

Peatlands for the future – the Polish carbon scheme principles

The project must meet the following criteria:

1. Measurability

Reliable and scientifically recognised methods for the GHG emissions estimation and/or measurement shall be used to calculate GHG emission reductions, taking into account the uncertainty ranges of the estimates. Emission reductions must be presented in a transparent and verifiable manner in accordance with the chosen methodology.

2. Verifiability

The project shall be validated by the certification body against the requirements of the scheme. In particular, it shall be verified that the calculations of the projected GHG emission reductions comply with the indicated method and are correct.

The project should be regularly monitored by the operator and the correctness of the baseline and project scenarios as well as achieved reductions shall be periodically verified by the certification body in accordance with the scheme rules.

3. Transparency and credibility

Certified reductions originate directly from specific projects and correspond to the GHG emission reductions achieved due to their implementation.

A publicly accessible central registry of projects and certified reductions is maintained up-to-date by the scheme owner.



4. Conservative approach

The project documentation is based on a conservative approach to calculations. This means that emissions in the baseline scenario should be underestimated and in the project scenario overestimated. As a result, the predicted and verified emission reductions are deliberately underestimated.

In addition, only 70% of the projected emission reductions are allocated for sale in case any unforeseen deviations occur during the project implementation.

5. Permanence

The operator shall guarantee project's permanence for a period at least equal to the duration of the project. Measures ensuring project's permanence (e.g. long-term lease agreement) shall be described in the project documentation.

6. Additionality

Certified reductions must be additional, i.e. they would not have been achieved without the project. The operator must demonstrate that all of the following conditions are met:

- a) implementation of the baseline scenario would result in higher GHG emissions than in the project scenario;
- b) there is no obligation to carry out and maintain rewetting of the peatland in the project area;
- c) implementation of the project would not be financially possible without the sales of certified emission reductions.

The obligation to carry out and maintain peatland rewetting is considered as a requirement imposed on the landowner or operator by:

- a) a legal provision from which it is unequivocally clear that the obligation is incumbent upon the landowner or operator;
- b) a contractual obligation;
- c) an obligation imposed by an administrative decision or a state of facts giving rise to the probability that an administrative decision will be issued;
- d) a condition of an administrative decision (e.g. a nature compensation requirement).

If none of the above apply, projects constituting implementation and instancing of state obligations, as well as implementation of public programmes and plans, including plans established as legal acts (e.g. protection plans for forms of nature protection), are considered additional.

7. Sustainability

In addition to GHG emission reductions, peatland restoration also has a positive impact on other ecosystem services, such as water retention and purification or microclimate regulation. However, the positive influence of a project on the climate must not be at the cost of biodiversity, in particular protected and endangered species and natural habitats in the area.

The operator should identify possible negative socio-economic impacts of the project on the local community and make every effort to avoid them or, if this is not possible, mitigate and/or compensate them adequately. Where possible, the local community should be involved in the planning and implementation of the project.

Land use plans for certified project areas may include paludiculture, tourism and recreation.