



**GLOBAL
CARBON
COUNCIL**

Driving Climate Actions

Project Standard

V3.1 – 2020

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ACRONYMS	
ACCs	Approved Carbon Credits
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
CP	Crediting Period
E+	Environmental No-net-harm Label
GCC	Global Carbon Council
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GORD	Gulf Organisation for Research and Development
GSC	Global Stakeholder Consultation
GWP	Global Warming Potential
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MR	Monitoring Report
PDD	Project Design Document
PSF	Project Submission Form
S+	Social No-net-harm Label
SDG+	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Label
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals

1 Introduction

1. The Global Carbon Council (GCC) Program is the Middle East & North Africa (MENA) region's first voluntary carbon offsetting program and an initiative of Gulf Organization for Research and Development (GORD). The voluntary GHG offsetting program developed by GCC¹, a registered independent legal entity, is called as 'GCC Program', which aims to contribute to a vision of a sustainable and low-carbon world economy. The GCC Program receives GHG emission-reduction projects from the entire world, although it has places special emphasis on low-carbon development in the MENA region, which has largely remained under-represented in carbon markets. The GCC Program help to catalyse climate action on the ground, while ensuring that project construction and operations cause any net-harm to the environment and society and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as per host-country' priorities. The GCC Program is comprised of the entire governance structure, system and the documentation framework to achieve this objective.
2. The generic considerations of the GCC Program are mostly based on International Standards ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, whereas the GCC Rules define specific requirements. The GCC Program provides a global platform for GHG emission reductions with an integrated GCC registration and issuance process to ensure that GCC Project Activities:
 - (a) at a minimum: result in GHG emission reductions that are additional to those that would have occurred in their absence; apply GCC Rules,² including the Project Standard and applicable methodologies; and enable the Project Owners to demonstrate this achievement by obtaining the GCC carbon credits certification label— Approved Carbon Credits or ACCs.
 - (b) do not cause any net harm to the environment and society, by applying the GCC Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard, and enable Project Owners to demonstrate this achievement by obtaining additional GCC certification labels:
 - (i) the Environmental No-net-harm Label (E+); and
 - (ii) the Social No-net-harm Label (S+).
 - (c) contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), by applying the GCC Project Sustainability Standard, and enable Project Owners – depending on the number of SDGs that the project contributes to – to demonstrate this achievement by obtaining additional GCC certification labels:
 - (i) the Bronze SDG+ label (Level 1): by achieving 2 out of 17 SDGs
 - (ii) the Silver SDG+ label (Level 2): by achieving 3 out of 17 SDGs

¹ The GCC Program is operated on behalf of GCC Steering Committee by GCC Operations Team. Any submission to 'GCC' or 'GCC Program' shall be considered to be submitted to 'GCC Operations Team', which can be contacted at operations@globalcarboncouncil.com . GCC documents are available on website: www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre.html

² "GCC Rules" means the rules and requirements set out by the GCC Program related to GHG emission reductions, SDG contributions, Do-no-net-harm on Environment and Society requirements, and certification based on GCC Program documents including ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3, the GCC Program Framework, the GCC Program Manual, applicable methodologies and Tools, and the other documents mentioned in GCC Program Framework and available on the GCC public website <https://www.globalcarboncouncil.com/gcc-framework.html> .

- (iii) the Gold SDG+ label (Level 3): by achieving 4 out of 17 SDGs
 - (iv) the Platinum SDG+ label (Level 4): by achieving 5 out of 17 SDGs or
 - (v) the Diamond SDG+ label (Level 5): by achieving more than 5 out of 17 SDGs
3. The process stipulated in:
- (a) Paragraph 2 (a) above is mandatory and the GCC Project Activity shall at a minimum reduce GHG emissions – this is called the minimum performance track; and
 - (b) Paragraph 2 (a) and (c) above are voluntary – these are called the rated performance track.
4. For all Project Activities, the Project Owners shall identify the project Type (Types A1, A2, B1 or B2), as per section 4 below, and complete the Project Submission Form (PSF), clearly identifying the requirements including the certification labels and/or market eligibility (e.g., CORSIA) they target. The choice made by the Project Owners in the PSF (including on the cover page) shall become a package of requirements against which the GHG Verifier, the GCC Operations Team and the Steering Committee shall assess and evaluate the project throughout the project cycle. The GCC Operations Team can be contacted at operations@globalcarboncouncil.com
5. Project Owners shall indicate their choice ex-ante in the PSF and reflect it in the Monitoring Report, which shall be verified by approved GCC Verifiers at both the Project Verification and the Emission Reduction Verification stages of the project cycle.
6. This standard has been developed based on the requirements of section 3 of the Program Manual,³ which is the overarching program document that provides links to various GCC documents containing the rules and requirements governing the GCC Program.
7. The Program Definitions document provides definitions of the terms⁴ used in this document and shall be referred to when applying the Program Standard (this document).
8. The requirements stipulated in the Program Manual and the Verification Standard shall also apply to Project Owners and to GCC Verifiers, to ensure conformance when applying the Program Standard.

2 Purpose

9. The purpose of the Project Standard is to:
- (a) Ensure that documentation prepared by Project Owners and submitted to the GCC Program throughout the project cycle is of high quality; and
 - (b) Describe the specific requirements applicable to Project Owners who intend to develop GCC Projects to reduce GHG emissions and to submit requests for registration and

³ GCC documents available on website: www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre.html

⁴ While using any GCC document, the terms/definitions/acronyms and the names of the regulatory documents referred have their first letter capitalized (e.g., the Project Standard).

issuance of carbon credits (Approved Carbon Credits or ACCs) under the GCC Program as well as applications for additional certification labels (SDG+ and E+/S+).⁵

3 Principles

10. In addition, to the principles defined by ISO 14064-2, the following principles guide the design and implementation of GCC Project Activities and the monitoring of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals, with the aim of ensuring the environmental integrity of GCC project activities.
 - (a) **Additional:** The Project Owners shall demonstrate that anthropogenic GHG emissions are less than those that would have occurred in the absence of the Project Activity.
 - (b) **Avoidance of Double Counting:** The Project Owners shall ensure that the GHG emission reductions generated by the GCC project activity are not applied more than once toward any emission-reduction target or in more than one emissions inventory.
 - (c) **Independently Audited:** All GHG emission reductions resulting from GCC projects shall be verified by an independent auditor – unless exemptions are provided by the GCC Rules (e.g., for project type B2) – with the expertise necessary to understand the context of both the country and the sector in which the project is implemented, with an aim to provide a reasonable level of assurance to the GCC Program that they are credible. All of the requirements established in the applicable version of ISO 14064-3 shall be complied with.
 - (d) **Compliance with legal requirements:** The Owners of GHG emission-reduction projects shall demonstrate that they comply with all applicable host-country legal requirements⁶, with compliance focused at project level scope.
 - (e) **Legally binding:** GHG emission-reduction projects that are implemented as the result of an enforced legal mandate (government regulation, law) cannot be submitted to the GCC as emission-reduction projects.
 - (f) **Quantifiable emission reductions:** All GHG emission reductions shall be quantifiable using recognized measurement tools (including adjustments for uncertainty and leakage) against a credible emissions baseline.
 - (g) **Permanent Emission Reductions:** Where GHG emission reductions are generated by projects that carry a risk of reversibility, adequate safeguards shall be in place to ensure that the risk of reversal is minimized and that, should any reversal occur, the equivalent amount of emission reductions shall be replaced or compensated by the Project Owner

⁵ The other voluntary requirements related to additional certification labels on contribution to SDGs (SDG+), do-no-net-harm to Environment (E+) and Society (S+), Host Country Attestations on Double Counting for CORSIA are contained in separate GCC documents available on the GCC website and shall be referred to.

⁶ The legal requirements include: demonstration of the Project Owner to be the registered legal entity in the host country (e.g., factory or plant or project licences); approval from the environmental authority (e.g., consents to establish, consent to operate, etc); approval from the health and safety authority (e.g., boiler safety certificate, safety approvals, etc.); electricity approvals, etc.).

or/and the GCC Verifier as per the terms and conditions and the liability provisions stipulated in the GCC Verifier agreement.

- (h) **Real:** The Project Owners, in order to ensure real emission reductions, shall prove that their GHG emission-reduction projects have been designed, implemented, and monitored according to the registered project documentation approved by the GCC Program and as required by the Program Process.
- (i) **Transparency:** The Project Owners shall disclose sufficient and appropriate Project Activity-related information in a truthful manner to allow the intended users⁷ to make decisions with reasonable confidence. In order to make decisions on project registration and approval, and methodology approval with reasonable confidence, the GCC Program requires that project- and methodology-related data/information be taken from credible sources and made transparently available to public stakeholders for comments. The GCC Program shall not disclose proprietary or confidential information marked as such by Project Owners, without the written consent of the provider of the information, except as required by national/regional law and GCC rules. In this context, information used to determine the additionality of the project activity, the description of the baseline methodology and its application, and information supporting UN SDG contributions, environmental and social impact and do-no-net-harm assessment studies, and issues related to environmental integrity and double counting shall not be considered as proprietary or confidential.

4 Project Types

11. This section defines two broad types of projects (Type A and Type B) that are eligible under the GCC Program. Both project types are required to have started operations on or after 1 January 2016.⁸

- (a) **Type A:** These include projects that are not registered under any GHG Program, including the CDM.⁹ To submit such type of projects to the GCC Program, the Project Owners shall refer to the Program Process and follow the entire project cycle for registration and issuance of ACCs:
 - (i) **Type A1:** The start date of operations¹⁰ for such GCC projects shall be on or after 5 July 2020¹¹ and after the date of submission of a complete registration request to the GCC Program. The start date of the Crediting Period of such GCC Project

⁷ Intended users include Project Owners, GCC Verifiers, the GCC Advisory Board and GCC Steering Committee, the GCC Operations team, the GCC Registry/ IHS Markit, national authorities and local and other stakeholders.

⁸ CORSIA pilot phase vintage eligibility criteria require that first crediting period of Project must start on or after 1 January 2016. The GCC Program also started on 1 Jan 2016.

⁹ Some projects may have submitted a new CDM methodology or its revision, or a CDM prior-consideration form, or started CDM global stakeholder consultation or CDM validation processes, but not been registered.

¹⁰ As per the GCC rules, the start date of operations of the GCC Project Activity is the earliest date when emission reductions are generated by the Project.

¹¹ The date of approval of this document by the GCC Steering Committee is 5 July 2020.

Activities shall be on or after 5 July 2020¹² but not more than one year¹³ after the start date of the operations of the GCC Project Activity.

- (ii) **Type A2:** These types of projects are prompt-start and had already started their operations as of 5 July 2020.¹⁴ Their start date of operations shall be after 1 January 2016 but before 5 July 2022.¹⁵ These types of projects shall submit complete registration requests to the GCC Program no later than 5 July 2022.¹⁶ The start date of the Crediting Period for such GCC Project Activities shall be on or after 1 Jan 2016 but not more than one year¹⁷ after the start date of the operations of the GCC Project Activity.
- (b) **Type B:** These projects include all de-registered CDM projects whose Project Owners (or Project Participants as per the CDM Glossary of Terms) wish to register them with the GCC. The start date of the Crediting Period of such GCC projects shall be after 1 Jan 2016 and the same as that stipulated in the registered CDM Project Design Document (as uploaded on the UNFCCC website). Such projects have previously been registered under the CDM, which implies that they have demonstrated compliance with CDM requirements and GCC Rules related to GHG emission reductions (including CDM methodology, global stakeholder consultation (GSC), local stakeholder consultation (LSC), Additionality, and Environmental impacts). For such de-registered CDM projects, ACCs can only be issued by GCC Program after de-registration with the CDM and for the remaining Crediting Period for which CERs have not been issued by the UNFCCC CDM Executive Board, subject to a ceiling of the 10-year crediting period that is allowed under the GCC Program. The project type B is classified into two sub-types (B1 and B2) depending on whether or not the Project Owners wish to apply for additional labels (SDG+, E+ and S+ and the market eligibility flag (e.g., CORSIA)). For submitting such projects to the GCC, the Project Owners shall follow the project cycle, as stipulated in sections 3.1 and 3.2 of the Program Process, for each project type (B1 or B2).
 - (i) **Type B1- With Additional labels:** By default, such projects comply with the GCC Rules related to GHG emission reductions. Therefore, they are not required to conduct/repeat processes already conducted under CDM registration related to demonstration of GHG emission reductions. The Project Owners shall be required to demonstrate compliance with requirements for registration with additional labels (SDG+, E+ and S+) and the market eligibility flag (e.g. CORSIA), if they choose to do so. For such projects, the Project Verification by an approved GCC Verifier is only required for verifying the gaps and part of the additional

¹² See footnote 11

¹³ In case of delay by more than one year, the 10-year crediting period shall be reduced by the length of the period of the delay.

¹⁴ See footnote 11

¹⁵ Within 2 years after 5 July 2020, which is the date of approval of this document by the GCC Steering Committee.

¹⁶ The GCC Program started in 2016, the regulatory documents were finalized in mid-2019 and entered into force after mid-2019. Therefore, type A2 projects, which are prompt-start projects and had started operations earlier (after 1 January 2016) and had considered GCC Program and ACCs as essential component, could not submit registration requests to the GCC Programs until the regulatory documents and GCC Rules were available. Therefore, type A2 projects have been allowed to submit complete registration requests up to two years after the approval of the Project Standard (this document). See footnote 15.

¹⁷ See footnote 13

information in the Project Submission Form on additional labels and any other information not covered in the CDM Validation Report. For sections related to GHG emissions, the CDM Validation Report as part of CDM registered project documents shall be referred to. For this type of projects, the Project Owners shall submit the PSF to the GCC to demonstrate how they comply with the registration requirements as required by the procedures in section 3.1 of the Program Process.

- (ii) **Type B2- Without Additional labels:** Project Owners who do not wish to apply for additional labels for their project comply by default with the GCC Rules related to GHG emission reductions and therefore are eligible for some exemptions in the GCC registration application process, as stipulated under section 3.1 of the Program Process. Such projects are, in-principle, registered under the GCC by default and are not required to conduct/repeat processes already conducted under CDM registration. Owners of such projects can directly submit registration requests to the GCC based on the registration documents approved by the CDM Executive Board, including the CDM Project Design Document (PDD) and the CDM Validation Report. For such projects, GCC Project Verification is not required as there is no additional information in the PSF regarding GHG emission reductions that is not covered by the CDM Validation Report. For these projects, the CDM Validation Report shall be submitted instead of the GCC Project Verification report. For such projects, the Project Owners shall submit the project documentation to the GCC to demonstrate how they comply with the registration requirements related to GHG emission reductions, as required by the procedures in section 3.1.4 of the Program Process.

12. **Table 1 of APPENDIX 2** provides a comparison of types of projects that are eligible for registration under the GCC Program.

5 General Project Eligibility criteria

13. Prior to developing a project – before selecting an applicable CDM or GCC Baseline and Monitoring Methodology – Project Owners shall first confirm that the Project Activity is eligible to be registered under the GCC Program. Based on positive results of an eligibility test, the Project Owner shall prepare project documentation applying GCC's Project Submission Form (PSF).

5.1 Common Eligibility Criteria for All Project Types

14. To confirm eligibility for registration under the GCC Program, for both project Types A and B, prior to submitting project documents to the GCC for conducting a Global Stakeholder Consultation (GSC), the Project Owner shall demonstrate that the GHG emission-reduction project:

- (a) Complies with the eligibility requirements of one of the project types allowed under the GCC, as stipulated in section 44 above;
- (b) Has started operations, and begun generating emission reductions, after 1 January 2016;

- (c) Complies with the GCC Rules related to:
 - (i) GHG emission reductions (mandatory requirement);
 - (ii) Contributions to the UN SDGs (SDG+ label) (voluntary requirement for selection, but mandatory if selected);
 - (iii) Do-no-net-harm Environmental requirements (E+ label) (voluntary requirement for selection, but mandatory if selected);
 - (iv) Do-no-net-harm requirements for Society (S+ label) (voluntary requirement for selection, but mandatory if selected); and
 - (v) Submission of Host Country Attestation on Double Counting as and when required by CORSIA (mandatory requirement for projects that intend to use ACCs for CORSIA).

15. Project Owners planning to use ACCs for the pilot phase of CORSIA¹⁸ are eligible to apply under project types A1, A2 and B1, and can be registered under the GCC Program provided that they meet all of the GCC Rules and criteria for CORSIA.

5.2 Specific Eligibility Criteria for Type A Projects

16. For Type A projects (both A1 and A2), as stipulated in section 44 above, the Project Owner shall demonstrate that the Project Activity:

- (a) Is not required by a legal mandate and does not implement a legally enforced mandate (government regulation or law);
- (b) Complies with all applicable host-country legal requirements¹⁹ with compliance focused at project level scope. The Project Owners shall ensure compliance with legal requirements by demonstrating that the project has either acquired the necessary licenses for their implementation and operation or provide an undertaking that these approvals and the licenses are under process and shall be available prior to start of commercial operations of the project;
- (c) Delivers real, measurable and additional emission reductions compared to its baseline; and
- (d) Applies an approved CDM or GCC Baseline and Monitoring Methodology.

5.3 Specific Eligibility Criteria for Type B Projects

17. The specific eligibility criteria for Type B projects, as stipulated in section 44 above, are:

- (a) **Type B1- With Additional labels:** The Project Owners shall demonstrate compliance with registration requirements, as per the Program Process, with additional labels (SDG+, E+ and S+) and the market eligibility flag (e.g., CORSIA), as per paragraph 14 (c).
- (b) **Type B2- Without Additional labels:** Comply by default with the GCC Rules related to GHG emission reductions as stipulated in paragraph 14 (c) ((i)). For such project type, the Project Owners do not require to conduct GSC, but shall directly submit registration

¹⁸ Refer to footnote 8.

¹⁹ Refer to footnote 6

requests to the GCC Program based on their CDM Registration as per the Program Process.

18. The Project verification by an approved GCC Verifier is required for Type B1 projects but is not required for Type B2 projects.

6 Generic and Specific Requirements

19. Clause 1 of ISO 14064-2 stipulates that the GCC Program requirements are additional to the ISO 14064 requirements. The generic requirements of the GCC Program are based on International Standard ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, whereas the specific mandatory requirements of the GCC Program are stipulated in the Project Standard (this document) and respective CDM/GCC methodologies. The requirements in the Project Standard provide specific mandatory requirements for developing GCC projects and focus primarily on the Project Owners.
20. The Project Owners shall refer to APPENDIX 1, which links the GCC rules and requirements for project development, implementation and monitoring with ISO 14064-2 requirements.
21. The Project Owner shall consider the following criteria when applying GCC rules and requirements:
 - (c) As required by clause 1 of ISO 14064-2, the rules and requirements of the GCC Program shall take precedence in cases where ISO 14064-2 requirements prohibit a Project Owner from complying with a GCC Program requirement; and
 - (d) The prioritization of various rules and requirements within the GCC Program shall be handled as per the hierarchy of documents stipulated in the GCC Program Framework.

6.1 Generic Requirements Related to Applicable Rules

22. Project Owners shall ensure that the propose GCC Project Activities comply with all of the most recent GCC rules and requirements applicable to the Project Activity at all stages of the project cycle, including Project Activity design, implementation, monitoring until request for issuance of ACCs.
23. Where external documents are referenced in the applicable GCC regulatory documents, the most recent version of the document shall be used.
24. New requirements in the GCC regulatory documents shall not be applied retroactively to registered projects.

6.2 Generic Requirements Related to Designing Project Activities

25. When designing a GCC Project Activity, the Project Owners shall consider and apply the latest versions of the Project Standard (this document) and applicable regulatory documents referenced in the Project Standard, including the Project Submission Form (PSF), as adopted by the GCC Program and available at the time of uploading the project documentation for Global Stakeholder Consultation (GSC) of the Project Submission, as required by the Program Process.
26. Under GCC Rules, any Project Owner seeking to design a GCC Project Activity shall apply the latest versions of either a GCC approved methodology or methodologies and tools

approved under UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism, available at the time of submission of project documents to the GCC, as required by the Program Process, for conducting a Global Stakeholder Consultation (GSC). In doing so, the Baseline and Monitoring Methodologies shall be applied in full, including the full application of any tools or guidance referred to by a methodology. The Project Owners shall comply with the grace period of the methodologies, as applicable. The CDM methodologies carry a grace period of 240 days (refer CDM/ UNFCCC website) while GCC methodologies carry a grace period of 30 days (refer Program Process). The Project shall also comply with the CDM Rules for applying small- or large-scale methodologies, including those regarding emission-reduction thresholds.

27. If the CDM or GCC Baseline and Monitoring Methodology does not fit the specific project or does not exist, the Project Owners shall inform the GCC Operations Team. The GCC Operations Team, on behalf of the GCC Program, shall develop simplified and user-friendly Baseline and Monitoring Methodologies for projects on a case-by-case basis as per the demands and priorities of the Program. Where necessary, the GCC Program shall develop revisions to GCC methodologies in collaboration with Project Owners and seek approval of the Steering Committee before a Project Owner can use the revised methodology. All new and revised methodologies shall be approved by the GCC Steering Committee.
28. Project Owners shall apply Global Warming Potentials (GWPs) as stipulated below:
 - (a) **Project development stage:**
 - (i) For type A projects, use the GWP as stipulated in the latest version of the IPCC Guidelines available at the time of submission of project documents to the GCC for conducting a Global Stakeholder Consultation. This requirement shall apply notwithstanding any GWPs stipulated in the CDM methodology and methodological tools that are applied in relation to the specific Project Activity; and
 - (ii) For type B projects, use the GWP as stipulated in the registered Project Submission Form, which applies the same GWP as stipulated in the CDM PDD to calculate the GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals achieved by the GCC Project Activity.
 - (b) **Implementation and Monitoring Stage:** For type A and B projects, use the GWP as stipulated in the registered Project Submission Form to calculate the GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals achieved by the GCC Project Activity.
29. Project Owners wishing to have a proposed GCC Project Activity verified by a GCC Project Verifier shall prepare a Project Submission Form using the valid version of the applicable PSF available on the GCC website.
30. When completing the PSF, Project Owners shall follow the instructions therein and provide all necessary information and documentation to demonstrate compliance of the proposed GCC Project Activity with all applicable requirements in this Standard and other applicable GCC rules and requirements.
31. For Type A1, A2 and B1 projects, the registration request shall be submitted to the GCC Program within one year from the date of submission of project documents for conducting a Global Stakeholder Consultation. Otherwise, the GSC shall be repeated with the applicable versions of the GCC regulatory documents and the applicable methodology.

6.3 Generic Requirements Related to Implementing and Monitoring Project Activities

32. When implementing and monitoring a registered GCC Project Activity, the Project Owners shall consider and apply the latest versions of the Project Standard (this document) and any applicable regulatory documents referenced in the Project Standard including the Monitoring Report Form and the instructions therein, as adopted by the GCC Program and available at the time of submission of a Monitoring Report to the GCC, prior to conducting Emission Reduction Verification, as required by the Program Process.
33. Project Owners wishing to have their GHG emission reductions, generated by the implemented registered GCC Project Activity, verified by a GCC Emission Reduction Verifier shall prepare, for each monitoring period, a Monitoring Report using the valid version of the Monitoring Report Form available on the GCC website.
34. When completing a Monitoring Report Form, the Project Owners shall follow the instructions therein and provide all necessary information and documentation to demonstrate compliance of the implemented registered GCC Project Activity and monitored GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals with all applicable requirements in the Project Standard (this document) and other applicable GCC rules and requirements.

6.4 Specific Requirements Related to Design of Project Activity

35. For submission of projects to the GCC Program for registration, Project Owners shall follow the specific requirements stipulated below, in addition to the requirements stipulated in the Project Submission Form and applicable CDM or GCC Methodology.

6.4.1 Project Description

36. Project Owners shall use the GCC Project Submission Form (PSF) to provide the details of the GHG emission-reduction Activity, including schematics, specifications and a description of how the project reduces GHG emissions.

6.4.2 Project Ownership

37. Project Owners shall provide documentary evidence establishing conclusively any right-of-use arising by virtue of a statutory, proprietary or contractual right of the plant, equipment, process or measure that generates GHG emission reductions and is accorded to the Project Owner.

6.4.3 Project Start date

38. The project start date is the date of start of operations of the project. The project start date shall be after 1 January 2016 and is the earliest date on which the project begins generating GHG emission reductions.

6.4.4 Project Crediting Period

39. Crediting periods for all GCC project types are determined in the relevant Baseline and Monitoring Methodologies and refer the minimum of either a 10-year period or a conservative estimate of the technical lifetime of the installed technologies or implemented measures, whichever is shorter.
40. The start date of the crediting period shall be:

- (a) For Type A1 Project Activities: after 5 July 2020²⁰ but not more than one year²¹ after the start date of the operations of the GCC Project Activity;
- (b) For Type A2 Project Activities: after 1 Jan 2016 but not more than one year²² after the start date of the operations of the GCC Project Activity; and
- (c) For Type B Project Activities: after 1 Jan 2016 and same as that stipulated in the CDM PDD (as uploaded on the UNFCCC website).

6.4.5 Project Scale

- 41. Project Owners shall prepare an estimate of expected annual emission reductions over the project crediting period and record this in the PSF.
- 42. Unlike the CDM, the GCC Program does not differentiate between small and large-scale Project Activities. However, if a GCC Project Activity proposes to apply a small-scale CDM methodology, the Project Activity shall comply with the threshold of small-scale projects as defined by the CDM rules. For Project Activities applying small-scale CDM methodologies and falling under the threshold for micro-scale project activities as defined under the CDM, the simplified CDM rules and requirements for microscale CDM project activities may be utilized. In order to do so, the Project Owners shall indicate and demonstrate that the Project Activity qualifies for the microscale project types and thresholds defined by CDM.

6.4.6 Project Location

- 43. Project Owners shall provide details of the physical/geographical location of the Project Activity, including information that allows its unique identification (by single geodetic coordinates, a physical address and a map).

6.4.7 Project Boundary

- 44. Project Owners shall define the boundary of the proposed project, including the physical delineation of the project and the emission sources and GHGs that are included in the baseline and project scenarios, in accordance with the applied Baseline and Monitoring Methodology.

6.4.8 Project Additionality

- 45. The GCC applies the following approach for demonstrating additionality, consisting of two components:
 - (a) A Legal Requirement Test; and
 - (b) An Additionality Test either based on a Positive List test or a projects-specific additionality test.

(i) Legal Requirement Test

- 46. Type A projects shall be deemed non-additional if their implementation is required by a law that is enforced. A positive outcome of the legal requirement test ensures that eligible projects (and the GHG emission reductions that they achieve) would not have occurred in order to comply with federal, state or local regulations, or other legally-binding mandates. A

²⁰ Refer to footnote 11.

²¹ Refer to footnote 13.

²² Refer to footnote 13.

project passes the legal requirement test when there are no enforced laws, statutes, regulations, court orders, environmental-mitigation agreements, permitting conditions or other legally-binding mandates requiring its implementation, or requiring the implementation of a similar technology/measure that would achieve equivalent levels of GHG emission reductions. Voluntary commitments/agreements within a sector or by an entity do not constitute the legal requirements.

47. The specific provisions of the legal requirement test may differ depending on the project type and the applicable methodology.
48. Type B projects are not required to demonstrate this requirement.

(ii) Additionality Tests

49. Project Owners shall demonstrate the additionality of the Project Activity in accordance with the applied CDM or GCC methodologies, which requires demonstration that the anthropogenic emissions of GHG emissions by sources are reduced below those that would have occurred in the absence of the proposed GCC Project Activity.
50. If required by the applied methodology, the Project Owners of a proposed GCC Project Activity shall demonstrate additionality following the:
 - (a) Methodological tool: Investment analysis; or
 - (b) Guidelines for objective demonstration and assessment of barriers.
51. If required by the applied methodology, the Project Owners of a proposed GCC Project Activity shall demonstrate additionality following the:
 - (a) Methodological tool: Additionality of first-of-its-kind project activities; or
 - (b) Methodological tool: Common practice.
52. If the GCC Project Activity applies a technology, fuel or feedstock listed under a positive list, the Project Activity is deemed automatically additional. Positive lists include the Global Positive list and the Regional Positive list and identify a broad set of abatement activities that are deemed additional.
 - (a) **Global Positive list:** This list is provided in the CDM Tool 32²³: Methodological Tool – Positive List of Technologies.
 - (b) **Regional Positive List:** This list will be developed by the GCC Program based on research and analysis applying credible sources of information and will be provided in the applicable GCC methodology.
53. For demonstrating additionality of proposed GCC Project Activities that apply small-scale CDM methodologies that do not refer to specific additionality requirements, the Project Owners shall apply one of the following:
 - (a) The Methodological tool: Demonstration of additionality of small-scale project activities. In such cases, the Project Owners should also follow the Non-binding best practice examples to demonstrate additionality for SSC project activities and, where necessary, any applicable additionality tool;

²³ <https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/PAmethodologies/tools/am-tool-32-v2.0.pdf>

(b) The Methodological tool: Demonstration of additionality of microscale project activities, if the scale of the Project Activity is within the applicable micro-scale threshold.

54. The Standard for Development of Methodologies contains the criteria for demonstrating additionality that shall be applied by the GCC Methodologies under the GHG Program. This standard refers to various global positive lists, CDM tools and guidelines that shall be applied in GCC methodologies for demonstrating additionality.

6.4.9 Baseline Scenarios for GCC Projects

55. Project Owners shall either determine the baseline scenario for the project in accordance with the requirements set out in the methodology applied to the project or use a default baseline scenario provided in the methodology.

56. Project Owners shall demonstrate the equivalence in type and level of service provided by alternative scenarios and, where appropriate, shall explain any significant differences between the project and the baseline scenario.

57. In developing the baseline scenario, Project Owners shall justify assumptions, values and procedures so that the most plausible baseline scenario leads to a conservative estimation of GHG emission reductions.

6.4.10 Project Emission Reductions

58. Project Owners shall provide calculations of baseline, project and leakage emissions as well as GHG emission reductions resulting from the proposed Project Activity for each year of the crediting period, in accordance with the selected Baseline and Monitoring Methodology.

59. If the selected Baseline and Monitoring Methodology includes different scenarios, options or default values for various parameters, Project Owners shall justify their selection for the proposed project when estimating the emission reductions of the project.

6.4.11 Project Monitoring

60. Project Owners shall provide plans for installing technologies or implementing measures and operating and monitoring the project as set out by the applied Baseline and Monitoring Methodology.

6.4.12 Project Records and Information

61. Project Owners shall ensure that all documents and records are kept in a secure and retrievable manner for at least two years after the end of the project crediting period.

62. For verification purposes, Project Owners shall make available to the GCC Verifier the supporting information and data in the project description, evidence of their right of use, and evidence of successful installation of the technologies or implementation of measures.

6.5 Specific Requirements for Project Implementation and Monitoring

63. The Project Owners shall implement and operate the registered GCC Project Activity in accordance with the description in the registered PSF, including all physical and technical features.

64. The Project Owner shall monitor the registered GCC Project Activity and its GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals in accordance with the registered monitoring plan.

65. The Project Owner shall describe the implemented registered GCC Project Activity and monitored GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals in the monitoring report to document how the implementation and monitoring were conducted.
66. When describing implementation and monitoring, the Project Owners shall provide the following information in Monitoring Reports regarding the implemented registered GCC Project Activity:
- (a) Title and GCC/UNFCCC reference number of the Project Activity;
 - (b) Name of the Project Owner involved;
 - (c) Location of the Project Activity;
 - (d) Titles, versions and GCC/UNFCCC reference numbers of the applied methodologies and, where applicable, the methodological tools to which the applied methodologies refer;
 - (e) Type, start date and duration of the crediting period;
 - (f) Monitoring period number and dates of coverage.

6.5.1 Description of implemented registered Project Activity

67. The Project Owners shall provide a description of the implemented registered GCC Project Activity in the Monitoring Reports as follows:
- (a) Description of the installed technologies, processes and equipment;
 - (b) Information on the implementation and actual operation of the Project Activity, including relevant dates (e.g. construction, commissioning, start of operation). For a Project Activity that consists of more than one site, the Project Owners shall describe the status of implementation and start date of operation for each site. For a Project Activity with phased implementation, the Project Owners shall indicate the progress of the Project Activity achieved in each phase.
68. The Project Owner shall indicate whether there are any temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, the applied methodologies, or the other applied methodological regulatory documents, or permanent changes to the registered GCC Project Activity (hereinafter referred to as post-registration changes).

6.5.2 Description of monitoring system

69. The Project Owners shall describe the monitoring system and provide line diagrams (graphical schemes) showing all relevant monitoring points. This description may include data collection procedures (information flow including data generation, aggregation, recording, calculations and reporting), organizational structure, roles and responsibilities of personnel, and emergency procedures for the monitoring system.
70. The GCC Program recognizes that all of the information related to monitoring of parameters required by the methodology may not be available when preparing PSFs, particularly for greenfield projects. However, in order to reduce and minimize post-registration changes and deviations from registered PSFs, Project Owners are encouraged to consider, as appropriate, the requirements in paragraph 71 when preparing a PSF. These requirements are mandatory when preparing Monitoring Reports.
71. The Project Owner shall develop and describe the monitoring plan, containing all of the monitoring parameters, for the proposed GCC Project Activity in accordance with the applied

approved methodologies and all other applicable GCC rules and requirements, and the provisions below. For each parameter required to be monitored under the applied methodology, the Project Owners shall:

- (a) Describe how the parameter is measured/calculated and the measurement and recording frequency;
- (b) Describe the equipment used to monitor the parameter, including details on accuracy class and calibration information (frequency, date of calibration, validity, uncertainty levels, methods). If neither the applied methodology nor the GCC requirements specify any requirements for calibration frequency for measurement equipment, the Project Owners shall ensure that the equipment is calibrated either in accordance with local/national standards or with the manufacturer's specifications. If local/national standards or the manufacturer's specifications are not available, international standards may be used. If international standards are not available, the Project Owners shall ensure that the equipment used to measure a parameter to determine emission reductions is calibrated at least annually, unless other specifications are provided in the applied methodologies;
- (c) Ensure that the calibration of measuring equipment shall be carried out by an accredited laboratory with the calibration results traceable to the master equipment. Measured data with high levels of uncertainty or without adequate calibration shall be compared with local/national and commercial data to ensure consistency;
- (d) Describe data variables, which may either vary or remain constant. Data variables that impact GHG emission reductions and vary continuously (e.g., quantity of fuel inputs, amount of heat or electricity produced, gas captured) shall be measured and recorded at appropriately justified intervals, unless other specifications are provided in the applied methodology. Data elements that are generally constant (e.g., emission factors, calorific value, system efficiencies) shall be measured or calculated at least once a year, unless other specifications are provided in the applied methodology;
- (e) Provide the values of the monitored parameter for the purpose of calculating GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals. Where data are measured continuously, they shall be presented using an appropriate time interval (e.g., monthly for a monitoring period of six months or more; weekly for a monitoring period of less than six months; daily for a monitoring period of one month or less), unless other specifications are provided in the applied methodology;
- (f) Provide and/or identify the sources of data (e.g., logbooks, daily records, surveys);
- (g) Provide the calculation method of the parameter, where relevant;
- (h) Provide information about appropriate emission factors, IPCC default values and any other reference values that have been used in the calculation of GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals;
- (i) Put in place the operational and management structure to implement the monitoring plan; and
- (j) Define the responsibilities, institutional arrangements, and the quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures for data collection and archiving.

6.5.3 Calculating emission reductions or net anthropogenic removals

72. The Project Owners shall, for the registered GCC Project Activity for the monitoring period, identify the formulae used for, and provide the calculations of, the following:
- (a) Baseline GHG emissions or baseline net GHG removals;
 - (b) Project GHG emissions or actual net GHG removals;
 - (c) Leakage GHG emissions;
 - (d) GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals.
73. The Project Owners shall provide a comparison of the GHG emission reductions or net anthropogenic GHG removals achieved by the registered GCC Project Activity with the estimates in the registered PSF.
74. For any registered GCC Project Activity, the project participants shall explain the cause of any increase in the actual GHG emission reductions achieved during the monitoring period compared with the estimated emission reductions stated in the registered PSF (e.g., higher water availability, higher plant load factor), including all information (i.e., data and/or parameters). The GCC Program caps the excess issuance of ACCs at 120% of the emission reductions estimated in the registered PSF.

APPENDIX 1: Mapping GCC Project Requirements

GCC Rules- requirements for Project Development, Implementation and Monitoring			
Requirements for Greenhouse Gas Reduction			
Clause No.	ISO 14064-2 requirement	Project Standard (V 3), Paragraph No.	Remarks/ other requirements
1	Scope	20, 21	The requirement in <i>GCC rules</i> are additional to <i>ISO</i> requirements and take precedence
2	Terms and definitions	-	Refer to <i>Program Definitions</i>
3	Principles	11	
3.1	General	1-10	
3.2	Relevance	11 (m)	Defines intended user
3.3	Completeness	11 (d)	
3.4	Consistency	11 (f)	
3.5	Accuracy	11 (a)	
3.6	Transparency	11 (n)	
3.7	Conservativeness	11 (e)	
4	Introduction to GHG projects	1-10	Refer to <i>GCC Program Framework</i>
5	Requirements for GHG projects	29-30, 33-34, 36, 64-65	Requires completing project information in the <i>PSF</i> and <i>MR</i>
5.1	General requirements	All paragraphs including 12-19, 22-25, 30-32, 35, 37-43, 60-63	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.2	Describing the project	29-30, 33-34, 36, 64-65, 64-67	
5.3	Identifying GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs relevant to the project	26-27, 36, 44	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.4	Determining the baseline scenario	26-27, 36, 45-53, 54-56	The baseline scenario and additionality requirements are defined by the <i>Project Standard</i> and <i>Methodology</i>
5.5	Identifying GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs for the baseline scenario	26-27, 36	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.6	Selecting relevant GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs for monitoring or estimating GHG emissions and removals	26-27, 36	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.7	Quantifying GHG emissions and/or removals	26-27, 36, 57-58, 64-65, 71-73	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>

5.8	Quantifying GHG emission reductions and removal enhancements	26-27, 36, 57-58, 64-65, 71-73	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.9	Managing data quality	26-27, 36, 64-65, 70	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.10	Monitoring the GHG project	26-27, 36, 59, 64-65, 68-70	Refer to <i>Methodology</i>
5.11	Documenting the GHG project	29-30, 33-34, 36, 64-65	Requires completing project information in the <i>PSF</i> and <i>MR</i>
5.12	Validation and/or verification of the GHG project	29, 33	Refer to <i>Verification Standard</i>
5.13	Reporting the GHG project	29, 33	
Annex A	Guidance on the use of this part of ISO 14064 (<i>informative</i>)	Appendix 1	
Annex B	Greenhouse gas global warming potentials (<i>informative</i>)	28	The requirement in <i>GCC rules</i> takes precedence
Requirements for No-net-harm to Environment & Society			
-	-	2 (b)	Refer to the <i>Environmental and Social Safeguards Standard</i>
Requirements for Contribution to UN SDGs			
-	-	2 (c)	Refer to the <i>Project Sustainability Standard</i>

APPENDIX 2: Example Illustration of Project Types A & B

Figures 1 and 2 and Tables 2 and 3 below provide examples for Project Owners, helping them to compare applicable GCC Rules and the Process requirements for project types A and B.

Figure 1: Type A1 Project Example

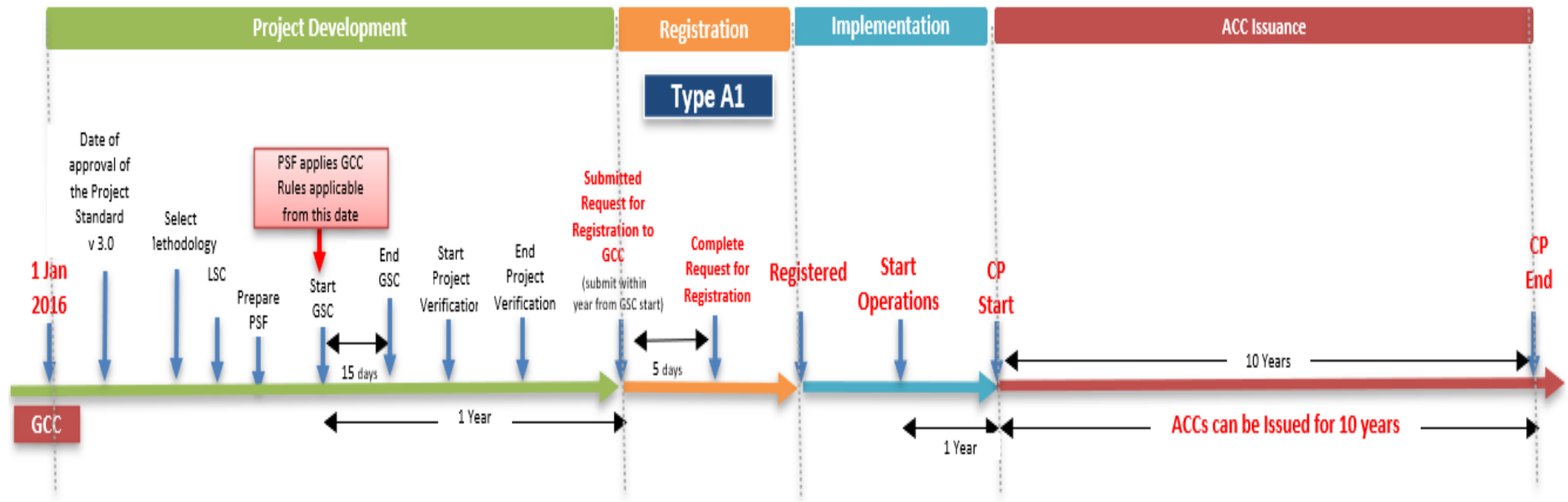


Figure 2: Type A2 Project Example

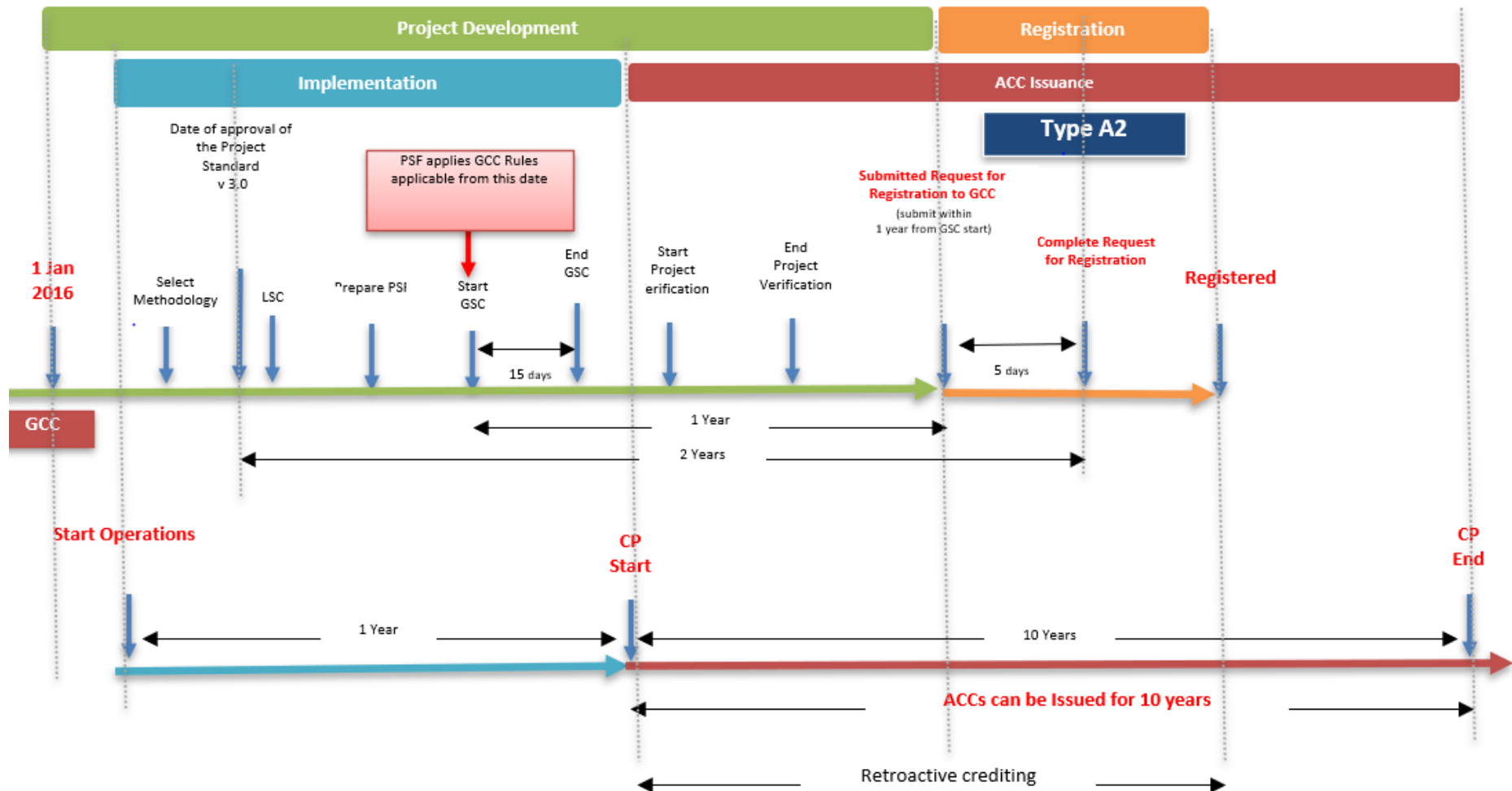


Figure 3: Type B1 Project Example

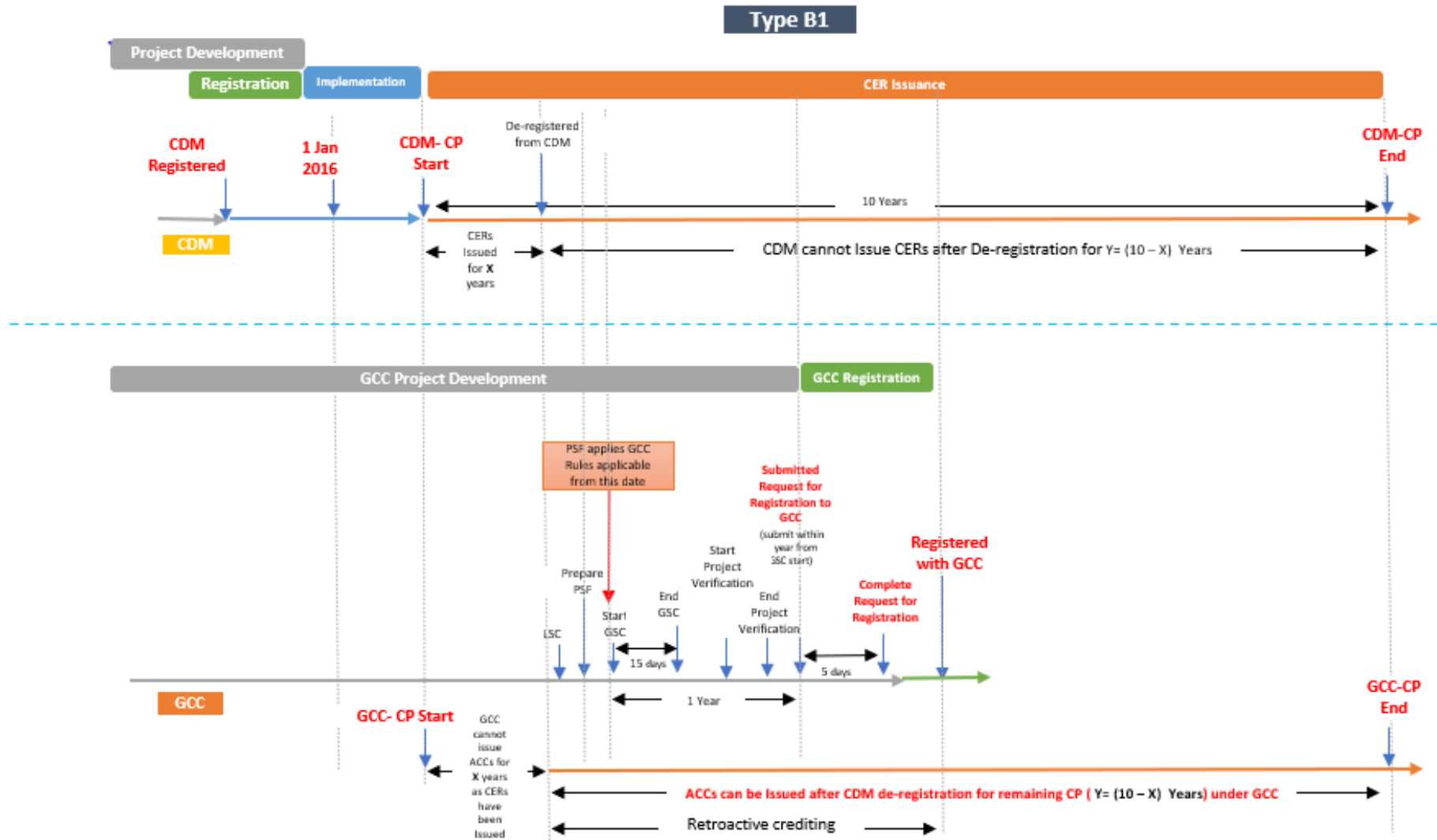


Figure 4: Type B2 Project Example

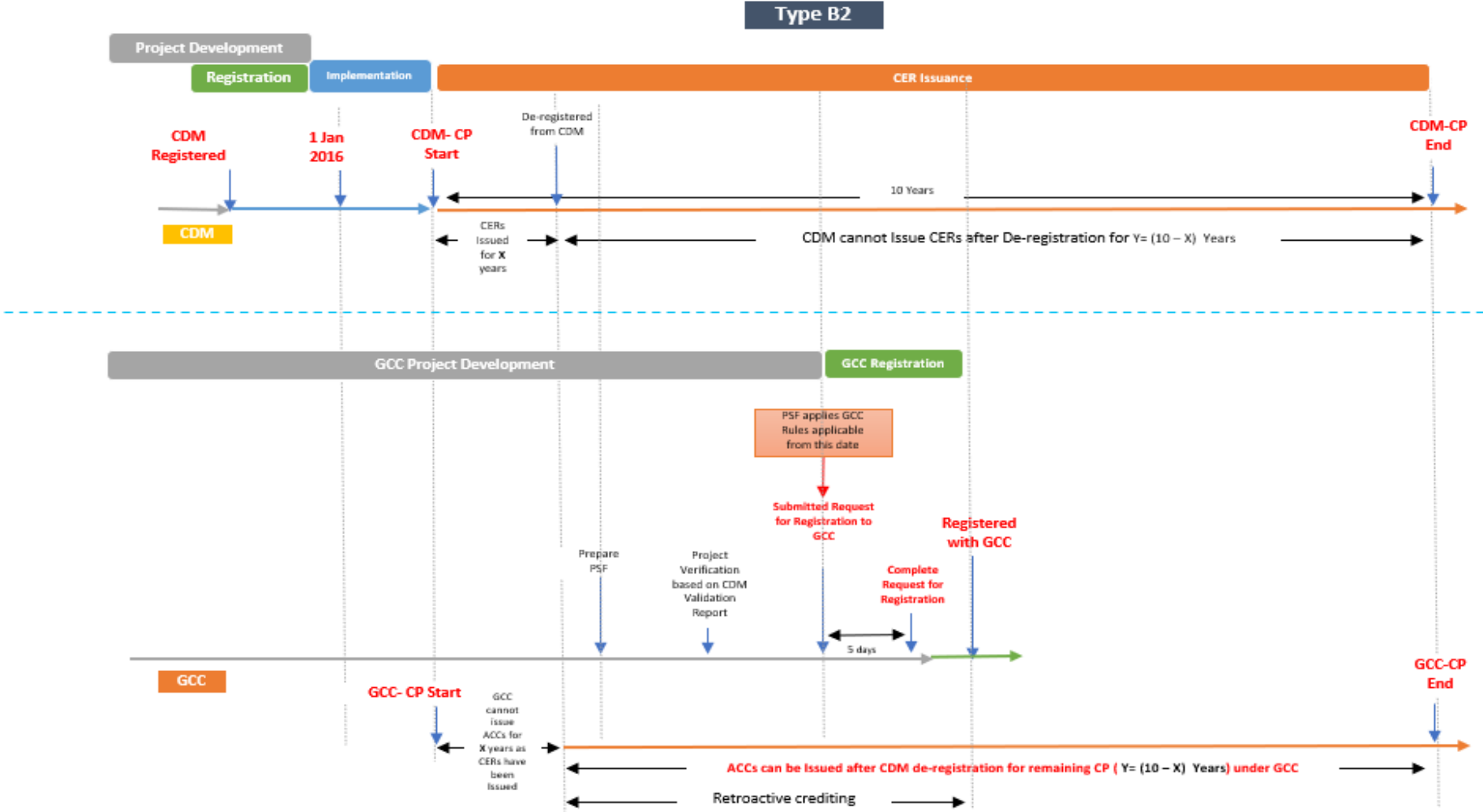


Table 1: Project Types Eligible for Registration under the GCC Program

All projects shall start operations after 1 January 2016			
Description	Type A: Not registered under any GHG Program		Type B: De-registered CDM projects
Project Types	Type A1	Type A2	Type B1 & B2
Special condition	Projects not submitted to any GHG Program	Prompt-start: Started operations prior to DDMM2020. ²⁴ Deadline for submitting complete GCC registration requests: DDMM2022. ²⁵	ACCs can only be issued by GCC Program, after CDM de-registration, for the remaining crediting period for which CERs have not been issued, subject to a ceiling of 10 years under GCC Program.
De-registered with CDM	NA	NA	Yes required
CERs Issued	NA	NA	Allowed, but for < 10 years
Operations Start Date	After 5 July 2020 and after submission of a complete GCC registration request	After 1 Jan 2016 but before 5 July 2022	After 1 Jan 2016
Start date of the Crediting Period of the GCC Project Activity	After 5 July 2020 but not more than one year ²⁶ after the Operations Start Date	After 1 Jan 2016 but not more than one year after the Operations Start Date	After 1 Jan 2016 and the same as that stipulated in the registered CDM Project Design Document (as uploaded on the UNFCCC website).

²⁴ See footnote 11.

²⁵ Refer to footnote 15.

²⁶ Refer to footnote 13.

Table 2: Comparison of GCC Rules applicable to GCC Project Types

Applicable GCC Rules			
Description	Type A: Projects, not registered under any GHG Program		Type B: De-registered CDM projects submitted to GCC
Project Types	Type A1	Type A2	Type B1 & B2
Rules related to GHG emission reductions and additionality	Compliance with all GCC Rules required and must be demonstrated in PSF and MR		Demonstrated via CDM Registration and listed on UNFCCC website
Rules related to contribution to SDGs (SDG+ label)			All GCC Rules shall be complied with and, as required, included in PSF and MR.
Rules related to Do-No-Net-Harm Environmental requirements (E+ label)			If a project is registered under the CDM, it complies with the requirements of the GCC Rules related to compliance with GHG emission reductions (including CDM Methodology, GSC, LSC, Additionality, Environmental impacts). However, project does not comply other requirements (related to contribution to SDGs, Do-No-Net-Harm to Environment and Society, and Host Country Attestation on Double Counting as per the requirement of CORSIA). The non-compliance is identified as a gap if the Project Owner wishes to use ACCs for CORSIA compliance. Therefore, documentation of de-registered CDM projects must fill the gap to qualify under the GCC following the CORSIA requirements.
Rules related to Do-No-Net-Harm requirements for Society (S+ label)			
Submission of Host Country Attestation on Double Counting (CORSIA)			
Rules related to CORSIA requirements (C+ Market eligibility flag)			

Table 3: Comparison of GCC Process for various Project Types

GCC Process				
Description	Type A: Projects not registered under any GHG Program		Type B: De-registered CDM Projects Submitted to GCC	
	Type A1	Type A2	Type B1	Type B2
Summary of the Registration Process as per the Program Process	Full process for Registration to be applied for GHG emission reductions and for additional labels (SDGs, Do-No-Net-Harm to Environment and Society), if opted. No exemptions allowed.		Exemptions in the process to be applied for GHG (for GCC Project Registration only) but full process to be applied for additional labels (SDGs, Do-No-Net-Harm to Environment and Society), if opted.	Exemptions in the process to be applied for GHG (for GCC Project Registration only) as additional labels are not opted for such project types. Such projects qualify for Automatic registration, if complete documents (including PSF) are submitted as per the Program Process.
Summary of the Issuance Process as per the Program Process	Full process for Issuance to be applied for GHG emission reductions and additional labels (if opted) as per the Program Process. No exemptions allowed.			
Prepare PSF	All sections to be filled completely as per paragraph 11 (a) and Program Process.		All sections to be filled completely as per paragraph 11 (b) and Program Process. For sections related to GHG emission reductions, CDM-PDD can be referred to. For additional labels, information needs to be filled.	All sections to be filled completely as per paragraph 11 (i) and Program Process. For sections related to GHG emission reductions, the CDM PDD can be referred to.
Conduct LSC	Prior to conducting GSC		Prior to conducting GSC and only for the part within the scope of additional labels. For GHG emission reductions, it is not required to be re-done as is already conducted under the CDM.	Not required to be re-done as is already conducted under the CDM to cover the part regarding GHG emission reductions.
Conduct GSC	Prior to submitting desk-review Project Verification Report		Prior to submitting desk-review Project Verification Report and only for the part within the scope of additional labels. For GHG	Not required to be re-done as is already conducted under the CDM regarding GHG emission reductions.

		emission reductions, it is not required to be re-done as is already conducted under the CDM.	
Conduct Project Verification under GCC	Yes	Project Verification is only required for verifying the gaps and part of the additional information in the PSF regarding additional labels and any other information not covered by the CDM Validation Report. For sections related to GHG emission reductions, the CDM Validation Report can be referred to.	Project Verification is not required as there is no additional information in the PSF regarding GHG emission reductions that is not covered by the CDM Validation Report. For these projects, the CDM Validation Report may be used instead of the PSF.
Submit Request for Registration to GCC	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process
Registered with GCC			Automatic registration, if complete documents submitted as per the Program Process and all of the information required in the PSF related to GHG emission reductions is covered by the CDM Validation Report
Implement & Monitor Project as per GCC Registered documents	Yes	Yes	
Prepare Monitoring Report	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process for such projects. ACCs can only be requested for the Crediting period, but not for more than 10 years.	Yes. For such de-registered CDM projects, ACCs can only be requested from the GCC Program for the remaining Crediting period, after de-registration with the CDM, for which CERs have not been issued by CDM Executive Board of the UNFCCC, subject to a ceiling of 10 years of crediting as allowed under the GCC Program.	
Conduct Emission Reduction Verification and Submit Request for Issuance to GCC	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process	Yes. As per GCC requirements in the Program Process	

Project Standard

ACCs Issued by GCC Program (only for crediting periods after 1 January 2016)	For not more than a 10-year Crediting Period,	For not more than a 10-year Crediting Period, including retroactive credits ²⁷	ACCs can only be issued by the GCC Program for the remaining Crediting Period, after de-registration with the CDM, for which CERs have not been issued by CDM Executive Board of the UNFCCC, subject to a ceiling of 10-years of crediting as allowed under the GCC Program.
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²⁷ Retroactive credits mean ACCs that have been generated for the period prior to the date of registration with the GCC Program.

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
V 3.1	31/12/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The name of GCC Program’s emission units has been changed from “Approved Carbon Reductions” or ACRs to “Approved Carbon Credits” or ACCs.
V 3.0	05/07/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version released on approval by the Steering Committee as per the GCC Program Process; ▪ Revised version contains following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change of name from Global Carbon Trust (GCT) to Global Carbon Council (GCC); ○ Considered and addressed comments raised by the Steering Committee: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ during physical meeting (SCM 01, dated 29 Oct 2019, Doha Qatar); and ➢ electronic consultations EC01-Round 01 (15.09.2019 – 25.09.2019), EC01-Round 02 (27.03.2020 – 27.06.2020). ▪ Feedback from Technical Advisory Board (TAB) of ICAO on GCC submission for approval under CORSIA²⁸;
V 2.0	25/06/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version released for approval by the GCC Steering Committee. ▪ This version contains details and information to be provided, consequent to the latest world-wide developments (e.g., CORSIA, EUC).
v1.0	01/11/2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial version released for approval by the GCC Steering Committee under the GCC Program Version 1

²⁸See ICAO recommendation for conditional approval of GCC at https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/Excerpt_TAB_Report_Jan_2020_final.pdf



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