Terms and Definitions

Valid since: 26. May 2008
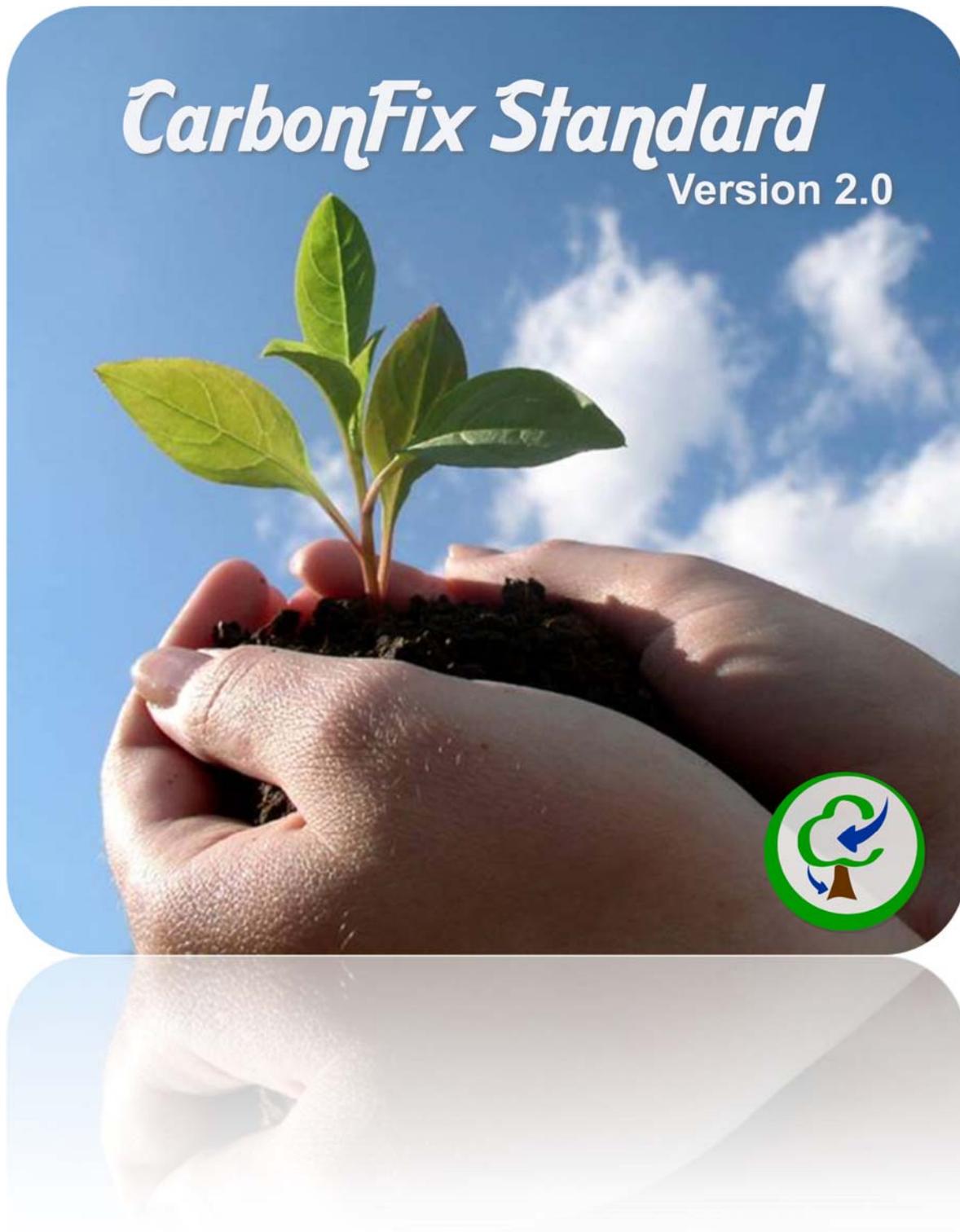
Content

Acknowledgment

The development of the CarbonFix Standard v2.0 has benefited by suggestions from over
30 feedbacks during its public review. We would like to thank all participants as well as the technical
board of CarbonFix.

For the further improvement of the Standard we encourage all readers to inform the *technical board*
about possible mistakes, unclear expressions or suggestions of new criteria.

The CarbonFix Standard is based on 4 parts: Terms, Criteria, Procedures and Labelling

In the upper right corner of every document it is clearly visible which document you have opened.

The following description gives a short overview of the content of these documents.

Terms
This part of the Standard defines the technical wording. In all documents of the Standard, the defined words are written in *italic*. Furthermore, this part describes the functionality of the different icons (e.g. 🖊📘) used within the Standard.

This document is of particular interest to *project developers*, *project owners* and *certification bodies*.

Criteria
For many users this document represents the core of the Standard. It includes the different criteria a project has to successfully certify according. The criteria are clustered in 5 main chapters as represented by the graph.

Some of the criteria refer to 'guidelines' which assist the *project developer* with additional information on how to meet certain criteria.
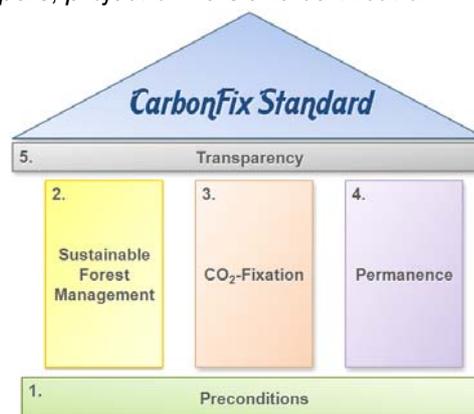
Procedures
This document explains in detail how *project developers* can create their login account, upload their information and request for *validation*. Subsequently it describes how a *project* is certified and under which circumstances *projects* can be excluded.

The final chapters describe how the CarbonFix Standard is continuously being improved and what fees will be charged from the *project developer*.

The document is of specific value to *project developers*, *project owners* as well as for *certification bodies*.

Labelling
Here, it is explained under which conditions the CO_2-buyer will be able to use the 'CO2code.info' label to promote his climate-neutral products or services **and** how the *project developer* or *owner* can use the CFS label for advertising the quality of his Climate Forest Project.

1. Participants

Technical Board

The *technical board* of CarbonFix maintains the quality of the Standard, validates *projects*, manages the *accreditation* process of *certification bodies*, conducts regular sample *project* inspections and administrates the issuance of *VER$_{futures}$*.

The *technical board* is a body of the association CarbonFix which consists of experts from the fields of forestry, environmental protection, climate and development cooperation.

Certification Body

A *certification body* conducts the *certification* of a *project* according to the criteria of the CarbonFix Standard.

Certification bodies cannot certify own *projects*.

Project Developer

A *project developer* can be any legal person (company, institution, association, government, etc.) or individual intending to certify his *project* according to CFS.

The intention is expressed by the creation of a tree-planters account.
See www.CarbonFix.info/Tree-planter

Project Owner

A *project owner* is a *project developer* with a successfully validated project.

The *project owner* bears the liability and responsibility towards the *CO_2-buyer* and CarbonFix.

CO_2-Buyer

A *CO_2-buyer* can be any legal person (company, institution, association) or individual which purchases *VER$_{futures}$*.

2. Certificates

CO_2-rights

The *CO_2-rights* are land-use rights and generally attached to the ownership of the land.
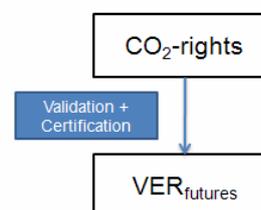
VER$_{futures}$

Verified Emission Reduction futures (*VER$_{futures}$*) are CO_2-certificates generated by CFS certified projects.

VER$_{futures}$ have the unit of 1 metric ton CO_2-equivalent (abbreviated: tCO_2)

The sale of *VER$_{futures}$* does not include any other land-use rights, such as timber, soil or non-wood forest products.

Projects of the CFS are designed to create a sustainable carbon stock. Therefore, *VER$_{futures}$* are valid perpetually.

CO_2-certificates

CO_2-certificates is an umbrella term for all different types of certified *CO_2-rights*, such as *VER$_{futures}$*, VERs, CERs, tCERs, etc.

3. Project Stakeholders

Project Owner

See chapter '1. Participants'.

Management

Individuals employed or contracted by the *project owner*. They coordinate and control the *project* activities.
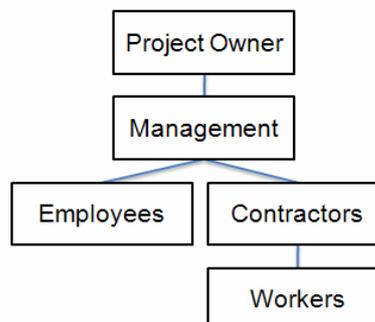
Employees

Individuals employed by the *project owner*. They execute work instructed by the *management* staff.

Contractors

Legal persons or individuals who signed working contracts with the *project owner*.

Workers

Individuals working and paid by a contractor.

Neighbours

People who are influenced by *project* activities or live within vicinity around the *project area* (or parts of the *project area*, in case it is divided).

- Vicinity = Zone of 1km,
  in case a *project* or part of the *project area* is smaller than 1,000 ha
- Vicinity = Zone of 2.5km,
  in case a *project* or part of the *project area* is between 1,000 and 5,000 ha
- Vicinity = Zone of 5km,
  in case a *project* or part of the *project area* is larger than 5,000 ha
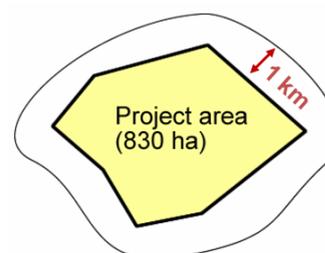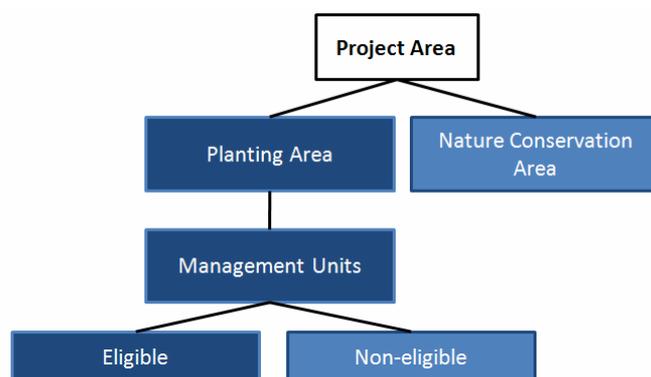
4. Definition of a Project

A *project* must consist of *planting areas* with similar socioeconomic and ecological attributes and similar impacts[*] from the *project* activities.

The size of a *project* is defined with the *project's certification*.

The *project* start is defined as the month and year when the planting of the first trees is taking place. In case the *project* protects natural regeneration of forest, it is defined as the month and year when the protection management starts.

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[*] The **impact** is judged by the *certification body*, and in case of dispute by the *technical board*.

5. Types of Areas

Project Area

      The *project area* includes the total area of a *project* which is managed by the *project owner*. A *project area* does not have to be one continuous area. It can also consist of several areas.

Nature Conservation Area

      At least 10% of the *project area* must be managed as *nature conservation area* and serve the ecological protection of fauna and flora.

> *Due to the fact that a project must consist of areas with similar socioeconomic and ecological attributes, the nature conservation(s) area shall preferably border the planting area(s) of the project.*

Planting Area

      The *planting area* is the partition of the *project area* where tree planting activities or natural regeneration takes place.
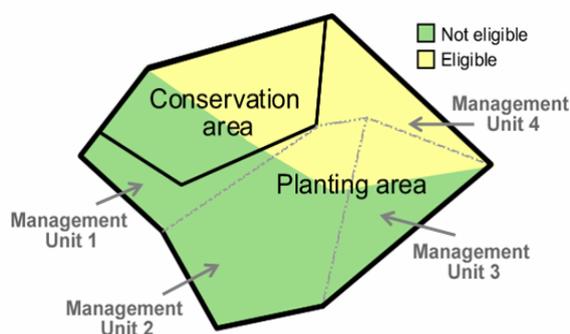
Planting Area (eligible)

      Eligible planting areas are surfaces of *planting areas* which are eligible according to the CFS criteria.

      These represent the sum of all *eligible areas* of the *management units*.

Planting Area (non-eligible)

      Opposite the *eligible planting area*.

> *Example:*
> *Part of the project area has been deforested 8 years before the project start. Therefore, this land is not eligible to generate VER$_{futures}$ (see chapter 'Eligibility'). Still, trees can be planted on this site.*

Management Unit

      A *management unit* is a distinct part of the *planting area* with homogeneous characteristics (see chapter 'Forest Management').

Management Unit (eligible area)

      See *eligible planting area*, but for the *management unit*.

Management Unit (non-eligible area)

      Opposite to *eligible area* of the *management unit*.

Icons of the Project Owner

The following icons give guidance to the *project developer* how to submit his *project* information.

⬆ **Upload document**

> This icon indicates that a document must be uploaded in the field foreseen within the login area.
>
> The documents must use the prepared 'templates'. These can be accessed within the login area. Documents must be uploaded in PDF format and be written in English.
>
> References must be collected in a ZIP folder and uploaded as an attachment of the document. References in languages other than English, Spanish, French and German have to be translated.

⬅ **Upload document (not published)**

> These documents or attachments must be submitted in the same way, but will not be made publicly available.

Some icons are followed by a grey writing (Example: ^{GUIDELINE: IUCNcategories}). This indicates that a 'guideline' exists for this criterion. These guidelines are part of the Standard.

The following icons give guidance to the *project owner* how to present the necessary *project* information.

✅ **Signed document**

> This icon indicates that the information must be supplied by a document which gives evidence to its authenticity by one or several signatures from third parties.
>
> Contact details (name, email and phone) of the signatory(ies) must be within the signed document or attached separately.
>
> Documents in languages other than English, Spanish, French and German have to be translated.

🖥 **Website**

> This icon indicates that information must be tagged or typed in the foreseen fields within the login area.

📎 **Description**

> This icon indicates that the *project owner* must give evidence by describing the information. A description can include pictures, tables and other means that contribute to better transparency.
>
> All green icons are followed by one or several icons which indicate the tool of assessment used by the *certification body* during its *certification*.

7. Icons of the Certification Body

The following icons guide the *certification body* with which tools to assess different *project* information.

Field check (sample)
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the information by sample field visit(s).

Field check (completely)
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the complete information by field visit(s).

Literature check (sample)
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the information by cross-checking literature samples.

Literature check (completely)
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the complete information by cross-checking the literature.

Document check
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the complete document by a desk review.

Interviews
> This icon indicates the *certification body* to assess the information by interviews.
>
> If translators are needed, people who are trustworthy and familiar with forest specific vocabulary shall be used. Official translators are not required.

8. Others

Form Factor

> The *form factor* of a tree represents the fraction of trees volume to the volume of a cylinder with the same diameter at breast height (1.3 m above ground).
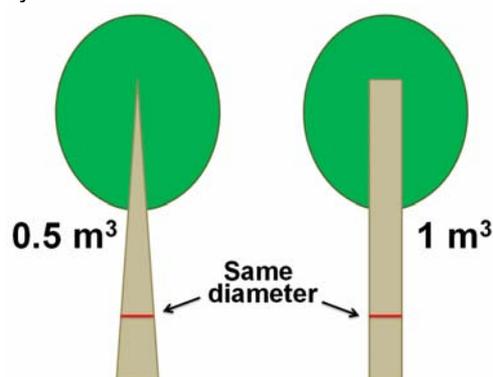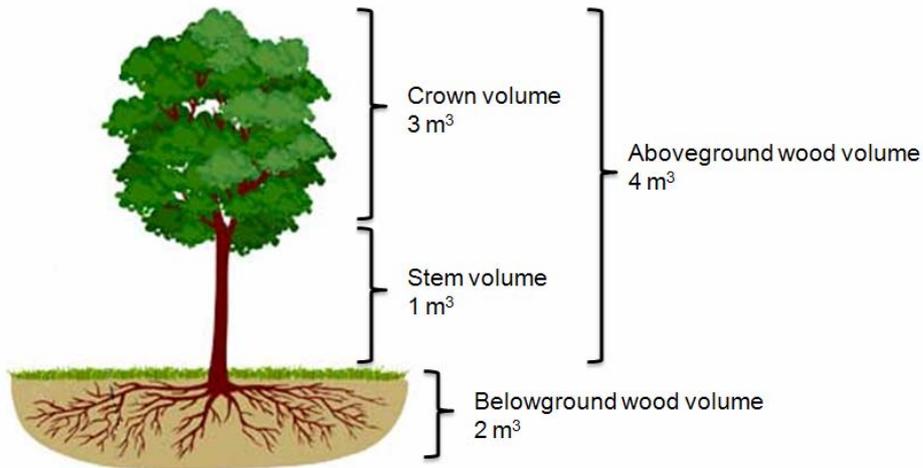

Form factor	= Tree volume	/ Cylinder volume
	= 0.5	/ 1
	= 0.5	

Biomass Expansion Factor (BEF) and Root-to-Shoot ratio

The following graph shows how the *BEF* and *Root-to-Shoot* ratio are determined by the ratio of different parts of the tree.
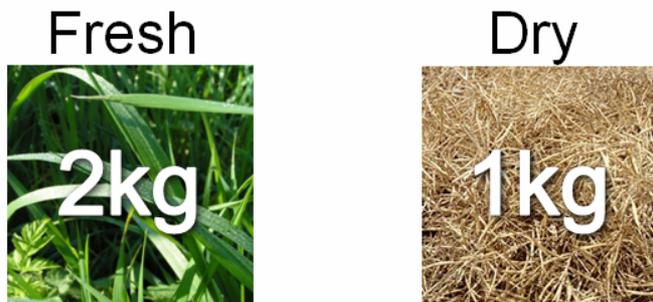

Biomass Expansion Factor	= Aboveground wood volume / Stem volume
	= 4 / 1
	= 4
Root-to-Shoot ratio	= Belowground wood volume / Aboveground wood volume
	= 2 / 4
	= 0.5

Wet-to-Dry ratio

The quotient between fresh and dried non-woody biomass determines the *Wet-to-Dry ratio*.

Wet-to-Dry ratio	= Dry non-woody biomass / Wet non-woody biomass
	= 1 / 2
	= 0.5

Legal Notice

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Furthermore, CarbonFix is not responsible for any actions or omissions of *project developers, project owners*, *CO$_2$-buyers* or *certification bodies*.

Disputes

The German Law is applicable for any legal disputes with the association CarbonFix. The place of jurisdiction is Staufen, Germany. (Registrar of Association: Amtsgericht Staufen No. VR 429)

CarbonFix is not responsible for legal disputes amongst *project developers, project owners*, *CO$_2$-buyers* or *certification bodies*.

Potential conflicts between international or domestic laws and the CarbonFix Standard will be evaluated by the *technical board*.