

المجلس العالمي للبصمة الكربونية
GLOBAL CARBON COUNCIL



Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers

V2.2 - 2021

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1. Introduction

- The Global Carbon Council (GCC) 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). GCC aims to contribute to a vision of sustainable and low-carbon economy of the region, help to catalyze climate actions on the ground, ensure that project construction and operations cause no-net-harm to the environment and society, and contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as per host-country priorities. The entire governance structure, system and the documentation framework to achieve these objectives are collectively called the GCC Program.¹ Figure 1 below provides the key labels/certifications provided by GCC, in order to recognize a GHG reduction project activity and add value to its contribution to mitigate climate change and achieve sustainable development. The carbon credits (Approved Carbon Credits or ACCs) issued by GCC to project activity represent the label given by GCC Program to the project. Such label ensures the credibility of carbon credits as tradable commodity in carbon market.

The rules and regulations of GCC Program are based on international standards ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3, as well as various processes, standards, methodologies, tools, and templates that collectively formulates an **Integrated Registration and Carbon Credit Issuance Process** to ensure the following:

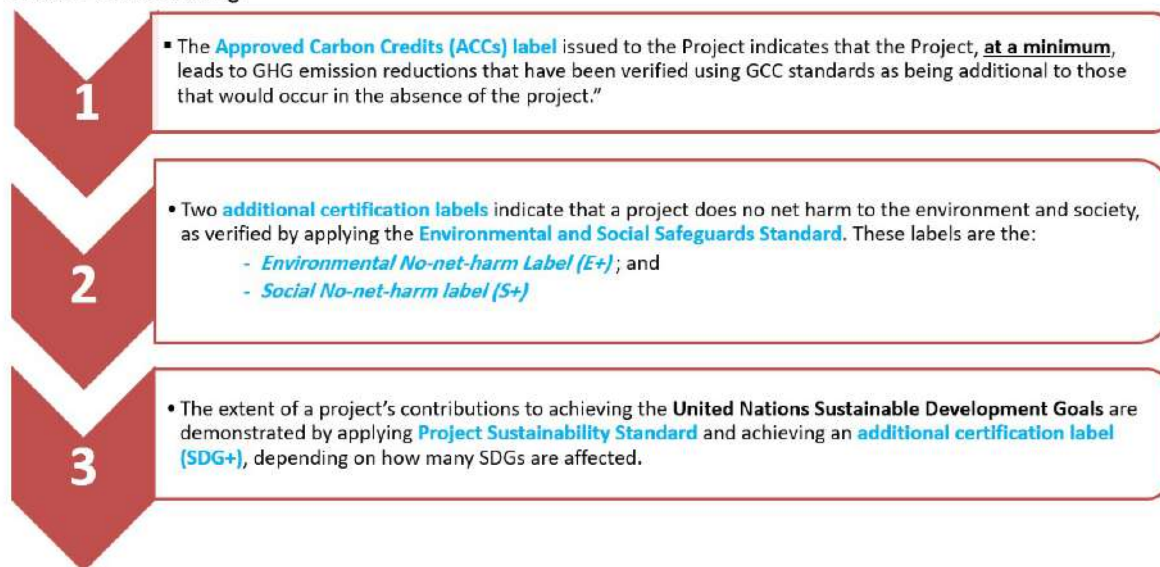


Figure 1: Certifications/Labels of Global Carbon Council (GCC)

- A third-party independent external verification by approved verifiers following the defined documentation and governance framework is a key building block for any GHG Program. The verification is required to be conducted at two stages in the GHG Project cycle and the verifiers are required to provide a *Verification Output* called as *Verification Opinion* and a *Certification Statement* at each of the two stages – Project registration stage and ACC issuance stage. Therefore, for ensuring that the Verification Output is of a high quality, a pool of competent, skilful and experienced verifiers is required to be set up, including their

¹ GCC Program: <https://www.globalcarboncouncil.com/global-carbon-council.html>

selection and approval criteria and process, to ensure that the GCC Verification is conducted according to the highest standards, as per the GHG Program's rules and requirements, by competent verifiers in an independent and impartial manner.

3. This document has referred to the approaches provided by various publicly available publications and sources including the approaches developed by various GHG Programs including Clean Development Mechanism. The *GCC Program* builds upon the existing GHG accreditation programs, including CDM, and ISO 14065, to develop a pool of Verifiers approved by GCC.
4. For *GCC Program*, a third-party independent external verification by GCC-approved Verifiers (either individuals or organisations), called as GCC Verifiers, is required to be conducted at two stages in the Project cycle. GCC Verifiers are required to provide a Verification Output called as *Verification Opinion* and a *Certification Statement* towards "Project Verification" and "Emission Reduction Verification".

2. Objective

5. The "*Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers*" provides procedures to ensure that the GCC Verification is conducted according to the GCC Program's rules and requirements, by an approved 3rd party independent GCC Verifiers in an independent and impartial manner to result in a Verification Output, called as *Verification Opinion* and a *Certification Statement*, of acceptable high quality level. This procedure aims to integrate the GCC principles and requirements in the verifier approval/re-approval process and in the process of conducting verification. Therefore, this procedure serves to define:
 - (a) the principles and the process of approval, assessment of performance and re-approval of an applicant or existing GCC verifier; and
 - (b) the process for conducting and carrying-out the *GCC Project Verification* and *GCC Emission Reduction Verification*, in addition to those specified in the *ISO 14064-3*.
6. This procedure has been developed following the *GCC Rules* and the definitions provided below and therefore the requirements stipulated therein shall also be applicable when using or applying this procedure.

3. Definitions

7. "**Approved Carbon Credit**" or "**ACC**" – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
8. "**Competence**" means ability to apply knowledge and skills in-order-to perform verification/certification activities in accordance with all *GCC Rules* and requirements;
9. "**GCC Program**" – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
10. "**GCC Project Owner**" – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
11. "**GCC Project or Project Activity**" – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
12. "**GCC Project Submission**" – refer to *GCC Program Framework*

13. **"GCC Project Submission Template"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
14. **"GCC Registry"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
15. **"GCC Registry System"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
16. **"GCC Rules"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
17. **"Improper ACC Issuance"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
18. **"ISO"** means the *International Organization for Standardization*, and where "ISO" is followed by a number, it denotes the corresponding standard of the International Organization for Standardization;
19. **"Knowledge"** means the theoretical and/or practical understanding of a subject;
20. **"Methodology"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
21. **"Registry Accountholder"** means the holder of an account in a *GCC Registry operated by IHS Markit*;
22. **"GHG Sectoral Scope (SS)"** – refer to *GCC Program Framework*
23. **"Skill"** means to carry out in practice; to do;
24. **"GHG Technical area (TA)"** means a sub-sector of a GHG sectoral scope defined based on the nature of technical processes, applicable methodologies, monitoring requirements and/or environmental impacts;
25. **"Technical review"** means an assessment of a verification/certification opinion and verification/certification report conducted independently from the verification/certification team that prepared the opinion and report in order to ensure that the verification/certification has been conducted in accordance with all applicable GCC verification/certification requirements;
26. **"Verification Services"** means providing *Project Verification* or/and *Emission Reduction Verification* in the capacity of a GCC Verifier, of, as required by the *Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers, GCC Project Standard, GCC Verification Standard* and *applicable CDM/GCC Methodology*.

4. Principles applied

27. For *GCC Program*, the following principles of accreditation, as shown in **figure-2** below, are applied in the preparation of this document. These principles for verification bodies (organisations) are elaborated in the accreditation programmes of CDM and accreditation bodies that accredit the verifiers following **ISO 17011 and ISO 14065** to verify the conformity to ISO 14064-2 and ISO 14064-3 requirements. For individuals, GCC integrates these requirements in its approval and re-approval processes of GCC Verifiers.



Figure 2: Principles of accreditation

5. Overview of GCC Verification Processes

28. For *GCC Program*, a third-party independent external verification is required to be conducted by *GCC Verifiers* before two critical stages in the GCC Project cycle. The two stages are:
- (a) Project Registration Stage; and
 - (b) ACC Issuance Stage.
29. Accordingly, a *GCC Verification* can be classified into two types depending on the nature and stage of the verification in the GCC project cycle. For this *GCC Program*, a *GCC Verification* is classified into two types as mentioned below:
- (a) **Project Verification:** is conducted before the *Project Registration Stage* and aims at independent evaluation of a GCC project activity by a *GCC Verifier* against the requirements of the ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and GCC Rules, including *Verification Standard*, and on the basis of the information provided in the *GCC Project Submission Form*. The GCC Verifier conducts verification and submits the *Project Verification Report* to the Project Owner and GCC. The *Project Certification Statement* essentially states that the GCC project activity: (i) complies with GCC standards and rules of procedures; and, (ii) is expected to achieve the estimated real, measurable and additional GHG emission reductions. In addition, depending upon the project owner’s selection of choice in the Project Submission Form (PSF), the Project Certification Statement may also state that: (i) project has implemented safeguards which are expected to provide protection against negative environmental/social impacts and does not harm the environment in totality by following ‘Do-No-Harm’ requirements; and (ii) project is expected to contribute to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), preferably those prioritized by the host country, including targeted certification labels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond), as committed voluntarily in the PSF’.

- (b) **Emission Reduction Verification:** is conducted by a GHG verifier before the *ACC Issuance Stage* and aims at periodic independent evaluation and ex-post determination of monitored and reported GHG emission reductions that have occurred as a result of the registered GCC project activity. This is checked against the requirements of the ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and GCC Rules, including *Verification Standard*, and the information provided in the *GCC Project Submission Form* and *GCC Monitoring Report Form*. The GCC Verifier conducts verification and submits the *Emission Reduction Verification Report* to Project Owner and GCC. The *Emission Reduction Certification Statement* essentially states that, during a specified time period, the GCC registered project activity: (i) has been implemented as per the information provided in the registered PS; and, (ii) has actually achieved the quantified amount of reported GHG emission reductions as verified. In addition, depending upon the project owner's selection of choice in the PSF, the Emission Reduction Certification Statement may also state: (i) project has implemented safeguards which have provided protection against negative environmental/social impacts and it does not harm the environment in totality by following 'Do-No-Harm' requirements; and (ii) project has contributed to the achievement of UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including targeted certification labels (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, Diamond), as defined in the registered PSF'.

30. For *GCC Program*, a *GCC Verifier* (GV) means an individual or an organization (*Verification Body-VB*) approved by the *GCC Program* to act as a *GCC Verifier* in respect of providing *verification services*. A *GCC Verifier* can be classified into two types and can either be a *GCC Project Verifier* or *GCC Emission Reduction Verifier*.

6. Approval/ Re-approval Process for GCC Verifiers

31. For ensuring that the Verification output is of a high quality, a pool of competent, skilful and experienced Verifiers is required to be set up, including their selection and approval criteria and process, to ensure that the GCC verification is conducted appropriately, as per the ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and GCC Rules, including *Verification Standard*, by competent GCC verifiers in an independent and impartial manner.

6.1. Scope and status of Approval/ Re-approval

An applicant verifier shall conduct project or emission reduction verification under *GCC Program* only after obtaining an approval from GCC. A *GCC Verifier*, has approval for conducting verification of projects and emission reductions under the selected GCC scopes (GHG, E+, S+, SDG+) and applicable GHG-SS & TA scopes out of those defined in **Annex 1**, for a *service period* of 2 years or validity of accreditation for GHG (CDM or NAB), whichever is less.

The approved *GCC and CDM methodologies* define the *GHG sectoral scope* applicable to the specific *GCC Projects eligible to use the GHG methodologies*. This allows a *GCC Verifier* to evaluate whether they are eligible to conduct project or emission reduction

verification for the specific project, under the GCC scopes (GHG, E+, S+, SDG+) and applicable GHG sectoral scope² (GHG-SS & TA) applied by a methodology.

6.2. Defining Approval Tracks for GCC

32. The section and the figure-3 below describe how a potential verifier can apply for *Initial Approval* or *Re-approval* to conduct verification under *GCC Program* under different tracks.

33. A potential verifier, individual or an organization, can seek approval under either of the two tracks as described below:

- (a) **Verification under Individual Track:** Eligible individuals can apply for Approval under Individual track only which allows them to conduct verification of GCC projects with potential emission reductions of less than or equal to 25,000 Tonnes of CO_{2e}/year, provided they demonstrate compliance with those *sectoral scopes* and other conditions required by this procedure. The performance of the GCC

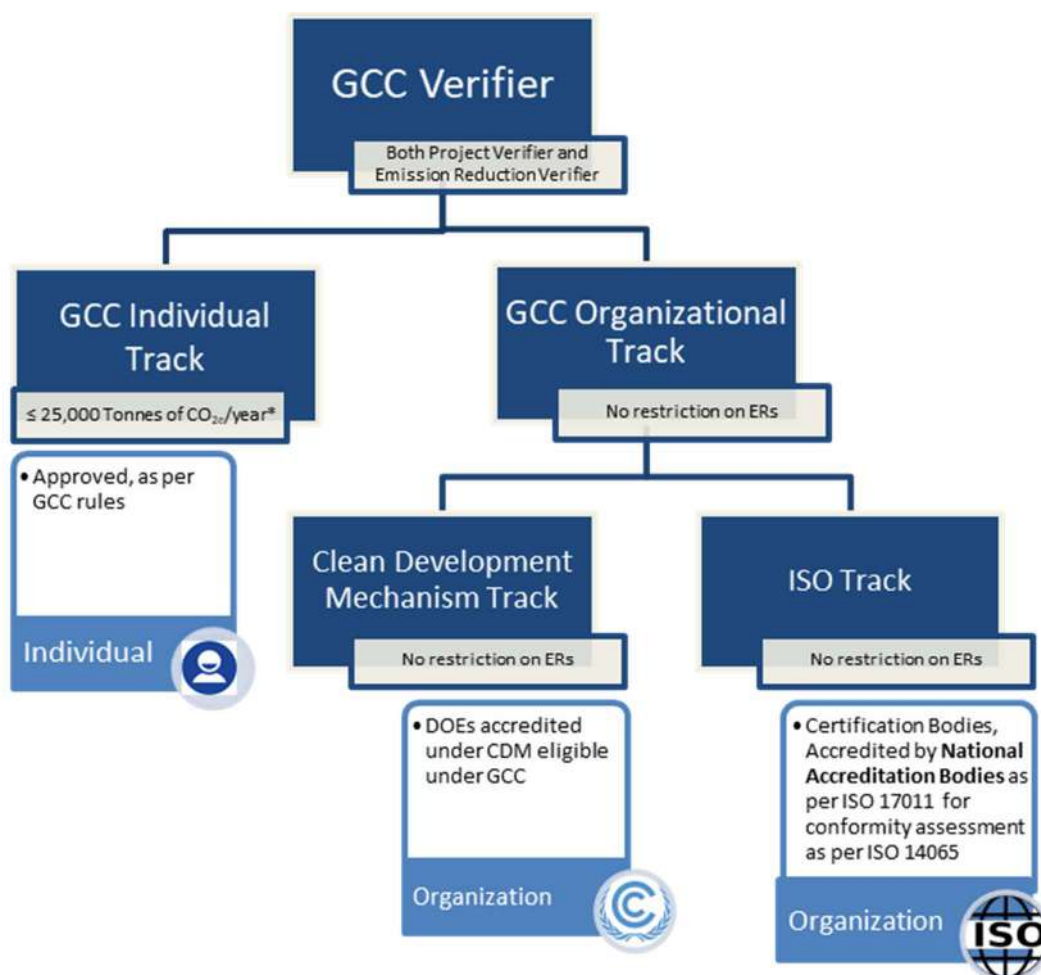


Figure 3: GCC Verification Tracks

² For example, **Annex 4** in the Annexure to this document, maps CDM Methodologies with CDM Sectoral scopes and shall be used as a guidance for determining the relevant sectoral scopes, both mandatory and the conditional, linked to the applied methodology in which a verifier may need to have approval of GCC.

Verifiers approved under Individual Track shall be evaluated by GCC for their performance during Assessment of Projects and the performance feedback shall be considered for re-approval; and

- (b) **Verification under Organizational Track:** Eligible organizations can be approved to conduct verification of GCC projects, subject to the following conditions below:
- (i) **Verification under CDM-Track:** Applicant organizations/Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) accredited for CDM for Validation or Verification under specific sectoral scopes will automatically qualify as GCC Project Verifier or/and GCC Emission Reduction Verifier, respectively for the corresponding *sectoral scopes* only, provided they demonstrate compliance with other conditions required by this procedure. The complete accreditation process for the DOEs including initial accreditation, witnessing, surveillance, renewal of accreditation, performance assessment and other assessments and procedures is conducted by UNFCCC/CDM Executive Board. *GCC Program* shall follow and adopt the accreditation status of the applicant Organizations/DOEs as maintained publicly by the UNFCCC/CDM Executive Board.
- (ii) **Verification under ISO-Track:** Applicant organizations/Certification Bodies accredited by National or International Accreditation Bodies³, as per ISO 17011 for conformity assessment as per ISO 14065, will automatically qualify as ‘GCC Certified Project Verifier’ or ‘GCC Certified Emission Reduction Verifier’, respectively for those specific sectoral scopes⁴, provided they demonstrate compliance with those sectoral scopes and other conditions required by this procedure. GCC program also allows the application of International Accreditation Forum’s requirements contained in a document (IAF MD 14) that defines the sectoral scopes for projects applying ISO-14064-2. The complete accreditation process for the applicant verifiers including initial accreditation, witnessing, surveillance, renewal of accreditation, performance assessment and other assessments and

³ Verifiers are encouraged to seek accreditation from the National/international accreditation bodies which are the members of International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and its respective regional forums and have signed MLAs to undergo mutual assessments.

⁴ It is possible that the sectoral scopes defined by national or international accreditation bodies may not exactly correspond to CDM/GCC sectoral scopes adopted by GCC Program or if the national or international accreditation bodies accredit organizations (verifiers) for ISO 14064-2 as a blanket approval, but does not indicate any sectoral scope approval or does not make any reference to sectoral scopes defined by GCC or CDM or IAF MD14 (https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAF_MD_Appln_17011_GHG_VV_09072014_Publication_Version.pdf). For such cases, the applicant GCC verifier, in its application, shall demonstrate: (a) their capability and competence to conduct verification of projects falling under the corresponding indicated sectoral scope; (b) the equivalence of the indicated sectoral scopes with those adopted by GCC; and (c) that the indicated sectoral scope complies with the requirements of those sectoral scopes adopted by GCC and CDM. This in addition to other methods, may be demonstrated by mapping the staff/auditor list with CDM sectoral scopes for allocation of competences and to qualify its personnel. The GCC verifiers shall refer to Annexes 1--4 to demonstrate this requirement.

procedures is conducted by the respective National or International Accreditation Body. *GCC Program* will follow and adopt the accreditation status of the applicant organizations/ verifiers as maintained publicly by the Accreditation Bodies.

34. *GCC Verifiers* from Organizational Track, do not have any restrictions or thresholds with respect to quantity of the annual emission reductions.

6.3. Overview of Approval/ Re-approval process

35. The figure-4 below describe how a potential verifier, either an individual or organisation, can apply for *Initial Approval* or *Re-approval* to conduct verification under *GCC Program*.

6.4. Initial Approval of GCC Verifier for 2 years⁵

36. The correct '*GCC Verifier Application Form*' (herein after called as 'form') must be used by individuals and organizations applying to become an approved *GCC Project Verifier* or/and a *GCC Emission Reduction Verifier* with the *GCC Program*.
37. Applicants must provide all information requested on this form, sign the form and the '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' and submit it electronically to GCC at Operations@globalcarboncouncil.com .
38. Details on the conditions which must be satisfied prior to approval as a GCC Verifier may be found in **Table 1** of this procedure and '*GCC Verifier Agreement*', available on the GCC website. The **Table 1** below provides eligibility conditions and the approval criteria that need to be complied with for seeking approval or re-approval for being a *GCC Verifier*. Supplemental information may be submitted as attachments.
39. Upon receipt of an application, '*GCC Operations Team*' will review the information provided and report the results to the applicant within 15 calendar days, which may either be approval or rejection or request for further information. GCC reserves the right to reject applications where the applicant's ability to provide competent services under the GCC Program cannot be demonstrated.

Upon approval of the application, '*GCC Operations Team*' will invoice the applicant for the initial approval fee. Once the fee has been paid, '*GCC Operations Team*' will return the signed copy of the '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' to the applicant. GCC will add the newly approved *GCC Verifier* to its list of approved Verifiers with a validity period of 2 years or validity of accreditation for GHG (CDM or NAB), whichever is less. This list is published on the GCC website.

6.5. Performance Assessment of GCC Verifier for next 2 years

40. For an individual *GCC Verifier*, evaluation and desktop assessment of performance is carried out by '*GCC Operations Team*' for the approval period of two years based on the

⁵ This initial approval process is applicable to those verifiers who apply for GCC approval on or before 31st December 2021. The verifiers applying for GCC approval after this date shall require seeking accreditation by National Accreditation Body based in Qatar.

Assessment of Projects submitted by *GCC Verifier* after *Project Verification* or *Emission Reduction Verification*. This assessment of performance shall consider the responses received from Verifiers, where required. The feedback from the performance assessment is considered during Re-Approval of the individual *GCC Verifier* and will be reported to the *GCC Steering Committee*.

41. The GCC Operations team may decide to conduct *spot-checks*, triggered either by the relevant stakeholders' complaints or based on random selection, on any GCC Verifier (both under individual or organisational track) to check whether the verification is being conducted as required by the GCC rules including the submitted and signed 'GCC Verifier Application Form' and 'GCC Verifier Agreement'. The GCC verifier shall bear the costs related to such assessment. The outcome of spot check may result into further investigation or submitting a complaint to CDM EB/NAB or suspension or cancellation of the Approval from the GCC. The outcome will be reported to the *GCC Steering Committee*.

6.6. Re-approval of GCC Verifier for next 2 years

42. After 2 years, the *GCC Verifier* can apply for re-Approval to continue to act as *GCC Verifier* for further two years. Applicants must provide all information requested on the same application form, sign both the form and the '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' and submit it electronically to GCC at Operations@globalcarboncouncil.com.
43. The re-approval process is similar to the approval process. Upon re-approval of the application, GCC will invoice the applicant for the re-approval fee. Once the fee has been paid, GCC will return the signed copy of the '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' to the applicant. GCC will add the re-approved *GCC Verifier* to its list of approved Verifiers with a validity of another 2 years or validity of accreditation for GHG (CDM or NAB), whichever is less. This list is published on the GCC website.
44. At the point of first re-approval GCC's initially approved verifiers shall seek accreditation under National Accreditation Body of Qatar that will replace the requirements related to CDM or under other national accreditation bodies.

6.7. Approval of Changes to GCC Verifier status

45. After the approval of GCC Verifier and prior to the expiry of the 2-year approval period, various changes to GCC Verifier organisation or events may occur, which may require updating the information submitted in the previous '*GCC Verifier Application Form*' and/or may impact the status to continue as the GCC Verifier. The GCC verifier shall provide notice of such changes to the GCC via email (Operations@globalcarboncouncil.com) within 15 calendar days of its occurrence or earlier. Such changes may include for example:
 - (a) **Non-significant changes:** Such changes will not change or affect the status of being assigned as the approved GCC Verifier but will merely require updation of information to the GCC and will possibly include:
 - (i) Information having no impact.

- (b) **Significant changes:** Such changes may change or affect the status to continue as the GCC Verifier and therefore will require prior approval from the GCC.
 - (i) Extension of sectoral scope;
 - (ii) Reduction of sectoral scope;
 - (iii) Change of accreditation status of CDM or NAB;
 - (iv) Transfer of accreditation to another legal entity;
 - (v) Replacing management personnel, in case this does not impact CDM or NAB accreditation; and
 - (vi) Other information that may have an impact and change or affect the status to continue as the GCC Verifier.

- 46. The prior-approval process is similar to the Initial-approval process as mentioned in the section **6.4** above;

- 47. Upon receipt of application for prior-approval, GCC will invoice the applicant for the prior-approval fee. Non-significant changes do not require approval and therefore there is no requirement to pay any fee. Once the fee has been paid, GCC will return the signed copy of the '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' to the applicant. GCC will update the list of approved verifiers with a validity of another 2 years or validity of accreditation for GHG (CDM or NAB), whichever is less. This list is published on the GCC website.

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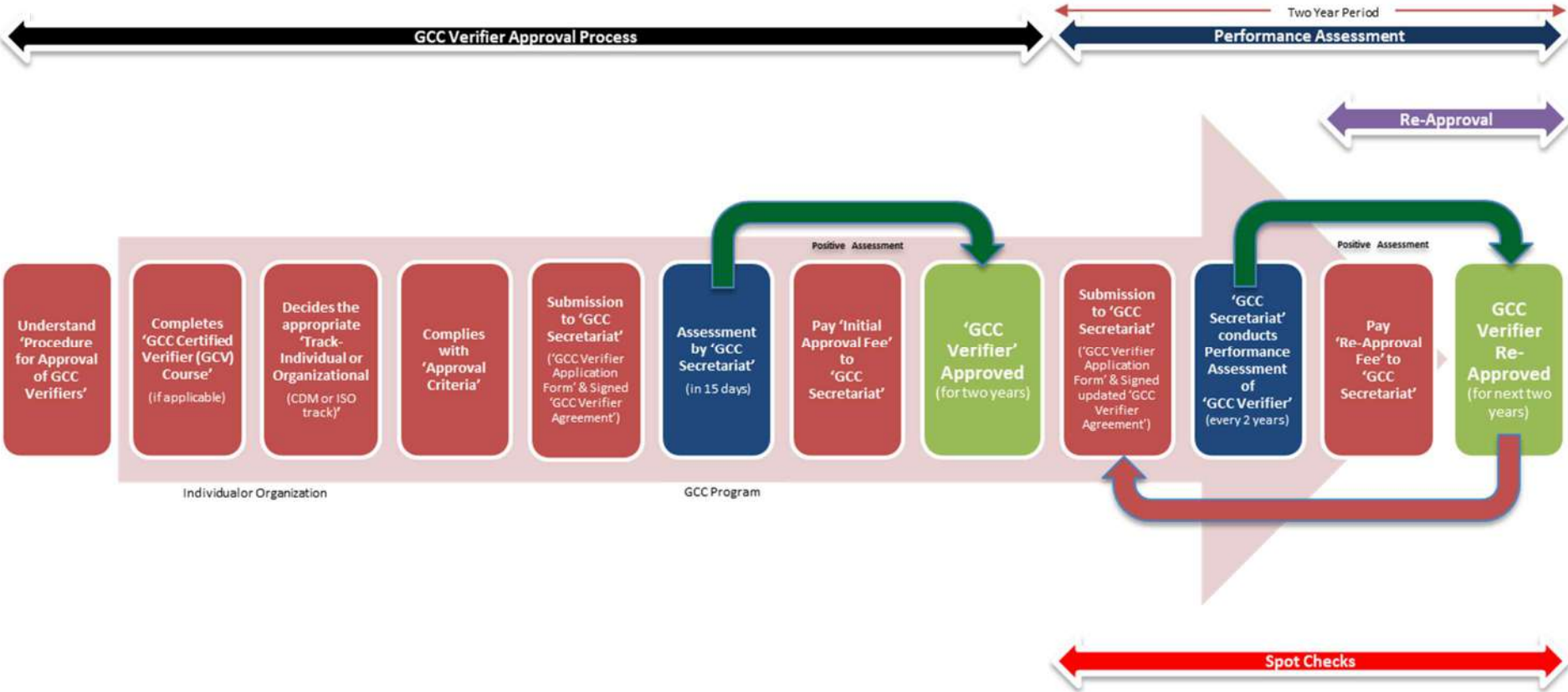


Figure 4: GCC Verifier Approval Process

Table 1: Approval Criteria for GCC Verifier*				
Criteria required to be demonstrated by the Applicants		GCC Projects with Emission Reductions ≤ 25,000 Tonnes of CO _{2e} /year	For GCC Projects of any size	
		Individual Track	Organizational Track	
		GCC Verifiers- Individual Track	GCC Verifiers- CDM Track [#]	GCC Verifiers- ISO Track ⁺
Valid Accreditation	Shall possess valid Accreditation by UNFCCC and CDM [#]	Not Required	Required as per CDM rules	Voluntary
	Shall possess valid Accreditation by National Accreditation Body as per ISO 17011 for conformity assessment as per ISO 14065 ⁺	Not Required	Voluntary	Required as per ISO 14064-2, 3
	Demonstrate how you will comply with ' Sectoral Scopes ' for GCC Project Verification	As per CDM 'Sectoral Scopes' for validation	As per accredited CDM 'Sectoral Scopes' for validation	As per the scopes defined by applicable national/ international accreditation body or IAF-MD14 document, as relevant. [£]
	Demonstrate how you will comply with ' Sectoral Scopes ' for GCC Emission Reduction Verification	As per CDM 'Sectoral Scopes' for verification	As per accredited CDM 'Sectoral Scopes' for verification	As per the scopes defined by applicable national/international accreditation body or IAF-MD14 document, as relevant [£]
Legal Status	Shall be Registered under applicable national or international law	Not required to be Registered under applicable national law but shall have valid National Passport	Required to provide Information	Required to provide Information
	Shall not have any pending judicial process for malpractice, fraud and/or other activity incompatible with functions as a GCC Verifier	Required to provide Information	Not Required if covered under valid CDM Accreditation	Not Required if covered under valid National/International Accreditation
Liability	Must have appropriate Liability Insurance for a cover up to USD 5 million	Not Required but in case any liability arises, this will be handled through legal process.	Required	Required

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Safeguarding impartiality	Shall act impartially and avoid any conflict of interest that may compromise its ability to make impartial decisions	Required to be demonstrated	Not Required if covered under valid CDM Accreditation	Not Required if covered under valid National/International Accreditation
Competence	The verifier/reviewer shall demonstrate how they have determined competence (GHG, UN SDGs, Do-No-harm requirements) and qualified their personnel.	<p>Competence is required to be demonstrated, for example through skills, experience, qualifications including through course/examination.</p> <p>Shall have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - University degree in engineering, chemistry, environmental science, environmental law, economics/environmental economics, or a related scientific/technical discipline. - At least three (3) years of directly relevant experience, preferably in the area of project based-mechanisms, regulation or technical/financial assessments. - Recognized experience and/or knowledge shall be relevant to the greenhouse gas (GHG) projects (CDM or GCC). - Knowledge on GCC rules. - Completed 'GCC Certified Verifier Course'⁵ 	Required to be demonstrated, for example through skills, experience, qualifications including through course/examination, if required	Required to be demonstrated, for example through skills, experience, qualifications including through course/examination, if required
Verification Process Management	Ensure Project and Emission Reduction Verification process to be conducted by the Verifier as required by GCC Rules & Table 2 of "Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifier"	Required to be demonstrated as per GCC Rules	Not Required if covered under valid CDM Accreditation	Not Required if covered under valid National/International Accreditation
Information Management	Ensure confidentiality of Information	Required	Required	Required

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Fee	Pay Approval and Re-approval Fee	Approval fee: USD 500 Re-Approval Fee: USD 500	Approval fee: USD 2,000 Re-Approval Fee: USD 1,000	Approval fee: USD 2,000 Re-Approval Fee: USD 1,000
Performance Assessment	Evaluation and Assessment of Performance to be conducted by the 'GCC Operations Team'	For GHG, UN SDGs and Do-No-Harm, performance shall be evaluated by the organization and will also be reviewed during Assessment of Projects by 'GCC Operations Team' for feedback during Re-Approval	Not Required for GHG, if covered under valid CDM/ NAB Accreditation. For UN SDGs and Do-No-Harm, performance shall be evaluated by the organization and will also be reviewed during Assessment of Projects by 'GCC Operations Team' for feedback during Re-Approval	

* A GCC Project Verifier or GCC Emission Reduction Verifiers shall comply with 'Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers' and applicable 'GCC Rules' and submit 'GCC Verifier Application Form' & Signed 'GCC Verifier Agreement'.

Organizations/Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) accredited for CDM for Validation or Verification will automatically qualify as GCC Project Verifier or/and GCC Emission Reduction Verifier, respectively for those Sectoral scopes only, provided they demonstrate compliance with other conditions mentioned in the Table above. The complete accreditation process for the DOEs including initial accreditation, witnessing, surveillance, renewal of accreditation, performance assessment and other assessments and procedures is conducted by UNFCCC/CDM Executive Board. GCC will follow and adopt the accreditation status of the DOEs as maintained publicly by the UNFCCC/CDM Executive Board.

+ Organizations/Certification Bodies accredited by National or International Accreditation Bodies, as per ISO 17011 for conformity assessment as per ISO 14065, will automatically qualify as 'GCC Project Verifier' or 'GCC Emission Reduction Verifier', respectively for those specific sectoral scopes, provided they demonstrate compliance with those Sectoral scopes and other conditions mentioned in the Table above. The complete accreditation process including initial accreditation, witnessing, surveillance, renewal of accreditation, performance assessment and other assessments and procedures is conducted by the applicable National or International Accreditation Body. GCC will follow and adopt the accreditation status of the Certification bodies as maintained publicly by the applicable National or International Accreditation Body.

£ It is possible that the sectoral scopes defined by national or international accreditation bodies may not exactly correspond to CDM sectoral scopes adopted by GCC Program. In such cases, applicant GCC Verifier needs to demonstrate the equivalence of the sectoral scopes of their accreditation body with those adopted by GCC.

§ Individuals possessing required skills, experience and qualifications shall have completed 'GCC Certified Verifier Course': which provides training on GCC Rules, GCC Methodologies, GCC Project Sustainability Standard, Environmental and Social safeguards, Do-No-Harm, Additionality, CDM Investment Analysis requirements, Auditing skills and the Verification Process. Exemption from completing 'GCC Certified Verifier Course': If an Individual has been part of the team which has validated or verified at least 5 CDM projects which have been successfully and registered or have Issued carbon credits or has more than 5 years of working experience on GHG Program Secretariat (CDM) in the areas of Project assessment or Methodology development or Accreditation or Entity assessment.

7. GCC Verification and Certification process

48. For *GCC Program*, the following principles of ensuring an independent third-party verification, as shown in figure-5 below, are applied in the preparation of this document.
49. A *GCC Project Verifier* or *GCC Emission Reduction Verifier* shall comply with:
- (a) '*Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers*' as available publicly on GCC website;
 - (b) Applicable '*GCC Rules*' as available publicly on GCC website; and
 - (c) Conduct verification as per submitted '*GCC Verifier Application Form*' and final '*GCC Verifier Agreement*' that is *signed and approved*.
50. A *GCC Project Verifier* or *GCC Emission Reduction Verifier* shall ensure compliance with the criteria for conducting GCC Project Verification as mentioned in **Table 2 below**.



Figure 5: Principles of conducting verification

7.1. Contract Review

51. Before submitting a proposal/quotation to a potential client⁶ and entering into a contract for the verification/certification of a *GCC Project*, a *GCC Verifier* shall conduct a contract review and ensure that:
- (a) The GCC project activity to be verified/certified falls in the scopes and corresponding sectoral scope(s) for which the GCC Verifier has received approval and qualified by GCC.
 - (b) It has sufficient human resources, internal or external, with the required competence to undertake the verification/certification;
 - (c) In case of individual verifier, the contract review shall ensure that there is a provision of working with GCC-acceptable Technical Reviewer (see section on Technical Reviewer);
 - (d) It has no impartiality issues with the conduct of the verification/certification;
 - (e) It will either conduct Project Verification or Emission Reduction Verification for the same project activity;
 - (f) Considerations such as location(s) of the client's operations, time required to complete the verification/certification and any other issues influencing the verification/certification, such as language, safety conditions, etc., have been taken into account.
52. In order to confirm the elements described in the paragraph above, the GCC Verifier shall obtain or have access to the following information:
- (a) The draft *Project Submission Form* (PSF), of the *GCC Project*, that defines the project boundaries and sites included in the assessment and provides the information on the nature of the data needed for verification/certification as well as the *GCC/CDM Methodology(ies)* that is applied by the project.
 - (b) Information about the *Project Owners*, including address and contact details and any information about persons or organizations engaged in the identification, development, consultancy and financing of the *GCC Project*;
 - (c) Scope of the verification/certification;
 - (d) Contract period and the liability conditions.

⁶ Potential client of GCC verifier can be anyone, such as legal Project Owner himself or consultant or financier to Project Owner. However, Project Owner shall be responsible, accountable and liable for the information provided to GCC verifier on issues related to GCC project activity.

7.2. Verification Contract

53. A *GCC Verifier* shall have a legally enforceable contract with the project owner, or any legal entity/organisation authorised by them, for the provision of verifications/certification services and such contract shall be in the name of the *GCC Verifier*.

7.3. Selection of the Verification/Certification team and personnel

7.3.1. Verification Team

54. A *GCC verification* can be conducted by a *GCC Verifier* through its *verification team*. *Verification team*, whether composed of one or more persons, shall collectively have competence (all knowledge and skills) required as per *GCC Rules*, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification. In general, a *Verification Team* means one or more qualified persons conducting a verification/certification activity and includes various roles;
- (i) **Team Leader:** a qualified person appointed to direct and supervise a verification team conducting a verification/certification;
 - (ii) **GCC Project Auditor** or **GCC Emission Reduction Auditor:** means a qualified person appointed to conduct a verification/certification audit in a verification team; and
 - (iii) **Technical Expert:** means a qualified person who provides specific technical, methodological and sectoral knowledge and/or expertise in a verification team.
55. Irrespective of whether the verification is carried out by an organisation or individual, a qualified person (Technical Reviewer) shall be appointed to conduct the Technical Review of the Verification Report. See next section on Technical Reviews to refer to the details.
56. In case the *GCC Verifier* is an organisation, the role of a verification team is performed by at least one person. One or more persons perform the roles of verifier, team leader, and technical expert.
57. In case the *GCC Verifier* is an individual, the role of a verification team (verifier, team leader, technical expert) can be performed by the same individual, who shall collectively have competence (all knowledge and skills) required as per *GCC Rules*, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification. If required, an external expert may assist the individual GHG Verifier.
58. The verification team shall collectively have competence (all knowledge and skills) required as per ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and *GCC Rules*, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification.

7.3.2. Technical Reviews

59. The verification report prepared by the verification team (both applicable to organisational and individual track) shall undergo a Technical review conducted independently of the audit/verification team as per ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and *GCC Rules*. The Technical review team shall be comprised of at least one Technical reviewer, independent of the

verification team. Technical Reviewer means a qualified person appointed to conduct the *Technical Review* that shall not be part of the verification team.

60. In case the *GCC Verifier* received approval under the:
- (a) **Organisational Track:** The role of a Technical review team is performed by at least one qualified person of the organisation acting as Technical reviewer; and
 - (b) **Individual Track:** The role of a Technical review team can be performed by an external expert, independent of an individual conducting the verification. Technical Reviewer chosen by individual verifier shall be approved by GCC. Therefore, the Technical Reviewer should either be a GCC-approved individual verifier (approved for relevant sectoral scope) or should be approved by GCC before a quotation can be submitted by individual verifier to the client.
61. The technical review team (or individual technical reviewer) shall collectively have competence (necessary knowledge and skills) required as per ISO 14064-2, ISO 14064-3 and *GCC Rules*, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification, including the Technical Review.

7.3.3. Competence of Verification and Technical Review Team

62. For *GCC Program*, the figure-6 below shows the competence required by third-party GCC Verifiers to conduct a GCC verification, including the Technical Review, which shall be ensured.



Figure 6: GCC Verifiers' competence requirements

Table 2: Criteria for conducting GCC Project & Emission Reduction Verification *

Verification to be conducted as per the Criteria below		GCC Projects with Emission Reductions ≤ 25,000 Tonnes of CO _{2e} /year	For GCC Projects of any size	
		Individual Track	Organizational Track	
		GCC Verifiers- Individual Track	GCC Verifiers- CDM Track [#]	GCC Verifiers- ISO Track ⁺
Verification Team	The Verification team, whether composed of one or more persons, shall collectively have competence (all knowledge and skills) required as per ISO 14064-2,3 and GCC Rules, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification.	The role of a verification team (verifier, team leader, technical expert) can be performed by the same individual verifier. If required, the external expert may assist the individual GHG Verifier.	The verification team is composed of at least two persons who perform the roles of verifier, team leader and a technical expert.	
Technical Review Team	The Technical review team, comprised of at least one Technical reviewer, independent of the verification team, shall collectively have competence (all knowledge and skills) required as per ISO 14064-2,3 and GCC Rules, and the ability to apply such knowledge and skills to conduct a verification/certification/Technical review.	The role of a Technical review team can be performed by an external expert, independent of an individual conducting the verification.	The role of a Technical review team is performed by at least one qualified person acting as Technical reviewer, independently of the persons in the verification team.	
Competence of Verification/Review Team -General: The verifier/reviewer shall demonstrate how they have determined competence and	Educational Qualifications	Minimum Bachelor's degree	Not Required if covered under valid CDM Accreditation	Not Required if covered under valid National Accreditation
	Completing ' GCC Certified Verifiers Course', if available.	Required. If not available, the competence may be demonstrated by any other methods	At least one member of Verification team completes this course. If not available, the competence may be demonstrated by any other methods	At least one member of Verification team completes this course. If not available, the competence may be demonstrated by any other methods.

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qualified their personnel.	Demonstrate Auditing Skills	Required [§] (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)
	Demonstrate Knowledge and understanding of GCC rules	Required [§] (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)
	Additionality	Required [§] (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)
	Financial Expertise required for assessing Additionality of Projects if they opted for Investment Analysis option	Required [§] (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)	Required at least by one member of Verification team (refer Annex 2)
Competence of Verification/review Team-GHG: The verifier/reviewer shall demonstrate how they have determined competence and qualified their personnel.	Demonstrate 'GCC/CDM Technical Area' Competency	Required. The GCC verifier (both applicable to organisational and individual track) shall demonstrate the competence of the verification and the technical review team and how it has qualified its personnel. The GCC verifiers shall refer to Annexes 3-4 to demonstrate this requirement.		
	Knowledge and skills for application of Approved GCC/ CDM Methodology.	Required [§]	Required	Required.
Competence of Verification/Review Team- UN SDGs and Do-No-Harm requirements: The verifier/reviewer shall demonstrate how they have determined competence and	Assessment of Compliance with Sustainable Development Goals as per GCC rules	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination) [§]	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination)	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination)
	Assessment of Compliance with 'Do-No-Harm' requirements as per GCC rules	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination) or as per GCC rules [§]	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination)	Required to be demonstrated (e.g through course/examination)

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qualified their personnel.				
Verification Process Management	Describe the Project and Emission Reduction Verification process and how it will be conducted by the Verifier	Required to be demonstrated as per GCC Rules	Required to be demonstrated as per GCC Rules	Required to be demonstrated as per GCC Rules
Information Management	Ensure confidentiality of Information	Required	Required	Required
Project Verification Fee	Ensure that the Verification Fee is not charged more than the limits	No Requirements	No Requirements	No Requirements
Emission Reduction Verification Fee	Ensure that the Verification Fee is not charged more than the limits	No Requirements	No Requirements	No Requirements
Performance Assessment	Performance Assessment	For GHG, UN SDGs and Do-No-Harm, performance shall be evaluated by the organization and will also be reviewed during Assessment of Projects by 'GCC Operations Team' for feedback during Re-Approval	Not Required for GHG, if covered under valid CDM/ NAB Accreditation. For UN SDGs and Do-No-Harm, performance shall be evaluated by the organization and will also be reviewed during Assessment of Projects by 'GCC Operations Team' for feedback during Re-Approval	

* A GCC Project Verifier or GCC Emission Reduction Verifiers shall comply with '**Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers**' and applicable '**GCC Rules**' and submit '**GCC Verifier Application Form**' & Signed '**GCC Verifier Agreement**'.

Organizations/Designated Operational Entities (DOEs) accredited for CDM for Validation or Verification will automatically qualify as GCC Project Verifier or/and GCC Emission Reduction Verifier, respectively for those Sectoral scopes only, provided they demonstrate compliance with other conditions mentioned in the Table above. GCC will follow and adopt the accreditation status of the DOEs as maintained publicly by the UNFCCC/CDM Executive Board.

+ Organizations/Certification Bodies accredited by National Accreditation Bodies, as per ISO 17011 for conformity assessment as per ISO 14065, will automatically qualify as '**GCC Project Verifier**' or '**GCC Emission Reduction Verifier**', respectively for those specific sectoral scopes, provided they demonstrate compliance with those Sectoral scopes and other conditions mentioned in the Table above. GCC will follow and adopt the accreditation status of the Certification bodies as maintained publicly by the applicable National/International Accreditation Body.

\$ Individuals can demonstrate competence on the basis that they have completed '**GCC Certified Verifier Course**': which provides training on GCC Rules, GCC Methodologies, Sustainable Development Goals, Environmental and Social safeguards, No-Do-Harm, Additionality, CDM Investment Analysis requirements, Auditing skills and the Verification Process. Exemption from completing '**GCC Certified Verifier Course**': If an Individual has been part of the team which has validated or verified at least 5 CDM projects which have been successfully and registered or CERs Issued or has more than 5 years of working experience with UNFCCC (on CDM Project assessment or Methodology development or Accreditation or Entity assessment).

63. The GCC verifier (both applicable to organisational and individual track) shall demonstrate the competence of the project and emission reduction verification and the technical review team and how it has qualified its personnel. The GCC verifiers shall refer to Annexes 1-4 and Table 2 to demonstrate this requirement.

7.4. Verification/Certification

64. The GCC Verifier shall conduct Verification and Certification as per section 5 of this document.

7.5. Issuance of final verification opinions, certification statements and reports

65. The GCC Verifier shall conduct Verification and Certification as per section 5 of this document and accordingly issue final Verification Opinions, Certification statements and verification reports as per standard templates available on GCC website which shall be signed by the authorized representative of the GCC Verifier.

Annexures

A *GCC Project Verifier* or *GCC Emission Reduction Verifier* shall refer to following annexes as mentioned below:

(a) **GCC scopes**

The GCC verifier shall be approved by GCC for the following GCC scopes as defined below.

- Green House Gas (GHG)
- Environmental No-harm (E+)
- Social No-harm (S+)
- Sustainable Development Goals (SDG+)

Please refer to **Annex 1 below**.

(b) **Annex 2: General technical knowledge collectively required by the verification team of the GCC Verifier**

The requirements provided in *Appendix 3 of 'CDM Accreditation Standard'* (version 07.0) are adopted by *GCC Program* and shall be considered as requirements that are applicable under *GCC Rules*. This appendix lists and describes the general *technical knowledge* that shall be collectively required by the verification team of the *GCC Verifier*.

(c) **Annex 3: GHG Sector specific technical knowledge collectively required by the verification team of the GCC Verifier**

The requirements provided in *Appendix 2 of 'CDM Accreditation Standard'* (version 07.0) are adopted by *GCC Program* and shall be considered as requirements that are applicable under *GCC Rules*. This appendix lists and describes the sectoral scopes, the technical areas within each sectoral scope, and the minimum *technical knowledge* corresponding to each *technical area* which shall be collectively required by the verification team of the *GCC Verifier*. The compliance to the requirements of this appendix can also be demonstrated by the GCC Verifier to qualify its personnel.

(d) **Annex 4: GCC Methodology mapping with Sectoral scopes**

The requirements provided in '*Standard: Applicability of sectoral scopes*' (version 01.0/ EB88, Annex 4) of CDM are adopted by *GCC Program* and shall be considered as requirements that are applicable under *GCC Rules*. This document maps CDM Methodologies with CDM Sectoral scopes (both mandatory and the conditional) and sets out the rules for determining the relevant sectoral scopes of the applied methodology in which the validating or verifying/certifying DOE shall be accredited. The approved methodologies of GCC including approved Methodologies of CDM can be applied by GCC Projects.

Annex 1:

The GCC verifier shall be approved by GCC for the following GCC scopes (GHG, E+, S+, SDG+) as defined below:

Scopes for GCC Project Verification and Emission Reduction Verification	
GCC Scopes	Requirements
Green House Gas (GHG)⁷	GCC requires demonstration of valid accreditation for the GHG sectoral scopes (SS) and corresponding technical areas ⁸ (TA), within each GHG sectoral scope. Refer to ' <i>Equivalence⁹ of Sectoral scopes (SS) and corresponding Technical Areas (TA)</i> ' between requirements of GCC, CDM and NAB and is given in table below.
Environmental No-harm (E⁺)	GCC requires demonstration of competence on application of GCC rules related to environmental aspects as defined by ' <i>Environment and Social Safeguards Standard</i> '
Social No-harm (S⁺)	GCC requires demonstration of competence on application of GCC rules related to social aspects as defined by ' <i>Environment and Social Safeguards Standard</i> '
Sustainable Development Goals (SDG⁺)	GCC requires demonstration of competence on application of GCC rules related to United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as defined by ' <i>Project Sustainability Standard</i> '

⁷ This is GCC scope for GHG is mandatory and a minimum requirement while applying as a GCC verifier

⁸ TA means 'technical area within each GHG sectoral scope' as defined by CDM Accreditation Standard in Appendix 2. GCC applies and requires the same GHG sectoral scopes (SS) and corresponding technical areas (TA), within each GHG sectoral scope, as defined by CDM Accreditation Standard in Appendix 2.

⁹ In doing this, refer to 'Equivalence of Sectoral scopes (SS) and corresponding Technical Areas (TA)'

For GHG, the GCC verifier shall be approved by GCC for the following GHG sectoral scopes (GHG SS & TA) as defined below:

Equivalence of GHG Sectoral scopes (SS) and corresponding Technical Areas (TA)			
Area	Global Carbon Council (GCC) (Individual and Organisational Track)	CDM Designated Operational Entities (DOE)	National Accreditation Bodies (NAB)
	Procedure for Approval of GCC Verifiers	CDM Accreditation Standard	IAF MD14 ¹⁰ document for ISO 14064-2
Green House Gas (GHG)	1. Energy (renewable/non-renewable sources) (CDM TA ¹¹ 1.1, 1.2)	1. Energy (renewable/non-renewable sources) (CDM TA 1.1, 1.2)	Energy Industries (renewable/non-renewable sources) (CDM TA 1.1, 1.2)
	2. Energy distribution (CDM TA 2.1)	2. Energy distribution (CDM TA 2.1)	Energy Distribution (CDM TA 2.1)
	3. Energy demand (CDM TA 3.1)	3. Energy demand (CDM TA 3.1)	Energy Demand (CDM TA 3.1)
	4. Manufacturing industries (CDM TA 4.1)	4. Manufacturing industries (CDM TA 4.1)	Manufacturing Industries (CDM TA 4.1 ¹²)
	5. Chemical industry (CDM TA 5.1, 5.2)	5. Chemical industry (CDM TA 5.1, 5.2)	Chemical Industry (CDM TA 5.1, 5.2)
	6. Construction (CDM TA 6.1)	6. Construction (CDM TA 6.1)	Construction (CDM TA 6.1)
	7. Transport (CDM TA 7.1)	7. Transport (CDM TA 7.1)	Transport (CDM TA 7.1)
	8. Mining/mineral production (CDM TA 8.1)	8. Mining/mineral production (CDM TA 8.1)	Mining/Mineral Production (CDM TA 8.1)
	9. Metal production (CDM TA 9.1, 9.2)	9. Metal production (CDM TA 9.1, 9.2)	Metal Production (CDM TA 9.1, 9.2)

¹⁰ IAF MD14 Document: https://www.iaf.nu/upFiles/IAF_MD_Appln_17011_GHGVV_09072014_Publication_Version.pdf

¹¹ CDM TA means 'technical area within each sectoral scope' as defined by CDM Accreditation Standard in Appendix 2.

¹² For sectoral scope 'Manufacturing Industries' as defined by IAF-MD-14 document, the equivalent GCC/CDM sectoral scope is 4 and the equivalent GCC/CDM technical area is TA 4.1 excluding sectors Aluminum, Iron and steel, Refinery. For Aluminum, Iron and steel sectors, verifiers shall establish equivalence with CDM TA 9.1 and 9.2 respectively. For Refinery sector, verifiers shall establish equivalence with CDM TA 10.1.

10. Fugitive emissions from fuels (solid, oil and gas) (CDM TA 10.1)	10. Fugitive emissions from fuels (solid, oil and gas) (CDM TA 10.1)	Fugitive Emissions from Fuels (solid, oil and gas) (CDM TA 10.1)
11. Fugitive Emissions from production and consumption of halocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride (CDM TA 11.1, 11.2)	11. Fugitive Emissions from production and consumption of halocarbons and sulphur hexafluoride (CDM TA 11.1, 11.2)	Fugitive Emissions from Production and Consumption of Halocarbons and Sulphur Hexafluoride (CDM TA 11.1, 11.2)
12. Solvents use (CDM TA 12.1)	12. Solvents use (CDM TA 12.1)	Solvents Use (CDM TA 12.1)
13. Waste handling and disposal (CDM TA 13.1, 13.2)	13. Waste handling and disposal (CDM TA 13.1, 13.2)	Waste Handling and Disposal (CDM TA 13.1, 13.2)
14. Afforestation and Reforestation (CDM TA 14.1)	14. Afforestation and Reforestation (CDM TA 14.1)	Afforestation and Reforestation (CDM TA 14.1)
15. Agriculture (CDM TA 15.1)	15. Agriculture (CDM TA 15.1)	Agriculture (CDM TA 15.1)
16. Carbon Capture and Storage of CO2 in Geological Formations (CDM TA 16.1)	16. Carbon Capture and Storage of CO2 in Geological Formations (CDM TA 16.1)	Carbon Capture and Storage of CO2 in Geological Formations (CDM TA 16.1)

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
V2.2	12/04/2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version having editorial changes (removing requirements on verification fee) released by GCC Program.
V 2.1	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 2.0	01/03/2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Revised version released on approval by Steering Committee; ▪ Revised version contains following changes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Change of name from Global Carbon Trust (GCT) to Global Carbon Council (GCC), a new and an independent legal entity; ○ Considering comments consequent to latest developments world-wide and interaction with TAB of CORSIA; ○ Addressed comments raised by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ assigned lead GCC Steering Committee member; ➤ during consultations in the Steering Committee meeting (GSCM 01, dated 29 Oct 2019, Doha Qatar); and ➤ subsequent second electronic consultation with the Steering Committee (10-22 February 2022).
V 1.0	25/06/2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Initial version released for approval by GCC Steering Committee. ▪ This version contains details and instructions on the information to be provided, consequent to latest developments world-wide (e.g., CORSIA EUC).

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