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Sent: Monday, February 9, 2026 3:33 PM
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Cc: Lynn Riley <lriley@forestfoundation.org>; Sean Patrick Babington <seanbabington@gmail.com>; Melinda Cep <melinda.cep@thetidewatergrp.com>
Subject: SBM020 - annotated agenda and related annexes

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Dear Article 6.4 Supervisory Body,

The American Forest Foundation appreciates this Call for Input opportunity to share its support of the SBM's work in building out these critical pieces towards the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism's full operationalization.

Referencing Agenda Topic #3.1 from SBM 020, on "A6.4-SBM020-AA-A05 - **Draft Glossary: Article 6.4 mechanism terms**", the American Forest Foundation suggests the Supervisory Body to consider harmonizing its definitions with those being developed elsewhere across the sector, specifically, the glossary from the [Science for High Integrity Frameworks to Transform Carbon Markets \(SHIFT-CM\)](#) group, led by Yale University and The Nature Conservancy.

As a participating member in SHIFT-CM, the American Forest Foundation has engaged the group in developing practical guidance alongside research priorities to support the emergence of the next generation of carbon markets. This includes developing a glossary of updated definitions, which have been extensively workshopped and agreed upon by not only the wide range of experts, academics, standards, and practitioners within SHIFT-CM, but also by the technical advisory groups AFF has facilitated in its work on permanence (the group of experts [found here](#)). These definitions reflect the necessary nuance and diverse expert consensus to move toward productive conversations regarding the permanence and durability of removals, and what mechanisms in a given methodology or standard may achieve them. Thus, the American Forest Foundation urges the SBM to consider harmonizing its definitions alongside SHIFT-CM. Specifically, the American Forest Foundation asks the SBM to consider the following definitions regarding durability:

Durability Threshold - A length of time that a **carbon credit** (tonne of **carbon dioxide equivalent**) must remain out of the **atmosphere** to meet a particular policy goal, use case or claim. Different policy frameworks or standards may require different durability thresholds for meeting different climate goals.

Estimated Durability - A projected estimate of the length of time a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent will remain stored out of the atmosphere based on actuarial risk assessments of carbon loss from a given carbon sink. Estimated durability may be calculated at different scales—for example, a single forest stand or for all forests globally—and for different carbon pools.

Guaranteed Durability - The length of time a credited carbon dioxide equivalent is legally guaranteed to remain out of the atmosphere by an entity.

Realized Durability - The length of time a tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent remained out of the atmosphere. Importantly, **realized durability** can only be known **ex post** or when a reversal occurs.

Thank you,
Calvin

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