

Terminology, acronyms and abbreviations

Terminology

Term	Definition / usage in the Toolkit
Article 6	Article 6 of the Paris Agreement establishes the framework that allows countries to cooperate voluntarily in achieving their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through market-based and non-market approaches. It provides the legal basis for international carbon markets, ensuring that cooperation leads to higher climate ambition, environmental integrity, and no double counting of emission reductions or removals.
Carbon dioxide removals (CDR)	Refers to measurable and verified processes that capture CO ₂ directly from the atmosphere and store it durably in biological, geological, or mineral reservoirs, reducing the concentration of greenhouse gases in the air. Examples: reforestation, soil carbon sequestration, biochar, bioenergy with carbon capture and storage (BECCS), and direct air capture (DAC).
Emission reductions (ER)	Refers to measurable and verified reductions of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions compared to a defined baseline and expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Emission reductions and removals (ERR)	Refers to measurable and verified reduction and/or removal of GHG emissions from the atmosphere relative to a defined baseline expressed in tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e).
Independent REDD+ projects	Refers to stand-alone, site-specific initiatives, usually led by private developers, Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) or communities, that operate outside national or jurisdictional REDD+ programmes.
Integrity	In this Toolkit, carbon integrity is used instead of the more widely used term environmental integrity to clearly distinguish it from social and environmental integrity. Carbon integrity refers to the technical robustness of emission reductions and removals—ensuring they are real, measurable, additional, permanent and not double counted—while social and environmental integrity focuses on safeguards, human rights, gender equality, grievance mechanisms, benefit-sharing and contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).



Jurisdictional REDD+ (J-REDD+) programmes	Large-scale, government-led initiatives designed to reduce emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, conserve and enhance forest carbon stocks, and promote sustainable forest management across an entire political jurisdiction—such as a state, province or nation—rather than at the individual project level.
Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC)	Refers to national climate action plans that each Party to the Paris Agreement submits to outline its targets, policies and measures for reducing GHG emissions and adapting to climate impacts.
Projects / programmes	“Projects” used throughout the Toolkit refers broadly to both project- and programme-level activities, depending on context.
REDD+	Stands for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the + refers to conservation of forest carbon stocks, sustainable management of forests, and enhancement of forest carbon stocks in developing countries. It refers to the framework under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) that provides financial and technical incentives for countries and subnational jurisdictions for measurable and verified reductions in forest-related emissions or increases in carbon storage compared to a baseline scenario.

Acronyms and abbreviations

ACR	American Carbon Registry
AEF	Agreed Electronic Format
AF	Assessment Framework
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use
ART-TREES	Architecture for REDD+ Transactions - The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard
AWD	Alternate wetting and drying
BECCS	bioenergy with carbon capture and storage
BTR	Biennial Transparency Report
BVCM	Beyond Value Chain Mitigation
CA	corresponding adjustment
CAR	Climate Action Reserve



CARP	Centralized accounting and reporting platform
CCB	Climate, Community and Biodiversity
CCP	Core Carbon Principles
CCQI	Carbon Credit Quality Initiative
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CDR	carbon dioxide removal
CER	certified emission reduction
CH₄	methane
CHP	combined heat and power
CORISA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
CP4D	Carbon Payments for Development
CSR	Corporate Social Responsibility
CTF	Common Tabular Format
DAC	direct air capture
DNA	Designated National Authority
ER	Emission Reductions
ERR	Emission Reductions and removals
ESCO	Energy Service Company
ESIA	environmental and social impact assessments
ETF	Enhanced Transparency Framework
ETS	Emission Trading Scheme
FPIC	Free, Prior and Informed Consent
GBV	gender-based violence
GHG	greenhouse gas
GS	global stocktake
ICP	Independent Crediting Programme
IC-VCM	Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets
IHRL	International Human Rights Law
IP	Indigenous Peoples
IPP	Indigenous Peoples' plan
ITMO	Internationally Transferrable Mitigation Outcome
JCM	Joint Crediting Mechanism
LoA	Letters of Authorization



LDC	least developed country
LT-LEDS	Long-Term Low-Emission Development Strategy
MCU	Mitigation Contribution Unit
MDB	multilateral development bank
MO	Mitigation Outcome
MRV	Measurement, Reporting and Verification
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NGO	non-governmental organization
NIR	National GHG Inventory Report
OIMP	Other International Mitigation Purposes
OMGE	Overall Mitigation in Global Emissions
PACM	Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism
PDD	Project Design Document
QA/QC	quality assurance / quality control
REDD+	Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation
RGGI	Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
SBM	Supervisory Body of the Mechanism
SBT	Science-based Targets
SBTi	Science-based Target initiative
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SD VSta	Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
TER	Technical Expert Review
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCM	Voluntary Carbon Markets
VCMi	Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative
VCS	Verified Carbon Standards (now Verra)
VER	Verified Emissions Reduction
VVB	Validation and Verification Body