure and temperature conditions*

A set of pressure and temperature values considered as reference conditions in a specific power generation context. In the context of Cercarbono, for the development of methodologies, the values defined as standard by the country in which each programme or project is developed are accepted.

### *start date of crediting period*

Date on which the programme or project activity starts in a specific crediting period.

### *stratum*

In climate change mitigation programmes or projects in land use sector, a set of areas that share certain common characteristics that allow them to be considered as a unit for the purposes of analysis, calculations, inventories, monitoring, or management, among others.

### *sustainability*

Meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, ensuring a balance between economic growth, environmental care, and social well-being.

### *sustainable development*

The practice of maintaining the productivity by replacing resources used with resources of equal or greater value without degrading or endangering natural biotic systems.

### *sustainable forest management*

Sustainable use and conservation of forests, to maintain and enhance their multiple values through human intervention. To generate mitigation results, Cercarbono's M/UT-REDD methodology measures this in terms of improvements in harvesting efficiency that result in lower carbon emissions due to less impact on the forest, more durable products, and less waste.

## **T**

### *team leader*

In the context of Validation and Verification Bodies, a person who leads an audit team.

***technical expert***

A person who provides specific knowledge or expertise to the validation, verification, or certification team. A technical expert does not act as a certifier, verifier or validator in the validation/verification/certification team.

***term of commitment***

Agreement between the holder of a climate change mitigation programme or project and a validation and verification body to carry out the validation or verification processes.

***thermal energy***

Part of the internal energy of a thermodynamic system at equilibrium that is provided at its absolute temperature and is increased or decreased by energy transfer, usually in the form of heat or work, in thermodynamic processes.

***thermal gradient energy***

Energy obtained from the temperature variation between the surface and the seabed. Climate change mitigation programmes or projects focused on thermal gradient energy may involve the development of closed, open or hybrid cycle power plants, plants, or facilities, with any type of technological device, level of temperature jump or type of working refrigerant.

***three-wheeler***

A three-wheeled self-stable motor vehicle with motorcycle mechanical components for the transport of persons or goods with a useful capacity of up to 770 kilograms.

***tidal energy***

Energy obtained from ocean tides. Climate change mitigation programs or projects focused on tidal energy may include the development of power plants, plants, facilities, generators, tidal barrages, or any associated emerging technological alternative.

***timber product***

An element that can be derived from wood harvested from a forest, including firewood and logs and the products thereof, such as lumber, plywood, wood pulp, paper, or charcoal.

***torch***

In the context of climate change mitigation energy programmes or projects, associated gas flaring device, fuel gas or natural gas flaring device.

***traditional knowledge***

Set of knowledge, values, attitudes, and practices shared by a community in a specific geographical area.

***traffic conditions***

Operational characteristics that influence the volume of vehicles, pedestrians or products passing through a specific point during a specific period.

***trailer-truck***

A motor vehicle designed to tow one or more semi-trailers or trailers, equipped with an adequate coupling for this purpose.

***tree***

Perennial plant, with a woody trunk with the potential to reach a height of five meters, branching at a certain height from the ground.

***tricycle***

Three-wheeled vehicle, powered by the effort of the driver by means of pedals. Includes non-motorised tricycle or tricycle-mobile with pedal assistance. The former refers to a non-motorised three-wheeled vehicle, powered by the physical effort of the rider, by means of pedals, and the latter to a tricycle equipped with an auxiliary electric motor with a continuous rated power not exceeding 0.50 kW, which acts as a support for the muscular effort of the rider.

***truck***

Motor vehicle that, due to its size and purpose, is used to transport animals or cargo.

**U**

***uncertainty***

Parameter associated with the result of a measurement that characterises the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to the measured quantity.

***unit of energy***

Autonomous installation for the generation of electric power that can operate independently of other power units on the same site.

***useful life of areas, machinery, equipment, and technology***

The period during which areas, equipment, machinery, and technology are expected to fulfil the function for which they have been delimited or created.

**V**

***validation***

In the context of Cercarbono, a systematic, independent and documented third-party process, in which the design of a climate change mitigation programme or project and its baseline scenario are assessed in accordance with the selected methodology, current legislation and regulations, and the process requirements established by Cercarbono.

### ***Validation and Verification Body***

In the context of Cercarbono, an independent entity authorised by Cercarbono that performs validation and verification processes of a climate change mitigation programme or project as established in the protocol and other regulatory documents of the program, as well as in the methodology and tools applicable to the initiative.

### ***validation and verification body user***

In the context of Cercarbono and EcoRegistry, a user type established when opening an EcoRegistry account, which evaluates and supports the validation or verification process information of a climate change mitigation programme or project.

### ***validation opinion***

Formal written statement to the intended user on the reasonableness of the assumptions, methods and limitations used in the PDD and supporting documents that supports the validation statement.

### ***validation report***

Document of the assessment of the PDD, prepared by an authorised validation entity in accordance with the requirements of the validation process established by Cercarbono.

### ***validation statement***

Document issued by an authorised validation and verification body that refers to the validation report to which it relates, assessing the design of a climate change mitigation programme or project in terms of its baseline and implementation scenarios.

### ***validation or verification programme***

Rules, procedures and management for carrying out validation or verification activities in a specific sector or field. May be operated at international, regional, national, sub-national, sector-specific or organizational levels. A programme can also be called a “scheme”.

### ***validation or verification team***

One or more persons conducting validation or verification activity or process.

### ***validator***

Competent and impartial person from a validation and verification body with responsibility for conducting and reporting on the validation process of a climate change mitigation programme or project. This person or the team leader can sign the validation statement.

### ***vehicle***

A wheeled apparatus that allows the transport of people, animals or things from one point to another by land.

***vehicle category***

Classification of land transport vehicles in a country according to their specific physical characteristics.

***vehicle fleet***

Set of motor vehicles owned by a natural or legal person to provide internal or external land transport services in the public or private sector.

***verification***

In the context of Cercarbono, a systematic, independent and documented process carried out by a third party, in which the methodological consistency of the GHG removal or GHG emission reduction actions of a climate change mitigation programme or project is assessed, as well as the quality and performance of the monitoring methods in accordance with the selected methodology, with current regulations and legislation, and with the process requirements established by Cercarbono.

***verification opinion***

Formal written statement to the intended user on the reasonableness of the methods and calculations of the monitoring report and of the project implementation during the monitoring period supporting the verification statement.

***verification period***

The period specified in the verification report during which GHG removals or GHG emission reductions were generated and verified by a verification body.

***verification report***

Document of the evaluation of the implemented programme or project activities, prepared by an authorised verification entity in accordance with the requirements of the verification process established by Cercarbono.

***verification statement***

Document resulting from a verification process, issued by an authorised validation and verification body that refers to the verification report to which it relates, demonstrating the GHG removals or GHG emission reductions achieved by a climate change mitigation programme or project during the relevant verification period.

***verifier***

Competent and impartial person from a validation and verification body with responsibility for conducting and reporting on the verification process of a climate change mitigation programme or project. This person or the team leader can sign the verification statement.



### *voluntary carbon market*

A trading system through which individuals or institutions can buy or sell units of GHG removals or GHG emission reductions to reduce or neutralise the net GHG emissions generated by their activities.

### *voluntary certification protocol*

In the context of climate change mitigation, a set of requirements that climate change mitigation programmes or projects must meet to obtain the issuance of credits through a voluntary carbon certification program. In the case of Cercarbono, it includes guidelines for carrying out the validation and verification processes, focusing on the principles governing programmes or projects registration, emission certification and credit registration.

## **W**

### *waste energy*

Energy contained in a waste stream from industrial processes in the form of heat or chemical energy. Includes energy contained in gases burned or released to the atmosphere, heat, or pressure from an unrecovered waste stream.

### *waste management*

Activities and actions required to manage unwanted or unusable materials, from their beginning to their final disposal, including their collection, transport, treatment, and disposal, together with monitoring and regulation of their management process and the laws, technologies, and related economic mechanisms.

### *wave energy*

Energy obtained from ocean waves. May include the development of onshore, nearshore, or offshore power centrals, plants, or facilities, with any type of technological device.

### *wetland*

Ecosystem where water (fresh or salt) is the main controlling factor of the environment and associated plant and animal life. Wetlands occur where the water table is at or near the land surface or where the land is covered by water, usually shallow. There are several types of wetlands, such as marshes, lagoons, streams, and ponds.

### *wind energy*

Energy obtained from the movement of air masses by means of wind turbines installed on land or in water (sea or rivers) that can be used to generate electricity. Climate change mitigation programs or projects focused on wind energy may involve the development of onshore or offshore power plants, plants or installations, with vertical or horizontal axis turbines, without energy storage.

***woody biomass***

Total dry mass of trees, shrubs and derived products of woody plants, whose structural tissue is wood composed of cellulose and lignin.

***woody crop***

Planting and harvesting of one or more perennial species for scientific, economic, or industrial purposes other than timber production.

***woody species***

In the context of Cercarbono, perennial species with the presence of shafts or stems branched from the base that have the hardness and consistency of wood with the potential to reach two metres of height.

**Z**

***zero-emission energy***

Energy source that does not produce any GHG emissions. Depending on the source of generation or production, it may be determined as renewable energy.