

MARINE CONSERVATION CREDITS

Sustainable Development Contribution Framework v1.0

Document Reference: MCC-SDCF-v1.0
Classification: Programme Standard | Date: March 2026
Status: APPROVED

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PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 0001** All MCC projects shall undergo a sustainable development (SD) contribution assessment as a mandatory requirement for project eligibility.
- 0002** The purpose of this framework shall be to ensure that MCC credit issuance directly links to measurable sustainable development outcomes beyond carbon sequestration and avoidance.
- 0003** This SD Contribution Framework shall establish the methodology for identifying, measuring, monitoring, and verifying SD contributions across all MCC project activities.
- 0004** The framework shall apply to all MCC methodologies and project types registered on the MCC platform.
- 0005** SD contribution assessment shall commence at project design stage and shall continue throughout the project crediting period.
- 0006** The framework shall ensure consistency in SD assessment across diverse project types through standardized indicators, measurement methods, and verification protocols.
- 0007** MCC shall recognize and label projects that demonstrate significant SD contributions through the 'MCC SD Verified' and 'MCC SD Gold' designations.
- 0008** SD contributions shall not increase or decrease the volume of MCC credits issued by a project, but shall enhance market value and buyer confidence.
- 0009** This framework shall be aligned with international SD assessment standards including the Gold Standard Frameworks and Verra SD VISTa methodology.
- 0010** The SD assessment shall be transparent, verifiable, and subject to third-party validation by Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs).

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS ALIGNMENT

0011 The MCC SD framework shall be fully aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as defined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

0012 MCC shall recognize three primary SDGs as core drivers of its portfolio: SDG 13 (Climate Action), SDG 14 (Life Below Water), and SDG 15 (Life on Land).

0013 MCC shall also recognize eight secondary SDGs relevant to specific project contexts: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), SDG 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

0014 Every MCC project shall identify and document a minimum of three SDGs to which the project shall contribute, comprising at least one primary SDG and a minimum of two secondary SDGs.

0015 Projects shall prioritize alignment with primary SDGs based on the project's geographic location, ecosystem type, and activity category.

0016 Secondary SDG selection shall be justified through a contextual assessment demonstrating measurable pathways from project activities to SDG targets.

0017 Projects in developing countries with poverty challenges shall demonstrate contributions to SDG 1 (No Poverty) and SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) where feasible.

0018 Projects shall ensure gender-responsive design and shall document contributions to SDG 5 (Gender Equality) through quantifiable women's participation targets.

0019 SDG contribution shall be demonstrated through specific, measurable indicators defined in Section 3 of this framework.

0020 Each identified SDG shall have one or more corresponding quantitative indicators with defined baseline values, targets, and measurement methodologies.

0021 Projects shall not claim contribution to an SDG without establishing measurable indicators and a credible causal pathway from project activities to SDG outcomes.

0022 SDG alignment documentation shall be subject to verification by VVBs during initial project validation and periodic verification activities.

0023 MCC shall maintain a public register of SDG contributions by project, enabling buyers to identify projects aligned with their sustainability priorities.

0024 Annual updates to SDG alignment shall be required if project scope, location, or activity design changes significantly.

0025 The methodology expert panel shall review SDG alignment guidance annually to ensure consistency with evolving SDG measurement standards.

0026 Projects may document secondary contributions beyond the minimum three required SDGs, provided these are supported by verifiable indicators and measurement plans.

0027 MCC shall encourage projects to demonstrate intersectional benefits across multiple SDGs rather than siloed single-goal contributions.

0028 The framework shall recognize that climate action (SDG 13) is a foundation for all MCC projects, and additional SDG benefits shall be documented as co-benefits.

0029 Projects shall not claim unrealistic or unsupported SDG contributions to inflate market appeal.

0030 Documentation of SDG alignment shall be made publicly available on the MCC registry for all registered projects.

0031 Projects shall establish baseline data on relevant SDG indicators prior to project commencement to enable ex-ante and ex-post assessment.

0032 Where baseline data is unavailable, projects shall employ accepted proxy indicators or establish baseline through representative sampling methodologies.

0033 MCC shall update the SDG alignment framework every three years in consultation with stakeholders to reflect evolving global development priorities.

0034 Projects demonstrating contributions to four or more SDGs shall receive recognition in MCC marketing materials and registry ranking systems.

0035 The framework shall explicitly exclude claims of SDG contribution unrelated to the geographic area of project implementation or beneficiary populations.

SDG Number	SDG Title	MCC Classification	Primary Project Types
13	Climate Action	Primary	All MCC methodologies
14	Life Below Water	Primary	Marine and coastal methodologies (F01-F04)
15	Life on Land	Primary	Terrestrial and coastal ecosystem methodologies (F02-F03)
1	No Poverty	Secondary	Community-based projects with livelihood components
2	Zero Hunger	Secondary	Projects in food-insecure regions with agricultural linkages
5	Gender Equality	Secondary	All projects with women participation targets
6	Clean Water and Sanitation	Secondary	Water quality and watershed protection projects (F04-F05)
8	Decent Work and Economic Growth	Secondary	Projects creating employment and skills training
11	Sustainable Cities and Communities	Secondary	Urban and peri-urban waste prevention projects (F05)

SD INDICATOR FRAMEWORK

0036 For each identified SDG, projects shall define and measure specific indicators that demonstrate measurable progress toward SDG targets.

0037 MCC shall establish a standardized set of indicators for each primary SDG to ensure consistency across the portfolio.

0038 For SDG 13 (Climate Action), projects shall measure: (a) tonnes of CO₂ equivalent sequestered per annum, (b) tonnes of CO₂ equivalent emissions avoided per annum, and (c) climate resilience measures implemented.

0039 Climate resilience indicators shall include: adaptive capacity building, early warning systems, climate-informed management practices, and ecosystem stability indices.

0040 For SDG 14 (Life Below Water), projects shall measure: (a) hectares of marine habitat protected or restored, (b) species diversity index measured through appropriate biodiversity assessment methodologies, and (c) water quality improvement metrics including dissolved oxygen, nutrient levels, and contaminant reduction.

0041 Marine biodiversity measurement shall employ standardized assessment protocols including benthic surveys, fish population surveys, or water quality monitoring consistent with regional standards.

0042 For SDG 15 (Life on Land), projects shall measure: (a) hectares of coastal or terrestrial ecosystem restored, (b) biodiversity net gain calculated as percentage change in habitat quality and species richness, and (c) habitat connectivity index demonstrating landscape-level ecosystem function.

0043 For SDG 1 (No Poverty), projects shall measure: (a) number of livelihoods directly supported by project activities, (b) average household income improvement percentage, and (c) number of individuals transitioning above relevant poverty line.

0044 Livelihood support shall be documented through beneficiary registries and annual income surveys conducted by independent enumerators.

0045 For SDG 2 (Zero Hunger), projects shall measure: (a) food security improvement index for beneficiary households, (b) agricultural productivity gains where applicable, and (c) dietary diversity improvements.

0046 For SDG 5 (Gender Equality), projects shall measure: (a) percentage of women among project beneficiaries, (b) percentage of women in project governance or management roles, (c) women's income improvements, and (d) women's access to project benefits quantified through household surveys.

0047 Gender-disaggregated data collection shall be mandatory for all projects claiming SDG 5 contributions.

0048 For SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), projects shall measure: (a) water quality metrics including fecal coliform, dissolved oxygen, turbidity, and relevant contaminants, (b) watershed area protected or improved, and (c) number of beneficiaries with improved water access.

0049 Water quality monitoring shall employ standardized laboratory or field testing protocols consistent with national or international water quality standards.

0050 For SDG 8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), projects shall measure: (a) number of full-time equivalent jobs created, (b) number of workers receiving skills training, (c) average

wages paid relative to local wage standards, and (d) worker safety and social protection improvements.

0051 Job creation shall be documented through employment contracts, payroll records, and follow-up surveys to verify sustained employment.

0052 For SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), projects shall measure: (a) waste diverted from landfills (tonnes per annum), (b) air quality improvements in beneficiary communities, and (c) community resilience indicators.

0053 Projects shall establish baseline values for all selected indicators prior to project commencement, documented in the Project Design Document (PDD) or equivalent registration document.

0054 Baseline assessment shall employ recognized data collection methodologies appropriate to the indicator type: direct measurement, surveys, sampling, or proxy indicators.

0055 Projects shall define target values for each indicator at project completion, representing realistic but ambitious outcomes based on activity design.

0056 Measurement methodology for each indicator shall be documented in detail, including frequency of measurement, responsible party, quality assurance procedures, and data management protocols.

0057 All indicators shall be measured using standardized units enabling aggregation across projects for portfolio-level impact reporting.

0058 Projects may employ supplementary project-specific indicators beyond the standard set provided these are documented in project design documents and subject to verification.

0059 Indicator measurement frequency shall be established at project design stage, with minimum annual monitoring for all indicators during the crediting period.

0060 Data quality assurance shall include: calibration of measurement equipment, competency verification of data collectors, data validation procedures, and documentation of quality control measures.

0061 Projects shall employ independent data collectors or enumerators where feasible to ensure objectivity of baseline and monitoring data.

0062 For community-based indicators (livelihoods, gender, employment), sampling methodologies shall be statistically sound with documented sampling frame, sample size calculations, and confidence levels.

0063 Data management systems shall ensure secure storage, version control, and traceability of all SD indicator data from collection through final reporting.

0064 Sensitive data (beneficiary identities, income levels, household information) shall be collected and maintained in accordance with data protection regulations and ethical research standards.

0065 MCC shall publish guidance documents for each indicator defining acceptable measurement methodologies, data quality standards, and common pitfalls.

0066 The SD indicator framework shall be reviewed and updated annually by the methodology expert panel to reflect scientific advances and stakeholder feedback.

0067 New indicators shall not be added to the mandatory framework without prior stakeholder consultation and six months' notice to allow project developers to incorporate new requirements.

0068 Indicators shall be selected to ensure: (a) causal link to project activities, (b) measurability with available resources, (c) relevance to beneficiary populations, and (d) alignment with international SD measurement standards.

0069 Projects with incomplete or non-credible indicator data shall not receive SD labels or verification until data quality is demonstrated.

0070 MCC shall establish quality assurance audits of 10% of registered projects annually to verify accuracy of self-reported SD indicator data.

SDG	Indicator	Unit	Measurement Method	Frequency
13	tCO ₂ e sequestered	tonnes CO ₂ e/year	Carbon accounting methodology (MCC methodology-specific)	Annual
13	tCO ₂ e avoided	tonnes CO ₂ e/year	Baseline scenario emissions vs. project scenario	Annual
13	Climate resilience measures	number of measures implemented	Project activity documentation and beneficiary surveys	Annual
14	Marine habitat protected/restored	hectares	Satellite imagery, GPS surveys, ecological mapping	Bi-annual
14	Species diversity index	index score (0-1)	Benthic surveys, fish surveys, standardized biodiversity assessment	Annual
14	Water quality improvement	mg/L, units per indicator	Laboratory or field testing (dissolved oxygen, nutrients, contaminants)	Monthly to quarterly
15	Coastal/terrestrial ecosystem restored	hectares	Satellite imagery, GPS surveys, restoration activity records	Bi-annual
15	Biodiversity net gain	percentage change in habitat quality	Ecological surveys before/after, species richness assessment	Bi-annual
15	Habitat connectivity index	connectivity score (0-1)	Landscape analysis, expert assessment,	Bi-annual

			connectivity modeling	
1	Livelihoods supported	number of individuals	Beneficiary registry, household surveys	Annual
1	Income improvement	percentage change in household income	Household income surveys with control group comparison	Annual
2	Food security index	index score (0-1)	Household dietary diversity surveys, food security surveys	Annual
5	Women participation	percentage of women beneficiaries	Gender-disaggregated beneficiary registry	Annual
5	Women in leadership	percentage in governance/management roles	Organizational records, stakeholder interviews	Annual
5	Women income improvement	percentage change in women's income	Gender-disaggregated household income surveys	Annual
6	Water quality metrics	mg/L, CFU/100mL, or other relevant units	Laboratory testing, field testing, standardized protocols	Quarterly
6	Watershed protection area	hectares	Land management records, remote sensing, administrative records	Annual
8	Jobs created	full-time equivalent (FTE)	Employment contracts, payroll records, follow-up surveys	Annual
8	Skills training provided	person-hours or number of workers trained	Training records, completion certificates, competency assessments	Annual
11	Waste diverted	tonnes per year	Waste collection	Annual

			records, disposal facility records, mass balance	
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SD ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

0071 All MCC projects shall undergo a structured SD assessment process comprising baseline assessment, ex-ante estimation, monitoring, reporting, verification, and scoring.

0072 The assessment methodology shall be transparent, reproducible, and applicable across diverse project types and geographic contexts.

Baseline Assessment

0073 Prior to project commencement, projects shall establish baseline values for all selected SD indicators.

0074 Baseline assessment shall document pre-project conditions enabling comparison with ex-ante estimates and ex-post monitoring results.

0075 Baseline data collection shall employ the measurement methodologies defined for each indicator, ensuring consistency with future monitoring activities.

0076 For new projects in areas without existing data, baseline assessment shall be conducted within 12 months prior to project commencement.

0077 Baseline documentation shall be included in the Project Design Document or registration document and made available to VVBs during validation.

0078 Community consultation shall be conducted during baseline assessment to ensure selected indicators reflect local priorities and are culturally appropriate.

0079 Baseline reports shall document: (a) data collection methodology and quality assurance procedures, (b) data sources, (c) limitations and confidence levels, (d) names and qualifications of data collectors, and (e) geographic and temporal scope of baseline data.

Ex-Ante Estimation

0080 Project design documents shall include ex-ante estimates of expected SD contributions for all identified SDG indicators.

0081 Ex-ante estimates shall be based on: (a) project activity design and implementation timeline, (b) credible reference data from comparable projects or scientific literature, (c) beneficiary population analysis, and (d) context-specific assumptions.

0082 Ex-ante estimation shall employ conservative assumptions to avoid overestimating SD benefits.

0083 Projects shall document the basis for all ex-ante assumptions, including data sources, expert judgment, and sensitivity analyses.

0084 Ex-ante estimates shall be differentiated from aspirational or hypothetical benefits, with clear documentation of confidence levels and uncertainty ranges.

0085 Projects shall establish interim milestones for SD achievement enabling progressive realization of benefits throughout the crediting period.

Monitoring

0086 Projects shall conduct annual monitoring of all selected SD indicators during the crediting period.

0087 Monitoring frequency shall be established at project design stage and may be increased (but not decreased) during project implementation.

0088 Annual monitoring reports shall document actual SD indicator values, compare results to ex-ante estimates and targets, and explain any significant deviations.

0089 Monitoring shall employ the same methodologies established for baseline assessment and ex-ante estimation to ensure comparability of data across time.

0090 Data quality management during monitoring shall include: equipment calibration, competency verification, validation procedures, and corrective action protocols.

0091 Communities and beneficiaries shall be engaged in monitoring activities where feasible, building local capacity for data collection and interpretation.

0092 Monitoring data shall be maintained in secure databases with access controls and audit trails.

0093 Projects shall establish remedial action protocols if monitoring reveals SD benefits are significantly below ex-ante estimates.

0094 Incomplete or failed monitoring data collection shall be documented with explanation and mitigation measures applied in subsequent periods.

Reporting

0095 Projects shall submit annual SD Contribution Reports as part of their routine monitoring report submissions.

0096 SD Contribution Reports shall include: (a) current year indicator data with quality assurance documentation, (b) comparison to baseline and ex-ante estimates, (c) cumulative progress toward targets, (d) challenges encountered and adaptive management responses, and (e) updated projections of final SD achievement.

0097 Reports shall employ standardized templates provided by MCC to enable portfolio-level analysis and synthesis.

0098 Significant deviations from ex-ante estimates shall be explained with supporting documentation.

0099 Reports shall be made publicly available on the MCC registry within 30 days of submission, subject to confidentiality provisions for sensitive commercial or beneficiary information.

0100 Annual synthesis reports shall aggregate SD results across the MCC portfolio, enabling impact communication and learning.

Verification

0101 Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs) shall verify all SD assessment and monitoring claims during initial validation and periodic verification activities.

0102 VVBs shall assess: (a) appropriateness of selected indicators to project context, (b) quality and credibility of baseline assessment, (c) reasonableness of ex-ante estimates, (d) accuracy of monitoring data and measurement methodologies, (e) completeness and transparency of documentation, and (f) materiality of SD benefits relative to claims.

0103 VVBs shall conduct site visits to verify monitoring activities, inspect equipment calibration records, interview beneficiaries and project staff, and assess implementation of quality assurance procedures.

0104 VVBs shall verify at least 5% of beneficiary records through direct contact or household surveys to validate self-reported data.

0105 Verification reports shall document VVBs' assessment of SD contribution credibility and recommendations for improvements.

0106 Projects receiving adverse verification findings shall have opportunity to respond and provide additional evidence prior to finalization of verification reports.

0107 SD verification shall be subject to same public comment periods and appeal procedures as carbon verification under MCC protocols.

Scoring

0108 Projects shall receive an SD contribution score for each indicator on a scale of 1 to 5, with scoring criteria as follows:

0109 Score 1 (Minimal contribution): Indicator shows minimal change from baseline or less than 25% of ex-ante target achieved.

0110 Score 2 (Limited contribution): Indicator shows modest change from baseline or 25-50% of ex-ante target achieved.

0111 Score 3 (Significant contribution): Indicator shows meaningful change from baseline or 50-75% of ex-ante target achieved.

0112 Score 4 (Strong contribution): Indicator shows substantial change from baseline or 75-90% of ex-ante target achieved.

0113 Score 5 (Transformative contribution): Indicator shows transformative change from baseline or 90% or greater of ex-ante target achieved.

0114 Scoring shall account for: (a) magnitude of change relative to baseline, (b) achievement relative to targets, (c) sustainability of benefits beyond project period, (d) scale of beneficiary population, and (e) additionality of benefits beyond business-as-usual scenario.

0115 Score 4 and 5 (Strong and Transformative) benefits shall include verification that benefits shall persist beyond the project crediting period through institutional arrangements, contractual commitments, or self-sustaining mechanisms.

0116 Scores shall be assigned by VVBs during verification and shall be documented in verification reports with full justification.

0117 Portfolio-level scoring shall aggregate individual indicator scores to enable project ranking and SD label determination.

SD CONTRIBUTION CLAIMS AND LABELLING

0118 MCC shall award specific labels to projects demonstrating significant SD contributions, enhancing market recognition and premium pricing.

0119 Projects achieving an average SD contribution score of 3.0 or greater across all identified indicators shall receive the 'MCC SD Verified' label.

0120 Projects achieving an average SD contribution score of 4.0 or greater on a minimum of three separate SDGs shall receive the 'MCC SD Gold' label.

0121 SD labels shall be prominently displayed on the MCC public registry alongside project information, methodology, credit volume, and vintage.

0122 SD labels shall be used in MCC marketing materials, buyer communications, and credit trading platforms to differentiate high-impact projects.

0123 SD labelling shall not affect credit volume issuance; all projects issue the same quantity of credits based on carbon sequestration or avoidance regardless of SD label status.

0124 SD labels shall enhance credit market value, enabling SD-labelled projects to potentially command premium pricing from buyers with SD mandates.

0125 Projects claiming SD contributions must substantiate all claims through documented baselines, ex-ante estimates, monitoring data, and verification reports.

0126 Unsubstantiated SD claims shall result in denial of SD labels and may result in project decertification if claims are found to be fraudulent.

0127 Projects shall not misrepresent or exaggerate SD benefits to boost market appeal.

0128 SD label integrity shall be maintained through annual verification spot checks and third-party audits of 10% of labelled projects.

0129 Projects losing SD label qualification due to failed verification shall have remediation period of up to 12 months to address deficiencies.

0130 MCC shall publish annual reports detailing SD contributions by project and SDG, enabling impact communication to stakeholders and general public.

0131 SD label criteria shall be reviewed annually for consistency with evolving international standards and stakeholder expectations.

SD Label	Qualification Criteria	Market Recognition	Requirements
MCC SD Verified	Average SD score ≥ 3.0 across all identified indicators	High	Annual monitoring and verification
MCC SD Gold	Average SD score ≥ 4.0 on minimum 3 separate SDGs	Premium	Enhanced monitoring, beneficiary verification, sustainability assessment
No Label	Average SD score < 3.0 or incomplete assessment	Standard	Carbon-only credits

METHODOLOGY-SPECIFIC SD REQUIREMENTS

0132 Each MCC methodology family shall have defined primary SDGs and required SD indicators reflecting the activity type and beneficiary population.

0133 Methodology-specific SD requirements shall be documented in individual methodology documents and integrated into project design documentation.

0134 Projects shall not deviate from methodology-specific SD requirements without prior approval from the MCC Methodologies Panel.

0135 MCC-F01 (Blue Carbon Sequestration, Methodologies M001-M004) shall have primary SDGs of 13 (Climate Action) and 14 (Life Below Water).

0136 MCC-F01 projects shall include mandatory indicators: (a) tCO₂e sequestered, (b) marine habitat protected/restored (hectares), and (c) water quality improvement (dissolved oxygen, nutrients).

0137 MCC-F01 projects shall select minimum one secondary SDG from: SDG 1 (No Poverty), SDG 6 (Clean Water), or SDG 8 (Decent Work) based on project context.

0138 MCC-F02 (Blue Carbon Protection, Methodologies M005-M006) shall have primary SDGs of 13 (Climate Action), 14 (Life Below Water), and 15 (Life on Land).

0139 MCC-F02 projects shall include mandatory indicators: (a) tCO₂e avoided, (b) marine habitat protected (hectares), (c) terrestrial habitat protected (hectares), and (d) biodiversity protection metrics.

0140 MCC-F02 projects shall document ecosystem services benefits including water quality, species protection, and climate resilience.

0141 MCC-F03 (Marine Conservation, Methodology M007) shall have primary SDGs of 14 (Life Below Water) and 15 (Life on Land).

0142 MCC-F03 projects shall include mandatory indicators: (a) marine protected area established/expanded (hectares), (b) species diversity index, and (c) livelihood benefits for coastal communities.

0143 MCC-F03 projects shall demonstrate community engagement and benefit-sharing through quantified indicators of livelihood improvements, food security, or income generation.

0144 MCC-F04 (Marine Pollution Prevention, Methodologies M008-M009) shall have primary SDGs of 14 (Life Below Water) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation).

0145 MCC-F04 projects shall include mandatory indicators: (a) tonnes of pollutants removed or prevented, (b) water quality improvement metrics, (c) marine ecosystem health indicators, and (d) community health benefits.

0146 MCC-F04 projects shall quantify avoided health impacts through reduced water-borne disease incidence or air quality improvements.

0147 MCC-F05 (Upstream Waste Prevention, Methodology M010) shall have primary SDGs of 14 (Life Below Water), 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), and 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities).

0148 MCC-F05 projects shall include mandatory indicators: (a) tonnes of waste diverted from landfills/marine environments, (b) water pollution prevented (tonnes of contaminants avoided), (c) jobs created in waste management/circular economy, and (d) community health benefits.

0149 MCC-F05 projects shall include secondary SDGs reflecting: employment creation (SDG 8), poverty reduction through employment (SDG 1), and urban sustainability (SDG 11).

0150 All methodology families shall establish minimum SD Floor Scores below which projects shall not receive SD labels.

0151 Methodology-specific SD guidance documents shall be published annually and updated as new scientific understanding of ecosystem co-benefits emerges.

Family	Methodologies	Primary SDGs	Required Indicators	SD Floor Score
MCC-F01 Blue Carbon Sequestration	M001-M004	13, 14	tCO ₂ e sequestered; marine habitat hectares; water quality	2.5
MCC-F02 Blue Carbon Protection	M005-M006	13, 14, 15	tCO ₂ e avoided; marine habitat hectares; terrestrial habitat hectares; biodiversity	2.5
MCC-F03 Marine Conservation	M007	14, 15	MPA hectares; species diversity index; livelihood benefits	2.0
MCC-F04 Marine Pollution Prevention	M008-M009	14, 6	Pollutants removed; water quality improvement; ecosystem health; community health	2.0
MCC-F05 Upstream Waste Prevention	M010	14, 6, 11	Waste diverted; water pollution prevented; jobs created; community health	2.5

INTEGRATION WITH MCC PLATFORM

- 0152** The MCC platform shall be enhanced to incorporate SD assessment, monitoring, and reporting as core functionality integrated with carbon credit issuance.
- 0153** MCC shall establish four new entities within the platform data model: (a) SDContribution, (b) SDIndicator, (c) SDAssessment, and (d) SDScore.
- 0154** The SDContribution entity shall document which SDGs a project contributes to, with links to project identification and methodology family.
- 0155** The SDIndicator entity shall define indicators at project level, including: indicator name, unit, measurement methodology, target value, and baseline value.
- 0156** The SDAssessment entity shall capture baseline assessment results, ex-ante estimates, and annual monitoring results with timestamps and data quality flags.
- 0157** The SDScore entity shall record individual indicator scores (1-5) and SDG-level average scores assigned during verification.
- 0158** SD assessment shall be required at project registration stage, with ex-ante estimates and indicator definitions required before credit issuance.
- 0159** Projects shall not receive credits unless SD assessment documentation is complete and verified.
- 0160** SD monitoring data shall be captured annually as part of routine monitoring report submissions.
- 0161** Annual SD indicator values shall be recorded in the SDAssessment entity with audit trail documenting data source, collection date, and quality assurance confirmation.
- 0162** SD verification results shall be linked to credit verification results, with both carbon and SD claims verified by the same VVB.
- 0163** The public registry shall display for each project: (a) identified SDGs, (b) selected indicators with current values, (c) progress toward targets, (d) SD label status (if applicable), and (e) verification status.
- 0164** API endpoints shall be developed enabling: (a) CRUD operations on SDContribution entities, (b) CRUD operations on SDIndicator definitions, (c) submission and retrieval of SDAssessment data, (d) assignment and retrieval of SDScore results, and (e) query of portfolio-level SD statistics.
- 0165** API documentation shall be published and maintained detailing authentication, data formats, rate limits, and error handling.
- 0166** The platform shall generate automated SD monitoring alerts if: (a) projects fail to submit annual monitoring data by deadline, (b) monitoring data quality flags indicate unresolved data issues, (c) annual indicator values fall below predetermined thresholds suggesting implementation problems.
- 0167** The platform shall support bulk export of SD data for portfolio analysis, impact reporting, and third-party analytics.
- 0168** Data security measures shall protect sensitive beneficiary and project information through access controls, encryption, and audit logging.

0169 The platform shall archive historical SD assessment data enabling long-term impact tracking and outcome evaluation.

GOVERNANCE AND REVIEW

0170 MCC shall establish a Sustainable Development Expert Panel comprising scientists, development practitioners, SDG experts, and market participants.

0171 The Expert Panel shall review the SD framework annually to ensure continued alignment with international standards and emerging best practices.

0172 Annual reviews shall assess: (a) appropriateness and relevance of selected indicators, (b) effectiveness of assessment methodology, (c) consistency of verification procedures, (d) portfolio-level SD impact, and (e) stakeholder feedback.

0173 SD indicators shall be updated as SDG measurement methodologies evolve, with updated guidance published within 12 months of international standards changes.

0174 New indicators shall be tested in pilot projects before portfolio-wide implementation.

0175 Stakeholder consultation shall be conducted annually through public webinars, written comment periods, and direct engagement with project developers, VVBs, and credit buyers.

0176 A public Sustainable Development Standards Document shall be published annually documenting all SD requirements, guidance, and changes from prior year.

0177 MCC shall conduct periodic (5-year) comprehensive reviews of the SD framework comparing performance against Gold Standard and Verra SD VISTa benchmarks.

0178 Review findings shall inform improvements to indicators, assessment methodologies, verification procedures, and labelling criteria.

0179 The Expert Panel shall recommend portfolio-level SD targets and track progress toward portfolio impact goals.

0180 MCC shall publish annual Impact Reports detailing SD contributions across the portfolio, disaggregated by SDG and methodology family, with beneficiary demographic breakdowns.

0181 Third-party evaluations shall be commissioned every three years to assess credibility and effectiveness of the SD framework.