



PV Climate Glossary

Version 1.4

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides a glossary of terms used in the Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) and supporting documents. Glossary terms used in PV Climate documents are capitalised and italicised. It is not necessary to follow this convention in documents submitted to Plan Vivo, but the use of defined terms must be consistent with this document.

1 Definitions

Achievement Reserve

fPVCs or rPVCs that are left unsold as insurance against non-achievement of expected *Carbon Benefits*.

Additionality

The benefits from a *Project Intervention* are considered to be additional if they would not be achieved in the absence of the *Project*.

Annual Report

Report submitted to Plan Vivo with details of project activities, finances and monitoring; and any changes to the *Project* design made during a specified *Reporting Period*.

Avoidable Loss

An actual or potential loss of verified *Carbon Benefits* or reduction in expected *Carbon Benefits* that is caused by activities that could have otherwise been avoided through appropriate implementation of the *Project*, such as improper management, or *Project Participants* leaving the *Project*.

Baseline Scenario

The most likely future scenario for land use and land or marine management in a *Project Area* in the absence of *Project Intervention(s)*.

Benefit Sharing Mechanism

A description of the allocation of income from the sale of *Plan Vivo Certificates* to the *Project Participants*, *Project Coordinator* and other parties.

Carbon Baseline

The change in carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions expected under the *Baseline Scenario*.

Carbon Benefit

Net-increase in carbon stocks and/or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to *the Carbon Baseline* as a result of a *Project Intervention*.

Carbon Indicator

Indicator used to monitor changes in carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions in *Project Areas* relative to the *Carbon Baseline*.

Carbon Pool

A system that has the capacity to store or release carbon, including above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, litter, dead wood, soil organic carbon and harvested wood products.

Certified

The status of a project that signifies its compliance with PV Climate. Can be used interchangeably with *Registered*.

Corresponding Adjustment

An adjustment made to a country's national greenhouse gas accounting to account for any transfer for emission reductions or removals achieved within the country to parties outside the country.

Crediting Period

The period for which the *Carbon Benefits* achieved or expected within a *Project Area* are eligible for issuance of *fPVCs*, *rPVCs* or *vPVCs*. The minimum period over which a *Project Participant* agrees to implement a *Project Intervention* with the support of the *Project Coordinator*, and over which *Carbon Benefits* will be monitored.

Degraded Ecosystem

An ecosystem that has experienced a long-term loss in its ability to provide essential ecological functions and services due to direct or indirect human activity

Double Counting

Use of a single greenhouse gas emission reduction or removal to demonstrate compliance with more than one mitigation target. This can result in Double Claiming – where more than one party claims the same *Carbon Benefit* to comply with their mitigation targets, or Double Issuance – where more than one emission reduction unit is registered for the same *Carbon Benefit* under different mechanisms.

Ecosystem Baseline

A description of ecological conditions in the *Project Region*, and how these are expected to change under the *Baseline Scenario*.

Ecosystem Benefit

Improvement of ecological conditions in the *Project Region* relative to the *Ecosystem Baseline* as a result of *Project* activities.

Ecosystem Indicator

Indicator used to monitor ecological conditions and threats in the *Project Region* relative to the *Ecosystem Baseline*.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)¹

FPIC is a principle protected by international human rights standards that state, 'all peoples have the right to self-determination' and – linked to the right to self-determination – 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'. FPIC is a specific right that pertains to indigenous peoples and is recognised in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which must also be upheld in Plan Vivo projects where applicable.

In Plan Vivo *Projects*, the term FPIC is used to describe the principles for the negotiation of conditions under which a *Project* is designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated:

- Free = consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.
- Prior = consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorisation or commencement of activities to allow time to understand, access, and analyse information on the proposed activity.
- Informed = information provided prior to seeking consent is accessible, objective, and complete.
- Consent = a collective decision ("Yes", "No", or "Yes with conditions") made by the rights-holders following their own timelines and decision-making processes with the option to reconsider if the proposed activities change or if new information relevant to the proposed activities emerges.

Future Risk Buffer

fPVCs or *rPVCs* that are left unsold to allow for future contributions to the *Risk Buffer*.

Grievance

¹ Adapted from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/publications/2016/10/free-prior-and-informed-consent-an-indigenous-peoples-right-and-a-good-practice-for-local-communities-fao/>

A grievance mechanism is a set of arrangements that enable *Project Participants* and *Local Stakeholders* to raise grievances with the *Project* and seek redress when they perceive a negative impact arising from the *Project's* activities. It is a key way to mitigate, manage, and resolve potential or realised negative impacts of the *Project*, as well as fulfil obligations under international human rights law and contribute to positive relations with communities and employees.

Independent Expert

An individual or a team of experts carrying out site visits as part of *Validation* and *Verification* processes.

Indigenous Peoples²

Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.

Land Management Plan

A description of the *Project Intervention(s)* to be implemented in the *Project Area(s)* managed by a *Project Participant*.

Leakage

A reduction in carbon stocks or increase in greenhouse gas emissions outside a *Project Area*, as a result of *Project* activities. Note that this definition excludes 'positive leakage'.

Leakage Discount

A reduction in *Plan Vivo Certificates* issued to provide insurance against the risk of *Leakage*.

Livelihood Baseline

A description of the livelihood status of potential *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* prior to the start of the *Project*, and how these are expected to change under the *Baseline Scenario*.

Livelihood Benefit

Improvement of the livelihood status of *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* relative to the *Livelihood Baseline* as a result of *Project* activities.

Livelihood Indicator

² Adapted from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html>

Indicator used to monitor the livelihood status of *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* relative to the *Baseline Scenario*.

Loss Event

An unplanned event that leads to a loss of verified *Carbon Benefits* or a reduction in expected *Carbon Benefits*. *Loss Events* can result in *Avoidable Losses* or *Unavoidable Losses*.

Local Stakeholder

An individual or group that is resident within the *Project Region* and could be affected by *Project activities*.

Macroscale Project

A *Project* that generates *Carbon Benefits* of over 10,000 tCO2e per year.

Marginalised People

Individuals or groups of people prevented from full participation in social, economic and political life. Social, economic and political barriers can all contribute to the marginalisation of an individual or group, and people can be marginalised due to multiple factors such as geography, ethnicity, religion, caste, sexual orientation, gender, displacement, conflict or disability.

Methodology

A detailed description of the procedures, data, and parameters needed to assess and monitor *Carbon Benefits* covering all components in the PV Climate Methodology Requirements.

Microscale Project

A *Project* that generates *Carbon Benefits* of less than 10,000 tCO2e per year.

Module

A methodological element that describes the procedures, data, and parameters needed to estimate one or more parameter values in an approved *Methodology*.

Native Species

Plant or animal species that occurs naturally within the *Project Region* and was not introduced as a result of human activity.

Natural Ecosystem³

The biological community that occurs in an area in the absence of human activity, or where human impact has been of no greater influence than that of any other native species and has not

³ Adapted from <https://www.eea.europa.eu/help/glossary/eea-glossary/natural-ecosystem>

affected the ecosystem's structure for at least 200 years. Human impact excludes changes of global proportions, such as climate change.

Naturalised Species

A non-*Native Species* that has become widely established in the *Project Region*. These species may often be used by *Local Stakeholders* for subsistence or small-scale production.

Opportunity Cost

The foregone value of land or resources used under the *Baseline Scenario* that is lost as a result of the *Project*.

Plan Vivo Certificate (PVC)

A certificate issued to a *Project* by Plan Vivo for a verified (vPVC), reported (rPVC) or planned future (fPVC) Carbon Benefit of one tonne (also called a metric tonne) of carbon dioxide equivalent. Note that fPVCs can only be issued for removals that are expected to be achieved within the *Project's Crediting Period*, and cannot be issued for expected emission reductions.

PV Climate Registry

An independent, third-party environmental registry (provided by IHS Markit)

Progress Indicator

Indicator describing a key aspect of progress towards expected benefits and/or risk mitigation.

Project

A Plan Vivo project consisting of one or more *Project Interventions* applied to *Project Area(s)* in specified *Project Region(s)*, supported by a *Project Coordinator* under a common governance structure, as described in a single *Project Design Document*.

Project Agreement

A contract between a *Project Coordinator* and *Project Participant(s)* that grants the rights to *Carbon Benefits* to the *Project Coordinator* and that specifies the terms and conditions and rights and responsibilities of *Project Participants* and the *Project Coordinator* over a specified agreement period.

Project Area

A discrete area within which one or more *Project Intervention(s)* is applied across the entire area. *Projects* may be composed of more than one *Project Area* within a defined *Project Region*, and in *grouped Projects*, additional *Project Areas* that meet defined eligibility criteria can be added to the *Project* during the *Project Period*.

Project Coordinator

A legal entity, that takes overall responsibility for management and coordination of the *Project* and supporting the implementation of *Project Interventions* by *Project Participants*.

Project Design Document (PDD)

Document describing the *Project* design and implementation process, and details that demonstrate conformance with PV Climate.

Project Employee

An individual employed by the *Project Coordinator* or another party, to conduct *Project* activities.

Project Idea Note (PIN)

Concept note for the *Project* submitted to Plan Vivo for approval prior to development of a *PDD*.

Project Intervention

A set of activities designed to protect, restore or improve management of land or marine areas, increase carbon storage or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and have positive impacts on local livelihoods and ecosystems.

Project Logic

A description of the causal links between *Project* activities and expected *Carbon, Livelihood and Ecosystem Benefits*.

Project Participant

An individual or group that enters into a *Project Agreement* with the *Project Coordinator* to implement *Project Interventions* and benefit from the sale of *Plan Vivo Certificates*.

Project Period

The period from the earliest *Start Date* to the end of the last *Crediting Period*.

Project Region

A discrete geographical area within which *Project Areas* are or could be located as part of a *Project*, and that includes any reference areas or leakage buffers.

Project Scenario

The scenario that involves implementation of a *Project Intervention* within a *Project Area*.

Registered

The point in the certification process at which a project can be considered compliant with PV Climate. Can be used interchangeably with *Certified*.

Regulatory Surplus

The *Project Intervention* is not mandated by any effectively enforced law, statute, or other regulatory framework.

Reporting Period

The period covered by an *Annual Report*.

Reversal

A situation where the net *Carbon Benefit* for a *Project* within a *Verification Period* is negative.

Risk Buffer

vPVCs that are left unsold as insurance against the risk of *Reversal* of *Carbon Benefits* and managed through a pooled risk buffer.

Secondary Stakeholder

Stakeholder with an indirect interest in the *Project*. For example, national or local government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organisations and groups with special interests, the academic community, and others who have a more indirect interest in the *Project*.

Species of Conservation Concern

A species that has been identified as being of conservation concern under at least one internationally recognised designation, for example <http://www.iucnredlist.org/>

Stakeholder

Individual or group affected by the *Project* that has the potential to influence it. See also *Local Stakeholders* and *Secondary Stakeholders*.

Start Date

The *Start Date* for a *Project Area* is the date on which the *Project Intervention* was first implemented. The *Start Date* cannot be more than 5-years prior to the date of completing *Validation*.

Technical Specification

A detailed description of the activities that will be carried out to implement and monitor the *Carbon Benefits* of a *Project Intervention*, and the *Carbon Benefits* expected to be achieved.

Tool

A methodological element that describes the procedures for performing specific analysis applied in an approved *Methodology* or *Module*.

Unavoidable Loss

An actual or potential loss of verified *Carbon Benefits* or reduction in expected *Carbon Benefits* that is caused by activities that the *Project Coordinator* cannot have been reasonably expected to manage, for example, extreme weather events or civil unrest.

Underachievement

The number of vPVCs generated in a *Verification Period* is lower than the number of fPVCs or rPVCs issued for *Carbon Benefits* that were expected to be achieved within the *Verification Period*.

Validation

Assessment of conformance of the project design and governance structure with PV Climate. *Macroscale Projects* are required to complete *Validations* using an approved Validation and Verification Body (VVB), whereas *Microscale Projects* may be validated by Plan Vivo using an approved *Independent Expert*.

Validation and Verification Body (VVB)

An auditing organisation that meets the minimum criteria and has been approved to *Validate* and/or *Verify Projects* as described by the process in, the PV Climate [Validation and Verification Guidance Manual](#).

Validator

An auditor or audit team approved by Plan Vivo to conduct a *Validation*.

Verification

Assessment of ongoing conformance of the *Project* to PV Climate, and verification of *Carbon Benefits* achieved. *Microscale Projects* must contract an approved Validation and Verification Body (VVB) to conduct a *Verification* audit, whereas *Microscale Projects* may be verified by Plan Vivo using an approved *Independent Expert*.

Verification Period

The period from the earliest *Start Date* to the end of the *Reporting Period* prior to the first *Verification*, or the period from the end of the last *Verification Period* to the end of the *Reporting Period* prior to the next *Verification*. A *Verification Period* cannot be longer than 5 years.

Verifier

An auditor or audit team approved by Plan Vivo to conduct a *Verification*.

Vintage

The period within which the *Carbon Benefit* of a *PVC* is achieved, plus up to 3 years for afforestation or reforestation *Projects*.

Vulnerable and/or Disadvantaged People

Individuals who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the *Project's* impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of the *Project's* benefits. These individuals may be more likely to be excluded from participating in the *Project* and may require specific support to do so. These individuals may also be *Marginalised*.

Annex 1 – Version Control

Version Number	Date of release (DD/MM/YYYY)	Changes and additions since previous version
V1.0	11/05/2022	n/a
V1.1	01/11/2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Rebranded from the Plan Vivo Standard to the Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) New definitions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Certified</i> <i>Microscale Project</i> <i>Macroscale Project</i> <i>Outcome</i> <i>Output</i> <i>Registered</i> <i>Vintage</i> Greater clarity regarding the Validation and Verification processes for <i>Microscale Projects</i> and <i>Macroscale Projects</i>.
V1.2	03/09/2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Plan Vivo Registry</i> renamed to <i>PV Climate Registry</i> <i>Climate Benefits</i> renamed to <i>Carbon Benefits</i> Adding the following definitions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Regulatory Surplus</i> <i>Validation and Verification Body (VVB)</i> <i>Natural Ecosystem</i> Moved definitions of <i>Outcome</i> and <i>Output</i> to Procedures Manual.
V1.3	07/07/2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated definition of <i>Natural Ecosystem</i> to also include areas where human impact has been no greater than that of any other <i>Native Species</i> and hasn't affected the ecosystem's structure for at least 200 years (excluding global-scale changes like climate change). Added definition for <i>Underachievement</i>
V1.4	05/01/2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New definitions for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Degraded Ecosystem</i> <i>Naturalised Species</i>