

Standards, Criteria, Indicators, Nexus and Integrated Approach

Given that part of the objectives of the conference are:

- Empower and support African universities, local and international student teams and local NGOs to carry out sustainable, integrated climate protection and development projects with local communities and to finance them as compensation projects.
- Establish Greening Africa Together CO2 Compensation Certification (GATo CCC)
- Present and discuss the actual concept of GATo CO2 compensation certification
- Develop Africa based standards for African CO2 compensation projects other than relying on standards developed from outside the continent
- Develop standards, criteria and indicators adapted to small scale projects
- Determine how the choice of the indicators influences project success

One of the major challenges of the future is mitigating the negative effects of climate change, particularly those associated with greenhouses emissions that cause global warming. These greenhouse gas emissions are strongly linked to the energy production and landuse to fulfil needs in a NEXUS environment. NEXUS framework takes care of the intercorrelation between energy, water, climate, income generation, food security, forestry, landuse, education, health and gender equality. In recent times, tools are being developed to calculate and neutralize carbon footprints known as CO2 compensation certification systems that allow individuals and organizations to invest in environmental projects aimed at offsetting their carbon footprint.

So far, most of the standards and indicators for developing such VER (verified emission reduction) are developed from the global North so they do not ensure their universal validity. This raises the need to develop tools adapted to the territory and optimized from and for Africa. This entails the development of own standards, criteria and indicators to establish a roadmap for the Greening Africa Together CO2compensation certification, which can be validated in an integral approach, integrating climate and sustainable development. The identification and validation of the standards and criteria will ensure the reproducibility of small-scale compensation projects. This certification will support and empower African universities and local NGOs by enabling the sustainable and integrated development of local communities through projects funded from their own CO2 compensation funds. These projects will successfully address the SDGs by promoting climate mitigation and adaptation.

They will at the same time contribute to African based scientific research in the field of integrating climate and SDGs in compensation schemes and foster young African researchers to share CO2 compensation vision.

Abstracts should address any of the following issues that are pertinent to the development of standards and indicators for an African based CO2 compensation integral scheme.

We invite contributions in the following topics:

- Standards, criteria, and indicators for African based CO2 compensation schemes;
 - Criteria for assessing and indicators for quantifying greenhouse gas emissions for CO2 compensation,

- Methodological approach using NEXUS framework for compensation schemes
- Pilot project and case studies for the identification and evaluation of criteria and indicators
- The influence of the choice of indicators for project success/sustainability
- Role of local communities and other actors (student team, local NGOs and other stakeholders) in the development and monitoring of optimal sets of criteria and indicators

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