

CCC+ Standard

**Certified Carbon Calculation +
CCC+ (V3-0) EN**



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Foreword

CERTIS: Tradition and Innovation at the Service of Quality

Founded on 16 November 1998, CERTIS has a rich and remarkable history, standing out on the national and international scene as a benchmark in certification and training. Since its inception, CERTIS has embraced both tradition and innovation, based on solid values and a futuristic vision that allows it to be at the forefront of the sector.

CERTIS began its trajectory with a culture of excellence, focussed on offering integrated and innovative solutions to contemporary challenges. Over the years, it has established itself as a benchmark certification body, standing out for the credibility and rigour of its services.

The company has progressively acquired prestigious accreditations, recognised by bodies such as the Portuguese Accreditation Institute (IPAC) and other international organisations, which reinforces its leading position. These accreditations attest to CERTIS compliance with the most demanding quality standards and are a reflection of its commitment to continuous improvement and customer satisfaction.

CERTIS offers a wide range of certification services, covering various sectors such as quality or sustainability. These services are provided with a high degree of specialisation and are constantly updated to keep up with market trends and demands, highlighting its innovative side.

In addition to certification, CERTIS invests significantly in training, with the aim of equipping professionals and organisations for new challenges. CERTIS training programmes are highly qualified and geared towards developing skills that boost competitiveness and the sustainable development of companies.

CERTIS path has been characterised by constant adaptation and innovation. Incorporating the latest technologies, the company has implemented digital solutions that facilitate and streamline certification and training processes. This focus on technological innovation has allowed CERTIS to stay one step ahead, offering high-quality services with greater efficiency and effectiveness.

Since 2022, CERTIS has been part of the QIMA group, a world leader in quality control and certification services. This integration has brought significant value to CERTIS operations, allowing us to capitalise on QIMA's vast experience and global presence. Operating in more than 85 countries, QIMA offers integrated solutions

that guarantee the highest standards of compliance and quality, further strengthening our commitment to excellence and sustainability.

Today, CERTIS continues to be synonymous with trust, transformation and progress. With a highly qualified team and a strong commitment to its founding values, CERTIS is ready to face future challenges and continue its mission to promote quality and excellence in all sectors of the economy.

The Certified Carbon Calculation +, CCC+, was developed with the aim of enabling production units (forestry, agricultural and farming) to demonstrate the annual carbon balance of their on-farm activities. In the first phase, it arose from the need for primary producers to clearly demonstrate their contribution to carbon capture, particularly their agricultural activities (given the widespread misinformation in the media about livestock production, which only referred to emissions, considering them, regardless of whether they were extensive or intensive).

In the most recent phase, this arose from the need to achieve the goals set by the United Nations to mitigate climate change, because all stakeholders must be involved and integrated into mitigation and compensation systems. This framework was therefore developed based on national and international references.

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Objective

CCC+ is a certification developed by CERTIS with the aim of providing clients with information on their contribution to carbon neutrality and to national and international commitments to curb climate change. It has its own formula for calculating the annual carbon balance of production units, in accordance with the principles of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and the Portuguese Environment Agency (APA), among others. CERTIS provides indicators that allow them to optimise their economic and environmental sustainability, considering the actual results of the cultivation practices carried out the previous year.

The CCC+ considers all production units and their productive components, whether they are forestry, agricultural and/or livestock, thus enabling production units, even those without a forestry component, to also make their contribution to the national and global targets for combating climate change. It makes it possible to understand whether their annual balance is one of carbon sequestration or emission, by calculating greenhouse gas emissions.

This certification emphasises the producer's concern and contribution to the environmental results of the way he manages his production unit. This concern and contribution are the result of their endeavours to reduce emissions and increase carbon sequestration through changes in their production unit management decisions based on the principles of sustainability: social, environmental and economic. This also contributes individually to the carbon neutrality targets, as well as stimulating continuous improvement in the management of production units.

On the other hand, the CCC+ enables access to the sponsored carbon credit market as well as the voluntary carbon credit market, should producers so wish.

This standard is a dynamic document that can be updated and improved on an ongoing basis, making it possible to respond to the different needs of producers (activities, geographies, etc.) and on the other hand to the needs of the carbon market with its specificities. All interested parties will be able to make suggestions for updating the CCC+ standard, but the ultimate responsibility for publishing new versions lies solely with CERTIS. The sole owner of the benchmark.

Scope

This CCC+ standard has national and international scope and is applicable without prejudice to the various international, community and/or national provisions governing the health, safety and general regulatory compliance of the production unit.

Any production unit that applies for control of the CCC+ implicitly undertakes to comply with the legislation, directives and regulations applicable in its field of activity, which must be under the management of the same organisation.

The standard is **applicable** to:

- a) Any production unit, be it forestry, agriculture, livestock, farming, agroforestry, etc;
- b) Any geographical location on the globe, with the respective need to adapt the standard values used, depending on the specificities of the type of crop/species to the region/location in question (to be carried out by CERTIS);
- c) Scope 1- Direct emissions;
- d) Scope 2- Indirect Energy Emissions.

The standard is **NOT applicable** to:

- a) Any processing plant;
- b) Any hotel unit;
- c) Scope 3- Other Indirect Emissions

References

The references presented below are relevant to the application of this reference.

Reference	Title
Aquatic Ecoregions (Nature Conservancy and WWF)	Abell, R., et al. (2008). Freshwater Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Biogeographic Units for Freshwater Biodiversity Conservation. BioScience, 58(5), 403-414.
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Bio Suisse	Bio Suisse. (2020). Bio Suisse Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of "Bud" Products. Basel: Bio Suisse.
	Bio Suisse. (2022). Bio Suisse Standards for the Production, Processing and Trade of "Bud" Products. Basel: Bio Suisse.
Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD)	Convention on Biological Diversity (1992). Text of the Convention on Biological Diversity. Montreal: Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
Decree-Law no. 4/2024, of 5th January	Institution of the voluntary carbon market and establishes the rules for its operation.
Ecoregions of the World (World Wildlife Fund - WWF)	Olson, D. M., et al. (2001). Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World: A New Map of Life on Earth. BioScience, 51(11), 933-938.
Forest Stewardship Council (FSC)	Forest Stewardship Council. (2015). FSC Principles and Criteria for Forest Stewardship. FSC-STD-01-001 V5-2 EN.

Global Biodiversity Outlook (GBO)	Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity (2020). Global Biodiversity Outlook 5. Montreal: SCDB.
Greenhouse Gas Protocol (GHG Protocol)	GHG Guidance
Guide to Sustainable Development	17 Goals to Change our World
Integrated Production Mode (PRODI)	Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (2012). National Reference for Integrated Production. Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development (DGADR) (2022). National Reference for Integrated Production.
Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)	IPCC. (2018). Global Warming of 1.5°C. An IPCC Special Report on the Impacts of Global Warming of 1.5°C above Pre-Industrial Levels and Related Global Greenhouse Gas Emission Pathways, in the Context of Strengthening the Global Response to the Threat of Climate Change, Sustainable Development, and Efforts to Eradicate Poverty. Geneva: World Meteorological Organization. IPCC. (2019). Refinement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories.
International Labour Organisation (ILO)	ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998)
Millennium Ecosystem Assessment	Millennium Ecosystem Assessment. (2005). Ecosystems and Human Well-being: Biodiversity Synthesis. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute.
National Sustainability Certification Framework for the Wine Sector (RNCSSV)	Institute of Vine and Wine, I.P. (2020). National Sustainability Certification Framework for the Wine Sector (RNCSSV). Lisbon: IVV.
Organic farming	European Commission. (2007). Council Regulation (EC) No 834/2007 of 28 June 2007 on organic production and labelling of organic products and repealing Regulation

	(EEC) No 2092/91. Official Journal of the European Union, L189, pp. 1-23.
Portuguese Environment Agency (APA)	Portuguese Environment Agency (2021). State of the Environment Report 2020. Lisbon: APA. Portuguese Environment Agency (2021). National Inventory of Air Pollutant Emissions 1990-2019.
Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification (PEFC)	PEFC Council. (2010). Sustainable Forest Management – Requirements. PEFC ST 1003:2010.
Technical Specification for the Certification of Sustainable Production of Alentejo Wines (ET-PSVA)	Alentejo Regional Wine Commission. (2015). Technical Specification for the Certification of Sustainable Production of Alentejo Wines (ET-PSVA). Évora: CVRA.
The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (ICVCM)	The Fundamental Principles of Carbon

Terms e Definitions

Additionality - Principle according to which greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or carbon removals are only considered additional if they are greater than the level of reductions or removals that would have occurred in the absence of the specific project, intervention or activity. Additionality is therefore a measure of the effectiveness of the project in generating climate benefits that would not have occurred otherwise.

Audit - A systematic, independent and documented process for objectively obtaining and evaluating evidence to determine whether the unit in question (e.g. production unit) complies with the audit criteria of the CCC+ Benchmark established for the unit.

Biodiversity - The diversity of life forms existing in a given ecosystem, region or the entire planet, which includes genetic variability within populations and between different species, as well as the diversity of the ecosystems in which these species are found. Biodiversity encompasses all forms of life, from micro-organisms to large animals, and is fundamental to the balance and resilience of ecosystems, providing essential services such as pollination, climate regulation and maintaining soil and water quality.

Carbon credit - Unit emitted for each tonne of CO₂ reduced/sequestered by a production unit.

Certification - An act by which an independent third party affirms that it can reasonably be expected that a product or service, duly identified, conforms to the specified Benchmark.

Conservation zones and protected areas - Geographical areas specifically designated and managed with the aim of conserving biodiversity, protecting natural and cultural ecosystems and maintaining essential ecosystem services.

Credibility - An essential attribute of a certification process which ensures that all assessments, audits and decisions are reliable, impartial and based on objective and rigorous criteria. Credibility implies that the certifying body upholds high standards of technical competence, transparency and integrity, guaranteeing that the certificates issued are valid, recognised and trustworthy.

Documentary Audit - This type of audit focuses on reviewing the organisation's documents and records to verify compliance with rules and regulations and the accuracy of the information reported. Examples of Documents: Inventories, annual

production reports, energy and fuel consumption records, invoices, etc. These can be done remotely, at a lower cost and with less disruption to daily operations.

Ecoregions - relatively large geographical units characterised by a homogeneous ecological composition and structure in terms of flora, fauna and environmental conditions. Each ecoregion has a specific set of natural habitats, biological communities and ecological phenomena, differentiating it from the surrounding regions.

Follow-up Audit - A systematic, independent and documented examination of processes and documentation, carried out periodically after the initial audit, with the aim of ensuring continued compliance with the requirements established by the certification system and identifying any needs for improvement.

Greenhouse gases (GHG) - Gaseous constituents of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, which absorb and emit radiation at specific wavelengths within the infrared radiation spectrum emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds. This property of absorbing and emitting radiation is what causes the greenhouse effect, contributing to global warming and climate change.

Impartiality - The absence of conflicts of interest and the maintenance of a neutral attitude, so that conclusions and results are based exclusively on objective evidence and established criteria. This guarantees the integrity, reliability and acceptance of the certifications issued.

Influence of Animals on the Carbon Cycle - The process by which animals, through their biological, behavioural and ecological activities, indirectly affect the flow and distribution of carbon in ecosystems. It occurs through various interactions in the animal-soil relationship.

May- is used to indicate a possibility or permission, without implying obligation or restriction. The term is often used to allow people to choose, among various options or courses of action, those they consider most appropriate.

Mixed (Hybrid) Auditing - Combining documentary, on-site and remote audits for a more complete and robust approach.

Must- is used to indicate an obligation or mandatory requirement. When a requirement states that something 'must' be done, it means that it is imperative that the action, condition or procedure in question be fulfilled or carried out, with no flexibility or room for choice. Failure to fulfil a requirement marked 'must' usually results in non-conformity with the benchmark.

Natural Carbon Sequestration - The process by which living organisms, such as trees and other plants, remove carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere and store it in the biomass (trunk, branches, leaves and roots) through photosynthesis.

On-site audits - Audits carried out in person on the organisation's premises or at the project site for visual inspection and direct verification of practices and operations. The process includes interviews with employees and other stakeholders, inspection of equipment, observation of operating procedures and direct measurement of emissions or processes.

Production Unit- Physical space geographically delimited by the boundaries of ownership and type of management.

Record- A document that expresses the results obtained or provides evidence of the activities carried out.

Remote Sensing Audit - Use of advanced technologies to monitor and evaluate operations and practices from a distance, such as drones, remote sensors, satellites and geographic information systems (GIS).

Scope 1- Direct, own greenhouse gas emissions from production unit sources.

Scope 2- Indirect own and non-own greenhouse gas emissions that are generated outside the boundaries of the production unit

Scope 3 - Indirect, non-owned greenhouse gas emissions from the useful life of products, which do not come from sources in the production unit and are not controlled by it.

Should- is used to indicate a recommendation or good practice that is advisable but not mandatory. The term implies that following the suggested action or condition is beneficial and desirable, but not imperative. In this way, 'should' establishes a clear guideline as to what is considered appropriate or preferable but allows a margin of flexibility and judgement on the part of the normative subjects.

Stakeholders - refer to all individuals, groups or organisations that have a direct or indirect interest in the execution, results or impacts of a project or activity. They can influence or be influenced by the actions, objectives and policies of the organisation involved. Stakeholders are crucial in the decision-making process and in project management, ensuring transparency and accountability. Common Types of Stakeholders: Internal (Employees, Managers, Owners) and External (Clients, Local Community, Suppliers, Government and Regulators, Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Interest Groups and Investors and Financial Partners).

Sustainability - The ability to meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. This concept covers three fundamental pillars: environmental, economic and social. In the environmental sphere, responsible management of natural resources, preservation of biodiversity and minimisation of negative environmental impacts. In the economic context, it refers to development that promotes inclusive and efficient economic growth without depleting natural resources. In the social domain, sustainability seeks to promote equity, social justice and well-being for all communities.

Transparency - The quality or characteristic of being clear, open and easily accessible for verification of information, processes and decisions. It promotes accountability, trust and facilitates informed decision-making, ensuring that all actions and policies are carried out ethically and according to established standards.

Verification - Confirmation, through objective evidence, that the requirements for a specific use or application have been met.

Verified carbon credits- Carbon credits issued following an effective reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions or carbon sequestration by the project, duly verified by an independent, duly qualified verifier, in accordance with the criteria set out in this reference.

Abbreviations

APA	Portuguese Environment Agency
CCC+	Certified Carbon Calculation
CO₂	Carbon dioxide
FSC	<i>Forest Stewardship Council</i>
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisations
PEFC	<i>Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification</i>

Principles Considered

To realise this reference, the Fundamental Carbon Principles listed by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market were taken into consideration, which are as follows:

1. Effective Governance;
2. Monitoring;
3. Transparency;
4. Robust and independent third-party validation and verification;
5. Additionality;
6. Permanence;
7. Robust quantification of reductions and removals;
8. No double counting;
9. Sustainable development benefits and safeguards;
10. Contribution to zero net transition.

General Requirements

The CCC+ is intended to standardise the assessment and certification of agricultural, forestry and livestock production units in the context of carbon emissions and sequestration. This standard is a dynamic document that can be updated according to the needs of producers and carbon markets.

The organisation must operate a management system in accordance with the requirements of this standard, to ensure correct implementation and maintenance of the process(es).

The management system must be appropriate to the type (forestry, agricultural and/or livestock) and volume of work carried out and cover subcontracted activities relevant to the production unit.

1. Legal Requirements

The Organisation must be legally established, with a clear, documented and uncontested legal record, including written authorisations from the competent authorities for specific activities, as well as having legal rights to operate in the Production Unit. Demonstrating compliance with all applicable environmental, labour and economic legislation.

2. Environmental Requirements

The Organisation must define and implement measures, proportionate to the scale, intensity and risk of the activities and their negative impacts, to avoid and mitigate environmentally significant negative impacts resulting from management activities. If requested by interested parties, these measures are communicated to neighbours and owners with adjacent areas.

2.1. Additionality

The Organisation should promote additionality in its production unit, through measures that add value to the 'scenario' it was previously in, with sustainable practices that result in increased biodiversity, reduced emissions and additional carbon sequestration.

2.2. Biodiverse grasslands

The Organisation may implement biodiverse grasslands on the production unit as a way of improving the soil and the surrounding environment.

2.3. Environmental values and impacts

The Organisation must consider the environmental measures taken in the management of the production unit, such as:

- a) Environmental awareness;
- b) Sustainable management of the production unit;
- c) Reducing waste production as much as possible;
- d) Disposing of waste produced correctly;
- e) Water Conservation - Efficient Water Management;
- f) Biodiversity Conservation - Protection of Natural Areas;
- g) Implementation of Ecological Corridors;

- h) Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions;
- i) Utilising Renewable Energies;
- j) Optimising machinery and equipment;
- k) Promoting Sustainable Agricultural Practices;
- l) Use of Natural Fertilisers and Pesticides;
- m) Environmental Monitoring and Audits;
- n) External Audits;
- o) Environmental Education and Training. Awareness and Technical Training Programmes;
- p) Chemical Product Management;
- q) Substitution of Dangerous Products;
- r) Noise and noise pollution management.

2.4. Conservation zones and protected areas

The Organisation must conserve the conservation zones and protected areas within the production unit, especially endemic/native species, threatened species and archaeological finds.

2.5. Biodiversity

The Organisation must promote the conservation and recovery of habitats, the increase of biodiversity in its production unit over the years of the project, as well as the control of invasive species.

3. Social requirements

The Organisation must play a crucial role in promoting sustainable and responsible management of agricultural, forestry and livestock production units. These requirements ensure that operations not only benefit the environment and the economy, but also contribute positively to the well-being of local communities and interest groups.

3.1. Workers' rights

The Organisation defends the principles and rights at work defined in the International Labour Organisation's Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (1998). These categories are:

- a) Freedom of association and effective recognition of the right to collective bargaining;
- b) Elimination of forced or compulsory labour;
- c) Effective elimination of child labour;
- d) Elimination of discrimination in employment and occupation.

So, the Organisation must have formalised employment contracts, payment records, equality and non-discrimination policies, labour audit reports and periodic inspections.

3.2. Gender equality

The Organisation must promote equality in employment practices and conditions, training, contracting and management activities, if they are in compliance.

3.3. Working conditions - Protecting workers through health, safety and training practices

The Organisation must ensure that practices are appropriate to the scale, intensity and risk of the production unit.

- a) It must ensure that workers are trained and supervised to safely and effectively operate the activities in the Production Unit.
- b) It must promote a safe, healthy and dignified working environment, ensuring that all facilities and labour practices comply with health and safety standards. This includes access to personal protective equipment (PPE) and accident prevention measures.

The Organisation must have a record of safety inspection reports, accident and incident records, health and safety training programmes and emergency plans.

3.4. Community relations

The Organisation must demonstrate transparent interaction with local stakeholders. It must identify, prevent and resolve problems about property ownership or customary rights that can be agreed out of court in a timely manner by engaging with affected stakeholders. Records should be kept of community meetings, community development programmes, social impact reports and community action plans.

Each project should have a list of interested parties, which should include the name, contact person and means of contact, preferably email and mobile phone, the type of organisation (NGO, state body, company, trade union, etc.) and the field of interest (social, environmental, economic).

4. Economic requirements

The Organisation must ensure that the operations of the production units are not only environmentally responsible and socially just, but also economically sustainable in the long term.

Financial Sustainability: Ensures that the production unit operates profitably and sustainably over time, allowing for continuous investment in sustainable practices and innovative technologies.

Transparency and Compliance: Promotes transparency in financial operations and ensures compliance with legal and tax regulations, reducing the risk of non-compliance and government audits.

Economic Resilience: Improves the resilience of the production unit in the face of possible economic crises, guaranteeing its continuity and long-term success.

4.1. Long-term commitment

The Organisation must manage the production unit in such a way as to maintain its sustainable economic viability in the long term, adding social and environmental values wherever possible. It must present and develop long-term business plans that consider the financial sustainability and economic resilience of the production unit.

4.2. Input invoicing

The Organisation must keep records of all inputs entering the Production Unit, guaranteeing transparency and traceability, documenting in detail all expenses and raw material inputs, including invoices, receipts and delivery notes.

4.3. Output invoicing

The Organisation must keep a record of all outputs entering the Production Unit, ensuring that all products are accounted for in a transparent manner, documenting in detail all product sales and outputs, including invoices, receipts and exit notes.

4.4. Financial reports

The organisation must guarantee the integrity and transparency of the production unit's financial operations.

It must provide a document where it is possible to verify all the products that leave its production unit to prove whether there are sales of carbon credits so that there is no double counting of credits, thus maintaining the credibility and transparency of the project and certification process. Thus, you must submit annual financial reports, including Model 22, Simplified Business Information, as applicable.

5. Management System Requirements

5.1. Production unit document

The Organisation must keep all documents up to date and record any changes, periodically informing CERTIS of any changes that alter the scope of certification.

5.1.1. Farm identification document

The Organisation must keep the holding's identification document up to date.

5.1.2. Orthophotographic document of the plot (P3)

The Organisation must keep the parcel's orthophoto document up to date and notify the certification body of changes and updated documents.

The orthophotographic document must be supplied in pdf and shapefile format.

5.2. Production unit management planning

The Organisation must have a management plan for the entire production unit to plan all the activities to be carried out and plan ahead.

5.3. Soil analysis

The Organisation must carry out soil analyses of the production units every year to monitor the evolution of the soil's physical and chemical state (Annex IV).

5.4. Management activities

The Organisation must define and implement measures commensurate with the scale, intensity and risk of agricultural, livestock and forestry activities.

5.4.1. Implementation of management activities

The Organisation must implement all the activities in the production unit in a structured way, with a view to its economic and sustainable viability and the efficient use of natural resources.

5.4.2. Monitoring and evaluation

The organisation could have a technical expert in the production unit to help make the best decisions for the whole project.

5.5.Record of all activities

5.5.1. Field notebook

The Organisation must have a document recording all the operations carried out during the calendar year at the production unit.

5.5.2. Listing the animal component

The Organisation must provide an annual list of the number of animals present in the production unit, broken down by species, age and sex.

6. Logo usage requirements

If the Organisation wishes to use the logo to market the production unit's products, it must comply with the following points:

- a) After assessing the production unit and issuing a certificate, the carbon balance must be positive, i.e. there has been carbon sequestration;
- b) The logo may only be used in calendar years in which carbon sequestration occurs and in which the sum of the previous years' history shows carbon sequestration;
- c) Labelling must comply with national and EU legislation, as well as the product specification;
- d) The labelling must contain a sentence indicating that the product was produced in a production unit where carbon sequestration occurred in the year xxxx;
- e) The use of a logo requires approval from CERTIS.
- f) Graphic standards are set out in Annex I - Use of brand/logo – Rules.

7. Requirements for Commercialising Carbon Credits

- 1) The Organisation must keep an up-to-date record of all credit transactions carried out and notify CERTIS of all sales made, the minimum frequency of communication being monthly.
- 2) The record of the commercialisation of credits must be made in the form provided by CERTIS, which must include at least the following information:
 - a. Name and address of the buyer;
 - b. Date of sale;
 - c. Name or description of each type of credit commercialised;
 - d. Quantity of credits for each type;
 - e. Identification of Origin - Property/Management Unit/Production Unit;
 - f. Certificate code associated with the origin of the credits.
- 3) The Organisation must keep copies of invoices (or similar sales documents) for a minimum period of 10 years for all credits sold.
- 4) For the purposes of mitigating possible reversals, no more than 90 per cent of the credits obtained may be commercialised.
- 5) Each credit can only be marketed once, regardless of whether it has more than one classification, thus cancelling out Double Accounting.
- 6) Credits can have a composite classification to increase their value, for example credits classified as additionality and biodiversity.

8. Publication and Transparency

The Organisation authorises the certificates and their information to be made publicly available on the CERTIS website.

Any interested party can contact CERTIS directly at certis@certis.pt.

Final considerations

This standard serves as a detailed guide for the certification and commercialisation of carbon credits, promoting sustainable agricultural, forestry and livestock practices that contribute to climate change mitigation. CERTIS is responsible for ensuring compliance with these principles and for updating the standard as necessary.



ANNEX I- Trademark/logo use - Rules

All the rules for using the logo are available at Simplified Graphic Standards Manual CCC+.

ANNEX II- Types of Carbon Credits

Type of Credit	Definition	Requirements
Additionality Credits	Credits that result exclusively from additionality. Evidence of what the baseline scenario would be is necessary for this consideration. Evidence of the implementation of practices and technologies that result in emissions reductions additional to those that would occur in a baseline scenario. The use of performance benchmarks and audit reports proving actual emission reductions is essential. This refers to the ability of a project to generate GHG reductions or removals that are greater than those that would have occurred if the project had not been implemented. The aim is to ensure that interventions contribute to climate change mitigation in a genuine way and are not just the result of activities that would have happened anyway.	→ Regulatory Surplus → Performance Benchmark → Investment Barrier → Common Practice
Good Management Credits	Evidence of sustainable management practices that contribute to carbon reduction and additional sequestration. This consists of improving the practices of existing projects. Implementation of sustainable management practices for forests and natural ecosystems that reduce the risk of degradation and maintain carbon stocks in the long term. They can be complementary to other certifications such as forest management with sustainable management principles and criteria (PEFC or FSC certification).	→ Implementation of Sustainable Practices → Soil Conservation and Improvement → Efficient Water Management → Reducing GHG Emissions → Protecting Biodiversity → Animal Welfare → Waste Management
Biodiversity Credits	Demonstration of measures to promote biological diversity in and around production units. Examples include native species conservation programmes and the implementation of ecological corridors. Initiatives that	→ Conservation and Recovery of Habitats → Protection of Threatened Species → Control of Invasive Species

	prevent the loss of habitats and guarantee the protection of species, which contributes to the stability of ecosystems and their capacity to store carbon.	→ Sustainable Management of Natural Resources → Community Involvement
Food Production Credits	The system reflects agricultural practices that contribute to carbon capture and promote sustainable food production. Initiatives such as regenerative agriculture and organic production can be highlighted. It can be associated with a labelling system that reflects agricultural practices that contribute to carbon capture, with these products being identified with the CCC+ label, thus promoting sustainable food production.	→ Implementing Sustainable Agricultural Practices → Efficient Use of Natural Resources → Sustainable Nutrient Management → Reducing Losses and Waste → Animal Welfare Practices → Biodiversity Conservation → Community Involvement and Social Responsibility
Carbon Protection Credits	They represent the reduction or removal of one tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO₂e) from the atmosphere, resulting from activities that prevent the emission of greenhouse gases (GHG) by protecting natural ecosystems. These credits are generally generated by initiatives that include: Avoiding Deforestation: Protecting existing forests to consequently prevent the release of carbon stored in the biomass and soil. Protecting Sensitive Ecosystems: Conserving areas such as mangroves, wetlands, peatlands and other ecosystems with large carbon reserves, known as 'blue carbon'.	→ Conservation and Recovery of Habitats → Protection of Threatened Species → Sustainable Management of Natural Resources → Control of Invasive Species → Community involvement

ANNEX III- Carbon Balance Calculation Formula

The CERTIS calculation formula was developed by a team of experts, translating experience in scientific research into the real needs of production units, respecting the principles of the IPCC and the APA.

The calendar year (1st January to 31st December) is used for the calculations. The formula includes:

- a) a) Specific data for each production unit relating to all inputs and outputs over a period of 1 year (January to December), considering all the carbon emission and sequestration values in all the production unit's crop operations throughout the year.
- b) b) Biomass value of the plant component - calculated by satellite (in cases where the plant component is higher than 1 metre from ground level) or values taken from scientific literature (verified and referring to each type of crop/species).
- c) c) Specific data from the documents provided to fulfil the above requirements.

ANNEX IV - Methodology for Soil Analyses

1. Soil Sampling

Sampling principles:

- Stratification: Divide the total area into homogeneous zones to ensure that the samples correctly represent the variability of the soil in the field.
- Sampling depth: Collect samples at a minimum depth of 30 cm, unless otherwise specified for certain studies.
- Georeferencing: Record the coordinates of the locations where the samples are taken.

After collecting the soil samples, a simple analysis (texture, pH, carbonates, organic matter, phosphorus, potassium) should be carried out in an accredited laboratory.

Soil analyses should be carried out every year.



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