

A6.4-SB007-AA-A05

Draft Standard

Article 6.4 mechanism activity standard for projects

Version 02.0

DRAFT



COVER NOTE

1. Procedural background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), at its third session, adopted rules, modalities and procedures (RMPs) for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (the Article 6.4 mechanism)¹ and requested the Supervisory Body, among others, to develop provisions for the development and approval of methodologies, validation, registration, monitoring, verification and certification, issuance, renewal, first transfer from the mechanism registry, voluntary cancellation and other processes pursuant to chapters V.B–L and VIII of the RMPs.²
2. The CMA, at its fourth session, elaborated some elements of the RMPs relating to the operation of the activity cycle of the Article 6.4 mechanism (hereinafter referred to as the elaboration of the RMPs).³
3. The Supervisory Body, at its fourth meeting, considered the concept note “Development of activity standard, validation and verification standard and activity cycle procedure” prepared by the secretariat,⁴ and requested the secretariat to: (i) draft activity standards, validation and verification standards, and activity cycle procedures, drawing on the corresponding documents developed for the clean development mechanism (CDM), with modifications to accommodate the requirements in the RMPs and the elaboration of the RMPs; as well as to (ii) reflect the guidance provided by the Supervisory Body at that meeting.
4. The Supervisory Body, at its sixth meeting, considered the draft standard “Article 6.4 mechanism activity standard for projects”, as contained in annex 4 of the annotated agenda of that meeting,⁵ and agreed to continue considering the draft at the next meeting, particularly in the following areas:
 - (a) Avoidance of double registration and issuance of same emission reductions or removals with other overlapping schemes;
 - (b) Start of the crediting period in relation to the effective date of registration;

¹ Decision 3/CMA.3, annex, as contained in document FCCC/PA/CMA/2021/10/Add.1, available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf#page=25

² Decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 5(a).

³ Decision 7/CMA.4, annex I, chapters III–VI, as contained in document FCCC/PA/CMA/2022/10/Add.2 (Advance Version), available at: https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2022_10a02_adv.pdf#page=33

⁴ As contained in document A6.4-SB004-AA-A05, available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb004-aa-a05.pdf>

⁵ See document A6.4-SB006-AA-A04, available at: <https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/a64-sb006-aa-a04.pdf>

- (c) Environmental and social impacts, sustainable development benefits and integrity safeguards;
- (d) Measures to support small and micro businesses;
- (e) Local stakeholder consultation;
- (f) Post-registration change of scale increase and start of the crediting period.

2. Purpose

- 5. The purpose of developing the Article 6.4 mechanism activity standard is to operationalize the Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle pursuant to the CMA decisions referred to in paragraphs 1–2 above. This document presents the second draft of such a standard for the activity type of projects (hereinafter referred to as “the second draft standard”). Only substantive changes from the first draft are highlighted in yellow, while editorial changes are not highlighted.

3. Key issues

3.1. Avoidance of double registration and/or double issuance

- 6. The second draft standard provides clear options on whether to prevent double registration of the same project under the Article 6.4 mechanism and under other international, regional, national, or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme (**paragraph 15** of the second draft standard), while maintaining the provision to prevent double issuance (**paragraph 90** of the second draft standard), both through confirmation by the activity participants. Additionally, the latter provision has been modified to clarify the consequence if double issuance is detected.
- 7. Ultimately the double issuance of credits for the same GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals would need to be prevented for the environmental integrity and the benefit of the global atmosphere. Preventing double registration is the most certain way to prevent double issuance. On the other hand, recognizing that many other GHG mitigation crediting schemes are also available, providing the flexibility to activity participants to choose a crediting scheme for issuance of credits for a specific monitoring period, while allowing the same project being registered under the Article 6.4 mechanism and another crediting scheme, could help activity participants maximize their business interest in the projects. Under such flexibility, however, ensuring and verifying that double issuance has not actually happened could be challenging, since every verification needs to look at the exact start and end date of each monitoring period to ensure that there is no overlap with the monitoring period declared under any other crediting scheme.

3.2. Overlap with “higher” crediting scheme

- 8. A question related to the issue of double registration and/or double issuance discussed above is how to treat a project that is also covered by a “higher” international, regional, national or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme in terms of baseline setting. The second draft standard proposes that the baseline scenario be consistent with that under the higher crediting scheme (**paragraph 36** of the second draft standard). Further elaboration or guidance by the Supervisory Body may be needed on how to achieve this requirement in practice.

3.3. Local stakeholder consultation

9. The second draft standard clarifies that the modalities of local stakeholder consultation contained in the standard (Appendix 2) are the minimum requirements. Therefore, if host Party rules on local stakeholder consultation exist and the activity participants need to follow them, they shall fill any “gap” from such host Party rules, or justify the choice of the modalities if it is not possible to fill such gap (**paragraph 62** of the second draft standard).

3.4. Global stakeholder consultation

10. The second draft standard introduces a section on global stakeholder consultation to reflect the corresponding step contained in the draft “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”, so that both (local and global) stakeholder consultation processes are included comprehensively in the activity standard as required actions to be initiated by activity participants (**paragraphs 65–66** of the second draft standard).

3.4.1. Post-registration change

11. The second draft standard proposes two additional options for post-registration changes that increase the capacity of the facility or installation of a registered A6.4 project (**paragraph 79(a)** of the second draft standard):
 - (a) Option 1 (original proposal): fixed per centage threshold (e.g. 3 per cent), differentiating the claimable amount of A6.4ERs and the necessity of host Party approval;
 - (b) Option 2 (new option): differentiated per centage thresholds by activity scale for claimable amount of A6.4ERs and the necessity of host Party approval, in line with the materiality thresholds contained in the draft “Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for projects”;
 - (c) Option 3 (new option): require host Party approval for any increase in the capacity.

3.4.2. Monitoring report

12. The second draft standard adds a new requirement for the preparation of monitoring reports that monitored GHG emissions reductions or net GHG removals shall be presented by year of their occurrence (**paragraph 86(d)** of the second draft standard). This is to establish the vintage of A6.4ERs regarding the year of occurrence of corresponding GHG emissions reductions or net GHG removals to align with the accounting rules under the transparency framework.
13. The second draft standard retains the brackets existed in the first draft standard regarding the no-gap requirement between the two successive monitoring periods (**paragraph 86(e)** of the second draft standard), since such requirement is linked to the issue of double registration and associated issuance requests discussed in section 3.1 above, which should be considered as a package.

3.4.3. Methodological requirements

14. It should be noted that the second draft standard retains brackets existed in the first draft standard to many provisions relating to the application of methodologies and standardized baselines, as well as setting baseline and demonstrating additionality. This is because

these provisions would be affected by the outcome of the consideration of the CMA on methodological requirements for A6.4 activities, which is expected to take place at the fifth session of the CMA (November–December 2023). Therefore, once the CMA decides on the methodological requirements, these provisions may need to be revised accordingly.

4. Impacts

15. The Article 6.4 mechanism activity standards, together with the Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedures and the Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standards, will form the regulatory basis for the operationalization of the Article 6.4 mechanism.

5. Subsequent work and timelines

16. The secretariat will conduct focused and inclusive stakeholder interactions on the draft activity standard for projects, together with the draft activity cycle procedure for projects and the draft validation and verification standard for projects, prior to their final adoption by the Supervisory Body at a timing to be agreed by the Supervisory Body.

6. Recommendations for the Supervisory Body

17. The secretariat recommends that the Supervisory Body provisionally agree with the draft activity standard for projects contained in this document after modifying it as appropriate, noting that the draft would serve as the basis for the stakeholder interactions referred to in paragraph 16 above and that the Supervisory Body may further modify the document, taking into account the inputs from stakeholders as well as ensuring the consistency with the related documents before its final adoption.

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1. Introduction

1.1. Background

1. The Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement (CMA), at its third session, adopted rules, modalities and procedures (RMPs) for the mechanism established by Article 6, paragraph 4, of the Paris Agreement (the Article 6.4 mechanism)¹ and requested the Supervisory Body, among others, to develop provisions for the development and approval of methodologies, validation, registration, monitoring, verification and certification, issuance, renewal, first transfer from the mechanism registry, voluntary cancellation and other processes pursuant to chapters V.B–L and VIII of the RMPs.²
2. The CMA, at its fourth session, elaborated some elements of the RMPs relating to the operation of the activity cycle of the Article 6.4 mechanism.³

1.2. Objectives

3. The objective of the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity standard for projects” (hereinafter referred to as this standard) is to set out requirements relating to the design, implementation and other attributes of Article 6.4 mechanism projects (A6.4 projects).

2. Scope and entry into force

2.1. Scope

4. This standard provides activity participants of a proposed or registered A6.4 project with minimum requirements for requesting registration under the Article 6.4 mechanism, requesting approval of post-registration change, requesting issuance of Article 6, paragraph 4, emission reductions (A6.4ERs), renewal of the crediting period and deregistration from the Article 6.4 mechanism.

2.2. Entry into force

5. Version 01.0 of this standard enters into force on [1 January 2024].

3. Terms and definitions

6. The following terms apply in this standard:
 - (a) “Shall” is used to indicate requirements to be followed;

¹ Decision 3/CMA.3, annex, available at:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2021_10_add1_adv.pdf#page=25

² Decision 3/CMA.3, paragraph 5(a).

³ Decision 7/CMA.4, annex I, chapters III–VI, available at:
https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cma2022_10a02_adv.pdf#page=33

- (b) “Should” is used to indicate that among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable;
- (c) “May” is used to indicate what is permitted;
- (d) “Activity participant” is a public or private entity that participates in an A6.4 project.

4. Principles

7. The following principles⁴ guide the design and implementation of an A6.4 project and the monitoring of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or net GHG removals, and contribute to enhancing the environmental integrity of A6.4 projects:
- (a) Select the GHG sources, GHG sinks, GHG reservoirs, data, methodologies and all other information that is appropriate to the needs of the intended user;⁵
 - (b) Include all relevant GHG sources and sinks, and information to support compliance with all requirements;
 - (c) Enable meaningful comparisons in project-related information;
 - (d) Reduce bias and uncertainties as far as it is practical/cost-effective, or otherwise use conservative assumptions, values and procedures to ensure that GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals are not overestimated;
 - (e) Disclose sufficient and appropriate project-related information in a truthful manner to allow intended users to make decisions with reasonable confidence. Do not disclose proprietary or confidential information marked as such by activity participants without the written consent of the provider of the information, except as required by national law. In this context, information used to determine additionality, to describe the baseline methodology and its application, and to support assessments of environmental impacts, social impacts and sustainable development benefits shall not be considered as proprietary or confidential.

5. General requirements

5.1. Use of applicable forms

8. The activity participants wishing to have a proposed A6.4 project validated by a designated operational entity (DOE) shall prepare a project design document (PDD) using the valid version of the applicable PDD form and following the instructions therein.⁶

⁴ This text is adapted to the Article 6.4 mechanism and is taken from ISO 14064-2:2006 – Greenhouse gases – Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removals; it is reproduced with the permission of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO). This standard can be obtained from any ISO member and from the website of the ISO Central Secretariat at the following address: <<http://www.iso.org>>. Copyright remains with ISO.

⁵ “Intended users” include activity participants, designated operational entities (DOEs), the Supervisory Body, the UNFCCC secretariat, designated national authorities (DNAs) and local and other stakeholders.

⁶ All types of PDD forms are available on the UNFCCC website.

9. The activity participants wishing to have the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals achieved by the implemented registered A6.4 project verified by a DOE shall prepare, for each monitoring period, a monitoring report using the valid version of the monitoring report form and following the instructions therein.

5.2. Use of applicable global warming potentials

10. The activity participants shall use the 100-year time-horizon global warming potentials (GWPs) from the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) as contained in Appendix 1, or 100-year time-horizon GWP values from a subsequent IPCC assessment report as agreed upon by the CMA, to calculate aggregate GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals achieved or expected to achieve by the proposed or registered A6.4 project in the period from 1 January 2021, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

6. Design of project

6.1. Demonstration of prior consideration of the Article 6.4 mechanism

11. The activity participants shall, prior to proceeding with requesting registration through a DOE, demonstrate that the Article 6.4 mechanism benefits were considered necessary in the decision to undertake the project as an A6.4 project by submitting a “prior consideration notification” to the secretariat, containing a summary of the project information in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”.

6.2. Description of project

12. The activity participants shall describe the proposed A6.4 project in the PDD to provide an understanding of the nature and the outline of the project by providing, inter alia, the following information:
- (a) The title and the UNFCCC reference number of the project consistent with those indicated in, and assigned to, the prior consideration notification referred to in paragraph 11 above;
 - (b) The sectoral scopes linked to the methodologies applied and relevant to the project;
 - (c) The purpose and a general description of the project;
 - (d) The confirmation that the project is within the types of A6.4 activities indicated by the host Party that it would consider approving in accordance with paragraph 26(e) of the RMPs;
 - (e) The geographical location of the project;⁷

⁷ The geographical location includes the project boundary excluding the location of non-project-specific equipment such as electricity grid and district heating. It does not apply to distributed unit projects in which the project boundary consists of a region.

- (f) The technologies/measures to be employed and/or implemented by the project, including:
 - (i) A list of the facilities, systems and equipment that will be installed and/or modified by the project;
 - (ii) The types and levels of services (such as the amount of a certain type of cement produced or the amount of electricity fed into the electricity grid) provided by the facilities, systems and equipment and their relation, if any, to other facilities, systems and equipment outside the project boundary;
 - (iii) The arrangement of the facilities, systems and equipment;
 - (iv) The age and average lifetime of the equipment based on the manufacturer's specifications and industry standards;
 - (v) The installed capacities, load factors and efficiencies;
 - (vi) The energy and mass flows and balances of the facilities, systems and equipment, if necessary;
 - (vii) The monitoring equipment and their location in the systems;
- (g) The technologies/measures existing prior to the implementation of the project at the same site, as applicable, including the equivalent information listed in subparagraph (f) above on the facilities, systems and equipment;
- (h) A summary of the baseline scenario as established in accordance with section 6.5.3 below, including the equivalent information listed in subparagraph (f) above.

13. The activity participants shall identify in the PDD:

- (a) The host Party and other Parties participating in the proposed A6.4 project (hereinafter referred to as other participating Parties);
- (b) The activity participants of the proposed A6.4 project.

6.3. Avoidance of double or revived registration

14. The activity participants shall confirm that the proposed A6.4 project is none of the following:

- (a) Already registered as an A6.4 project;
- (b) Already included as a component project (CP) in a registered Article 6.4 mechanism programme of activities (A6.4 PoA);
- (c) Previously deregistered from the Article 6.4 mechanism.

Option 1 (avoidance of double registration in relation to other crediting schemes):

15. The activity participants shall additionally confirm that the proposed A6.4 project is not one of the following:

- (a) Already registered or being pursued for registration under or included in a programme under any other international, regional, national, or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme;
- (b) Previously excluded from a programme under any other international, regional, national, or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme.

Option 2 (no restriction of double registration in relation to other crediting schemes):

{No text}

16. If the proposed A6.4 project was a CP that has been excluded from a registered A6.4 PoA, the activity participants shall ensure that:
- (a) The PDD transparently declares that the project was a CP that has been previously excluded from a registered A6.4 PoA, either voluntarily or due to erroneous inclusion;
 - (b) The crediting period type (i.e. renewable or fixed) and the end date of the crediting period are the same as those of the crediting period valid for the CP at the time of the exclusion, noting that A6.4ERs may be claimed for the period only after the effective date of registration as an A6.4 project as per the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”, and:
 - (i) If the crediting period is renewable, the request for registration shall be submitted by the validating DOE within one year of the end date of the crediting period valid for the CP at the time of the exclusion, noting that missing the deadline no longer allows the submission of the request for registration;
 - (ii) If the crediting period is fixed, the request for registration shall be submitted by the validating DOE prior to the end date of the crediting period valid for the CP at the time of the exclusion, noting that missing the deadline no longer allows the submission of the request for registration;
 - (c) The project meets all relevant requirements for registration of projects valid at the time of submission of the request for registration as an A6.4 project;
 - (d) If the project applies a methodology that potentially accrues negative GHG emission reductions, GHG emission reductions have been continuously monitored in accordance with the monitoring plan as described in the CP design document (CP-DD) and verified by a DOE since the end of the monitoring period in the last published monitoring report that covered the CP, including the exclusion period. For such project, if there were net negative GHG emission reductions during the period before the registration as an A6.4 project, the amount shall be deducted from the first requests for issuance of A6.4ERs after the registration;
 - (e) If the CP has been excluded as a result of erroneous inclusion and if A6.4ERs have been issued for the CP, an equivalent amount of A6.4ERs have been compensated by the DOE that included the CP, to the Article 6.4 mechanism registry in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for programmes of activities”.

17. The activity participants shall declare, if applicable, the existence of a registered A6.4 project, CP under a registered A6.4 PoA or an activity under any other international, regional, national or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme whose crediting period has or has not expired (hereinafter referred to as former project) in the same geographical location as that of the proposed A6.4 project.
18. If the activity participants identify that the proposed A6.4 project is in the same geographical location as that of a former project, they shall declare that the proposed A6.4 project will not lead to the discontinuation or modification of the former project and does not decrease the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals by the former project, and that the proposed A6.4 project complies with the following conditions:
 - (a) It utilizes both a different measure and a different technology from those of the former project;
 - (b) It does not share or utilize any of the assets of the former project;
 - (c) It utilizes a different resource type compared to the former project.
19. The following definitions shall apply for paragraph 18 above:
 - (a) Measure: fuel/feedstock switch, technology switch, methane destruction and methane avoidance;
 - (b) Technology: equipment or conversion process used for the production of goods or provision of services. Two technologies are considered to be the same technologies if they:
 - (i) Provide the same kind of output and use the same kind of equipment and conversion process; or
 - (ii) Undertake the same course of action that results in the same kind of effect;
 - (c) Assets: resources with economic value that an individual, corporation or country owns or controls with the expectation that it will provide future benefit; the assets could be physical such as project equipment, or non-corporeal such as permits and exclusive position in legislation. The definition of assets in this context excludes land;
 - (d) Output: amount of goods or services produced by a technology;
 - (e) Resource: a source of supply or support needed for the production of an output. It may include categories of goods, energy and energy carriers that are supplied into the project location and are required for the implementation of the project /CP, such as fossil fuel, by-product of a process, biomass, solar, wind and geothermal heat.
20. If the proposed A6.4 project involves the implementation of distributed units in households and the conditions in paragraph 18(a)–(c) above are not met, the activity participants shall request a DOE to validate and confirm by other means that the project will not lead to the discontinuation or modification of the former project, and does not decrease the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals by the former project, in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for projects”.

21. In all other cases, the activity participants may submit a communication to the Supervisory Body to request clarification prior to the submission of a request for registration.

6.4. Selection of methodologies and standardized baselines

22. The activity participants shall select methodologies that have been approved by the Supervisory Body and that are valid⁸ and applicable to the proposed A6.4 project.

23. In selecting a methodology for the proposed A6.4 project, the activity participants may:

- (a) Propose a new methodology in accordance with the “Procedure for development, revision and clarification of methodologies and methodological tools”;
- (b) Propose a revision to an approved methodology or methodological tool in accordance with the procedure referred to in subparagraph (a) above;
- (c) Seek clarification on the applicability of an approved methodology or methodological tool in accordance with the procedure referred to in subparagraph (a) above; or
- (d) Request approval of deviation from an approved methodology or methodological tool in accordance with the procedure referred to in subparagraph (a) above.

24. The activity participants [may][shall] select a standardized baseline that has been approved by the Supervisory Body if it is valid⁹ and applicable to the proposed A6.4 project and to the selected methodology in accordance with the applicability section of the standardized baseline (hereinafter referred to as selected standardized baseline).

25. [Notwithstanding paragraph 24 above, the activity participants shall select an approved standardized baseline for the proposed A6.4 project if the standardized baseline is valid, applicable to the proposed A6.4 project and to the selected methodology, and the selection of the standardized baseline is mandatory in accordance with the applicability section of the standardized baseline¹⁰ or required by the host Party in accordance with the paragraph 27(a) of the RMPs.¹¹]

⁸ The valid version of a methodology is its latest version, or a previous version if the submission of the request for registration of the proposed A6.4 project to the secretariat in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects” is still within the grace period of the previous version for use in accordance with the “Procedure for development, revision and clarification of methodologies and methodological tools”.

⁹ The valid version of a standardized baseline is its latest version, or a previous version if the submission of the request for registration of the proposed A6.4 project to the secretariat in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects” is still within the grace period of the previous version for use in accordance with the “Procedure for development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines”.

¹⁰ The date when the selection of a standardized baseline becomes mandatory is to be determined in accordance with the “Procedure for development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines”.

¹¹ Such standardized baselines may, for example, state in their applicability section that the latest approved and valid values of the standardized baseline are the only values of the carbon dioxide emission factor(s) that shall be applied for the project electricity system.

26. In selecting a standardized baseline for the proposed A6.4 project, the activity participants may, in accordance with the “Procedure for development, revision, clarification and update of standardized baselines”:
- (a) Propose a new standardized baseline;
 - (b) Propose a revision to an approved standardized baseline;
 - (c) Seek clarification of an approved standardized baseline; or
 - (d) Propose an updated standardized baseline.

6.5. Application of methodologies and standardized baselines

6.5.1. General requirements

27. The activity participants shall provide the references (titles, versions and UNFCCC reference numbers) of the selected methodologies and the selected standardized baselines that are applied to the proposed A6.4 project, including any other methodologies or methodological tools to which the selected methodologies refer.
28. The activity participants shall demonstrate why the selected methodologies, standardized baselines, and any other standards, methodologies, methodological tools and guidelines applied in accordance with the selected methodologies (hereinafter, “any other standards, methodologies, methodological tools and guidelines (to be) applied in accordance with the selected (applied) methodologies” are collectively referred to as the other (applied) methodological regulatory documents) are applicable to the proposed A6.4 project by showing that the project meets all applicability conditions of these regulatory documents.
29. The activity participants shall ensure that the proposed A6.4 project complies with all the requirements of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents.

6.5.2. Project boundary, sources, sinks and greenhouse gases

30. The activity participants shall describe the project boundary of the proposed A6.4 project, including the physical delineation of the project, and which sources, sinks and GHGs are included in the project boundary in accordance with the applied methodologies and the applied standardized baselines.
31. If the applied methodologies or the applied standardized baselines allow the activity participants to choose whether a source, sink or GHG is to be included in the project boundary, the activity participants shall explain and justify the choice.

6.5.3. Baseline scenario

32. The activity participants shall establish and describe the baseline scenario for the proposed A6.4 project in accordance with the applied methodologies, standardized baselines, other applied methodological regulatory documents, the provisions in paragraphs 33–38 below and, where applicable, the baseline approaches specified by the host Party in accordance with paragraph 27(a) of the RMPs.
33. The activity participants shall provide information on the facilities, systems and equipment to be operated under the proposed A6.4 project and in the baseline scenario.

34. [When establishing the baseline scenario, if the activity participants foresee that future anthropogenic emissions by sources are projected to rise above current levels due to the specific circumstances of the host Party, they may follow the guidance on suppressed demand to be provided by the Supervisory Body to propose a revision to an approved methodology to cover such scenario if it is not covered in the methodology.]
35. [In case of replacement of existing equipment, the activity participants shall estimate the point in time when the existing equipment would be replaced in the absence of the proposed 6.4 project in accordance with the guidance on determining the remaining lifetime of equipment to be provided by the Supervisory Body.]
36. [If the proposed A6.4 project is [registered under or] covered by a higher international, regional, national, or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme, the baseline scenario shall be consistent with that under the higher crediting scheme.]
37. [As a general principle, the nationally determined contribution (NDC) of the host Party submitted and maintained in accordance with Article 4, paragraph 2, relevant national and/or sectoral policies, regulations and circumstances shall be taken into account in the establishment of the baseline scenario, without creating perverse incentives that may impact host Parties' contributions to the objective of the Paris Agreement.]
38. [Notwithstanding paragraphs 32–37 above, if the proposed A6.4 project applies an approved standardized baseline that standardizes baseline scenario, the activity participants shall describe the baseline scenario as per the applied standardized baseline.]

6.5.4. Demonstration of additionality

39. The activity participants shall demonstrate, in accordance with the applied methodologies, the other applied methodological regulatory documents, and the requirements relating to prior consideration of the Article 6.4 mechanism contained in section 6.1 above, that the proposed A6.4 project would not have occurred in the absence of the incentives from the Article 6.4 mechanism.

6.5.5. Addressing non-permanence

40. The activity participants shall, in accordance with the applied methodologies and other applied methodological regulatory documents, assess the risk of non-permanence of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals that will be achieved by the proposed A6.4 project over multiple NDC implementation periods and, where such risk exists, develop planned monitoring and measures to address reversals in full.

6.5.6. Estimation of emission reductions or net removals

41. The activity participants shall describe how to undertake the ex post calculation of baseline, project and leakage GHG emissions or removals, as well as GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals, to be achieved by the proposed A6.4 project, and provide the ex ante calculation of them for each year of the crediting period, in accordance with the applied methodologies and the applied standardized baselines. If the proposed A6.4 project contains more than one component, the activity participants shall apply this requirement for each component separately. The activity participants shall describe all steps to be undertaken for these calculations and provide all results.

42. If the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or other applied methodological regulatory documents include different scenarios or cases, or provide different options and/or default values to choose from, the activity participants shall justify their choice.
43. To determine the performance of the equipment used in the proposed A6.4 project, if required for the calculation of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals, the activity participants shall use:
- (a) The appropriate values, or the values calculated based on the methods, specified in the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents;
 - (b) The national standard for the performance of the equipment type with the identification of the standard used, if the value referred to in subparagraph (a) above is not available;
 - (c) An international standard for the performance of the equipment type, such as ISO and International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) standards with the identification of the standard used, if the values referred to in subparagraphs (a) and (b) above are not available;
 - (d) The manufacturer's specifications, provided that they are tested and certified by national or international certifiers, if the values referred to in subparagraphs (a)–(c) above are not available;
 - (e) Performance data from test results conducted by an independent entity for the equipment to be installed under the project, if the values referred to in subparagraphs (a)–(d) above are not available.
44. The activity participants shall use the valid version of the norms, specifications, standards and test procedures referred to in the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, as available at the time of submission of the request for registration.
45. The activity participants shall, in accordance with the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, provide the data and parameters that will not be monitored but are determined before the registration of the proposed A6.4 project and remain fixed throughout the first crediting period. These data and parameters shall be available at the time of the validation of the project for registration.
46. The activity participants shall ensure that the application of default data in the estimation of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals for the proposed A6.4 project results in conservative estimates.
47. The activity participants may use sampling for the determination of parameter values for calculating GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals if the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents allow this. In such cases, the activity participants shall develop and describe a sampling plan in accordance with the standard for sampling and surveys for Article 6.4 mechanism activities to be developed by the Supervisory Body.

6.5.7. Monitoring plan

48. The activity participants shall develop and describe a monitoring plan for the proposed A6.4 project in accordance with the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, all other applicable Article 6.4 mechanism rules and requirements, and the provisions in paragraphs 49–52 below.
49. In developing a monitoring plan for the proposed A6.4 project, the activity participants shall apply the following requirements unless the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents state otherwise:
 - (a) Data variables that impact the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals continuously (e.g. quantity of fuel inputs, amount of heat or electricity produced, gas captured) shall be measured continuously and recorded at appropriate intervals;
 - (b) Measuring equipment shall be certified to national or IEC standards;
 - (c) The calibration of measuring equipment shall be carried out by an accredited person or institution;
 - (d) Measured data with high levels of uncertainty shall be compared with data from other sources to check the consistency.
50. For parameters to be measured in accordance with the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, the monitoring plan shall include the following:
 - (a) The measurement methods and procedures, including accepted industry standards, or national or international standards, that will be applied; the measuring equipment that will be used; how the measurements will be undertaken; the accuracy of the measurement methods; the measurement intervals; and the responsible person/entity who/that will undertake the measurements;
 - (b) The calibration procedures to be applied and the responsible person/entity who/that will perform the calibration.
51. The monitoring plan shall include all data, parameters and related information required by the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, including:
 - (a) Quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC) procedures;
 - (b) Uncertainty levels, methods and the associated accuracy level of measuring instruments to be used for various parameters and variables;
 - (c) Specifications of the calibration frequency for the measuring equipment. If neither the applied methodologies, nor the applied standardized baselines, nor the other applied methodological regulatory documents, nor the Supervisory Body's guidance specify any requirements for calibration frequency for measuring equipment, the activity participants shall ensure that the equipment is calibrated in accordance with the local/national standards or the manufacturer's specifications.

If local/national standards or the manufacturer's specifications are not available, international standards may be used.

52. The monitoring plan shall also include a description of the monitoring management system including the following elements:
- (a) The operational and management structure to be put in place to implement the monitoring plan;
 - (b) Provisions to ensure that data monitored and required for verification of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals and issuance of A6.4ERs are kept and archived for at least two years after the end of the final crediting period or the last issuance of A6.4ERs, whichever occurs later;
 - (c) Definitions of responsibilities and institutional arrangements for data collection and archiving.
53. The activity participants may choose to make a delayed submission of the monitoring plan; that is, after the registration of the proposed A6.4 project and:
- (a) At any time prior to the submission of the request for issuance of A6.4ERs for the first monitoring period; or
 - (b) Together with the request for issuance of A6.4ERs for the first monitoring period.
54. If the activity participants choose to make a delayed submission of the monitoring plan in accordance with paragraph 53 above, they shall clearly state in the PDD that the submission of the monitoring plan is delayed and therefore the PDD submitted for registration of the proposed A6.4 project does not contain information related to the monitoring plan.

6.6. Start date, crediting period type and duration

55. The activity participants shall determine the start date of the proposed A6.4 project as the date on which the activity participants commit to making expenditures for the construction or modification of the main equipment or facility (e.g. a wind turbine), or for the provision or modification of a service (e.g. distribution of energy-efficient light bulbs, change of transport management system) under the proposed A6.4 project. Where a contract is signed for such expenditures (e.g. for procurement of a wind turbine), the start date is the date on which the contract is signed. In other cases, it is the date on which such expenditures are incurred. If the proposed A6.4 project involves more than one of such contracts or incurred expenditures, the start date is the earliest of the respective dates. Activities incurring minor pre-project expenses (e.g. feasibility studies, preliminary surveys) are not considered in the determination of the start date.
56. The activity participants shall specify the expected operational lifetime of the proposed A6.4 project.
57. The activity participants shall indicate in the PDD the same crediting period type (renewable or fixed), start date and duration of the crediting period for the proposed A6.4

project as approved by the host Party in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”, which is:

- (a) For GHG emission reduction projects:
 - (i) Each renewable crediting period shall be maximum five years and may be renewed maximum twice, for a maximum total length of 15 years, or any shorter crediting period that may be specified by the host Party pursuant to paragraph 27(b) of the RMPs or by the applied methodologies; or
 - (ii) A fixed crediting period shall be maximum 10 years, or any shorter crediting period that may be specified by the host Party pursuant to paragraph 27(b) of the RMPs or by the applied methodologies;
- (b) For GHG removal projects, each renewable crediting period shall be maximum 15 years and may be renewed maximum twice, for a maximum total length of 45 years, or any shorter crediting period that may be specified by the host Party pursuant to paragraph 27(b) of the RMPs or by the applied methodologies.

58. The start date of the crediting period may be as early as 1 January 2021, provided that the prior consideration notification indicated such start date, which was published on the UNFCCC website in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”.

59. A project that has been registered as an A6.4 project may not be re-registered after the expiry of its final crediting period.

6.7. Environmental impacts, social impacts and sustainable development benefits

60. The activity participants shall carry out an analysis of the environmental and social impacts and sustainable development benefits of the proposed A6.4 project, and provide a summary of the analysis and a monitoring plan of such impacts and planned remedial measures of negative impacts, if any, during and after the implementation of the project in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism sustainable development tool”.

61. In addition, if an environmental impact assessment and/or social impact assessment were carried out for the proposed A6.4 project as required by and in accordance with the relevant procedures of the host Party, the activity participants shall provide all conclusions of such assessments and references to all related documentation.

6.8. Local stakeholder consultation

62. The activity participants shall conduct a local, and where appropriate, subnational stakeholder consultation (hereinafter collectively referred to as local stakeholder consultation) on the proposed A6.4 project in accordance with applicable host Party rules but also in line with the modalities contained in Appendix 2 at minimum. In this context:

- (a) If any elements of the modalities contained in Appendix 2 require more than those required by the host Party rules, the activity participants shall follow the former by additionally conducting the “gap” of the two;

(b) If any elements of the modalities contained in Appendix 2 and those required by the host Party rules are not compatible where it is not possible to follow the requirement in subparagraph (a), the activity participants shall describe the modalities chosen and justify the choice.

63. If host Party rules on local stakeholder consultation do not exist, or the host Party rules are not applicable to the proposed A6.4 project, the activity participants shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation in accordance with the modalities contained in Appendix 2.
64. The activity participants shall provide in the PDD a summary of the local stakeholder consultation carried out, including the modalities undertaken, the names of stakeholders that have provided comments, a summary of comments received, and a description of how they were taken into account.

6.9. Global stakeholder consultation

65. The activity participants shall initiate a global stakeholder consultation on the proposed A6.4 project by submitting a draft PDD to the secretariat through the UNFCCC website in accordance with the "Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects".
66. The activity participants shall provide in the PDD a summary of comments received, and describe how they were taken into account.

6.10. Modalities of communication

67. The activity participants shall define for the proposed A6.4 project their modalities of communication with the Supervisory Body and the secretariat, and present them in a modalities of communication (MoC) statement in accordance with the "Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects".

7. Post-registration changes

7.1. General requirements

68. If there is any change regarding the modalities or information in the MoC statement referred to in paragraph 67 above after the request for registration has been submitted, the activity participants shall revise the MoC statement and obtain approval of the change from the secretariat in accordance with the "Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects".
69. The activity participants shall identify any proposed or actual changes to the implementation, operation or monitoring of the registered A6.4 project.
70. The activity participants shall determine whether the proposed or actual changes are temporary deviations referred to in section 7.2 below, or permanent changes referred to in section 7.3 below.
71. For temporary deviations, the activity participants are not required to prepare a revised PDD but shall describe the actual changes in the monitoring report. For permanent changes, the activity participants shall prepare a revised PDD (in both track-change and clean versions) that reflects the proposed or actual changes, using the valid version of the applicable PDD form. The activity participants shall provide a summary of the changes,

including the reasons for the changes and any additional information relating to the changes to the PDD.

7.2. Temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, applied methodologies, standardized baselines or other methodological regulatory documents

72. If the activity participants are temporarily unable to monitor the registered A6.4 project in accordance with the monitoring plan in the registered PDD (hereinafter referred to as the registered monitoring plan), the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents, the activity participants shall describe the nature, extent and duration of the non-conforming monitoring period in the monitoring report, and:

- (a) Propose alternative monitoring arrangements for the non-conforming monitoring period. In this case, the activity participants shall apply conservative assumptions or discount factors to the calculations to the extent required to ensure that GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals will not be over-estimated as a result of the deviation; or
- (b) Apply the following most conservative values approach when alternative monitoring arrangements are not proposed:
 - (i) If the A6.4 project is to achieve GHG emission reductions, apply zero for baseline GHG emissions for the entire non-conforming monitoring period; or
 - (ii) If the A6.4 project is to achieve net GHG removals, apply zero for project GHG removals for the entire non-conforming monitoring period; and
 - (iii) Apply the values assuming that the source of GHG emissions is operated at the maximum capacity for the entire non-conforming monitoring period. In the case of project GHG emissions related to the consumption of electricity, add 10 per cent to account for transmission and distribution losses.

7.3. Permanent changes

7.3.1. Corrections

73. If the activity participants make any corrections to the project information or parameters fixed at registration of the A6.4 project as described in the registered PDD, the activity participants shall document these corrections in a revised PDD.¹²

7.3.2. Changes to the start date of the crediting period

74. The activity participants of a registered A6.4 project may not request any changes to the start date of the crediting period of the project.

¹² This provision does not allow the parameter values fixed ex ante at the time of the registration of the A6.4 project to be updated, as it is not regarded as a correction.

7.3.3. Inclusion of monitoring plan

75. The activity participants may submit the monitoring plan of an A6.4 project after its registration in accordance with paragraph 53 above.

7.3.4. Permanent changes to the registered monitoring plan, or permanent deviation of monitoring from the applied methodologies, standardized baselines or other methodological regulatory documents

76. If the activity participants are unable to implement the registered monitoring plan, or the monitoring would permanently deviate from the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents, the activity participants shall describe the nature and extent of the non-conforming monitoring and the proposed alternative monitoring for the project in a revised PDD.
77. The activity participants shall apply conservative assumptions or discount factors to the calculations in the proposed alternative monitoring to the extent required to ensure that GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals will not be over-estimated as a result of the permanent change or deviation.

7.3.5. Changes to project design

78. Where there are changes to the project design of a registered A6.4 project, the activity participants shall prepare a revised PDD that describes the nature and extent of the proposed or actual changes.
79. Changes to a registered A6.4 project may include:

- (a) Increasing the capacity¹³ specified in the registered PDD with the following conditions:

Option 1 (fixed per centage threshold):

- (i) Marginal increase of up to [3] per cent of the capacity specified in the originally registered PDD and A6.4ERs may be claimed up to the amount calculated based on the capacity increase;
- (ii) Increase over [3] per cent of the capacity specified in the originally registered PDD, but A6.4ERs may be claimed up to the amount calculated based on the capacity increase by [3] per cent;
- (iii) Increase over [3] per cent of the capacity specified in the originally registered PDD, subject to the approval of the host Party in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”, A6.4ERs may be claimed for the full amount calculated based on the increased capacity or for the capped amount that may be specified by the host Party in its approval of the change;

Option 2 (differentiated per centage thresholds by scale):

- (i) Increasing the capacity that would result in the increase of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals up to the same level as the materiality

¹³ Installed/rated capacity that directly impacts GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals.

thresholds for verification as defined in the “Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for projects”, that is:

- a. 0.5 per cent of the emission reductions or removals for projects achieving a total emission reduction or removal equal to or more than 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;
 - b. 1 per cent of the emission reductions or removals for projects achieving a total emission reduction or removal of between 300,000 and 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year;
 - c. 2 per cent of the emission reductions or removals for projects achieving a total emission reduction or removal of 300,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year or less;
- (ii) Increasing the capacity that would result in the increase of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals more than the respective thresholds referred to in subparagraph (i), subject to the approval of such increase by the host Party;

Option 3 (only subject to host Party approval):

- (i) Increasing the capacity by any degree, subject to the approval by the host Party;
- (b) Decreasing the capacity specified in the registered PDD;
- (c) Adding new components or extending/adding technologies/measures that introduce:
- (i) Complementary technologies/measures involving mass and/or energy transfer to/from the technologies/measures specified in the originally registered PDD;¹⁴ or
 - (ii) More advanced version of the same technologies as per the definition of “the same technologies” in paragraph 19(b) above (e.g. improved performance in GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals, efficiency, health, safety and durability evidenced in reference to a relevant national or international standard);¹⁵
- (d) Removing a component or technology/measure specified in the registered PDD;

¹⁴ Examples include:

- (a) A landfill gas capture and electricity generation activity using three electricity generating units adds an additional electricity generating unit without altering the quantity of landfill gas extracted (i.e. the capacity of the landfill gas extraction system remained the same);
- (b) Addition of a back-up electricity generating source to supply electricity during exigencies when the project fails to meet the demand or is not available due to operational reasons.

¹⁵ Examples include a project disseminating lamps with useful life of two years changing to distribute lamps with useful life of seven years.

- (e) Changing the technologies/measures that result in the same technologies/measures as the technologies/measures in the originally registered PDD as per the definition of “the same technologies” in paragraph 19(b) above;¹⁶
 - (f) Removing or adding one or more site of the project registered with multiple sites;
 - (g) Changing the actual operational parameters that are within the control of the activity participants, differing from the expected parameters;
 - (h) Any consequential changes to the application of methodologies, standardized baselines and/or other methodological regulatory documents resulting from the changes referred to in subparagraphs (a)–(e) above, including change to or addition of other methodologies, other standardized baselines and/or other methodological regulatory documents, or application of a baseline scenario that is more appropriate as a result of the proposed or actual modifications to the project;
 - (i) Voluntarily updating the applied methodologies or the other applied methodological regulatory documents to a later valid version of them, or voluntarily changing to other methodologies, provided all requirements in the updated/changed methodologies and the other applied methodological regulatory documents are met.
80. The activity participants shall report in the revised PDD the impacts of the proposed or actual changes to the registered A6.4 project on the following:
- (a) The applicability and application of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents with which the project has been registered;
 - (b) The project boundary and any implications on the inclusion or exclusion of emissions sources and leakage emissions;
 - (c) The compliance of the monitoring plan with the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents;
 - (d) The level of accuracy and completeness in the monitoring of the project compared with the requirements contained in the registered monitoring plan;
 - (e) The additionality of the project.
81. If the proposed or actual changes affect the additionality of the registered A6.4 project as referred to in paragraph 80(e) above, the demonstration of the impacts of the changes on the additionality shall be based on the original input data for all other elements than the changes. [In addition: ¹⁷

¹⁶ Examples include changing the mode of utilization of recovered methane from a landfill, such as shifting from flaring to heat generation or from heat generation to electricity generation.

¹⁷ If a proposed or actual modification adversely impacts the additionality of the project, subsequent requests for issuance of A6.4ERs based on such modifications will be rejected.

- (a) If investment analysis was used, the activity participants shall only modify the key parameters in the original spreadsheet calculations affected by the proposed or actual changes to the project;
 - (b) If only barriers were claimed to demonstrate additionality, the activity participants shall demonstrate that the barriers are still valid under the new circumstances.]
82. Where the activity participants cannot demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents with which the A6.4 project has been registered, the activity participants shall:
- (a) Revise the PDD, applying:
 - (i) A later valid version of the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents; or
 - (ii) Other methodologies, other standardized baselines or other methodological regulatory documents that are applicable to the project; and
 - (b) Demonstrate compliance with the requirements of the newly applied methodologies, the newly applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents in the revised PDD.

8. Implementation and monitoring

8.1. General requirements

83. The activity participants shall implement and operate the registered A6.4 project in accordance with the description in the registered PDD, including all physical features.
84. The activity participants shall continuously monitor the registered A6.4 project and its GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals in accordance with the registered monitoring plan.
85. The activity participants shall describe the implemented registered A6.4 project and monitored GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals in monitoring reports to provide an understanding of how the implementation and monitoring were conducted.
86. The activity participants shall report monitoring results in monitoring reports in the following manner:
- (a) Each monitoring report shall cover the entire duration of a monitoring period without a gap within the monitoring period;
 - (b) The first monitoring period shall start from the start of the crediting period as specified in the registered PDD. If actual GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals have not started at the start of the crediting period, the monitoring report for the first monitoring report shall report zero GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals for the period until they actually occur;
 - (c) If negative GHG emission reductions or negative net GHG removals (i.e. net GHG emissions) have occurred during a monitoring period, such negative values shall

be clearly indicated and deducted from the total amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals for the monitoring period;

- (d) Monitored amount of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals shall be presented in monitoring reports by year of their occurrence;
 - (e) Monitoring reports shall be prepared in chronological order [and without a gap between the two successive monitoring periods];
 - (f) Monitoring results in different crediting periods shall be separated into different monitoring reports.
87. All monitoring, verifications and requests for issuance of A6.4ERs in respect of GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals achieved by A6.4 projects shall be calculated using the GWPs contained in Appendix 1 in accordance with section 5.2 above.
88. The activity participants shall maintain all monitoring results for the registered A6.4 project in accordance with the monitoring management system described in the registered monitoring plan as per paragraph 52 above.

8.2. General information

89. When describing the implementation and monitoring, the activity participants shall provide, inter alia, the following information regarding the implemented registered A6.4 project:
- (a) The title and UNFCCC reference number of the project;
 - (b) Names of the activity participants involved;
 - (c) Location of the project;
 - (d) Titles, versions and UNFCCC reference numbers of the applied methodologies and, where applicable, the applied standardized baselines, including any other methodologies or methodological tools to which the applied methodologies refer;
 - (e) The type, start date and duration of the crediting period;
 - (f) The monitoring period sequence number and dates of coverage;
 - (g) The version number of the PDD applicable to the monitoring period.

8.3. Avoidance of double issuance

90. The activity participants shall confirm that the reported GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals regarding which they intend to request issuance of A6.4ERs do not overlap with any of the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals regarding which they have requested or intend to request credits under any other international, regional, national or subnational GHG mitigation crediting scheme, noting that if such double issuance is detected, verification by the DOE will result in a negative verification opinion, that the request for issuance will be rejected by the Supervisory Body, or, that if the requested A6.4ERs have already been issued, the amount of double issuance will be deducted from future issuance of A6.4ERs for the same A6.4 project.

8.4. Description of implemented registered project

91. The activity participants shall provide a description of the implemented registered A6.4 project as follows:
- (a) Description of the installed technologies, technical processes and equipment;
 - (b) Information on the implementation and actual operation of the project, including relevant dates (e.g. construction, commissioning, start of operation). For a project that consists of more than one site, the activity participants shall describe the status of implementation and start date of operation for each site. For a project with phased implementation, the activity participants shall indicate the progress of the project achieved in each phase.
92. The activity participants shall indicate whether there are any temporary deviations from the registered monitoring plan, the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines or the other applied methodological regulatory documents in accordance with section 7.2 above, or permanent changes to the registered A6.4 project or the registered monitoring plan in accordance with section 7.3 above (hereinafter referred to as post-registration changes). For post-registration changes that have been approved by the Supervisory Body, the activity participants shall indicate the dates of approval.

8.5. Description of monitoring system

93. The activity participants shall describe the monitoring system and provide 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.

8.6. Data and parameters

94. The activity participants shall provide all parameters used to calculate the baseline, project and leakage GHG emissions, or the baseline and actual net GHG removals, as well as other relevant parameters for the monitoring period as required by the registered monitoring plan, the applied methodologies, the applied standardized baselines and the other applied methodological regulatory documents. The activity participants shall provide information on how data and parameters have been monitored.
95. For each parameter, the activity participants shall:
- (a) Provide the values of the monitored parameter for the purpose of calculating GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals. Where data are measured continuously, they shall be presented using an appropriate time interval. For a default value that is not fixed at the time of registration of the A6.4 project, the most recent value shall be applied;
 - (b) Describe the equipment used to monitor each parameter, including details on accuracy class, and calibration information (frequency, date of calibration and validity), if applicable, as per the registered monitoring plan;
 - (c) Describe how the parameter is measured/calculated and the measurement and recording frequency;

- (d) Provide and/or identify the sources of data (e.g. logbooks, daily records, surveys);
 - (e) Provide the calculation method of the parameter, where relevant;
 - (f) Describe the QA/QC procedures applied, if applicable, as per the registered monitoring plan;
 - (g) Provide information about appropriate emission factor, IPCC default value and any other reference value.
96. If data and parameters monitored are determined by a sampling approach, the activity participants shall describe how the sampling has been conducted in accordance with the sampling plan described in the registered monitoring plan.
97. For a registered A6.4 project that applied a methodology or methodological tool providing a choice between an ex ante and an ex post determination of parameter values for calculating baseline GHG emissions or net GHG removals and that chose the ex ante determination, or that applied a methodology or methodological tool requiring a determination of these values ex ante, and applied an applicable standardized baseline valid at the time of the submission of the request for registration for this purpose, the activity participants shall apply the same version of the standardized baseline for the purpose of monitoring until the end of the first crediting period.
98. For a registered A6.4 project that applied a methodology or methodological tool providing a choice between an ex ante and an ex post determination of parameter values for calculating baseline GHG emissions or net GHG removals and that chose the ex post determination where there was no applicable standardized baseline valid at the time of registration, the activity participants may, at any time during the first crediting period, switch to the ex ante determination by applying an applicable standardized baseline that becomes available after the registration and is valid at the time of the switch, and apply the same version of the standardized baseline for the purpose of monitoring for the remainder of the same crediting period. Such switch and application of a standardized baseline shall undergo the post-registration change approval process in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”, and the standardized baseline shall be valid at the time of the submission of the post-registration change approval request.
99. For a registered A6.4 project that applied a methodology or methodological tool providing a choice between an ex ante and ex post determination of parameter values for calculating baseline GHG emissions or net GHG removals, if the selected crediting period type is renewable, the activity participants shall, at each renewal of the crediting period, choose the ex ante or ex post determination of parameter values, unless otherwise required by the applied methodology or methodological tool, and shall follow the same rules in terms of the use and validity of standardized baselines as in paragraphs 97 and 98 above.

8.7. Calculation of emission reductions or net removals

100. The activity participants shall, for the registered A6.4 project 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 GHG removals.
101. The activity participants shall provide a comparison of the GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals achieved by the registered A6.4 project with the estimates in the registered PDD.
102. For any registered A6.4 project, the activity participants shall explain the cause of any increase in the actual GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals achieved during the monitoring period (e.g. higher water availability, higher plant load factor), including all information (i.e. data and/or parameters) that is different from what is stated in the registered PDD.

9. Renewal of crediting period

103. The crediting period of a registered A6.4 project may be renewed if the host Party has approved the renewal when approving the project prior to its registration in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”.
104. To support a request for renewal of the crediting period of a registered A6.4 project, the activity participants shall, using the valid version of the applicable PDD form, update the sections of the PDD of the project relating to the baseline, additionality, estimated GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals, the monitoring plan and the crediting period, applying methodologies in one of the following manners:
- (a) The activity participants shall use the valid version of the methodologies and methodological tools applied in the registered PDD; that is, the latest version at the time of the submission of the request for renewal of the crediting period or the previous version if the submission of the request for renewal of the crediting period is still within the grace period of the previous version for use;
 - (b) If any of the methodologies applied in the registered PDD was withdrawn after the registration of the project and was replaced by consolidated methodologies, the activity participants shall use the valid version of the consolidated methodologies; or
 - (c) If the project does not meet the applicability conditions of the methodologies or methodological tools under the options in subparagraphs (a) or (b) above due to their revisions or due to the update of the baseline, the activity participants shall either:
 - (i) Select other applicable approved methodologies; or
 - (ii) Request, under the clarification process in the “Procedure for development, revision and clarification of baseline and monitoring methodologies and methodological tools”, either through the DOE that conducts validation for renewal of the crediting period or by the activity participants, to clarify whether a deviation from the valid version of the methodologies (including consolidated methodologies thereof) or the methodological tools applied in the registered PDD, or from any other selected methodologies, or any other methodological tools applied in accordance with the selected methodologies, is acceptable.

105. [In updating the PDD of the registered A6.4 project in accordance with paragraph 104 above, the activity participants shall consider the application of an approved standardized baseline to the project as follows:
- (a) The activity participants shall use the valid version of an approved standardized baseline if:
 - (i) The standardized baseline is applied in the registered PDD and the valid version of the standardized baseline is still applicable to the project and to the methodologies applied in accordance with paragraph 104 above; or
 - (ii) The standardized baseline is not applied in the registered PDD but the valid version of the standardized baseline whose selection is mandatory¹⁸ is applicable to the project and to the methodologies applied in accordance with paragraph 104 above. However, the activity participants may update the PDD without selecting such standardized baseline if the submission of the request for renewal of the crediting period is made within 240 days after the standardized baseline became valid;
 - (b) If the valid version of the standardized baseline applied in the registered PDD is no longer applicable to the project and/or to the valid version of the methodologies applied in the registered PDD due to a revision of the standardized baseline after the registration of the project, the activity participants shall:
 - (i) Select another applicable approved standardized baseline; or
 - (ii) Use only the valid version of the methodologies applied in the registered PDD that are still applicable to the project and that can be used independently for estimating GHG emission reductions or net GHG removals without using the standardized baseline applied in the registered PDD;
 - (c) The activity participants may use the valid version of an applicable approved standardized baseline if:
 - (i) The standardized baseline is not applied in the registered PDD; and
 - (ii) The standardized baseline does not require its mandatory selection but is applicable to the project and to the methodologies applied in accordance with paragraph 104 above.]
106. The activity participants shall demonstrate the validity of the original baseline or its update in accordance with paragraphs 107–109 below.
107. To demonstrate the validity of the original baseline or its update, the activity participants shall reassess the baseline scenario [by taking into account the latest NDC and national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances of the host Party existing at the time of requesting renewal of the crediting period].
108. [The requirements contained in paragraph 107 above are not applicable to a registered A6.4 project applying the valid version of an applicable approved standardized baseline that standardizes baseline scenario in accordance with paragraph 105 above.]

¹⁸ For an explanation on the standardized baseline whose selection is mandatory, see footnote 11 above.

109. [If data and parameters used for determining the original baseline were determined ex ante and not monitored during the crediting period and are no longer valid, the activity participants shall update such data and parameters in accordance with the “Methodological tool: Assessment of the validity of the original/current baseline and update of the baseline at the renewal of the crediting period”.]
110. The result of the process described in paragraphs 104–109 above defines a new version of the PDD.
111. The activity participants shall ensure that the MoC statement is up to date.
112. If the activity participants plan to make, or have made, a post-registration change to the project design effective from the start date of the new crediting period, they shall clearly indicate the post-registration change in the new version of the PDD, distinguishing the post-registration change from other updates of information due to renewal of the crediting period.

10. Voluntary deregistration of project

113. At any time after the registration of an A6.4 project, the activity participants may request the secretariat to deregister the project in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism activity cycle procedure for projects”.
114. An A6.4 project that has been deregistered may not be reregistered as an A6.4 project or included as a CP in a registered A6.4 PoA.

Appendix 1. Global warming potentials

1. The table below lists the GWPs of GHGs for the 100-year time horizon from the Fifth Assessment Report of the IPCC, applicable to A6.4 activities for reporting aggregate emission reductions or removals of GHGs achieved or expected to be achieved by the activities in the period from 1 January 2021, expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Table. Global warming potentials applicable for A6.4 activities

GHG	GWP for 100-year time horizon
Carbon dioxide (CO ₂)	1
Methane (CH ₄)	28
Nitrous oxide (N ₂ O)	265
Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs)	
HFC-23	12,400
HFC-134a	1,300
Perfluorocarbons (PFCs)	
CF ₄	6,630
C ₂ F ₆	11,100
Sulfur hexafluoride (SF ₆)	23,500
Nitrogen trifluoride (NF ₃)	16,100

2. For GHGs that are not listed in this table, see “Climate Change 2015: Physical Science Basis - Working Group I Contribution to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change”, Table 8.A.1 (pages 731–738).¹

¹ Available at: https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/2018/02/WG1AR5_all_final.pdf.

Appendix 2. Modalities of local stakeholder consultation

1. Scope and target of consultation

1. The scope of the local or subnational stakeholder consultation (hereinafter collectively referred to as local stakeholder consultation) shall comprise, as a minimum, the potential direct positive and negative impacts that the proposed A6.4 project may have.
2. The activity participants shall invite, as a minimum, representatives of local stakeholders directly impacted by the proposed A6.4 project, including local communities and indigenous peoples as applicable, and representatives of local authorities relevant to the project.
3. The activity participants shall provide evidence that invitations were sent to the relevant stakeholders and that their comments were invited. If any of the relevant stakeholders were not invited, the activity participants shall provide appropriate justification.

2. Timing of consultation

4. The activity participants shall complete the local stakeholder consultation process at the timing required by the rules of the host Party on local stakeholder consultation, if such rules exist. If such host Party rules do not exist, the activity participants shall complete the process before, whichever the earlier of:
 - (a) The start date of the project as defined in paragraph 55 of the main part of this standard; or
 - (b) The date of submitting the PDD of the proposed A6.4 project to a DOE for validation.
5. For projects that do not meet the requirement referred to in paragraph 4 above, the activity participants may submit a request for exemption from the requirement to the Supervisory Body for its consideration on a case-by-case basis.

3. Conduct of consultation

6. The activity participants shall invite local stakeholders to provide comments on the proposed A6.4 project in an open and transparent manner, in a way that facilitates comments to be received from local stakeholders and allows for a reasonable time for comments to be submitted. The activity participants shall describe the steps/actions taken to invite comments, taking into account local and national circumstances.
7. The activity participants shall convey information to stakeholders about the local stakeholder consultation and the proposed A6.4 project in ways that are appropriate for the community that is directly affected by the project. In areas where a significant part of the population is illiterate, the information shall be provided orally.
8. The activity participants shall describe the proposed A6.4 project in a manner that allows local stakeholders to understand the project. The information to be made available to local stakeholders shall include, inter alia:

- (a) A summary of the proposed A6.4 project, explaining the project in simple, non-technical terms, and containing a description of the direct positive and negative impacts;
 - (b) Information on the projected scope, lifetime, and direct positive and negative impacts of the proposed A6.4 project;
 - (c) Other relevant information about the proposed A6.4 project, taking into account confidentiality provisions referred to in paragraph 7(e) of the main part of this standard;
 - (d) The means to provide comments about the proposed A6.4 project.
9. The activity participants shall conduct the local stakeholder consultation through means that are appropriate for the local and national circumstances.
10. The activity participants shall provide local stakeholders with the opportunity to comment in writing or via other means, and gather their comments about the proposed A6.4 project and its direct impacts.
11. The activity participants shall request the DNA of the host Party to forward any comments from local stakeholders submitted to the host Party to them.
12. The activity participants shall prepare a summary report of the comments received from local stakeholders.
13. The activity participants shall consider the comments provided by local stakeholders and report in the PDD on how they have taken them into account. The activity participants shall provide justification if any comments were not incorporated.

4. Activities after consultation

14. After the completion of the local stakeholder consultation, local stakeholders may submit a complaint to the DNA of the host Party if they find that the outcome of the local stakeholder consultation is not appropriately taken into account. The DOE shall request the DNA to forward such complaints, if any, to the DOE and promptly forward them to the activity participants during the validation in accordance with the “Article 6.4 mechanism validation and verification standard for projects”.
15. If, during the validation of the proposed A6.4 project, complaints submitted to the DNA of the host Party on the handling of the outcome of the local stakeholder consultation are forwarded to the activity participants through the DOE, the activity participants shall take due account of such complaints and modify the PDD as appropriate before the DOE concludes the validation.

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