

**Joint Crediting Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for Reducing Emission from  
Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable  
Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries  
(REDD-plus) and Afforestation/Reforestation *(Draft)***

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## **1. GENERAL PROCEDURES**

### **1.1. Objectives**

1. The objectives of the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Project Cycle Procedure for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries and afforestation/reforestation (hereinafter referred to as “forest projects”)” (hereinafter referred to as “this Procedure”) are to:
  - (a) Improve the consistency and clarity in processing of the submissions of documents relating to the decision on no-objection for a planned project, the approval of a methodology, the registration of a proposed Joint Crediting Mechanism (hereinafter referred to as “JCM”) project and issuance of credits by the Joint Committee, the JCM secretariat (hereinafter referred to as the “secretariat”), the Japanese side and the PARTNER COUNTRY’s side (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”);
  - (b) Enhance the overall efficiency and integrity of the JCM.

### **1.2. Scope and applicability**

2. This Procedure describes the administrative steps to follow for project participants, third-party entities (hereinafter referred to as the “TPEs”), other stakeholders, the Joint Committee, the secretariat and both sides for approval of a methodology, registration of a JCM project, issuance of credits and related actions.

### **1.3. Terms and definitions**

3. This Procedure describes standards which are requirements to be met except those paragraphs which include terms “should” and “may” as defined in paragraph 4 below.
4. The following terms apply in this Procedure:
  - (a) “Should” is used to indicate that among several possibilities, one course of action is recommended as particularly suitable;
  - (b) “May” is used to indicate what is permitted.
5. Terms in this Procedure are defined in the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Glossary of Terms” available on the JCM website.

### **1.4. No objection to a planned project**

#### **1.4.1. Submission of project idea note**

6. The project participants of a planned project who seek to request registration under the JCM prepare a project idea note (hereinafter referred to as “PIN”) and submit it, using the latest version of the “JCM Project Idea Note Form”, to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, before implementing the project.

7. In case the project participants of the planned project expect to receive financial support for the project from the Government of Japan, the PIN should be submitted from a relevant ministry in the Government of Japan to the Joint Committee through the secretariat.
8. The project participants may submit the PIN using the previous version of the “JCM Project Idea Note Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the PIN using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

#### **1.4.2. Processing submission of project idea note**

9. The secretariat issues a unique reference number to the PIN submitted to the Joint Committee through the secretariat.
10. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission of the PIN and a unique reference number to the project participants who have submitted the PIN.
11. Upon receiving the PIN, the secretariat conducts a completeness check within five (5) calendar days to determine whether the submission is complete.
12. Upon completion of the completeness check, the secretariat notifies the project participants of the result of the completeness check.

#### **1.4.3. Finalizing processing of project idea note**

13. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee decides whether it has objection or no objection to the planned project described in the PIN within fifteen (15) calendar days.
14. The Joint Committee makes the result publicly available, including the reference number of the PIN, the name of the planned project, the date of submission and the reason for objection when the Joint Committee objects to the planned project described in the PIN through the JCM website, and the secretariat notifies the project participants or the relevant ministry in the Government of Japan described in paragraph 7 of the result.
15. Upon decision by the Joint Committee on no objection to the planned project, the project participants may proceed to the processes described in section 1.7.
16. If the project participants wish to resubmit the PIN due to substantive changes after receiving a no objection, they may revise the PIN and submit the revised PIN to the Joint Committee for no objection through the secretariat or the relevant ministry of the Japanese side, notifying the reference number which has already been issued to the planned project.
17. The project participants may resubmit a PIN that has been assessed as incomplete by the secretariat or has been given an objection by the Joint Committee. Such submission addresses the reasons for incompleteness stated by the secretariat and an objection stated by the Joint Committee.

## **1.5. Approval of methodologies**

### **1.5.1. Submission of a proposed methodology**

18. The Japanese side, the PARTNER COUNTRY's side, or project participants (hereinafter referred to as "methodology proponents") may prepare a proposed methodology and submit it, using the latest version of forms described in paragraph 19 below, to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for its approval by electronic means.
19. The methodology proponents communicate with the both governments of forest sector to explain the proposed approach and procedures to develop the project reference level and estimate project net emissions, consider any comments and other feedback they receive, and keep records of the communications.
20. The proposed methodology consists of the completed "JCM Proposed Methodology Form" and "JCM Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet Form", containing the Input Sheet and Calculation Process Sheet, which are developed in line with the "Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Developing Proposed Methodology for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation" (hereinafter referred to as "Methodology Guidelines for forest projects"). The submission may be accompanied by additional documents which help explain the methodology and the communication record with both governments of forest sector. The Joint Committee may request the methodology proponents to submit additional documents including a draft project design document (hereinafter referred to as "PDD") to which the proposed methodology is applied.
21. The methodology proponents may submit the proposed methodology to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for its approval using the previous version of the "JCM Proposed Methodology Form" and "JCM Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet Form" within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the proposed methodology using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
22. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission to the methodology proponents by electronic means.
23. Methodologies may also be developed under the initiative of the Joint Committee.

### **1.5.2. Completeness check**

24. The secretariat checks whether the proposed methodology is complete and communicates the result to the methodology proponents within seven (7) calendar days after the receipt of

the submission.

25. If the submission is deemed incomplete, the secretariat notifies the methodology proponents of the reason.
26. This process is not required for proposed methodologies developed under the initiative of the Joint Committee.

### **1.5.3. Public inputs**

27. After the secretariat deems that the submitted proposed methodology satisfies the completeness check, the secretariat promptly makes the methodology publicly available for public inputs through the JCM website.
28. The duration of call for public inputs is fifteen (15) calendar days.
29. The secretariat makes all received inputs publicly available through the JCM website.
30. For methodologies developed under the initiative of the Joint Committee, they are also subjected to this process.

### **1.5.4. Review of a proposed methodology**

31. After the public inputs, the secretariat reviews the proposed methodology based on, but not limited to, the materials submitted by the methodology proponents and the received inputs in line with Methodology Guidelines for forest projects.
32. The secretariat may interact with the methodology proponents on specific issues regarding the proposed methodology.
33. The secretariat may delegate part of the work of review to external experts and/or a panel independent from methodology proponents, as appropriate.
34. This process is not required for proposed methodologies developed under the initiative of the Joint Committee.
35. Upon the completion of the review, the secretariat notifies the methodology proponents and submits the outcome to the Joint Committee.

### **1.5.5. Consideration of a proposed methodology**

36. The Joint Committee receives the outcome of the secretariat's review and considers the proposed methodology.
37. The Joint Committee may interact with the methodology proponents on specific issues regarding the proposed methodology.
38. The outcome of the consideration is as follows:
  - (a) Approval of the proposed methodology;
  - (b) Approval of the proposed methodology with revisions;
  - (c) Non-approval of the proposed methodology.

39. The Joint Committee should complete the consideration within sixty (60) calendar days from the closing of the secretariat review. If this is deemed not possible due to matters such as ongoing clarifications, then the secretariat notifies the methodology proponents of the status of discussion within sixty (60) calendar days from the closing of the secretariat review, and the Joint Committee should complete the consideration no later than ninety (90) calendar days from the closing of the secretariat review.
40. Upon completion of consideration, the secretariat notifies the outcome of consideration to the methodology proponents, with its reasons.
41. The secretariat makes publicly available the outcome of the consideration, as well as relevant information on the approved methodology, which consists of approved methodology document and Monitoring Spreadsheet, through the JCM website within five (5) calendar days from the date of decision by the Joint Committee. Monitoring Spreadsheet consists of Monitoring Plan Sheet, Monitoring Structure Sheet and Monitoring Report Sheet<sup>1</sup>.
42. The methodology proponents may resubmit any proposed methodology that has been assessed as incomplete by the secretariat or has not been approved by the Joint Committee. Such submission addresses the reasons for incompleteness stated by the secretariat or non-approval stated by the Joint Committee.

## **1.6. Implementation of project**

43. Project participants operate a project in line with the JCM rules and guidelines.
44. After the registration of the project, the project participants operate the project and conduct monitoring of its activity in line with the registered PDD. The project participants may submit the request for registration after the start date of operation.
45. If the project participants identify risks that could significantly affect the project, the project participants report them to the secretariat without delay.
46. Credits are only issued to emission reductions or removals that are calculated by the project participants and verified by the TPE based on the results of monitoring in line with the registered PDD, after the start date of operation.

## **1.7. Pre-registration activities**

### **1.7.1. Publication of project design document**

#### **1.7.1.1. Assessment of project reference level**

47. For REDD-plus project, if a national or relevant sub-national reference level is established or changed after the project start date, the project reference level is reestablished in a

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<sup>1</sup> Monitoring Plan Sheet and Monitoring Report Sheet are prepared by the secretariat based on a Proposed Methodology Spreadsheet made by the methodology proponent after its approval. Monitoring Structure Sheet is added by the secretariat.



consistent manner with the national or relevant sub-national reference level. However, the newly established project reference level cannot be applied retroactively to evaluate net emission reductions or removals. If there is no national or relevant sub-national reference level, the project reference level is reassessed by project participants within five years to ensure that it adequately reflects the actual circumstances of the project area, such as drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, activities that lead to land-use changes, and changes of forest management methods. If the result of reassessment shows that the project reference level no longer adequately reflects actual circumstances, the project reference level is reestablished.

#### 1.7.1.2. Submission of project design document

48. The project participants of a proposed JCM project prepare a draft PDD, after conducting a local stakeholder consultation which consists of a completed “JCM Project Design Document Form”, using the latest version of that form, and monitoring plan, in line with the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Developing Project Design Document and Monitoring Report for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation” (hereinafter referred to as “PDD and Monitoring Guidelines”), and submit them together with a modalities of communication statement (hereinafter referred to as “MoC”), using the latest version of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” and supporting documentations to the TPE contracted by the project participants to perform validation of the project and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs.
49. The project participants may submit the draft PDD together with the MoC to the TPE contracted by the project participants to perform validation of the project and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs, using the previous version of the “JCM Project Design Document Form” and “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the draft PDD and the MoC using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
50. The secretariat issues a unique reference number to the JCM project submitted to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs.
51. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission and the unique reference number to the project participant who has submitted the draft PDD and MoC.
52. Upon notifying the receipt of the submission, the secretariat makes the draft PDD publicly available through the JCM website for public inputs. The duration of call for public inputs

on the draft PDD is thirty (30) calendar days subsequent to the publication of the draft PDD. The secretariat informs the project participants and the TPE of the location of the draft PDD on the JCM website and the opening and closing dates of the duration of call for public inputs.

53. In addition to the draft PDD, the secretariat, through the JCM website, also makes the following information publicly available:
  - (a) The name of the proposed JCM project;
  - (b) The location of the proposed JCM project including coordinates;
  - (c) The names of the all project participants listed in the draft PDD of the proposed JCM project;
  - (d) The name of the TPE which conducts validation (and verification) for the proposed JCM project;
  - (e) The estimated annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions or removals indicated in the draft PDD;
  - (f) The approved methodology(ies) being applied to the proposed JCM project;
  - (g) The proposed start date and length of the expected operation period;
  - (h) The crediting period and observation period of the proposed project.
54. Validation and verification can be conducted either simultaneously or separately. When the project participants apply for validation and verification simultaneously, all sections of the draft PDD and the draft monitoring report are completed prior to submission.

#### 1.7.1.3. Submission and treatment of public inputs

55. All stakeholders may submit inputs, in English, on the proposed JCM project to the project participants and the TPE through electronic means specified on the JCM website. The submitters of the inputs provide the name and contact details of the individual or organization on whose behalf the inputs are submitted. The TPE checks the authenticity and relevance of this information to the draft PDD in case of doubt.
56. The secretariat makes the inputs publicly available through the JCM website where the draft PDD is displayed, and removes those that the TPE has determined to be unauthentic in line with paragraph 55 above.

#### 1.7.2. **Modalities of communication**

57. The project participants of a JCM project designate one focal point entity (hereinafter referred to as the “focal point”) from the project participants to communicate on their behalf with the Joint Committee and the secretariat in line with scopes of authority referred to in paragraph 60 below and include this information in an MoC.
58. After the submission of an MoC of a proposed JCM project, all official communication between the project participants and the Joint Committee, the secretariat, or each side for the

specific project is conducted through the focal point.

59. The project participants submit an MoC to the Joint Committee through the secretariat and the TPE, at the time of submitting the draft PDD to the TPE for validation and the Joint Committee for public inputs. The contact details of the focal point and other project participants are included in the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form”.
60. The project participants grant the focal point the authority to:
  - (a) Communicate in relation to requests for issuance of credits to respective accounts;
  - (b) Communicate in relation to requests for addition and/or voluntary withdrawal of project participants and changes to the focal point, as well as changes to company names, legal status, contact details and specimen signatures; and
  - (c) Communicate on all other project-related matters not covered by subparagraphs (a) and (b) above.
61. The project participants and the focal point designate one primary authorized signatory and one alternate authorized signatory. The signature of either the primary or alternate authorized signatory suffices for authenticating the project participant’s or the focal point’s consent or instruction(s).
62. The project participants do not include or refer to private contractual arrangements in an MoC.
63. The secretariat publishes the MoC on the JCM website following the registration of the project. The MoC is shared only among the project participants, the Joint Committee, the secretariat and the TPE involved in the JCM project. The secretariat makes sections 1 to 4 of the MoC without specimen signatures publicly available.

### 1.7.3. Publication of sustainable development implementation plan

#### 1.7.3.1. Preparation of sustainable development and implementation plan

64. The project participants of a proposed JCM project prepare a draft sustainable development implementation plan (hereinafter referred to as “SDIP”), which describes the plan of contribution to sustainable development, using the latest version of that form in line with the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Developing Sustainable Development Implementation Plan and Report” (hereinafter referred to as “SDIP and SDIR Guidelines”), and submit the draft SDIP together with supporting documentation, as appropriate, to the Joint Committee through the secretariat at the time of the submission of the draft PDD in line with the paragraph 48 above.
65. The project participants may submit the draft SDIP to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, using the previous version of the “JCM Sustainable Development Implementation Plan Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the draft SDIP using the

previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

66. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission of the draft SDIP to the project participants by electronic means.
67. Upon notifying the receipt of the submission, the secretariat makes the draft SDIP publicly available through the JCM website for public inputs. The duration of call for public inputs on the draft SDIP is thirty (30) calendar days subsequent to the publication of the draft SDIP. The secretariat informs the project participants of the location of the draft SDIP on the JCM website and the opening and closing dates of the duration of call for public inputs.

#### 1.7.3.2. Review of sustainable development and implementation plan

68. After closing the call for public inputs, the secretariat conducts a review of the draft SDIP within fourteen (14) calendar days.
69. During the review, the secretariat may interact with the project participants on specific issues regarding the SDIP.
70. The secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of review specified in paragraph 67 above if potential negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified and an appropriate action plan is not described.
71. In case potential negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified and an appropriate action plan is not properly described during the period of review, the secretariat requests the project participants to revise the draft SDIP and resubmit it for review.
72. The draft SDIP is deemed positively reviewed if no potential negative impacts are identified or an appropriate action plan is properly described during the period of review.

#### **1.7.4. Publication of safeguard activity implementation plan**

73. The project participants prepare a safeguard activity implementation plan for forest projects (hereinafter referred to as “SGIP”). The SGIP describes the plan for implementing and monitoring the safeguard activities and consists of a completed “JCM Safeguard Activity Implementation Plan Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” in line with the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Addressing and Respecting Safeguards for Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation” (hereinafter referred to as “Safeguard Guidelines”).
74. In case some parts of descriptions in the SDIP and the SGIP are overlapped, description in the SGIP may be simplified by specifying “see description in the SDIP” in the SGIP.
75. The project participants submit the SGIP with supporting documentation, as appropriate, to the secretariat by the time of the submission of the PDD in line with the paragraph 48 above.

76. Upon notifying the receipt of the submission, the secretariat makes the SGIP publicly available through the JCM website for public inputs. The duration of call for public inputs on the SGIP is thirty (30) calendar days subsequent to the publication of the SGIP. The secretariat informs the project participants of the location of the SGIP on the JCM website and the opening and closing dates of the duration of call for public inputs.
77. All stakeholders may submit inputs, in English, on the proposed JCM project to the project participants through electronic means specified on the JCM website. The submitters of the inputs provide the name and contact details of the individual or organization on whose behalf the inputs are submitted. The secretariat checks the authenticity and relevance of this information to the SGIP.
78. The secretariat makes the inputs publicly available through the JCM website where the SGIP is displayed, and removes those that the secretariat has determined to be unauthentic in line with paragraph 77 above.
79. Upon receiving the result of treatment of public inputs by the project participant, the Joint Committee conduct a review of the submitted SGIP within fourteen (14) calendar days.
80. The Joint Committee may delegate part of the work of review to external experts and/or a panel independent from project participants, as appropriate.
81. The secretariat may interact with the project participants on specific issues regarding the SGIP.
82. The secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of review specified in paragraph 79 above if appropriate plans for safeguard activities and monitoring of them are not included.
83. The SGIP deemed positively reviewed if appropriate plans for safeguard activities and monitoring of them are properly described during the period of review. In case appropriate plans for safeguard activities and monitoring of them are not properly described during the period of review, the project participants may revise the SGIP and resubmit it for review.
84. In addition to the process regarding safeguard under the JCM, it is encouraged to be certified by other international third-party certification on safeguard.

#### **1.7.5. Validation of a proposed JCM project**

85. The TPE, in line with the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Guidelines for Validation and Verification or Reducing Emission from Deforestation and Forest Degradation, and the Role of Conservation, Sustainable Management of Forests and Enhancement of Forest Carbon Stocks in Developing Countries (REDD-plus) and afforestation/reforestation” (hereinafter referred to as “Validation and Verification Guidelines”), validates the MoC and the proposed JCM project as described in the draft PDD, prepares a validation report using the latest version of the “JCM Validation Report Form” and sends the report to the project participants.

86. The TPE may send the validation report to the project participants using the previous version of the “JCM Validation Report Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The validation report using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months is not accepted by the Joint Committee.
87. Validation can be conducted simultaneously with verification.
88. The TPE may make any input on a SGIP, in case the TPE has some findings about the safeguard activity during the validation. Details of the safeguards for forest sector are described in the Safeguard Guidelines and this Procedure.

## **1.8. Registration of project**

### **1.8.1. Request for registration**

#### **1.8.1.1. Submission of request for registration**

89. Project participants of a JCM project consult among themselves and both sides the credit allocation among the project participants of Japan, the project participants of the PARTNER COUNTRY, the Japanese side and the PARTNER COUNTRY’s side, taking into consideration their respective contribution to GHG emission reductions or removals.
90. The project participants, after receiving no objection to the PIN, a positive validation opinion by the TPE, after the SDIP is positively reviewed by the secretariat, and after the SGIP is positively reviewed by the Joint Committee, may request for registration of the proposed JCM project. When requesting for registration, the project participants submit the completed “JCM Project Registration Request Form”, using the latest version of that form, the validated PDD and MoC, the validation report, the positively reviewed SDIP, the positively reviewed SGIP, the completed “JCM Credit Allocation Form” using the latest version of that form, and other supporting documents, as appropriate, by electronic means.
91. The project participants may request for registration of the proposed JCM project using the previous versions of the “JCM Project Registration Request Form” and the “JCM Credit Allocation Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the request using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

#### **1.8.1.2. Processing request for registration**

92. The secretariat maintains a publicly available list of all submitted requests for registration through the JCM website.
93. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the request for registration to the project participants by electronic means.
94. Upon receiving the request for registration, the secretariat conducts a completeness check within seven (7) calendar days to determine whether the request for registration submission

is complete.

95. Upon completion of the completeness check, the secretariat notifies the project participants and the TPE of the result of the completeness check.

### **1.8.2. Consideration of a proposed project**

96. The Joint Committee receives the validated PDD and MoC, the validation report, the positively reviewed SDIP and positively reviewed SGIP, and considers the proposed project.
97. The Joint Committee may interact with the project participants on specific issues regarding the proposed project.
98. The outcome of the consideration is as follows:
  - (a) Registration of the proposed project;
  - (b) Registration of the proposed project with revisions;
  - (c) Rejection of the proposed project.
99. The Joint Committee should complete the consideration within thirty (30) calendar days from the closing of the completeness check. If this is deemed not possible due to matters such as ongoing clarifications, then the secretariat notifies the project participants of the status of discussion within thirty (30) calendar days from the closing of the completeness check, and the Joint Committee should complete the consideration no later than sixty (60) calendar days from the closing of the completeness check.
100. Upon positive result of the consideration, the Joint Committee decides the credit allocation and registration of the proposed JCM project.
101. When the Joint Committee decides to register the proposed JCM project, the secretariat notifies each side, the project participants and the TPE of the registration and makes publicly available the relevant information including the credit allocation for the JCM project through the JCM website.
102. The project participants may resubmit any proposed JCM project that has been assessed as incomplete by the secretariat or has been rejected by the Joint Committee. Such submission addresses the reasons for incompleteness stated by the secretariat or rejection stated by the Joint Committee.

## **1.9. Pre-issuance activities**

### **1.9.1. Preparation of monitoring report**

103. The project participants prepare a draft monitoring report in line with the applied methodology and the PDD and Monitoring Guidelines and submit it together with supporting documentation to the TPE contracted by the project participants to perform verification of the monitored GHG emission reductions or removals.

### **1.9.2. Verification of emission reductions or removals**

104. The TPE, in line with the Validation and Verification Guidelines, verifies the amounts of GHG emission reductions or removals on the basis of the monitoring report submitted by the project participants, prepares a verification report using the latest version of the “JCM Verification Report Form” and sends the report to the project participants which requested verification.
105. The TPE may send the verification report to the project participants using the previous version of the “JCM Verification Report Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The verification report using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months is not accepted by the Joint Committee.
106. Verification can be conducted simultaneously with validation.
107. The TPE may make any input on a SGPR, in case the TPE has some findings about the safeguard activity during the verification. Details of the safeguards for forest sector are described in the Safeguard Guidelines and this Procedure.

### **1.9.3. Sustainable development implementation report**

#### **1.9.3.1. Preparation of sustainable development implementation report**

108. The project participants prepare a sustainable development implementation report (hereinafter referred to as “SDIR”) which consists of a completed “JCM Sustainable Development Implementation Report Form” using the latest version of that form in line with the SDIP and SDIR Guidelines and the positively reviewed SDIP, and submit the SDIR together with supporting documentation, as appropriate, to the Joint Committee through the secretariat at the time of the submission of the draft monitoring report in line with the paragraph 103 above.
109. In case some parts of descriptions in the SDIR and the safeguard activity progress report for forest projects (SGPR, detailed in the section 1.9.4) are overlapped, description in the SGPR may be simplified by specifying “see description in the SDIR” in the SGPR.
110. The project participants may submit the SDIR to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, using the previous version of the “JCM Sustainable Development Implementation Report Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the SDIR using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
111. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission of the SDIR to the project participants by electronic means.
112. Upon receiving the SDIR, the secretariat conducts a completeness check within seven (7) calendar days. If the submission is deemed incomplete, the secretariat notifies the project



participants of the reason.

113. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee conducts an evaluation of the SDIR within thirty (30) calendar days, including on-site visit where necessary.
114. During the evaluation, the Joint Committee may interact with the project participants on specific issues regarding the SDIR.
115. The Joint Committee through the secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of evaluation specified in paragraph 113 above if negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified without appropriate description on the corrective action. The SDIR is deemed positively evaluated if no negative impacts are identified or appropriate description on the corrective action is properly addressed during the period of evaluation.
116. If negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified without appropriate description on the corrective action, the Joint Committee through the secretariat requests the project participants revise SDIR and re-submit it for re-evaluation as described in section 1.9.3.2 below.

#### 1.9.3.2. Conditions resulting in the revision of SDIR

117. In case negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified without appropriate description on the corrective action, the project participants submit the revised SDIR to the Joint Committee through the secretariat within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of notification by submitting the revised SDIR highlighting all revisions. The submission may be accompanied by additional documents which help explain the revisions.
118. The Joint Committee conducts evaluation of the revised SDIR within thirty (30) calendar days.
119. The Joint Committee through the secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of evaluation specified in paragraph 118 above if negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified without appropriate description on the corrective action.
120. If negative impacts of the project on sustainable development are identified without appropriate description on the corrective action, the project participants may repeat SDIR revision for re-evaluation as specified in paragraphs 117 to 119 above.

### 1.9.4. **Safeguard activity progress report**

#### 1.9.4.1. Preparation of safeguard activity progress report

121. The project participants prepare a safeguard activity progress report for forest projects (hereinafter referred to as “SGPR”). The SGPR consists of a completed “JCM Safeguard Activity Progress Report Form” using the latest version of that form in line with the

Safeguard Guidelines and the positively reviewed SGIP. The project participants submit the SGPR together with supporting documentation, as appropriate, to the Joint Committee through the secretariat at the time of the submission of the draft monitoring report in line with the paragraph 103 above.

122. The project participants may submit the SGPR to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, using the previous version of the “JCM Safeguard Activity Progress Report Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the SGPR using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
123. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission of the SGPR to the project participants by electronic means.
124. Upon notifying the receipt of the submission, the secretariat makes the SGPR publicly available through the JCM website for public inputs. The duration of call for public inputs on the SGPR is fifteen (15) calendar days subsequent to the publication of the SGPR. The secretariat informs the project participants of the location of the SGPR on the JCM website and the opening and closing dates of the duration of call for public inputs.

#### 1.9.4.2. Submission and treatment of public inputs

125. All stakeholders may submit inputs, in English on the proposed JCM project to the project participants through electronic means specified on the JCM website. The submitters of the inputs provide the name and contact details of the individual or organization on whose behalf the inputs are submitted. The secretariat checks the authenticity and relevance of this information in case of doubt.
126. The secretariat makes the inputs publicly available through the JCM website where the SGPR is displayed, and removes those that the secretariat has determined to be unauthentic in line with paragraph 125 above.
127. Upon receiving the result of treatment of public inputs by the project participant, the secretariat conducts a completeness check of the draft SGPR within seven (7) calendar days. If the submission is deemed incomplete, the secretariat notifies the project participants of the reason.

#### 1.9.4.3. Evaluation of draft SGPR

128. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee conducts an evaluation of the SGPR within thirty (30) calendar days.
129. During the evaluation, the secretariat may interact with the project participants on specific issues regarding the SGPR.
130. The secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of

evaluation specified in paragraph 128 above if progress of the safeguard activities and results of the monitoring, and/or appropriate plans for improvement for next monitoring period (as necessary) are not properly described. The SGPR is deemed positively evaluated if those progress and plans are properly described.

131. If those progress and/or plans specified in paragraph 130 above are not properly described, the project participants may revise SGPR and re-submit it for re-evaluation as described in section 1.9.4.4 below.

#### **1.9.4.4. Conditions resulting in the revision of SGPR**

132. In case those progress and/or plans specified in paragraph 130 above are not properly described, the project participants may submit the revised SGPR to the Joint Committee through the secretariat within sixty (60) calendar days from the date of notification by submitting the revised SGPR highlighting all revisions. The submission may be accompanied by additional documents which help explain the revisions.
133. The Joint Committee conducts re-evaluation of the revised SGPR within ten (10) calendar days.
134. The secretariat notifies the project participants by electronic means during the period of evaluation specified in paragraph 133 above if those progress and/or plans specified in paragraph 133 above are not properly described.
135. If those progress and/or plans specified in paragraph 133 above are not properly described, the project participants may repeat SGPR revision for re-evaluation as specified in paragraphs 132 to 134 above.

#### **1.9.5. Preparation of project implementation report**

136. The project participants prepare a project implementation report and submit it to the Joint Committee annually until the end of the operational lifetime of the project or the end of the crediting period, whichever comes first. When reporting to the Joint Committee, the project participants submit the completed “JCM Project Implementation Report Form” using the latest version of that form by electronic means.
137. The project participants may submit the report to the Joint Committee using the previous version of the “JCM Project Implementation Report Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the report using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

## **1.10. Issuance of credits**

### **1.10.1. Request for issuance**

#### **1.10.1.1. Submission of request for issuance**

138. The project participants who wish to have credits issued open an account in the registry of the Japanese side and/or the PARTNER COUNTRY's side before requesting issuance of credits.
139. The project participants may request the Joint Committee to notify each side to issue credits to their respective accounts in the registry, only after the TPE verifies the amount of GHG emission reductions or removals. When requesting to notify each side to issue credits, the project participants submit the completed "JCM Credits Issuance Request Form" using the latest version of that form, including information on the allocation of credits among the project participants and both sides in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent in line with the credit allocation decided in paragraph 100, the verified monitoring report, the verification report, the evaluated SDIR, and the evaluated SGPR by electronic means.
140. The credit allocation decided by the Joint Committee may be revised when all the project participants and both sides consent to change.
141. The project participants may request the Joint Committee to notify each side to issue credits using the previous version of the "JCM Credits Issuance Request Form" within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the request using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

#### **1.10.1.2. Processing request for issuance**

142. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the request for issuance to the project participants by electronic means.
143. The secretariat conducts a completeness check within seven (7) calendar days to determine whether the request for issuance, including allocation of the credits among the project participants in tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, is complete.
144. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee decides to notify each side of the amount of credits to be issued.
145. Upon decision by the Joint Committee, the secretariat notifies each side, the project participants and the TPE of the result.

#### **1.10.1.3. Finalizing request for issuance**

146. Upon notification by the secretariat, each side issues the amount of credits specified in the notification to respective accounts of project participants and each buffer account in the registry.
147. Each side notifies the issuance of credits to the Joint Committee through the secretariat.

148. The secretariat archives all the data of issuance of credits and makes them publicly available through the JCM website.

## **1.11. Renewal of crediting period**

### **1.11.1. Assessment of project reference level of the applied methodology**

149. The project participants, who selected a renewable crediting period of the registered JCM project and wish to renew its crediting period, assess the project reference level of the applied methodology. For REDD-plus project, if a national or relevant sub-national reference level is established or changed after the project start date, the project reference level is reestablished in a consistent manner with the national or relevant sub-national reference level. However, the newly established project reference level cannot be applied retroactively to evaluate net emission reductions or removals. If there is no national or relevant sub-national reference level, the project reference level is reassessed by project participants within five years to ensure that it adequately reflects the actual circumstances of the project area, such as drivers of deforestation and/or forest degradation, activities that lead to land-use changes, and changes of forest management methods. If the result of reassessment shows that the project reference level no longer adequately reflects actual circumstances, the project reference level is reestablished.
150. Upon positive result on the reassessment of project reference level of the approved methodology, the project participants update its PDD for renewal of crediting period and proceed to the validation process.
151. The project participants may request to revise the approved methodology in line with Section 2.2.1 below when the assessment does not complete in a positive result.

### **1.11.2. Validation of updated PDD for renewal of crediting period**

152. The project participants, who selected a renewable crediting period of the registered JCM project and wish to renew its crediting period, update its PDD applying the approved methodology, of which project reference level is deemed to have validity in line with paragraph 149, or applying the revised approved methodology, in line with Section 1.11.1 above.
153. When requesting the renewal of crediting period, the project participants submit the updated PDD to the TPE contracted by the project participants to perform validation of the JCM project and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs. Publication of the updated PDD is carried out in the same procedure as described in Section 1.7.1 above.
154. The TPE, in line with the Validation and Verification Guidelines validates the JCM project as described in the updated PDD and the MoC as necessary in line with Section 1.7.5 above.

### **1.11.3. Request for renewal of crediting period**

#### **1.11.3.1. Submission of request for renewal of crediting period**

155. The project participants, after receiving a positive validation opinion by the TPE submit a request for renewal of crediting period of the registered JCM project using the latest version of the “JCM Renewal of crediting period request form” together with the updated PDD, the validation report and a completed “JCM Credit Allocation Form” using the latest version of that form to the secretariat. Such a submission is made no earlier than two hundred and seventy (270) days prior to, but no later than one year after, the expiry of the crediting period.

#### **1.11.3.2. Processing of request for renewal**

156. The secretariat processes a submission in line with Section 1.8.1 above.

#### **1.11.3.3. Finalizing request for renewal**

157. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee decides to renew the crediting period of the JCM project. When the Joint Committee decides to renew the crediting period of the JCM project, the same procedure is carried out as described in paragraph 101 above.

## **2. SPECIFIC PROCEDURES**

### **2.1. No objection to a planned project**

#### **2.1.1. No objection to a planned project**

##### **2.1.1.1. Processing no objection to a planned project**

158. If the secretariat, during the completeness check of a PIN, identifies issues of an editorial nature, it requests project participants by electronic means to submit the missing information. In this case, project participants submit the requested information within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the request. If project participants do not submit the requested information by this deadline, the PIN is deemed incomplete. The secretariat conducts the completeness check within five (5) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the requested information.
159. If the PIN does not meet the requirements of the completeness check, the secretariat communicates the underlying reasons to the project participants. In this case, the project participants may re-submit the revised PIN as described in paragraph 6 and 7 above.

### **2.2. Approval of methodologies**

#### **2.2.1. Revision of an approved methodology**

160. Methodology proponents may request the Joint Committee through the secretariat to revise an approved methodology by submitting the completed “JCM Approved Methodology Revision Request Form” using the latest version of that form and the proposed revised methodology highlighting all proposed changes.
161. The methodology proponents may request the Joint Committee for the revision of an approved methodology using the previous version of the “JCM Approved Methodology Revision Request Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the request using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
162. The submission may be accompanied by additional documents which help explain the proposed revision. The Joint Committee may request the methodology proponents to submit additional documents including a draft PDD to which the proposed revised methodology is applied.
163. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission to the methodology proponents by electronic means.
164. Methodologies may also be revised under the initiative of the Joint Committee.
165. The secretariat conducts a completeness check of the submission in the same procedure as described in section 1.5.2.
166. In parallel with the completeness check, the secretariat also assesses the nature and complexity of the proposed revision and classifies them as follows:
- (a) Substantive revision proposal: Substantive changes to the approved methodology

including changes in eligibility criteria, calculation and monitoring methods and parameters; or

- (b) Editorial revision proposal: Correction of misstatements and editorial revisions to improve the clarity of the approved methodology.

167. Upon completion of the completeness check and the assessment of the proposed revision by the secretariat, all substantive revision proposals referred to in paragraph 166(a), including those under the initiative of the Joint Committee, are subject to public inputs procedure as described in section 1.5.3.
168. Consideration of the substantive revision proposals is conducted in the same procedure as described in paragraphs 31 to 40.
169. The secretariat makes publicly available all approved revised methodologies through the JCM website within five (5) calendar days from the date of decision by the Joint Committee.
170. Project participants may apply the approved revised methodology in projects seeking validation after the date on which the revised version is approved.
171. Upon completion of the completeness check and the assessment of the proposed revision by the secretariat, all editorial revision proposals referred to in paragraph 166(b), including those under the initiative of the Joint Committee, are reflected as appropriate by the secretariat after approval by the Joint Committee. The secretariat makes the revised methodology publicly available through the JCM website.
172. The revision of an approved methodology has no effect on projects which have started the public inputs for draft PDDs applying the previous version of the revised methodology.

### **2.2.2. Putting on hold of an approved methodology**

173. In case new or better comprehension of scientific evidence indicates that emission reductions may be overestimated based on the approved methodology, or there are identified inconsistencies, errors and/or ambiguities in the approved methodology, the Joint Committee may put on hold an approved methodology at any time. In this case, the Joint Committee decides to either:
  - (a) Put on hold the approved methodology with immediate effect. In this case, project participants do not submit any draft PDD for public inputs or any request for registration of a project applying the methodology, from the day following the date of publication of the Joint Committee's decision through the JCM website; or
  - (b) Put on hold the approved methodology with a grace period of twenty-eight (28) calendar days. In this case, project participants do not submit any request for registration of a project applying the methodology any more than twenty-eight (28) calendar days following the date of publication of the Joint Committee's decision through the JCM website.



## **2.3. Pre-registration activities**

### **2.3.1. Conditions resulting in the revision of project design document**

174. The project participants may submit a draft PDD to request for registration applying the previous version of an approved methodology within the grace period of eight (8) months from the date of publication of revised version except when the methodology is revised following the process described in paragraph 173 above. If the project participants have submitted a draft PDD applying the previous version of an approved methodology to the TPE for validation and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs but do not submit request for registration within the grace period, they revise the draft PDD applying the new version of the methodology and submit it to the TPE for validation and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs, notifying the reference number which has already been issued to the proposed JCM project.
175. If the project participants wish to change the approved methodology applied in the draft PDD that has already been published for public inputs, they revise the draft PDD and submit the revised draft PDD to the TPE for validation and to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for public inputs, notifying the reference number which has already been issued to the proposed JCM project.

## **2.4. Registration of project**

### **2.4.1. Request for registration**

#### **2.4.1.1. Processing request for registration**

176. If the secretariat, during the completeness check, identifies issues of an editorial nature, it requests project participants by electronic means, copying the TPE, to submit the missing or revised documents and/or information. In this case, project participants submit the requested documents and/or information within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the request. If project participants do not submit the requested documents and/or information by this deadline, the request for registration is deemed incomplete. The secretariat conducts the completeness check within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the requested documents and/or information.
177. If the request for registration does not meet the requirements of the completeness check, the secretariat communicates the underlying reasons to the project participants and the TPE, and makes them publicly available through the JCM website. In this case, the project participants may re-submit the request for registration with revised documentation as described in paragraph 89 above.
178. If the secretariat notifies the project participants that the request for registration is incomplete, in line with paragraph 177 above, more than forty-five (45) calendar days after the

submission of the request for registration, and the request for registration was submitted more than forty-five (45) calendar days prior to the expiry of the grace period of the previous version of a methodology, then for re-submission purposes, the project participants are granted an extension of the validity of the methodology by the number of calendar days in excess of the forty-five (45) calendar days elapsed before the notification on incompleteness is made.

#### **2.4.1.2. Rejecting request for registration**

179. If the Joint Committee decides to reject the request for registration, the secretariat notifies each side, the project participants and the TPE of the rejection and its reasons and makes publicly available the decision with its reasons through the JCM website.
180. In the case of paragraph 179 above, the project participants may re-submit the request for registration with revised documentation in line with section 1.8.1 if the reasons for the rejection can be addressed by means of a validation report revised by the TPE, based on a revised PDD as appropriate. In this case, the project participants justify that the re-submission falls under such case.

## **2.5. Post-registration activities**

### **2.5.1. Changes to registered JCM project**

181. When the project has been changed from the registered PDD, methodology and/or positively reviewed SDIP and/or SGIP, those changes are classified into the followings:
- (a) Changes determined by the TPE that do not prevent the use of the applied methodology;
  - (b) Changes identified by the project participants prior to verification or by the TPE during verification that would prevent the use of the applied methodology;
  - (c) Changes identified by the project participants or determined by the TPE that prevent the use of the applied methodology; or
  - (d) Changes identified by the project participants that would affect the applicability of the reviewed SDIP and/or SGIP.
182. If changes are classified into paragraph 181(a), the project participants revise the PDD and submit it for the first issuance request subsequent to the revision.
183. If changes are classified into paragraph 181(b) or 181(d), the project participants proceed with the process described in sections 2.5.1.1 and 2.5.1.2 below.
184. If changes are classified into paragraph 181(c), the project participants withdraw the project in line with section 2.7. The project participants may re-submit a request for registration for the withdrawn project in line with section 1.7.1.

#### 2.5.1.1. Submission of request for approval of changes

185. The project participants obtain approval of changes by the Joint Committee prior to the submission of the request for issuance of credits in cases described in paragraphs 181(b) and 181(d).
186. To obtain approval from the Joint Committee for the changes that would prevent the use of methodology, the project participants submit a completed “JCM Post-Registration Changes Request Form” using the latest version of that form and a revised PDD to the secretariat by electronic means.
187. The project participants may request the Joint Committee to approve the changes using the previous version of the “JCM Post-Registration Changes Request Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the request using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
188. To obtain approval from the Joint Committee for the changes that would affect the applicability of the reviewed SDIP and/or SGIP, the project participants submit a completed “JCM Post-Registration Changes Request Form”, a revised SDIP and/or SGIP and a revised PDD where necessary to the secretariat by electronic means.

#### 2.5.1.2. Processing request for approval of changes

189. The secretariat prepares and maintains a publicly available list of all submitted requests for approval of changes through the JCM website.
190. Upon receipt of the request for approval of changes, the secretariat conducts within seven (7) calendar days the completeness check to determine whether the request for approval of changes is complete.
191. Upon positive result of the completeness check of the request for approval of changes, the secretariat, within fourteen (14) calendar days, prepares and sends to the Co-Chairs a summary note on the request with a recommendation on the course of action, or with a notification that the case will be considered by the Joint Committee.
192. If the secretariat, during the preparation of the summary note, identifies issues that require clarifications from project participants, it requests the project participants to submit revised documents and/or information to clarify the issues within fourteen (14) calendar days of the notification of the request by the secretariat. In this case, the secretariat, notwithstanding the provision in paragraph 191 above, finalizes the summary note and sends it to the Co-Chairs within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the requested documents and/or information from the project participants. If the project participants do not submit the requested documents and/or information by this deadline, the secretariat suspends the process for the request for approval of changes.
193. If the secretariat, during the preparation of the summary note, identifies issues that require

inputs from a relevant expert, it seeks guidance from the expert. In this case, the secretariat, notwithstanding the provisions in paragraphs 191 and 192 above, finalizes the summary note and sends it to the Co-Chairs within fourteen (14) calendar days of receipt of the inputs from the expert.

194. Upon confirmation of the summary note by the Co-Chairs, the summary note is distributed to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, and the Joint Committee decides whether to approve the request.
195. Once a decision has been made by the Joint Committee, the secretariat informs the project participants of the decision and any guidance provided by the Joint Committee as applicable, and makes the decision and guidance publicly available through the JCM website.
196. If the request for approval of changes is approved with guidance which requests further revision of the revised PDD and/or the revised SDIP and/or SGIP by the Joint Committee, the project participants revise the PDD and/or the SDIP and/or the SGIP in line with the guidance and submit to the Joint Committee through the secretariat the revised PDD and/or the revised SDIP and/or SGIP reflecting the guidance. The secretariat makes the revised PDD and/or the revised SDIP and/or the SGIP publicly available through the JCM website as the registered PDD. This version of the registered PDD is applied for future requests for issuance of credits.
197. If the request for approval of changes is approved without guidance, the secretariat makes the revised PDD publicly available through the JCM website as the registered PDD. This version of the registered PDD is applied for future requests for issuance of credits.
198. If the request for approval of changes is not approved, the project participants withdraw the project in line with section 2.7 or follow one of the procedures described in the subparagraphs (a) to (c) below. In either procedure, the project participants notify the reference number which has already been issued to the registered JCM project to the TPE and the secretariat as applicable:
  - (a) In cases described in paragraph 181(b), the project participants revise the PDD, the SDIP and the SGIP as necessary, submit a revised draft PDD to the TPE for validation and to the secretariat for public inputs, and submit a revised SDIP and/or SGIP to the secretariat for a review as applicable;
  - (b) In cases described in paragraph 181(d) and the PDD is needed to be revised, the project participants revise the PDD and the SDIP and/or SGIP, submit a revised draft PDD to the TPE for validation and to the secretariat for public inputs, and submit a revised SDIP and/or SGIP to the Joint Committee for a review; or
  - (c) In cases described in paragraph 181(d) and the PDD is not needed to be revised, the project participants revise the SDIP and/or SGIP and submit a revised SDIP and/or SGIP to the Joint Committee through the secretariat for a review.

## **2.5.2. Changes to registered modalities of communication**

### **2.5.2.1. General requirements**

199. Project participants of the JCM project request changes to the contents of the registered MoC to the secretariat as soon as possible after the changes become effective.
200. The secretariat requests a new submission of an MoC whenever the secretariat identifies inconsistencies or inaccuracies in the registered MoC.
201. In case of requesting for changes to the contents of the registered MoC, project participants submit a new MoC using the latest version of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” to the secretariat by electronic means.
202. Project participants may request for changes to the contents of the registered MoC by using the previous version of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The secretariat does not accept the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
203. Project participants who submit a new MoC ensure that:
  - (a) Supporting documentation, including powers of attorney, or extracts from board meeting minutes or company association documentation, or extracts/certificates from national company registries that cannot be verified online, is dated or notarized within two (2) years from the time of submission of a request for change to established modalities of communication. This time limitation does not apply to copies of national personal identity documents;
  - (b) To the extent possible, changes applicable to more than one JCM project or multiple changes affecting the same JCM project are consolidated in a single form.
204. The legal representative of a project participant may sign on behalf of the authorized signatories if the primary and alternate authorized signatories of the project participant concerned are no longer available.
205. Legal representatives signing on behalf of the project participants provide written evidence that they are authorized to sign on behalf of the respective entities.
206. The secretariat may request additional clarification and/or documentation if submissions do not clearly provide evidence.
207. The secretariat displays the updated MoC including its attachment 1 as necessary and their effective dates on the JCM website in line with paragraph 63.

### **2.5.2.2. Voluntary changes to focal point**

208. Any of the project participants for a registered JCM project may request for changes on the

designation of the focal point for any reason and at any time by submitting a new MoC signed by all project participants using the latest version of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form” to the secretariat by electronic means.

209. Project participants may request for changes on the designation of the focal point by using the previous version of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The secretariat does not accept the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

#### 2.5.2.3. Changes to project participants

210. If the project participants of a registered JCM project have changed after the registration of the project, project participants submit a completed attachment 1 of the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation” for each of the following changes:

- (a) Addition of a project participant;
- (b) Changes related to entity names/legal status;
- (c) Withdrawal of a project participant. If a project participant has ceased operations due to bankruptcy or other reasons and is unable to sign the “JCM Modalities of Communication Statement Form for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation”, the submission is accompanied by documented evidence of the cessation;
- (d) Changes related only to contact details and specimen signatures.

211. A project participant added to a registered JCM project accepts the existing MoC unless a new MoC is submitted simultaneously.

## 2.6. Issuance of credits

### 2.6.1. Request for issuance

#### 2.6.1.1. Processing request for issuance

212. If the secretariat, during the completeness check, identifies issues of an editorial nature, it requests the project participants by electronic means, copying the TPE, to submit the missing or revised documents and/or information. In this case, the project participants submit the requested documents and/or information within seven (7) calendar days of receipt of the request. If the project participants do not submit the requested documents and/or information by this deadline, the request for issuance is deemed incomplete. The secretariat conducts the completeness check within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the receipt of the requested documents and/or information.

213. If the request for issuance does not meet the requirements of the completeness check, the secretariat communicates its result and the underlying reasons to the project participants and

the TPE and makes them publicly available through the JCM website. In this case, the project participants may re-submit the request for issuance with revised documentation.

#### 2.6.1.2. Rejecting request for issuance

214. If the Joint Committee decides to reject the request for issuance, the secretariat notifies the project participants and the TPE of the rejection and updates the information accordingly on the JCM website immediately after the decision-making.

215. The Joint Committee makes the reasons for the rejection publicly available through the JCM website.

216. In the case of paragraph 214 above, the project participants may re-submit the request for issuance with revised documentation in line with section 1.10.1 if the reasons for the rejection can be addressed by means of a verification report revised by the TPE, based on a revised monitoring report as appropriate. In this case, the project participants justify that the re-submission falls under such case.

## 2.7. **Withdrawal**

### 2.7.1. **Submission of request for withdrawal**

217. The project participants may voluntarily withdraw a proposed or registered JCM project at any time. In such case, the project participants submit a completed “JCM Project Withdrawal Request Form” using the latest version of that form to the Joint Committee through the secretariat by electronic means.

218. For the following cases, the project participants submit a completed “JCM Registration Request Withdrawal Form” using the latest version of that form to the Joint Committee through the secretariat by electronic means:

- (a) The project participants voluntarily wish to withdraw a request for registration;
- (b) The TPE has revised its validation opinion based on new insights or information and has notified it to the project participants.

219. For the following cases, the project participants submit a completed “JCM Issuance Request Withdrawal Form” using the latest version of that form to the Joint Committee through the secretariat by electronic means:

- (a) The project participants voluntarily wish to withdraw a request for issuance for the specified monitoring period;
- (b) The TPE has revised its verification report based on new insights and has notified it to the project participants.

220. In the case of paragraphs 217, 218 and 219 above, the project participants may use the previous version of the “JCM Project Withdrawal Request Form”, “JCM Registration Request Withdrawal Form” or “JCM Issuance Request Withdrawal Form” within the grace

period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.

### **2.7.2. Processing request for withdrawal**

221. Upon receipt of the request for withdrawal, the secretariat confirms the documents submitted.

222. Upon confirmation by the secretariat:

- (a) For a withdrawal of a project, the project is marked as “withdrawn” on the JCM website;
- (b) For a withdrawal of a request for registration, the request for registration is marked as “withdrawn” on the JCM website;
- (c) For a withdrawal of a request for issuance, the request for issuance for the specified monitoring period is marked as “withdrawn” on the JCM website.

## **2.8. Addressing to reversal**

### **2.8.1. Notice of the loss event**

223. Where an loss event occurs that is likely to qualify as a reversal, the project participants notify the Joint Committee through the secretariat in writing within thirty (30) days of becoming aware of the loss event.

224. The secretariat makes the fact that a loss event has occurred publicly available through the JCM website.

225. If the Joint Committee becomes aware of the loss event, the Joint Committee may request the project participants to submit the loss event report.

226. If the project participants notify the Joint Committee of the loss event as described in paragraph 223, until verification is performed by the TPE and if the reversal is recognized as the result of the verification, the compensation is completed, the project participants continue to observe the project, and cannot earn JCM credits from the project that reversal occurred unless otherwise approved by the Joint Committee in line with paragraph 6 of Attachment III of Methodology Guidelines for REDD-plus or Methodology Guidelines for afforestation/reforestation.

227. The buffer credits contributed from the project in which the loss event is notified can not be used for the compensation of other projects until the verification is performed.

### **2.8.2. Submission of loss event report and provisional compensation plan**

228. Within three (3) months of notifying the loss event to the Joint Committee or being requested by the Joint Committee in line with paragraph 225, the project participants submit a loss event report and a provisional compensation plan to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, using the latest versions of the “JCM Loss Event Report Form” and “JCM



Compensation Plan Form”.

229. Project Participants may submit the loss event report and the provisional compensation plan to the Joint Committee using the previous versions of the “JCM Loss Event Report Form” and “JCM Compensation Plan Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the loss event report and the provisional compensation plan using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
230. When estimating the amount of reversal in the loss event report, the project participants can use the simple calculation method established by the project participants. Project participants submit the document which explains the simple calculation method for estimating the amount of reversal to the Joint Committee through the secretariat in addition to the loss event report and the provisional compensation plan.
231. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission to the project participants by electronic means.

### **2.8.3. Completeness check**

232. The secretariat checks whether the loss event report and the provisional compensation plan are complete and communicates the result to the project participants within seven (7) calendar days after the receipt of the submission.
233. Upon conclusion of the completeness check, the secretariat notifies the project participants of the conclusion of the completeness check.

### **2.8.4. Finalizing processing of loss event report and provisional compensation plan**

234. Upon positive result of the completeness check, the Joint Committee decides whether it is necessary to perform a verification by TPE within one year considering the scale of the loss event or other factors. For example, if the amount of reversal is expected to exceed either the total amount of credits previously issued or the total emission reductions or removals described in the PDD, the Joint Committee deems it is necessary to perform a verification by TPE within one year.
235. Upon decision by the Joint Committee on the necessity of verification within one year, the secretariat notifies the project participants of the result and makes publicly available the relevant information including the loss event report and the provisional compensation plan through the JCM website.
236. If the Joint Committee decides whether it is necessary to perform a verification by TPE within one year, the project participants submit a verified monitoring report and a verification report to the Joint Committee through the secretariat within one year of being notified by the secretariat in line with paragraph 235 above. The monitoring period is from the previous

monitoring period onwards until after the loss event. Preparation of monitoring report and verification of emission reductions or removals are conducted in the same procedure as described in section 1.9.

237. If the Joint Committee decides whether it is not necessary to perform a verification by TPE within one year, verification may be performed at any time.

#### **2.8.5. Submission of the revised compensation plan**

238. As a result of the verification after the project participants notify the Joint Committee of the loss event, if project emission reductions or removals to be credited is negative, it means that a reversal is occurred in line with Attachment III of Methodology Guidelines for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation. If a reversal is occurred, the project participants submit a revised compensation plan to the Joint Committee through the secretariat at the same time of submitting a verified monitoring report and a verification report as described in paragraph 159, using the latest version of the “JCM Compensation Plan Form”.
239. Project Participants may submit the revised compensation plan to the Joint Committee using the previous version of the “JCM Compensation Plan Form” within the grace period of six (6) months from the date of publication of a new version. The Joint Committee does not accept the revised compensation plan using the previous version after the grace period of six (6) months.
240. If there is any update on the contents of the loss event from the submission of the loss event report as described in paragraph 228, the project participants resubmit the loss event report to the Joint Committee through the secretariat, using the latest version of the “JCM Loss Event Report Form”.
241. The secretariat notifies the receipt of the submission to the project participants by electronic means.

#### **2.8.6. Completeness check**

242. The secretariat checks whether the revised compensation plan is complete and communicates the result to the project participants within seven (7) calendar days after the receipt of the submission.
243. Upon conclusion of the completeness check, the secretariat notifies the project participants of the conclusion of the completeness check.

#### **2.8.7. Finalizing processing of revised compensation plan**

244. Upon positive result of the completeness check by the secretariat, the Joint Committee decides whether it has objection or no objection to the compensation plan.
245. Upon decision by the Joint Committee on no objection to the compensation plan, the

secretariat notifies the project participants of the result and makes publicly available the relevant information including the monitoring report, the verification report and the revised compensation plan through the JCM website, and the project participants may proceed to the processes described in section 2.8.8.

246. The project participants resubmit a compensation plan that has been assessed as incomplete by the secretariat or has been given an objection by the Joint Committee. Such submission addresses the reasons for incompleteness stated by the secretariat and an objection stated by the Joint Committee.
247. If the Joint Committee deems that the revised compensation plan is incomplete, the project participants cannot request for issuance of credits from the projects that occurs the reversal.

#### **2.8.8. Requesting for cancel of the credits for compensation**

248. Upon notification by the secretariat, each side cancels the buffer credits in line with the compensation plan.
249. If the amount of buffer credits is insufficient and the project participants wish to use JCM credits issued by JCM projects (as referred to paragraph 2(a) of Attachment III of Methodology Guidelines for REDD-plus or Methodology Guidelines for afforestation/reforestation), the project participants request each government to cancel the credits in line with the compensation plan within one month of notification by the secretariat.
250. Each side notifies the cancel of credits to the Joint Committee through the secretariat.
251. The secretariat archives all the data of the cancelling of credits and makes them publicly available through the JCM website.
252. In case that the reversal is not compensated entirely within the certain time period, or the Joint Committee deems that the project participants aren't addressing the reversal appropriately in line with Project Cycle Procedure for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation and Methodology Guidelines for REDD-plus and afforestation/reforestation, measures to be taken are determined by the Joint Committee.