

Proba Standard

07 October 2023

Version 0.9

Status: in public consultation

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About Proba

Proba is a supply chain decarbonization platform. We help you to convert your climate action into tradable carbon certificates, which you can sell to supply chain partners. This not only creates new revenue streams for you but also helps your partners reduce their Scope 3 emissions.

General introduction

Proba facilitates the process of getting GHG interventions certified. The bottom line of what we think are high quality Carbon Certificates is defined by the [Core Carbon Principles by the ICVCM](#)¹. Proba makes sure the GHG impact of the intervention is real, additional, independently verified, unique, not counted or claimed already, and doesn't have negative side effects to (local) environment and communities.

Proba follows the [ISO 14064-2](#)² standard as much as possible to determine the impact of the interventions, requires regular monitoring, and ensures that Validation and Verification is done properly and independently.

Definitions & Acronyms

Definitions

Additionality	Refers to the concept that any carbon removal or reduction Project should result in greenhouse gas emissions reductions that would not have occurred without the Project. In other words, the Project's positive impact on reducing emissions should be "additional" to what would have happened under business-as-usual scenario.
Baseline Scenario	Hypothetical reference case that best represents the conditions most likely to occur in the absence of a proposed GHG Project.
Buffer Pool	A Buffer Pool is a reserve of Carbon Certificates established to cover potential losses in GHG Projects, ensuring the integrity of emissions

¹ <https://icvcm.org/the-core-carbon-principles/>

² <https://www.iso.org/standard/66454.html>

reductions over time. The size of the Buffer Pool is aligned with the level of (reversal) risks associated with the GHG Project.

Carbon Certificate	A Carbon Certificate represents at least 1 tonne of CO ₂ , or 1 tonne of CO ₂ e reduced or removed for a certain period of time. For carbon equivalency the AR-5 assessment from UNFCCC ³ is used.
Carbon Credit	See Carbon Certificate.
Carbon Pool	A Carbon Pool refers to a specific Source, Sink, Reservoir or activity within a GHG Project, where CO ₂ e is being stored.
Carbon Removal	Also known as Carbon Dioxide Removal (CDR)
Carbon Yield	See Yield.
Certificate	See Carbon Certificate.
CO ₂ e	CO ₂ equivalent. Unit for comparing the radiative forcing of a GHG to that of carbon dioxide.
Co-benefits	Co-benefits refer to the non-carbon (or non-GHG) related impact of the GHG Project. For example, the project might improve local biodiversity, reduce gender inequalities, or improve the local livelihoods. A common way to describe it is the positive contribution of the project to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) ⁴ .
Conservativeness	Use of conservative assumptions, values, Methodologies, and procedures to ensure that GHG emission reductions or removal enhancements are not over-estimated.
Crediting Period	The "Crediting Period" refers to the specific duration of time during which a GHG Project is eligible to generate and issue Carbon Certificates for the GHG emissions it reduces or removes. This period is predefined and ensures that the project's emissions impact is monitored, verified, and credited only within that set timeframe. A Crediting Period can be renewed once or multiple times.
Double Claiming	Double claiming refers to the situation where both the seller and the buyer of a Carbon Certificate claim the same GHG reduction or

³ [https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/Global-Warming-Potential-Values_\(Feb_16_2016\)_0.pdf](https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/Global-Warming-Potential-Values_(Feb_16_2016)_0.pdf)

⁴ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

removal as part of their respective carbon footprints or emission reduction targets

In the context of mandatory domestic mitigation schemes. This occurs when a carbon-crediting program issues a Carbon Credit in respect of GHG emission reductions or removals that are covered by a mandatory domestic mitigation scheme (e.g., emissions trading system). In the context of the ICVCM, it is considered that a Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) under the Paris Agreement does not constitute a mandatory domestic mitigation scheme. While an NDC may be put into effect through a variety of instruments, including mandatory domestic mitigation schemes, it is considered to be separate from the latter. *Source: ICVCM CCP Assessment Framework*

Double Counting	This can occur in multiple ways, where one Carbon Certificate is wrongfully used multiple times or claimed by multiple actors. Also see Double Issuance and Double Use.
Double Issuance	This occurs when two or more Carbon Certificates coexist at the same time representing the same GHG emission impact, under the same or different carbon-crediting or other programs. Double issuance can also occur where two or more mitigation activities have overlapping GHG accounting boundaries, and carbon-crediting programs need to have provisions avoiding the issuance of more than one credit in relation to the same GHG emission reduction or removal in such cases.
Entitlement	The right to issue a Carbon Certificate on the Proba Platform. A Project Developer or Project Sponsor receives one or more Entitlements after successful verification of Yield, the result of an amount of CO ₂ (e) reduced or removed.
Greenhouse Gas (GHG)	Gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, both natural and anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specific wavelengths within the spectrum of infrared radiation emitted by the Earth's surface, the atmosphere and clouds.
GHG Project	Activity or activities that alter the conditions of a GHG Baseline and which cause GHG emission reductions or GHG removal enhancements. The intent of a GHG Project is to convert the GHG impact into Carbon Certificates.

GHG Protocol	GHG Protocol establishes comprehensive global standardized frameworks to measure and manage greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from private and public sector operations, value chains and mitigation actions.
Global Warming Potential (GWP)	<p>Refers to the capacity of a GHG to contribute to global warming. The Global Warming Potential (GWP) was developed to allow comparisons of the global warming impacts of different gasses. Specifically, it is a measure of how much energy the emissions of 1 ton of a gas will absorb over a given period, relative to the emissions of 1 ton of carbon dioxide (CO₂). The larger the GWP, the more that a given gas warms the Earth compared to CO₂ over that period. The period usually used for GWPs is 100 years. GWPs provide a common unit of measure, which allows analysts to add up emissions estimates of different gasses (e.g., to compile a national GHG inventory), and allows policymakers to compare emissions reduction opportunities across sectors and gasses.</p> <p>Proba requires Project Developers to use the latest values endorsed by the UNFCCC from the AR-5 assessment from 2016⁵. Should the UNFCCC decide to endorse the AR-6 values from 2021, Proba will follow subsequently.</p>
Intervention	See GHG Project
Leakage	In the context of a GHG Project, leakage refers to the unintended increase in greenhouse gas emissions outside the Projects Boundaries as a direct result of the project's activities.
Methodology	In the context of a GHG Project, Methodology refers to the systematic set of procedures and criteria used to quantify, monitor, and verify greenhouse gas emissions reductions or removals.
Monitoring	Continuous or periodic assessment of GHG emissions, GHG removals or other GHG-related data.
Permanence	Permanence refers to the assurance that the carbon reductions or removals achieved by a GHG Project will remain effective and won't be reversed over time.

⁵ Example values: <https://ghgprotocol.org/sites/default/files/Global-Warming-Potential-Values> (Feb 16 2016)_0.pdf

Pre-Certificate	When there is financing or a pre-payment by a Project Sponsor on a yet-to-be-realized GHG Yield, the future Carbon Certificates can be reserved in the Proba Platform. This reserved and future certificate - called a Pre-Certificate - does not allow to claim the GHG benefits until the Yield is actually realized and verified.
Proba	Proba World B.V, a company located in Amstelveen, which certifies GHG Projects using the Proba Standard.
Proba Platform	The online application, developed and maintained by Proba and accessible via app.proba.earth , which facilitates the process of onboarding and validating a GHG Project, verifying its Yield and issuing Carbon Certificates. It supports the lifecycle of each Carbon Certificate and ensures all projects and Certificates are correctly updated in the Registry.
Project	See GHG Project.
Project Boundary	The project boundaries of a GHG project delineate the spatial, temporal, and operational limits within which the GHG emissions, reductions, and removals are quantified and monitored, encompassing specific activities, sources, sinks, and reservoirs related to the project.
Project Developer	Individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for a GHG Project.
Project Period	The Project Period is defined as the interval between the start and end dates of the GHG Project. When reaching the end date, a GHG Project can apply for an extension or a renewal of the Project Period.
Project Sponsor	The organization that is financing the intervention(s) in the GHG Project and will be entitled to (some of) the Carbon Certificates. Not every GHG Project has a Project Sponsor.
Registry	The online overview of all GHG Projects certified by Proba and the issued Carbon Certificates. The Registry is developed and maintained by Proba and publicly accessible via registry.proba.earth .
Reporting Company	Company which is claiming the Carbon Certificates for usage in its sustainability reporting (usually under CSRD).

Retirement	Once a Carbon Certificate is fully claimed or expired, the Certificate becomes “retired” and can no longer be used.
Storage Duration	The period after which there is a risk or certainty of re-release of GHGs into the atmosphere after they have been removed. This is important in relation to (non-)Permanence.
Validation	Process for evaluating the plausibility of the assumptions, limitations, and methodologies that support a statement about the outcome of future activities of a GHG Project.
Verification	Process for evaluating a statement of historical data and information to determine if the statement on the GHG Yield is materially correct and conforms to criteria.
Yield	The Yield represents the amount of CO ₂ (e) reduced/removed resulting from the GHG Project in a specific period, compared to the Baseline. The yield is measured in tonnes of CO ₂ e and is determined during the GHG Project and verified by the VVB. The Yield will eventually be converted into Carbon Certificates in the Proba platform.
Yield Period	The specific period (e.g. 2023) for which the Yield is measured and verified. A GHG Project can have multiple Yield Periods, depending on the frequency of the Verification Events. Each GHG Project can define its own period (e.g. years, months, quarters of a year, etc).

Abbreviations

tCO ₂ e	A ton of CO ₂ equivalent. Some GHGs have a different Global warming Potential (GWP). To make things comparable various gas warming potencies are converted to their CO ₂ equivalent, as CO ₂ is the largest GHG by volume and the most used in the carbon market. For example, according to the IPCC AR-5 values for methane (CH4) from 2016 ⁶ , methane’s Global Warming Potential (GWP) is 28, over 100 years. This means that 1 t CH ₄ represents 28tCO ₂ e, as in 28 tons of CO ₂ equivalent.
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⁶ [Global Warming Potential Values](#)

GHG	Greenhouse Gas.
ICROA	Provides a Standards Endorsement procedure to assess the rigour of Standards for inclusion in the ICROA Code of Practice.
ICVCM	Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market. Independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market.
ISO	International Standard Organization.
POD	Product Overview Document.
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals, defined by the United Nations.
UNFCCC	The UNFCCC ⁷ secretariat (UN Climate Change) is the United Nations entity tasked with supporting the global response to the threat of climate change. UNFCCC stands for United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The Convention has near universal membership (198 Parties) and is the parent treaty of the 2015 Paris Agreement ⁸ . The main aim of the Paris Agreement is to keep the global average temperature rise this century as close as possible to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The UNFCCC is also the parent treaty of the 1997 Kyoto Protocol ⁹ .
VVB	Verification and Validation Body. A company that is responsible for Validation of the project overview document (POD) and Verification of the Carbon Yield.

1. Independence & Governance

1.1 Version of the Standard

This is the initial version of the Proba Standard. This version is currently in public consultation and any resulting feedback has not yet been processed. After processing feedback this version becomes the 1.0 version.

1.2 Organization, Roles, and Responsibilities

⁷ <https://unfccc.int/>

⁸ [The Paris Agreement | UNFCCC](#)

⁹ [What is the Kyoto Protocol? | UNFCCC](#)

Proba has established specific roles and responsibilities, along with governance frameworks, to carry out these functions effectively:

Entity	Function
Staff team	Oversees the day-to-day activities and decisions. They are the key points of contact for any Project Developers and other stakeholders.
Proba Management Board	The Proba Management Board (PMB) is composed of the Directors of Proba. The PMB is responsible for assessing the eligibility of GHG projects against the Proba Standard. The assessment is performed after completion of the Project Overview Document (POD).
Proba Advisory Board	Validates or rejects any proposed changes from the Proba Technical Committee in the Proba Standard. Also makes suggestions to the Proba Technical Committee for improvements, based on their expertise, developments in the VCM, and feedback from the market.
Proba Technical Committee	Is responsible for continuous improvement of the Proba Standard, based on feedback from customers, developments in the VCM, and feedback from the market. Also performs public consultation and requests input from experts and stakeholders. The Proba Technical Committee is composed of Proba staff and makes proposals for change to the Advisory Board in order to improve the Proba Standard. The Proba Technical Committee can also advise the Management Board during the assessment of the POD.

1.3 Independent Governance

Proba World B.V. (Proba) has appointed a Proba Advisory Board to manage, oversee, and govern the Proba Standard and related processes.

Proba requires its management (C-level), the Proba Advisory Board, and any other employee to comply with the Proba [Code of Conduct](#)¹⁰, which contains rules and guidance to foster an integer, healthy, and inclusive company culture..

Commercial Independence

The independent Proba Advisory Board is not involved in the day-to-day and commercial operations of Proba.

¹⁰ <https://proba.earth/downloadable-content>

Proba is in no situation the owner nor the seller of the Carbon Certificates issued in the Proba Platform. Proba is solely involved in the (technical) facilitation process of registering GHG projects, in processing the Verification of their related GHG impact, and in the transfer and allocation of the related claims in the Proba Platform and Registry.

1.5 Proba Advisory Board

The Proba Advisory Board is composed of a minimum of two members, including a Chair and a Secretary. The board is initially appointed by the Proba Management Board, but in time, only Advisory Board members can nominate new members. Members can choose to organize themselves in groups to manage various topics or processes.

Members of the Advisory Board will be receiving payment for their advice

1.6. Proba Management Board

Overall Management

The Proba Management Board (PMB) is composed of the Directors of Proba. It is responsible for accepting new clients, strategy development, and general management. Please refer to the [Proba website](#)¹¹ for an overview of members of the PMB.

GHG Project Eligibility

The management board is responsible for assessing the eligibility of GHG Projects and projects. It does so by assessing the GHG Project against the Proba Standard.

The PMB can provide further feedback and requests for adjustments to the Project Developer. There are 3 outcomes possible:

1. Approved. If a GHG Project is approved, it can move on to the next phase of the Proba Project Lifecycle.
2. Approved under conditions. In this case, the Project is approved providing the Project Developer is able to provide additional information/evidence as requested by the PMB.
3. Rejected. If a Project is rejected, Proba will stop the collaboration for this Project.

1.7. Proba Technical Committee

¹¹ <https://proba.earth/about-proba>

The Proba Technical Committee (PTC) is composed of Proba staff who are responsible for making proposals to the Proba Management Board, and to manage and improve the Proba Standard.

Where necessary, the PTC will involve the use of external experts in specific areas of expertise.

The Proba Technical Committee is responsible for the Standard Review Cycle. As such, it plans, develops, and organizes public consultation rounds as described in Section 1.10.

The PTC processes the feedback received from the public consultation or any other stakeholder of staff into improvement proposals to the Proba Management Board.

Following a public consultation, the PTC will publish the feedback and how it's been processed by Proba on the Proba website.

In addition to its existing responsibilities, the Proba Technical Committee (PTC) will also (proactively or on request) advise the Proba Management Board on the eligibility of individual GHG projects, leveraging its technical expertise to evaluate the projects' compliance with Proba Standards.

Please refer to the [Proba website](#)¹² for an overview of members of the PTC.

1.8. Legal Disputes

As described in the [Proba General Terms and Conditions](#)¹³, should any legal disputes arise, parties agree to mediation. If mediation does not provide a solution, the dispute will be decided by the Court in Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

1.9. Conflict of Interest, Safeguards, and Grievance Mechanisms

Proba has a [Code of Conduct](#)¹⁴ that applies to all employees and parties working on behalf of Proba. This code of conduct minimizes the chance and impact of conflict of interest.

Proba welcomes any feedback and comments from its stakeholders and users of the standard. Proba provides a [Complaints procedure](#)¹⁵ that applies to the GHG Projects assessed and certified by Proba. All expenses, internal and external, incurred by Proba in handling complaints and appeals shall be paid by the entity filing the complaint or appeal.

¹² <https://proba.earth/about-proba>

¹³ <https://proba.earth/downloadable-content>

¹⁴ <https://proba.earth/downloadable-content>

¹⁵ <https://proba.earth/downloadable-content>

Proba will inform the entity filing the complaint or appeal of the estimated handling cost before the initiation of the handling process. Where the outcome of a complaint or appeal is to overturn an earlier decision made by Proba, the entity filing the complaint or appeal will not be liable for covering such expenses.

1.10. Standard Development and Review

The standard aims at controlling and reducing the risks related to the GHG Projects, their climate impact (the Carbon Yield) and the corresponding issuance of Certificates and subsequent claims.

Development process

The Proba Standard is created and maintained by the Proba Technical Committee.

A final draft version of the Proba Standard is being made available for public consultation for 30 days.

Proba collects, reviews, and organizes the feedback received and evaluates the impact on the Proba Standard. This feedback is also published on the Proba website by the PTC.

Review Process

The Proba Standard undergoes 2 review cycles:

1. The annual review cycle occurs once a year and focuses on minor or incremental improvements.
 1. Throughout the year, the Proba Technical Committee maintains a list of changes, suggestions, or feedback received from partners, staff, verifiers, or any other stakeholders who are using the Proba Standard
 2. This cycle does not involve public consultation
 3. Updates to guidance documents or methodologies may be performed during this cycle, providing it does not include fundamental changes that would require public consultation
 4. The updated version is submitted to the Proba Advisory Board
 5. Once approved, a new intermediary version of the Proba Standard is published and shared with the Proba stakeholders
2. The 3-year cycle occurs at least every 3 years
 1. This review cycle is subject to a public consultation round
 2. This review cycle is meant to include the latest market trends and developments

3. It may include larger or more impactful changes, new best practices, and internal learnings
4. Changes and feedback received are evaluated by the PTC and submitted to the Proba Advisory Board
5. Alongside the reviewed standard and for transparency reasons, Proba publishes a public explanatory note about the feedback received, and how it was handled and used for the review

Next to this review cycle, Proba also performs an annual scan on regulatory changes that may have an impact on the Proba Standard.

1.10. Methodologies Development and Stakeholder Consultation

The Proba Standard will accept any GHG Project that uses the ISO 14064-2 standard (and its industry-specific variants, such as ISO 14083) as a framework to describe credible GHG Projects.

Proba recognizes the work of other credible organizations on that topic and encourages their partners and customers to make use of recognized and publicly available Methodologies developed by other carbon-crediting programs, including Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) methodologies¹⁶ and SNK Methods¹⁷.

Approved methodologies are published by Proba on the Proba website.

2. Eligibility Criteria

2.1. Criteria for Project Inclusion

- Criteria for Organizational Inclusion
 - Exclusion Criteria
 - A screening against publicly available (financial) crime and terrorism lists is performed
 - Financial background check:
 - Proba determines the financial beneficiaries of the intervention
 - A bad news check is performed on both the entities (organizations) and the involved persons

¹⁶ [CDM: Methodologies](#)

¹⁷ Website: <https://nationaleco2markt.nl/methoden/>

- Criteria for Project/Quality
 - Local Regulatory Compliance
 - Core Carbon Principles check - non-full compliance may occur and be accepted with transparency on the GHG Project and certificates.. The Proba Management Board decides on a case-by-case basis and documents these decisions.
- Proba reserves the right to refuse projects based on an internal evaluation. Reasons for refusal may include insufficient expertise, insufficient scientific proof, or questionable additionality
- The Project Developer accepts the [Proba Terms & Conditions](#)¹⁸
- The Project Developer must declare that the GHG Project is not registered under another initiative or registry that issues Carbon Certificates. Also, the Project Developer declares that the intervention is not included in or is not part of the scope of a national reduction plan, such as the UNFCCC NDC¹⁹ plans. Contractual agreements need to be in place to prevent an intervention from contributing to double issuance of Carbon Certificates.
- Proba will perform due diligence research to verify that the Project is not registered or listed under another registry.

2.2 Project legal compliance

Proba works exclusively with projects that comply with the existing laws of the host country or region, especially regarding its land use, rural and environmental issues. The Project Developer will have to demonstrate that the project respects the rights of workers, works in a non-discriminatory way, respects children's rights, and complies with the standards set by the International Labour Organization (ILO).

3. Project Requirements

3.1. Project Design

Proba requires that the Project Developer sets up the project and all relevant documentation according to the criteria as determined by ISO 14064-2: 2019: *"Greenhouse gasses — Part 2: Specification with guidance at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of greenhouse gas emission reductions or removal enhancements"*.

¹⁸ <https://proba.earth/downloadable-content>

¹⁹ [Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\) | UNFCCC](#)

As such, Proba will require the independent Validation of the initial Project Overview Document (POD), and the independent Verification of the carbon Yield.

Projects which are designed using 3rd party carbon crediting programs which use ISO 14064-2 as a basis may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3.2. Crediting Period

All GHG Projects must have a pre-defined Crediting Period mentioned in the POD. The duration of the Crediting Period can vary from project to project. The Crediting Period must always be:

- Shorter than or equal to the GHG Project Period
- Relative to the GHG Project activity (e.g. NbS projects may have a Crediting Period of multiple decades while a Food Waste project a Crediting Period shorter than 10 years)
- Long enough to include a full harvest cycle, If the GHG project includes harvest cycles.

Renewal of Crediting Period

Every GHG Project Developer can submit a Renewal Request to Proba to renew their Crediting Period at the end of the initial one. For some projects, a maximum amount of renewals may be defined upon Project start date.

For Crediting Period renewal, Proba requires the Project Developer to undergo a full revalidation process. This includes:

- An updated POD, including any relevant update from the latest version of the Proba Standard, any new changes in scope and Project Boundaries
- A Baseline recalculation based on the new context (economic, regulatory, etc.)
- Latest relevant GHG methodologies
- A new Validation of that POD by an independent VVB

3.3. LCA-Based Projects

For some project types (e.g. industrial processing, recycling/circularity/waste management, or material switch) Proba may require the Project Developer to use a Life Cycle Assessment (LCA) based methodology to estimate the GHG Yield of the project intervention(s). Such LCAs must include a cradle-to-grave approach in compliance with either:

- The norms ISO 14040²⁰ and ISO14044²¹ on Environmental management — Life cycle assessment

²⁰ <https://www.iso.org/standard/37456.html>

²¹ <https://www.iso.org/standard/38498.html>

- The Product Life Cycle Accounting and Reporting Standard from the GHG Protocol²²

The following Section 4 provides Proba-specific clarification and criteria to be complied with. The Project Developer will ensure that compliance with these criteria is verified independently alongside the requirements from ISO 14064-2:2019, as described in Sections 5 and 6.

4. Carbon Certificate Criteria

4.1. Types of Certificates issued by Proba:

- Removal Certificates
- Reduction Certificates

For both types, Carbon Certificates are issued after Verification of the impact on carbon emissions of the intervention, and equal to a Yield (removal or reduction) of 1 tCO₂e compared to the Baseline Scenario of the intervention.

Proba only issues ex-post Certificates. The pre-purchasing of future Carbon Certificates is possible in the form of Pre-Certificates, but Pre-Certificates do not qualify as Carbon Certificates and cannot be used for claiming GHG benefits. See Section 4.3. For more details.

For temporary removals, such as some nature-based solutions, Proba commits to transparency on the timeline and Storage Duration of the removal (known as Permanence).

4.2. Uniqueness

Avoiding Double Counting

The GHG Project is not registered under any other registry, as described in Section 2.1.

If Proba Certificates represent emission reductions or removals that are also reported under a national, jurisdictional, or sub-national program or project this must be clearly stated, ideally with evidence that they will not be used in any (regulatory) program that includes greenhouse gas emission trading.

Avoiding Double Claiming

²² <https://ghgprotocol.org/product-standard>

If Certificates are used in an offsetting scenario, they can only be claimed once. Within a given value chain, Proba Certificates can be claimed more than once. Claim history and Allocation of the claims will be registered on the Proba registry. The public registry shows the claim history of each Certificate and informs all companies that have claimed upon the registration of any new claims made, including the allocation, providing maximum transparency within the value chain.

Uniqueness of the Carbon Certificate

The Certificates are issued post-Verification and have a unique ID number. They are issued on a blockchain-and are as such immutable and cannot be reproduced.

To use a Certificate for GHG reporting purposes, it is required that the Certificate is allocated to and claimed by the Reporting Company, at which point the Certificate will be retired from the Proba registry and can no longer be used.

Transfer of the Carbon Certificate

The Certificate can only be transferred by the owner (who holds the Certificate in its wallet) and a transfer is registered in a blockchain transaction.

4.3. Realness of Emission Reductions and Carbon Removals

Methodologies used by Project Developers are evaluated by Proba for their relevance to the GHG Project and for their level of quality.

Ex-ante and ex-post Certificates

Proba does not issue ex-ante Certificates and only issues ex-post Certificates, where the GHG Yield of the GHG Project has been achieved and independently verified. As such, the Proba Certificate always refers to a real climate impact.

Pre-financing and pre-allocation of Certificates

Proba is open to project pre-financing for getting the GHG Project off the ground.

When there is financing or a pre-payment by a Project Sponsor on a yet-to-be-realized GHG Yield, the future Carbon Certificates can be reserved in the Proba Platform. This reserved and future certificate is called a Pre-Certificate. The Pre-Certificates can be issued to the Project Sponsor directly after validation of the GHG Project. This certificate type does not allow to claim the GHG benefits until the Yield is actually realized and verified, at which

point the Pre-Certificate becomes a Carbon Certificate. The Pre-Certificate can be transferred immediately after it has been issued.

4.4 Permanence of the Carbon Yield

Carbon Yield can be achieved by reducing CO₂ emissions or by removing CO₂ by storing it. Reductions of CO₂ are permanent by definition; for Removals, there is a risk that the stored CO₂ is re-emitted again into the atmosphere. The level of certainty that the GHG will not be re-released into the atmosphere is what we call permanence.

Proba requires that all GHG Removal projects have measures in place to ensure Monitoring and Carbon Compensation for a period of at least 40 years, starting from the start of the initial Crediting Period, even if the Project Period is shorter than 40 Years.

In the event of premature reversal, the Project Developer is able to compensate for any carbon loss by using the Buffer Pool or any other mitigation measures to ensure the Carbon Yield converted into Proba certificates is guaranteed for at least 40 years.

While 40 years is the minimum required, Proba encourages for maximum Permanence (e.g. 100 years).

Note: For GHG Projects where a minimum Permanence of 40 years cannot be achieved, the GHG Projects may still be accepted as eligible by the PMB. Such GHG Projects will however not be submitted for Core Carbon Principles assessment by Proba.

Temporary Removals

A temporary removal refers to the sequestration or capture of greenhouse gasses (GHGs) from the atmosphere for a limited and specified duration (Storage Duration), after which there is a risk or certainty of re-release into the atmosphere.

Characteristics:

1. **Storage Duration:** The period during which the GHGs are sequestered or captured is predefined and limited. This duration can vary based on the method or technology used but is not considered permanent
2. **Re-release Risk:** After the specified Storage Duration, there is a potential risk that the sequestered or captured GHGs may be released back into the atmosphere. This risk can arise from natural events, degradation of storage methods, or other external factors
3. **Storage type:** Temporary removals often involve interventions or technologies that don't guarantee permanent sequestration. Examples include certain types of

afforestation or reforestation where trees might be harvested later for biomass, or carbon capture and storage (CCS) methods where stored CO₂ might leak over time

For temporary removals, Proba explicitly defines the period of the Storage Duration for each GHG project. The Storage Duration is defined in years, and for each Yield Period.

In order to ensure a Permanence of at least 40 years, the GHG Project may include more than 1tCO₂e - with a shorter Storage Duration - into one Carbon Certificate, which will equal to 1tCO₂e.

The Proba Certificates will make the Storage Duration of the GHG Yield transparent.

4.5. Additionality Requirements

Proba identifies multiple types of Additionality.

In essence, Additionality means that the GHG project and the GHG yield could not have taken place without the existence of carbon financing. Interventions from GHG projects that seek compliance with the Proba Standard must adhere to at least one of the Additionality definitions below, and the expected results should always be compared with the Business-as-Usual (BaU) scenario, the “Baseline” (see section 5.2). The Project Developer is expected to have determined a GHG Baseline before the intervention takes place.

Regulatory/Political Additionality

There is no existing or upcoming law, regulation, statute, regulatory framework, or legal ruling that makes the project compulsory.

The Project Developer looks at the host country's regulatory environment. As an example, the [European Union](#)²³ is implementing a new policy framework to facilitate the regenerative agriculture transition in the context of the Farm to Fork strategy. As countries start to elaborate and implement such strategies, Additionality will need to be assessed on a case-by-case basis in order to determine if the GHG Project is not part of some regulatory process, where improved practices are the new norm.

Financial Additionality

Proof of financial need: The Project Developer must demonstrate that without the revenue from Carbon Certificates, the Project would not be financially viable. This can also apply to innovative processes that are too costly to scale up from an early phase.

²³ [The common agricultural policy: 2023-27](#)

Prevalence

The project deploys an intervention and/or technology that is not common nor the norm in its sector, and for which there are obstacles, such as competitiveness. The Project Developer must provide a barrier analysis to identify and document obstacles that prevent the project from proceeding without carbon finance.

Note: within the context of the usage of the Certificates within certain supply chains (insetting scenario) more bespoke definitions of Additionality can apply.

4.6 Measurable Emission Reductions or Removals

The Project Developer must adhere to the criteria described in ISO 14064-2:2019 about Baseline determination.

In order to ensure that the measurements remain credible over time, the GHG Project follows a predefined process for evaluating the Baseline. If required, this can be a recurring process on predefined intervals. This is also to ensure that the Additionality criteria are still relevant over time, as science can evolve, and the local context or regulations can change.

Over-crediting Prevention/Conservativeness principle

All methodologies chosen by the Project Developer must follow the Conservativeness principle. This principle ensures that the expected GHG Yields are not over estimated. To do so, the Project Developer prioritizes conservative estimates and methodologies, carefully chooses the location or time frame for setting the Baseline, or leaves uncertain or not measurable carbon SSRs out of the Project Boundaries.

Defining the various risks (environmental, regulatory, project implementation) that may lead to premature reversal or lack of Permanence is needed. The outcome of this assessment will determine the size of the Buffer - a pool of "reserve" Certificates that will not be traded. These Certificates can be released in the event of a project setback in order to cover for any unintended/early reversal or loss of Permanence.

Leakage risk mitigation

Leakage mitigation is crucial for the effectiveness, credibility, and sustainability of GHG Projects. Mitigation measures are needed to:

- Ensure Project Integrity
- Provide Accurate Carbon Accounting
- Maintain Stakeholder Confidence

- Maximize Environmental Impact
- Avoid Negative Consequences
- Enhance Co-Benefits; mitigation of leakage can boost project co-benefits like biodiversity
- Support Long-Term Sustainability by ensuring lasting project benefits
- Uphold reputation and reduce risk for criticism and reputational damage

Mitigating leakage involves a combination of planning, monitoring, community engagement, and adaptive strategies. The Project Developer can include the following actions:

- Clearly define project boundaries to account for potential leakage areas.
- Regularly monitor areas adjacent to the project for unintended emissions increases.
- Establish buffer zones around the project to absorb potential leakage.
- Collaborate with local communities to address concerns and prevent activities causing leakage.
- Offer alternatives to activities that might cause leakage, such as sustainable farming practices.
- Ensure project activities align with local regulations to prevent legal loopholes.
- Adjust project strategies based on monitoring data to address emerging leakage sources.

The Proba Standard accepts GHG Projects where the Project Developer can submit an ISO 14001 Certificate stating the mitigation of possible leakage risks that are in the scope of the GHG Project.

4.7. Co-benefits

Proba encourages projects that create a positive impact. A GHG Project can deliver more than just GHG Yield and contribute to many other areas, such as biodiversity, climate adaptation, water resources, social and health benefits, economic benefits, and more.

The Project Developer will describe any co-benefits that the Project will realize or contribute to. The inventory and documentation can be done using the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)²⁴ to indicate what impact areas the project is contributing to.

4.8. Environmental and Social Do No Harm Safeguards

The Project Developer needs to provide evidence that it prevents and/or mitigates the risk of Collateral Environmental Harm and the Risk of Collateral Social Harm.

²⁴ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals>

A valid ISO 14001 Certificate can be used to demonstrate such mitigations, as long as the scope of this certification comprises the scope of the GHG Project.

5. Monitoring, Validation, and Verification

The Proba Validation and Verification process will follow best practices on Validation and Verification as described by ISO 14064-2 and the principles as defined by ICROA²⁵ and the ICVCM Core Carbon Principles²⁶.

To avoid conflicts of interest and integrity issues, the Validation of the POD and Verification of the GHG Yield mustn't be performed by the same person. As such, Proba requires the Project Developer to follow one of the 2 options below:

1. The GHG Project (POD) Validation and GHG Yield Verification are performed by 2 different entities/VVBs.
2. The GHG Project (POD) Validation and the GHG Yield Verification are performed by the same organization, providing that the following conditions are met: the person or team in charge of the Verification has not been involved in the Validation phase. This is to ensure integrity.

The requirements for Validating and Verifying Bodies are listed under Section 6 and its sub-sections.

5.1. Baseline determination

The Project Developer shall establish criteria and procedures for determining the GHG baseline according to the requirements from ISO 14064-2:2019. Baseline determination must at least consist of the following:

- **Definition of the Project Boundary:**
 - Determine the geographical and temporal boundaries of the project.
 - Within a product or service lifecycle, determine the scope of the activities
 - Identify all relevant GHG sources, sinks, and reservoirs within these Boundaries.
- **Selection of the Baseline Scenario:**
 - Identify potential alternative scenarios to the proposed project that reflect what would happen in its absence.
 - Choose the most plausible and conservative scenario as the baseline.

²⁵ See: [Standards Endorsement Review Criteria | ICROA](#), point 5

²⁶ See: <https://icvcm.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/07/CCP-Section-4-R2-FINAL-26Jul23.pdf>, point 4, p. 57.

- **Gather Data:**
 - Collect historical data on GHG emissions related to the project.
 - Obtain data on similar projects or sectors to provide a comparative analysis.
- **Choose a Calculation Method:**
 - There are several methods to calculate baselines, including, for example:
 - Historical emissions method: Uses historical data to project future emissions.
 - Benchmark method: Compares the project's emissions against a set benchmark
 - Modeling method: Uses models to predict future emissions based on various scenarios.
 - LCA: see 3.2, an environmental impact analysis of the product or service throughout its entire lifecycle.
 - The choice of method depends on the project type and/or data availability and other factors.
- **Calculate the Baseline Emissions:**
 - Use the chosen method to calculate the GHG emissions for the baseline scenario over the project's Crediting Period.
- **Adjust for Leakage:**
 - Leakage refers to the unintended increase or decrease in GHG emissions outside the Project Boundary as a result of the project.
 - Estimate and account for any leakage to ensure the baseline reflects the true net impact of the project.
- **Periodic Review and Update:**
 - GHG baselines are not static and may need to be updated periodically.
 - Review and update the baseline at regular intervals or when significant changes occur that affect the project's emissions.
- **Document and Verify:**
 - Thoroughly document all assumptions, data sources, and calculation methods used.
 - Verify the ongoing validity of the baseline over time.

5.2. Monitoring Procedures

The starting point is to establish the Baseline of all SSRs related to the project location/activities. Once the Baseline is known, the project must undergo regular monitoring:

- **Establish Monitoring and Reporting Protocols:**
 - Set up systems to monitor and report on actual GHG emissions during the project's implementation.

- Compare these with the Baseline to determine the project's net GHG impact.
- **Implement and Monitor the Project:**
 - With the Baseline established, implement the Project and monitor its Yield.
 - Regularly compare the project's actual emissions with the Baseline to calculate GHG reductions or offsets.
 - Document measurement tools used, units, calibration, etc.
 - Keep a record of the measurements and include measurement dates, staff name, location, etc.

Temporary Removals

In the case of Temporary Removals, the Project Developer must have a system in place for continuous monitoring to ensure that the GHGs remain removed or reduced for the specified duration and to detect any early releases.

5.3. Project Scope Change/Extension between Verification Events

A Project Developer may under certain conditions extend the scope of the Project while the Project is already active and yielding Carbon Certificates.

The extensions can concern a variety of scopes or activities within the Project Boundaries, such as, but not limited to:

- Land area
- Carbon Pool addition
- An industrial process or process step within a value chain
- A new processing plant, or sub-contractor

Conditions for inclusion in the project scope

- The activity related to the scope change has started after the initial project Validation
- The scope change concerns an activity or location that is comparable with the initial baseline
- Monitoring KPIs are happening on the new scope extension/activity from the very start and using the same Monitoring and Verification protocols as described in the validated POD
- The Project Developer informs the Verifier responsible for the Verification of the change in scope, for the next Verification round, and shares all related documentation
- The Project Developer informs Proba timely about the scope change

5.4. Proba Project Lifecycle

Project Pre-Validation phase

Proba wishes every GHG Project to be successful in terms of GHG impact but also that the project is financially viable. A project that goes through the onboarding process does not have the guarantee that it will result in the actual issuing of Carbon Certificates. In order to minimize the risk of spending significant time and resources on a project that turns out not to be eligible, a feasibility check can be performed before starting the actual validation phase. A positive outcome of a feasibility check does not give any guarantees, but it does lower the risk.

The feasibility check is performed by taking the following steps:

1. The Project Developer submits the Project goals, activities, methodologies, and expected results
2. The Proba Management Board defines certification feasibility based on the likelihood of the project's anticipated impact:
 1. The project is likely to cause improved GHG emissions compared to a business-as-usual scenario, which can be converted into Proba Carbon Certificates
 2. The project is likely to be additional
 3. The project has the potential for scaling up
 4. The project does not present high permanence/reversal risks
 5. The project is unlikely to have any negative intended or unintended impact related to the planned intervention(s)/activity/es

Project Validation Phase

Before the validation phase can start, an agreement for issuing Certificates needs to be in place. A GHG Project follows a series of Validation and Verification steps.

3. The Project Developer is required to create a Proba "Project Overview Document", or POD, based on the POD template provided by Proba. This document contains extensive information about the project's intervention(s), including governance, baseline calculations, risks (and risk mitigation), methodologies, MRV processes, etc. Essential components in the POD are to show how the following **critical** risks are mitigated:
 1. Risk of Unrealistic Representation; Baseline, at least 1tCO₂ of real CO₂e
 2. Risk of Unfair Additionality
 3. Risk of False Climate Benefits Appropriation (volume, timing, durability);
 4. Permanence
 5. Risk of Double Spending / Claiming
 6. Risk of reversal / No reversal statement; buffers

7. Risk of leakage
8. Risk of Collateral Environmental Harm
9. Risk of Collateral Social Harm
4. The Proba Management Board validates the POD and confirms that the GHG Project is eligible for certification by the Proba Standard.
5. The Project Developer submits the Project for Validation by an independent VVB
6. The GHG project is validated by an eligible VVB on the following risks:
 1. Additionality (both in terms of financial additionality and carbon baseline additionality)
 2. Leakage
 3. Reversal
 4. Environmental harm (ISO 14001)
 5. Social harm (ISO 14001)
7. After the Validation of the project, the first Yield Period starts and is required to undergo Verification as described in the POD

Verification Phase

1. An independent VVB is mandated to perform the Verification of the GHG Yield
2. The GHG Yield is verified on a regular and pre-approved basis by a Verifier during a Verification Event, and is based on the following risks:
 - Risk of Unrealistic Representation; compared to the baseline,
 - Risk of False Climate Benefits Appropriation (volume, timing, durability); permanence
 - Double counting/claiming
 - Reversal
3. After successful Verification of the Yield, the Project Developer or Project Sponsor receives corresponding Entitlements
4. Entitlements are used by the Project Developer or Project Sponsor to request the issuing of Carbon Certificates and submit their report. For more information please refer to the lifecycle of the Certificates in Section 7.

Small-scale GHG Projects

Proba reserves the right to allow for some exceptions for certain types of projects, such as pilots, or small-scale projects. Project Developers can ask Proba for a simplified Validation and Verification process without which the Project would not be viable.

These can be projects where the expected carbon yield is lower than 10,000 tCO₂e per year and per Project Developer (so-called “small-scale projects”).

If an exception is granted, Proba proposes a simplified **Validation and Verification process**.

5.5. Validation Procedure

As described in section 5.1, every project design needs to be validated prior to any issuance of Carbon Certificates.

The Validation is done on the initial Project Overview Document and is meant to ensure that the project logic, interventions, expected Yields, and methodologies are sound and realistic.

This step can include interviews, a visit to the project site, and may happen in iterations where the Validator requests the Project Developer to clarify or further develop some aspects of the project.

The purpose of Validation is to ensure the project's feasibility and viability, as well as minimize the risks related to the accuracy and credibility of the GHG project.

5.6. Verification

For the auditing and Verification of GHG projects, Proba recognizes the procedures described in ISO 14063-3:2019 "Greenhouse gasses — Part 3: Specification with guidance for the Verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements".

As such, the Project Developer is required to contract a VVB or equivalent service provider that is working according to this set of rules.

The phase when a project is being verified and a Verification report is being issued is referred to as a Verification Event.

Frequency of Verification Events

The frequency of Verification Events can vary per project and per intervention type. The frequency is left for the Project Developer to determine, based on activities, sector practices, project total duration, risks etc. The frequency of Verification should be aligned with the Yield Periods. For certain projects the Verification can be done upfront.

Scope of the Verification

The scope of the Verification is strongly correlated to the Verification plan as described in the POD and includes intervention location(s), Baseline and yield calculations, methodology, tooling, etc.

The Verification must include all locations, activities, and interventions in scope as described in the POD, such as carbon pools, monitoring process, calculation methods etc. As well, the Verification must assess non-GHG benefits, such as co-benefits and/or contributions to the UN SDGs²⁷.

6. Compliance and Audit Procedures

6.1. Audit Requirements

The VVB performing the Validation or Verification must be well-informed of the scope of the project and related interventions. Measurements are verified using a combination of methods, assessments, interviews, ground-truthing, interviews, etc.

The VVB is responsible for including in the Validation and Verification:

- The risk areas as identified in the POD and verifying that no net-harm has happened as a result of the interventions
- That mitigation measures are being implemented as planned (quantitatively and qualitatively)
- That environmental (including biodiversity), social, and economic aspects are being regularly assessed and managed
- Any change or activity added to the scope of the project since the last Verification event

Yield data can either be entered in the Proba Platform by the operator or the verifier or imported from a trusted datasource.

6.2. Oversight of Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)

Proba requires the Project Developer to contract an approved and qualified VVB. This is defined as any organization that is accredited by a National Accreditation Body (NAB) to perform controls, as described by the International Accreditation Forum²⁸, within their fields of expertise

The Project Developer is responsible for ensuring that the VVB organization and its auditors comply with the above and have demonstrated expertise in auditing the type and scope of the project.

6.3. VVB Accreditation and Qualifications

²⁷ See more about the SDGs: [THE 17 GOALS | Sustainable Development](#)

²⁸ You can find the list of all NABs on this website: <https://iaf.nu/en/accreditation-bodies/>

Independent Verification

Proba requires that every project be verified by an independent third-party organization. To guarantee independence, the chosen VVB should have no vested interest in the outcome of the audit, ensuring objectivity. This means no financial or other conflicts of interest with the entity being audited.

The auditor must commit to making all documentation transparent from the letter of engagement to the final audit report.

Qualified Auditors and VVBs

Verifiers and/or VVB companies who wish to audit interventions against the Proba Standard must prove compliance with the relevant ISO standards, such as (but not limited to) the following:

- ISO/IEC 17021-1:2015 — Requirements for bodies providing audit and certification of management systems
- ISO 14064-3:2019 — Specification with guidance for the Verification and validation of greenhouse gas statements
- ISO 14065:2020 — General principles and requirements for bodies validating and verifying environmental information
- ISO 14066:2023 — Environmental information — Competence requirements for teams validating and verifying environmental information
- Rules relating to the UNFCCC Kyoto Protocol Clean Development Mechanism
- Rules described in the Paris Agreement Article 6, paragraph 4 Supervisory Body

NOTE: It is possible for some projects that Proba will make an exception to the above requirements. In such cases, the exception will be extensively documented and explained, based on evidence of competency and expertise presented by the concerned VVB. In such cases, the fact that the VVB did not comply with the required ISO norms but was approved based on confirmed evidence will be specified as an attribute to the Certificates issued by Proba; this is aligned with Proba's commitment to transparency.

7. Registry

7.1. Registry Provider

The Carbon Certificate Registry is hosted by and property of Proba.

Proba commits to regularly updating the registry with the latest statuses, projects, and Certificate issuance. The registry gets updated automatically upon issuing or changes in Certificates.

7.2. Carbon Certificates ownership and rights (to transfer)

When a GHG project has a Project Sponsor (the organization financing the intervention(s)), the Sponsor becomes the legitimate owner of the Carbon Certificates issued. If there is no Project Sponsor, it is the Project Developer who becomes the initial owner. Proba never becomes the owner of the Certificates and as such cannot take part in trading or transferring certificates to others.

Proba allows for contractual agreements between stakeholders involved in a joint intervention to determine shared ownership or a clear allocation of the credits between them. However, only one party becomes the initial owner and is responsible for allocating to the other beneficiaries.

Each issued Carbon Certificate possesses a unique ID on the blockchain and contains the Certificate's characteristics, such as intervention type, location, level of Storage Duration, and other project-specific attributes. The Proba platform guarantees the ownership of the Certificate to the relevant owner by assigning them to a secure wallet. As such, no one else has access to them until the owner has performed a transfer. Transfers can only be initiated via the Proba platform.

7.3. Access to the Registry

The Registry is publicly available at this URL: <https://registry.proba.earth>.

The Registry contains a large selection of available data that can allow external parties to access the project documentation, location, intervention type, and origin of the Certificates. Some data points may be concealed from public view due to various reasons, such as but not limited to confidentiality, contractual agreements, or intellectual property rights.

7.4. Carbon Certificate lifecycle / How do Certificates enter the registry?

The registry is composed of 3 data ledgers:

- GHG Project and Asset Data: describes the GHG project, its assets and Yields and contains proof of Validation and Verification
- Entitlements: contains the Entitlements that have been generated after verification of Yield

- Carbon Certificates: the actual Certificates that are issued, including Pre-Certificates

After the Verifier has issued the Verification Report, the confirmed amount of tCO₂(e) reduced or sequestered on each asset is entered (or confirmed) in the Proba Platform, and becomes an Entitlement. This Entitlement is used to issue a unique Carbon Certificate on the blockchain. The Certificates allow for selling/transferring to another (claiming) company. Proba Certificates can, based on the buying party or supply chain agreements, be sold either within the supply chain (usually for claiming in Scope 3) or outside of the supply chain (usually for compensation in Scope 1).

Once a Certificate is fully claimed, the Certificate becomes Retired and can no longer be used. If Certificates are claimed by multiple organizations within the supply chain, multiple claimants can co-exist. Therefore they require manual retirement.

7.5. Proba Certificate Validity Period

The Proba Certificates will have a lifetime of 5 years, starting from the creation date of the Entitlement in the Proba platform. This means that after this 5-year period, it will no longer be possible to transfer or claim this Certificate or convert an Entitlement into a Certificate.

After 5 years, created Certificates in the possession of claiming parties remain visible in the platform, but can no longer be transferred to another party.

Entitlements that will reach an age of 5 years without being claimed or transferred will expire and become no longer usable (retired).

7.6. Certificate cancellation

In the event that within an GHG Project a given Yield loses its validity, Proba may, after extensive investigations and exploring the options for compensation, cancel the issued Entitlements or Certificates, preventing them from being used or claimed. The extreme event of cancellation is a last resort option and always requires the approval of the Proba Advisory Board. Proba may also retire part of or all Certificates from the project's Buffer Pool, proportionally to the damage sustained by the project. The situations below provide some examples (non-exhaustive):

- Reversal of the project impact, where previously achieved GHG improvements (reductions, removals) are emitted back unexpectedly, and/or sooner than the planned Storage Duration of the GHG Project
- An intervention or used Methodology appears in hindsight not to deliver the expected CO₂(e) Yield (e.g. erroneous methodology, new scientific insights)

- Alleged fraudulent or corrupt practices by stakeholders involved (e.g. conscious data manipulation or inflation, irregular measurements, conscious omission of risks/leakage)

7.7. Duration of the accessibility to the data

The Proba platform is built on the public Polygon blockchain.

Information related to claimed Carbon Certificates on the blockchain will remain available indefinitely or as long as the Polygon blockchain exists. However, only the most important Certificate attributes and lifecycle history are stored on the blockchain. For other information, like documents and reports, data to guarantee integrity is stored. When the information is removed from the Proba Platform, it will no longer be accessible. All information on the Proba Platform is stored for the duration of the GHG Project, plus 7 years.

7.8. Proba support

Proba will support owners of Entitlements or Carbon Certificates throughout the lifecycle described in point 7.5. and 7.7., and for a maximum of 7 years.