Summary of V1.1 Revisions

SUMMARY

This document outlines all the changes implemented to the Programme, M001 and their affiliated documents. For some revisions, more details can be found in the summary of RP001 and RP002, which contains the detailed revision propositions that have been submitted to the TAB. The other revisions have been classified as Direct Revisions, as they were implemented to align with accreditation requirements (CORSIA, ICVCM, ICROA).

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REVISIONS SUMMARY

The Programme and M001 have undergone significant revisions to better align with ICVCM Core Carbon Principles and incorporate feedback from initial Projects in the certification process. Notably, the documentation architecture has been revamped to match the ICVCM assessment structure at the Programme level and facilitate the integration of a new Methodology (M002) in the coming months.

The Programme now features a comprehensive section on General Project Requirements, outlining principles applicable to all Projects. This includes extensive guidelines on general Project Design, compliance with ERS principles and methods, carbon rights, boundaries, and benefit sharing, among other sections transferred from M001. Certification procedures have been refined to apply across all Methodologies, with added guidelines for managing Project deviations. Monitoring and Reporting requirements have been enriched to clarify how Project implementation is tracked and how results must be reported. Additionally, the Validation & Verification Procedure and the Registry Procedure have been enriched to incorporate feedback from the first Projects in the certification process. Governance has been strengthened with a revamped Code of Ethics, detailed due diligence processes and a more efficient revision procedures. The CSR Policy, Hiring Policy, Anti-fraud Policy, Code of Ethics and Business Conduct, Risk Analyses, and Rules of Procedures are now available in the Public Documents section of the website. These documents pertain to ERS as an organisation and are not uniquely associated with the Standard and its versions. Standard Revision templates will now only be published once completed in the Public Documents section at the end of a revision process.

Regarding M001, eligibility criteria now encompass a wider range of biomes. Significant changes have been made to the carbon section, including revisions to leakage and permanence requirements. The Quantification Methodology has been refined to improve accuracy and better integrate uncertainty across the GHG removal calculations. The Future Improvements and Limitations document has been updated to reflect the advancements in ERS's research and development.

PROGRAMME REVISIONS

Programme

General Project Requirements	The Programme has been enriched with a new section on General Project Requirements. This section defines requirements that apply to all Methodologies. • The *General Principles* section has been added to outline the ERS three-pillar approach and the GHG accounting principles. • The *Compliance with ERS principles and methods* section has been transferred to the Programme and aims to define the general Projects' objectives and requirements. • The *Geography & Project Boundaries* section has been added to clarify how Projects must be delineated and what is comprised in their GHG accounting. • The *Start Date & Crediting Period section* has been transferred from M001 to Programme to better define Project schedules. Projects are now allowed to submit the Project Design Document within three (3) years of the start date. • The *Ownership and Carbon Rights* section has been added to specify how Developers must provide evidence that they have the legal right to operate the Project on the designated land and to claim benefit from its resulting Restoration Units. • The *Application of a Methodology* section has been added to specify the requirements at the Methodology level, complementing the Programme requirements. • The *Core Carbon Principles* section has been added to outline the overarching requirements that apply to all Projects regarding Additionality, Permanence, GHG Quantification and No-double counting. Note that Additionality, Permanence, GHG Quantification are still detailed in M001 while the double-counting part has been transferred to the Programme.

	- The *Stakeholder Participation* section has been transferred from M001 to the Programme to define and outline social requirements that apply to all Projects, including the FPIC process. - The *SDG*, *Financing*, and *Risk Management* sections have been transferred from M001 to the Programme. The Risk Assessment Matrix has been refined based on feedback from Projects undergoing certification. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001. - The *Safeguards* section has been moved from M001 to the Programme and updated to better cover safeguards already addressed via the compliance with Project Design requirements. The Safeguards Declaration template has been updated accordingly. - The *Benefit Sharing* section has been transferred from M001 to better outline the requirements for managing the benefits arising from the sale of Restoration Units that apply to all Projects.
Certification Procedures	- The Certification Procedures have been updated to apply to all Methodologies. Detailed requirements to guide Developers through Certification have been transferred to the ERS App. - The Feasibility and Assessment phases have been renamed to Project Feasibility & Project Design. - Projects are now allowed to move forward to the next certification phase with contingencies. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001. - A procedure has been added to clarify how Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Clarification Requests (CLs) are handled by the Certification team at the Project Feasibility level.
MRV Procedures	The MRV Procedures have been revamped to apply to all Methodologies. Methodology-specific requirements have been added in M001.

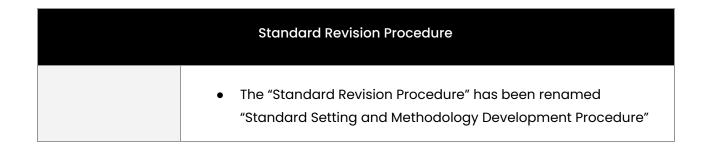|	
	- Reporting requirements have been enhanced to clarify what must be included in the Annual Report. New requirements have been introduced for indicators monitored by ERS related to Carbon (Carbon parameters) and by Developers regarding Ecological Recovery, Livelihoods, Risks, and SDGs (Indicators). Templates (PDD, Annual Report, Restoration Plan, Social Additionality Plan) have been adapted to align with these new reporting requirements. - SDG monitoring has been integrated into the Livelihoods and Ecological Recovery Pillars Monitoring Plan. For each intervention, Developers can now link a relevant SDG with its dedicated monitoring indicator(s) using the official <u>UN Global Indicator Framework</u> as a reference. As such, the SDG Contribution template no longer exists.
Project Deviations	- The *Project Expansion* section has been enriched and clarified. - The *Project Halting* section has been added to outline the requirements that apply when Projects are halted.
Governance	- A Due Diligence process, specifically tailored to Developers, has been implemented. - The Code of Ethics & Business Conduct has been revamped to better align with ERS company structure and values, and to be easily understood by its stakeholders. - The Managing Director role has been added to the Governance document. - The Quality Management System indicators have been enriched based on the feedback from Executive team members. - The Fee Schedule has been removed from the Programme and directly integrated into the <u>ERS website</u>.

Grievance Mechanism	● The Grievance Mechanism has been reinforced to tackle events involving one or more ERS Secretariat Agent. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001.

Validation & Verification Procedure
VVB requirements — ● All mentions of ISO 14066 have been removed throughout the V&V Procedure. The procedure already details the skills and knowledge required for the audit teams to perform Validation and Verification.   ● General ISO 14064-3 principles have been added to VVB requirements, namely: Impartiality, Evidence-based approach, Fair presentation, Documentation and Conservativeness.   ● Quality Management System requirements have been added.

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Accreditation Process	● VVBs Status have been added: Pending, Active, or Inactive. ● The accreditation process has been enriched with the Application Form, the Third-Party Screening, more details on the training and clarifications about the agreement and the fees.
Validation/Verification process	● Details have been provided regarding the verifications that must be carried out by VVBs during Validation. ● Circumstances requiring a site visit and the schedule for Validation/Verification have been added. ● The Project Mandate has been added to the Validation/Verification process, including the pre-engagement and planning phases.

Validation Report	• The *Validation Findings* section has been added with detailed criteria for every section of the Programme and M001 and their affiliated resource. For every criterion, the VVB must provide the means of verification, findings, and a conclusion.
Performance Evaluation	• The VVB performance evaluation template has been enriched to align with all the requirements added to this version of the Procedure.

Avoiding Double Claiming - Procedure
• The *Concept* section has been revamped to clarify the authorised uses.   • The *Reporting* section has been revamped to clarify the reporting requirements for ERS, Developers, and National UNFCCC.   • An Arbitration Mechanism has been added to align with the insurance companies' requirements.   • The remedy for double claims has been clarified to better define the procedure to follow in case of revocation.

Standard Revision Procedure
• The "Standard Revision Procedure" has been renamed "Standard Setting and Methodology Development Procedure"

	to better reflect the distinct processes involved in both Standard Development/Revision and Methodology Development/Revision.
	• Standard Revision Requests have been removed to make the process more efficient. The Secretariat can now directly make Standard Revision Propositions to the TAB. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001.
	• Requirements for Public Comment Periods have been modified. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001.
	• The *Methodology Development and Revision Procedure* section has been added to address the specificities between Standard setting and Methodology developments.

Registry Procedures

	• Project Failure has been added as a cancellation event. • Procedures for data breaches and double-counting events have been added. • A section recapping unit statuses has been added.

Technical Advisory Board

	• A co-chair governance mechanism has been added. • Working Group modalities have been refined to potentially include TAB members. Detailed revisions can be found in RP001. • TAB meeting frequency and decision procedure have been revamped to facilitate decision-making in a remote context.

	Detailed revisions can be found in RP001.

Terminology & References
	• Definitions have been added to explicit terminologies used in the Programme and Methodology, including Adaptive Management, Carbon Parameters, Degraded land, Displaced Activity Area, ERS Agents, Indicators, Local Communities and Verified Restoration Unit (VRU). • Key definitions have been improved such as Free, prior, and informed consent or Unavoidable Reversals/Loss events

METHODOLOGY REVISIONS

M001
Eligibility Criteria	• The Project Scope has been modified to include 'Trophic savannas' (T4.1), 'Pyric tussock savannas' (T4.2), 'Hummock savannas' (T4.3) or 'Temperate woodlands' (T4.4) biomes following the IUCN Global Ecosystem Typology. • The following sections have been transferred to the Programme as General Project Requirements: Financing, Registration, Crediting Period, Pre-submission activities, Stakeholder Participation, SDGs, Safeguards.
Ecosystem	• The Zonation process has been enriched to better differentiate

Recovery	the Restoration Site(s) from other Project areas.
Carbon	- The Common Practice Analysis has been removed from all documents to demonstrate additionality. - The Leakage process has been modified to allow Developers to report leakage activity in the Project Area by either specifying the percentage of displacement or directly indicating the Displacement Area. - The Permanence section has been revamped to define how reversal risks are prevented and treated. The *Reversal Procedure* has been moved from the Programme to M001. *Double Counting* and *Accuracy & Conservativeness* sections have been transferred to the Programme as General Project Requirements.
Livelihoods	- Guidelines on the use of NTFPs have been incorporated in M001 as part of the Livelihoods Pillar. As such, the NTFPs guidelines document no longer exists. - A definition for Local Communities has been added based on the definition provided by IPBES. - The Project Budget and Benefit Sharing have been transferred to the Programme and General Project Requirements.
MRV	M001-specific MRV requirements, such as the list of carbon parameters and requirements regarding Project interventions, have been added.

M001 Quantification Methodology	
Leakage	• Clarifications on the calculation for both leakage approaches (% of displacement or definition of the Displacement Area) have been added.
Carbon stock	• The root-to-shot ratio for calculating Below Ground Biomass (BGB) is now region-specific. • A backup AGB provider, Kanop, has been added. • A dedicated section has been added to clearly explain how uncertainty is determined and propagated throughout the calculations.
Dynamic Baseline	• The Leakage Belt is now excluded from the selection of control plots when processing the Dynamic Baseline.

Ecosystem Restoration Standard

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