



VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION CLIMATE SERVICES

- Clean Development Mechanism CDM
- Joint Implementation JI
- ISO 14064-1 and -2
- Organisational CO₂ neutrality
- Swiss Climate CO_{2e} label
- Climate neutral printing
- Swiss Carbon Offset Projects
- Other recognized standards, e.g. GHG Protocol



BACKGROUND

Why validation, verification, certification?

The effects of global warming – with an increase in the magnitude and frequency of extreme weather events – are measurable. To a large extent the result of emission intensive anthropogenic activities, climate change increasingly threatens our way of living and our economic output. The Kyoto Protocol of the United Nations aims at mitigating climate change in restricting volumes of greenhouse gases emitted and allocating fixed emissions allowances to industrialised countries. The flexible mechanisms specified in the Kyoto Protocol provide a facility to charge to one's account emissions reductions from projects run abroad – Clean Development Mechanism CDM and Joint Implementation JI – and CO₂ certificates purchased from international emissions trading schemes. In addition to CDM and JI, a variety of climate products have been developed which set the criteria for voluntary emission reduction projects and the requirements for greenhouse gas monitoring. Emission reduction projects have to be validated and verified as to have their emission reductions recognized.

OBJECTIVES

What do we aim at?

Ji and CDM projects are assessed against the international requirements of the UN Framework Conditions on Climate Change Secretariat, UNFCCC, or the stricter criteria of the Gold Standard.

- Validation: Control of the project documentation
- Verification: Control of the monitoring report
- Certification: Control of the calculated emissions reductions

Specific requirements apply for other climate products.

TARGET GROUPS

Who do we address?

- Investors who intend to run an emission reduction project in accordance with specified procedures.
- Organisations which want their greenhouse gas inventories or carbon services third party verified.
- Other actors interested in having their emission reduction activities recognized.

PROCEDURE

What does it involve?

As a precondition to running a CDM or JI project, investor and host country have to fulfil certain participation criteria, such as e.g. to establish a computerized national register for the inventory of greenhouse gas emissions. The compliance of a project activity with specific criteria e.g. in the sphere of sustainable development, transparency and technological transfer has to be ensured. Thus the development and documentation of the CDM or JI project represent the chief task in the preparation phase. After validation of the project documentation the implementation phase can start. Verification activities take place in regular intervals during project implementation. CDM projects require an additional control step which consists of the certification of calculated emissions reductions. Specific requirements apply for other climate products in the voluntary market.

QUALITY CRITERIA

What are the requirements?

The validation of CDM or JI projects bases itself on the project design, the project baseline, the monitoring plan, the environmental compatibility and an analysis of the stakeholder process. During verification the project implementation, measuring equipment and methods, data, archiving of data as well as the calculation of emissions reductions are reviewed. Validation and verification templates in form of protocols, reports and checklists are used.

The validation and verification of other climate products is made according to the specific requirements.

CERTIFICATE/RECOGNITION

What are the frame conditions?

The validation and verification of CDM and JI projects have to be performed by UNFCCC accredited bodies. Specific requirements apply for other climate products.

PROFILE

Who is SQS?

The Swiss Association for Quality and Management Systems

- is an independent non-profit organisation,
- is accredited as a certification body by the SAS (Swiss Accreditation Service),
- is currently being accredited by the UNFCCC for the evaluation of CDM and JI projects. Current status: CDM accredited; JI indicative letter received,
- provides various other climate and environmental services,
- works with qualified and fully employed auditors with experience in the relevant sectors.

INFORMATION/REGISTRATION

I would like to know more!

Our Climate and Sustainability Service will gladly provide you with additional information. Please also visit our website at www.sqs.ch

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