

Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)

A. Purpose of the JCM

1. The JCM has the following purposes:
 - (a) To facilitate diffusion of leading low carbon technologies, products, systems, services, and infrastructure as well as implementation of mitigation actions, and contributing to sustainable development of the Lao People's Democratic Republic;
 - (b) To appropriately evaluate contributions to greenhouse gases (hereinafter referred to as "GHG") emission reductions or removals from Japan in a quantitative manner, through mitigation actions implemented in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and use those emission reductions or removals to achieve emission reduction targets of the countries involved;
 - (c) To contribute to the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) by facilitating global actions for emission reductions or removals.
 - (d) For Reducing Emissions 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), to contribute to the national REDD-plus strategy or action plan.

B. Scope

2. GHG are those gases of carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), sulphur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).
3. Credits are issued based on quantified amount of GHG emission reductions or removals achieved by the contribution of project participants in the implementation of GHG emission reductions or removals project activities under the JCM (hereinafter referred to as "JCM projects").

4. The JCM starts its operation as the non-tradable credit type mechanism. The Japanese side and the Lao side (hereinafter referred to as “both sides”) continue consultation for the transition to the tradable credit type mechanism and reach a conclusion at the earliest possible timing, taking account of implementation of the JCM.

C. Joint Committee

5. Both sides establish the Joint Committee which consists of the representatives from both sides.

6. The Joint Committee may develop or modify guidelines and other rules necessary for the implementation of the JCM, including, but not limited to:

- (a) guidelines for the development of methodologies;
- (b) methodologies;
- (c) guidelines for the designation as a third-party entity;
- (d) guidelines for the validation;
- (e) monitoring guidelines;
- (f) guidelines for the verification of GHG emission reductions or removals;
- (g) guidelines for addressing and respecting safeguards for REDD-plus;
- (h) common specifications for registries;
- (i) forms for project design document (hereinafter referred to as “PDD”), request for registration of JCM projects, monitoring report, request for verification of emission reductions or removals, etc.

7. The Joint Committee may modify the “Rules of Implementation for the Joint Crediting Mechanism” and the “Joint Crediting Mechanism Rules of Procedures for the Joint Committee”.

8. The Joint Committee designates the third-party entities.

9. On the basis of a request for registration of JCM projects submitted by project participants, the Joint Committee registers JCM projects which were validated by the third-party entities.

10. On the basis of a request for notification to each side for issuance of credits submitted by project participants, the Joint Committee notifies both sides to issue the credits which were verified by the third-party entities.

11. The Joint Committee develops reports on the status of the implementation of the JCM and, where necessary, discusses issues related to the operation and management of the JCM.
12. In conjunction with meetings of the Joint Committee, both sides conduct policy consultations about the relevant policy measures of the JCM.
13. The Joint Committee establishes its secretariat for the implementation of the JCM.
14. Both sides work in close cooperation to facilitate financial, technological and capacity building support necessary for the implementation of the JCM. Particularly the Japanese side will support the Lao side for the implementation of the JCM.

D. Each Side

15. Each side, based on the rules and guidelines as developed by the Joint Committee and/or in accordance with relevant domestic laws and regulations in respective countries for the implementation of the JCM:
 - (a) Prepares draft methodologies and submits them to the Joint Committee;
 - (b) Establishes and maintains a registry in line with the common specifications for registries, as developed by the Joint Committee;
 - (c) On the basis of notification for issuance of credit by the Joint Committee (including for allocation of credits among participants), issues the notified amount of credits to its registry.
16. Each side promptly informs the Joint Committee on the issuance of credits under the JCM.
17. Each side takes necessary measures to ensure transparency in the implementation of the JCM.
18. Neither side uses any mitigation projects registered under the JCM for the purpose of any other international climate mitigation mechanisms to avoid double counting.
19. For REDD-plus, JCM project may be part of national or sub-national REDD-plus programs and each side takes necessary measures to avoid double counting.

E. Third-party Entities

20. A third-party entity that is designated by the Joint Committee:
- (a) On the basis of requests from project participants, validates the project as described in a PDD prepared by the project participants, in line with the guidelines for the validation as developed by the Joint Committee, and informs the validation result to the project participants;
 - (b) On the basis of requests from project participants, verifies GHG emission reductions or removals achieved by the JCM project as described in the monitoring report prepared by the project participants, in line with the guidelines for the verification of GHG emission reductions or removals as developed by the Joint Committee, records the verification result in a verification report and sends the report to the project participants.

F. Project Participants

21. Project participants:
- (a) Prepare a draft methodology and submit the draft to the Joint Committee for its approval;
 - (b) Prepare a draft PDD and submit the draft to a third-party entity for validation and notify the Joint Committee;
 - (c) Submit the PDD that was validated by the third-party entity to the Joint Committee for its registration of the project;
 - (d) Implement the JCM project and conduct monitoring in line with the PDD;
 - (e) Prepare a monitoring report and send the report to a third-party entity for verification;
 - (f) Submit a verification report prepared by the third-party entity to the Joint Committee, and request notification to each side for issuance of credits under the JCM.
22. For REDD-plus, project participants:
- (a) Prepare a draft methodology and submit the draft to the Joint Committee for its approval;
 - (b) Prepare a draft PDD and submit the draft to a third-party entity for validation and notify the Joint Committee;

- (c) Prepare a draft SGIP and submit the draft to the JCM secretariat, for the review by the Joint Committee;
- (d) Submit the PDD that was validated by the third-party entity to the Joint Committee for its registration of the project;
- (e) Implement the JCM project and conduct monitoring in line with the PDD and SGIP;
- (f) Prepare a monitoring report and send the report to a third-party entity for verification;
- (g) Prepare a SGPR and send the SGPR to the JCM secretariat, for an evaluation by the Joint Committee;
- (h) Submit a verification report prepared by the third-party entity to the Joint Committee, and request notification to each side for issuance of credits under the JCM.

G. Development of Methodologies

23. Each side or project participant prepares a draft methodology and submits it to the Joint Committee. The submitted draft methodology, after its completeness being checked, goes through public inputs process.

24. The Joint Committee determines either to approve or reject the draft methodology, taking account of, among other things, inputs received and notifies the result to each side or project participant, as applicable. The Joint Committee makes publicly available the relevant information on the approved methodologies through a website.

H. Designation of Third-party Entities

25. Upon receiving an application for designation as a third-party entity submitted by a candidate, the Joint Committee designates a third-party entity in line with the guidelines for the designation as a third-party entity, and makes publicly available the relevant information on the designated third-party entity through a website.

26. The Joint Committee may suspend or withdraw the designation of a third-party entity if it has found fraud, malfeasance or incompetence of the entity.

I. Validation

27. Validation is the process of independent evaluation of a proposed JCM project by a third-party entity against the validation guidelines as developed by the Joint Committee on the basis of the PDD.

28. Project participants develop a PDD by filling in the form and request a third-party entity to validate the proposed JCM project.

29. The third-party entity, in line with the guidelines for the validation as developed by the Joint Committee, validates the proposed JCM project as described in the PDD and notifies the result of the validation to the project participants.

J. Review of Safeguard Activity Implementation Plan for REDD-plus

30. For REDD-plus, the project participants fill in the SGIP form in line with the guidelines for promoting and supporting safeguards and submit the SGIP to the secretariat in line with the project cycle procedures.

31. By the end of the reviewing period, the secretariat notifies result of the review to the project participants.

K. Registration

32. Registration is the formal acceptance by the Joint Committee of a validated project as a JCM project.

33. Project participants submit the PDD, which was validated by the third-party entity, to the Joint Committee and request for registration.

34. Upon receiving the request for registration from project participants, the Joint Committee registers the project, notifies each side of the registration and makes publicly available the relevant information on the JCM project through a website.

L. Monitoring

35. Project participants implement a JCM project and monitor GHG emission reductions

or removals by the JCM project based on the PDD.

M. Evaluation of Safeguard Activity Progress Report for REDD-plus

36. For REDD-plus, the project participants fill in the SGPR form in line with the guidelines for promoting and supporting safeguards and positively reviewed SGIP, and submit the SGPR to the secretariat in line with the project cycle procedures.

37. By the end of the evaluation period, the secretariat notifies the result of evaluation to the project participants.

N. Verification

38. Verification is the periodic independent review and ex post determination by a third-party entity of the monitored GHG emissions reductions or removals as a result of a registered JCM project during the verification period.

39. Project participants prepare a monitoring report and request a third-party entity for verification.

40. The third-party entity, in line with the guidelines for the verification of GHG emission reductions or removals as developed by the Joint Committee, verifies the amount of GHG emission reductions or removals on the basis of the monitoring report submitted by the project participants, prepares a verification report and sends the report to the project participants which requested verification.

O. Issuance of Credits

41. Each side establishes a registry to record and use the credits.

42. Project participants of a JCM project consult among themselves, and determine, the allocation of credits taking into consideration their contribution to GHG emission reductions or removals.

43. The project participants may allocate part of the credits to the respective sides.

44. Project participants request the Joint Committee to notify each side to issue the credits to its respective account in the registry on the basis of the verification report with the determined allocation of the credits among the project participants.

45. The Joint Committee conducts a completeness check on the request, including for allocation of the credits among the project participants, and notifies each side of the result.

46. The Joint Committee makes publicly available the relevant information on the issuance of credits through a website.

P. Use of Credits

47. Credits issued by each side can be used to achieve emission reduction targets of both sides.

48. Each side checks the status of the issuance and use of credits and makes sure that no double counting as described in paragraph 18 and 19 of credits is discovered.

Q. Others

49. A project which started operation on or after 1 January 2013 is eligible for consideration as the JCM project.

50. The JCM covers the period for verified emission reductions or removals from the mitigation projects under the JCM to be made until 2030. Both sides consider possible extension of the above-mentioned period and reach a conclusion by 2030.