

GCC 2.0

Information Note - Transition Plan for Projects until Registration Stage

V2.0 - 2026

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ACRONYMS

ACCs	Approved Carbon Credits
AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses
AREC	Renewable Electricity Certificates, which are additional to what would have happened in absence of the renewable electricity generating project activity
BAU	Business-as-usual
BECCS	Bioenergy with carbon capture and storage
C+	CORSIA Label-Pilot/First Phase
CA+	Article 6.2 Label
CCP+	Core Carbon Principles Label
CCS	Carbon Capture and Storage
CDM	Clean Development Mechanism
CORSIA	Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation
CP	Crediting Period
E _L	Regular Environmental No-harm Label (complying with legal requirements)
E _{BL}	Enhanced Environmental No-harm Label (complying with legal and even beyond legal requirements)
GCC	Global Carbon Council
GCC 1.0	GCC's First Generation Regulatory Framework & Documents
GCC 2.0	GCC's Second Generation Regulatory Framework & Documents
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GHG-SS	GHG Sectoral Scopes
GORD	Gulf Organisation for Research and Development
GSC	Global Stakeholder Consultation
ICAO	United Nation's International Civil Aviation Organisation
ICVCM	Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets
ICROA	International Carbon Reduction and Offsetting Alliance
LSC	Local Stakeholder Consultation

NBS	Nature Based Solutions
NR	Nature based Solutions Removal Label - Regular
NR+	Nature based Solutions Removal Label – Enhanced or Plus
PSF	Project Submission Form
PRC	Post Registration Change
PS	Project Standard
PVR	Project Validation Report
RFR	Request for Registration
S _L	Regular Social No-harm Label (complying with legal requirements)
S _{BL}	Enhanced Social No-harm Label (complying with legal and even beyond legal requirements)
S&P	S&P Global Registry
SDG+	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals Label (Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum, or Diamond)
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
TR+	Technological Reductions/Removals Label
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSDGs	United Nations Sustainable Development Goals
VVB	Validation and Verification Bodies
VVS	Validation and Verification Standard

Introduction

1. The Global Carbon Council (GCC) Program is the first international carbon market & sustainable development program in the Global South, which is endorsed and approved/endorsed by the International Civil Aviation Organisation's (ICAO) for the CORSIA scheme and by the International Carbon Offset and Reduction Alliance (ICROA). The GCC Program is a voluntary carbon program and an initiative of the Gulf Organisation for Research and Development (GORD). The GCC Program receives GHG emission-reduction and removal projects from the entire world. The unique feature of the GCC Program is that it provides an opportunity to reduce or remove greenhouse gases and help to catalyse climate action on the ground, while ensuring that project construction and operations do-not-cause no-harm to the environment and society, contribute to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals as per host-country priorities and compliance to CORSIA, Article 6.2, and ICVCM requirements. The GCC Program is comprised of the entire governance structure, system, and the documentation framework to achieve these objectives¹. GCC Program will offer a single window opportunity for carbon market players to contribute to climate change mitigation and sustainability, while ensuring integrity, independence, objectivity, and transparency. The details about the GCC Program are described in the 'GCC Program Framework' document.

Purpose

2. The purpose of the "Information Note -Transition Plan for Projects until Registration Stage" (for the projects until registration stage) is to briefly outline the process-related guidance, including actions to be taken by various stakeholders, including Project Owners, GCC Validators and Verifiers, Steering Committee Members, experts and other relevant stakeholders responsible for transiting of the project activity from GCC 1.0. Standard and Project Portal to GCC 2.0 Standard and Project Portal, including the process and timeline involved in transition.

Enter into Force

3. This document shall enter into force on 31st January 2026 after it is published on the GCC Website. The requirements contained in this document shall apply to all projects, irrespective of their status and whether they are at various stages (new project activity² and existing project activity³) of registration.
4. This document falls under the category of an information note⁴ and shall apply:
 - (a) Apply to Project Owners, GCC Validators and Verifiers, the GCC Operations Team, the GCC Regulatory Committee, and the Steering Committee; and
 - (b) Always be read in conjunction with the GCC regulatory documents including,

¹ GCC documents are available here: <http://www.globalcarboncouncil.com/resource-centre/>

² New Projects - Projects which are yet to be submitted to GCC including project under Regular track, NBS track and TR track

³ Projects submitted to GCC but under GSC completeness check, project activity undergoing GSC, project activity undergoing validation, project activity under request for registration

⁴ As per the documentation hierarchy, stipulated by Program Framework, in case of any contradiction, the requirement given in the higher level document shall prevail.

Program Definitions, Program Manual, Program Framework, Project Standard, Validation and Verification Standard, Program Process, Project Sustainability Standard, Environment and Social Safeguard Standard, Standard on Article 6.2 Eligibility of Projects and Issuances, Standard on ICVCM Eligibility of Projects and Issuances, and 'Standard on Avoidance of Double Claiming of Mitigation Outcomes in Host Country NDCs' and other regulatory documents referred to in this document.

Scope

5. The current version (V 2.0) of "Transition Plan for Projects until Registration Stage" outlines the extended timeline for the projects submitted with Request for Registration on or before 31st January 2026 in GCC 1.0 Project Portal to complete the registration Process.

Milestone and Timeline

6. The purpose of the transition plan is to guide the project owner and VVB over the requirements of transition, process, and timeline for transitioning the project from GCC 1.0 to GCC 2.0.

Elements	Timeline	Details
Onset of GCC 2.0	1 st February 2025	GCC 2.0 Program Process and GCC 2.0 Regulatory documents to enter into force
Transition Phase		
Onset of the transition phase for existing projects and the onboarding stage for new projects	1 st February 2025	1. GCC 2.0 Program Process, and GCC 2.0 Regulatory Documents, including forms and templates, mandatorily apply to New Projects ⁵ and Existing Projects under pre-validation stage (project at GSC completeness check) as on 1 st February 2025.
End of transition phase for existing projects (under Verification)	31 st January 2026	2. Existing projects under Project Verification ⁶ can opt to continue under GCC 1.0 until 31 st January 2026 (by complying to the requirement of GCC 1.0 Program Process and GCC 1.0 Regulatory documents including forms and templates) or opt to transit to GCC 2.0 (complying to the requirement of GCC 2.0 Program Process and GCC 2.0 Regulatory documents including forms and templates) prior to onset of mandatory phase on 1 st February 2026. GCC verifier can submit the request for registration to the GCC by complying with the requirements of the GCC 1.0 Program Process and GCC 1.0 Regulatory documents, including forms and templates unit 31 st January 2026.
End of transition phase for existing projects (under Request for Registration stage)	30 th June 2026	3. Existing projects in the RFR stage ⁷ can opt to continue under GCC 1.0 (by complying with the requirements of GCC 1.0 Program Process and GCC 1.0 Regulatory documents, including forms and templates) until 30 th June 2026, or opt to transit to GCC 2.0 (complying with the requirements of GCC 2.0 Program Process and GCC 2.0 Regulatory documents, including forms and templates).

⁵ New Projects - Projects which are yet to be submitted to GCC on or before 31st January 2025 includes project under Regular track, NBS Track and TR track.

⁶ Projects for which GSC is completed and are currently under validation/Project verification under GCC 1.0 Standard.

⁷ Project which has completed validation and submitted "request for registration" to GCC on or before 31st January 2026 and undergoing GCC Assessment / Detailed assessment.

Elements	Timeline	Details
		<p>4. Existing projects that are under validation and RFR stage and are developed by complying to the requirement of GCC 1.0 Program Process and GCC 1.0 Regulatory documents including forms and templates and opting to transit to GCC 2.0 (during transition phase) will require to carry out the intimation for transition to GCC 2.0 by opting for any of the following options for the project activity:</p> <p>a. Sending the email request to the GCC operation team (operations@globalcarboncouncil.com) from the focal point -01 as defined in the latest valid version of LOA.</p> <p>5. Upon receiving such requests, the GCC operation team will review such requests, approve the transition request, and proceed to migrate the project account from the existing GCC 1.0 project portal to the new GCC 2.0 Project portal. Please note that the approval is only for the transition request and doesn't have any binding on project registration approval.</p> <p>On migration of the project to the GCC 2.0 Project Portal Focal point would be guided to the LOA submission stage, and if no changes to the LOA are needed, they would need to fill out the online LOA form and submit the older LOA on the GCC 2.0 Portal for further processing.</p>
Mandatory Phase		
Onset of mandatory phase for existing projects (projects under Verification⁸)	1 st February 2025	The mandatory phase of GCC 2.0 for projects undergoing Verification (under Validation) will onset on 1 st February 2026, and thereafter the use of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents (Project Standard, Env and Social safeguard, Sustainability standard, etc.) and Templates (PSF, PVR, etc.) for GCC 2.0 becomes mandatory for submission to RFR.
Onset of mandatory phase for existing projects (projects under Request for Registration)	1 st July 2026	The mandatory phase of GCC 2.0 for projects under Request for Registration will onset on 1 st July 2026, and thereafter the use of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents (Project

⁸ Validation

Elements	Timeline	Details
		Standard, Env and Social safeguard, Sustainability standard, etc.) and Templates (PSF, PVR, etc.) for GCC 2.0 becomes mandatory.

Transition Plan

7. The details of the transition plan are as follows:

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
8.1	Transition Phase			
8.1.1	Transition Phase (1 st February 2025 - 31 st January 2026)			
	New Projects (Projects which are yet to be submitted to GCC on or before 31st January 2025 includes project under the Regular track, NBS track, and TR track ⁹)	First time submission of project activity (new project) on or after 31 st January 2025 to GCC and existing project (under initial submission and GSC completeness check stage) as on 1 st February 2025 needs to be developed/ assessed following the requirements of GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents including forms and templates (can be accessed on the GCC Resource Center) and is required to be re-submitted in new portal.	1. Transition to GCC 2.0 is not applicable for new projects. Submission of new projects on or after 1 st February 2025 under the regular track ¹⁰ is to be carried out in the new GCC portal based on GCC 2.0 regulatory documents, forms, and templates. 2. Existing Project a. Existing projects (under initial submission, GSC completeness check stage) as on 1 st February 2025 would be mandatorily transited to GCC 2.0 and will be guided by the regulatory requirement of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0	1. For the existing project, the project owner will be required to log in to the new GCC project portal ¹¹ (Login IDs and passwords of the focal point ¹² used in the old portal will be retained for the new portal. 2. Project owner /validator will be required to use the new templates and Excel-based formats (for E _L /E _{BL} /S _L /S _{BL} / SDG assessments) for submission of the project activity. 3. For New Submissions, Focal point - 01/Project owner would have to create their login on the new GCC Project Portal and upload proof of the organization intending to open the account. GCC Admin would access
8.1.2	Existing Project (project under initial submission, GSC completeness			

⁹ NBS and TR track projects would be onboarded when the New GCC Project portal is functional w.r.t the NBS and TR track type and all related forms and templates are published on GCC web portal

¹⁰ New portal for NBS track and CCS track will be announced publicly later by GCC

¹¹ Guidance document for accessing new portal would be made available in GCC resource page and announced publicly later

¹² Existing Account and login details of the project owner will be auto migrated to new GCC projects portal

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
	check as on 1 st February 2025)		regulatory documents, including forms and templates. b. Post Transition to GCC 2.0. The project activity will not require the undertaking of Local Stakeholders consultation as per the requirements of GCC 2.0 regulatory document. However, all other regulatory requirements of GCC 2.0 (including the GCC 2.0 program process) have to be essentially complied with.	and approve the account creation, and the entity can log in for project submission.
8.1.3	Transition Phase (1st February 2025 - 31st January 2026)			
	Existing Project under Pre-Registration stage - Projects undergoing Re-GSC, and projects under Validation	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is optional for existing project activity under the Pre-Registration stage, i.e., under Re-GSC, and projects under Validation (during transition phase) to transit to GCC 2.0. 2. Existing project activity in the existing old GCC portal, as on 1st February 2025, will be provided option for continuation under GCC 1.0 or transit to GCC 2.0. If the project owner opts for transition to GCC 2.0, the detailed process referred to in the subsequent column (process outline) is required to be adhered to. 3. For project activity intending to continue under GCC 1.0 and is unable to complete the validation 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post Transition to GCC 2.0. project activity will not require to undertake Local Stakeholders consultation as per the requirement of GCC 2.0 regulatory document. However, all other regulatory requirements of GCC 2.0 (including GCC 2.0 program process) must be essentially complied with. 2. Post Transition to GCC 2.0., project activity will not require to undergo Re-submission if Global Stakeholders Consultation has already been conducted for the project activity in the old portal. After transiting to GCC 2.0, project activity will require to undergo Re-submission only when the validation is not completed within 547 calendar days (1 year six month) from the date of submission i.e the GSC 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing projects developed under GCC 1.0 and opting to transit to GCC 2.0 (during transition phase) will require to intimate about the transition to GCC 2.0 by opting for any of the following options for the project activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Send an email request to GCC operation team from focal point-01 as per the latest valid version of LOA. <p>Upon receiving such a request, the GCC operation team will review such request and approve the transition request accordingly. Please note the approval is only for the transition request and doesn't have any binding on project registration approval. On migration of project to GCC 2.0 Project Portal Focal point would be guided to LOA submission stage and if</p>

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
		<p>within one year from the date of submission, i.e., the GSC start date, will be required to undergo re-submission.</p> <p>4. Project Owner willing to opt for either of the following option/ options:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Renewable crediting period, Additional market eligibility label (CA+/CCP in addition to C+ (First phase)), Additional certification label (EL, EBL, SL, SBL etc.) New and digitalized GCC portal with both registration and issuance track Digital Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (DMRV) Issuance in terms of Additional Renewable Energy Certificates (ARECs) will require transit to GCC 2.0 by aligning to the requirements of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents, as well as the template. 	<p>start date in the old GCC Project portal and not the transition date.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Project activity undergoing resubmission shall require updating all the relevant documentation, with the latest applicable valid versions of GCC or UNFCCC methodologies, standard baselines, tools, and regulatory documents (GCC 2.0) as available on the GCC website. Project activity (under validation), transiting to GCC 2.0 will not require changing the VVB (Validation agency). Project activity transiting to GCC 2.0 during validation will be allowed for time bound 3 numbers of detailed assessments of Request for Registration (DA-01, DA-02, DA-03 followed by a request for review (if not concluded) by GCC. 	<p>no changes to the LOA is needed, they would need to fill out the online LOA form and submit the older LOA on the GCC 2.0 Portal for further processing.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> For the existing project, on receipt of request and acceptance, the GCC team will migrate the user details from the existing project portal to the new GCC Project portal. Focal point-01 will receive a notification on the migration and will have to login into the new GCC Project portal in order to access the project. Project owner /validator will be required to use the new templates and Excel-based formats (for EL/EBL/SL/SBL/ SDG assessments) for submission of the project activity. GCC 2.0 related relevant Program Process and regulatory documents like Program Definitions, Project Standards, Verification Standards, Project Sustainability Standards, Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards, GCC forms and templates, etc. (can be accessed on the GCC Resource Center¹³) will be applicable to the project activity.

¹³ Moreover, the guidance document for accessing new portal would be made available soon in GCC resource page

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
				5. For existing projects transitioning from the old GCC project portal to the new GCC project portal, the Prior consideration form “PCF” will be auto-generated from the existing data on the old portal, and this PCF will be allotted a new unique number and linked to the project activity.
8.1.4	Transition Phase (1st February 2025 – 30th June 2026)			
	Existing Project under Pre-Registration stage - Projects under RFR stage	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. It is optional for existing project activity under the Request for Registration phase to transit to GCC 2.0. 2. Existing project activity in the GCC 1.0 Project Portal as on 1st February 2025 will be provided option for continuation under GCC 1.0 or transit to GCC 2.0. If the project owner opts for transition to GCC 2.0 the detailed process referred to in the subsequent column (process outline) is required to be adhered to. 3. Project Owner willing to opt for either of the following option/options: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Renewable crediting period, b. Additional market eligibility label (CA+/CCP in addition to C+ (First phase)), c. Additional certification label (EL, EBL, SL, SBL etc.) 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Post Transition to GCC 2.0. project activity will not require to undertake Local Stakeholders consultation as per the requirement of GCC 2.0. regulatory document. However, all other regulatory requirements of GCC 2.0 (including GCC 2.0 program process) must be essentially complied with. 2. Post Transition to GCC 2.0., project activity will not require to undergo Re-submission if Global Stakeholders Consultation has already been conducted for the project activity in the 1.0 Project Portal and is valid. After transiting to GCC 2.0, project activity will require to undergo Re-submission only when the validation is not completed within 547 calendar days (1 year six month) from the date of submission i.e the GSC start date in the old GCC Project portal and not the transition date). 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Existing projects developed under GCC 1.0 and opting to transit to GCC 2.0 (during transition phase) will require to intimate about the transition to GCC 2.0 by opting for any of the following options for the project activity: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Send an email request to GCC operation team from focal point-01 as per the latest valid version of LOA. <p>Upon receiving such a request, the GCC operation team will review such request and approve the transition request accordingly. Please note the approval is only for the transition request and doesn't have any binding on project registration approval.</p> <p>On migration of project to GCC 2.0 Project Portal Focal point would be guided to LOA submission stage and if no changes to the LOA is needed, they would need to fill the online LOA form</p>

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
		<p>d. New and digitalized GCC portal with both registration and issuance track</p> <p>e. Digital Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (DMRV)</p> <p>f. Issuance in terms of Additional Renewable Energy Certificates (ARECs) will require transit to GCC 2.0 by aligning to the requirements of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents, as well as the template.</p>	<p>3. Project activity undergoing resubmission shall require updating all the relevant documentation, with the latest applicable valid versions of GCC or UNFCCC methodologies, standard baselines, tools, and regulatory documents (GCC 2.0) as available on the GCC website.</p> <p>4. Project activity (under request for registration), transiting to GCC 2.0 will not require changing the VVB (Validation agency).</p> <p>5. Project activity transiting to GCC 2.0 at Request for Registration stage, will be allowed for time bound additional 3 numbers of detailed assessment of Request for Registration (DA-01, DA-02, DA-03 followed by request for review (if not concluded) by GCC irrespective of the number of iterations the project activity has already undergone in the RFR stage in the GCC 1.0 project portal</p>	<p>and submit the older LOA on the GCC 2.0 Portal for further processing.</p> <p>2. For the existing project, on receipt of request and acceptance, the GCC team will migrate the user details from the existing project portal to the new GCC Project portal. Focal point-01 will receive a notification on the migration and will have to login into the new GCC Project portal in order to access the project.</p> <p>3. Project owner /validator will be required to use the new templates and Excel-based formats (for E_L/E_{BL}/S_L/S_{BL}/ SDG assessments) for submission of the project activity.</p> <p>4. GCC 2.0 related relevant Program Process and regulatory documents like Program Definitions, Project Standards, Verification Standards, Project Sustainability Standards, Environmental and Social Safeguard Standards, GCC forms and templates, etc. (can be accessed on the GCC Resource Center¹⁴) will be applicable to the project activity.</p> <p>5. For existing projects transitioning from the 1.0 GCC project portal to the new GCC 2.0 Project Portal the Prior consideration form “PCF” will be auto-</p>

¹⁴ Moreover, the guidance document for accessing new portal would be made available soon in GCC resource page

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
				generated from the existing data on the old portal, and this PCF will be allotted a new unique number and linked to the project activity.
8.2	Mandatory Phase			
8.2.1	Mandatory Phase (On and After 1st February 2025)			
	New Projects activity submitted on or after 1 st February 2025)	New Project submission on or after 1 st February 2025 to GCC needs to be carried out following the requirements of the GCC 2.0 program process and GCC 2.0 regulatory documents and templates (can be accessed on the GCC Resource Center) on the GCC New project portal Submission of new projects under the regular track/ NBS track/ TR track ¹⁵ to be carried out in the new GCC portal using partial/fully digitalized forms and templates.	Not Applicable	Not Applicable
8.2.2	Mandatory Phase (On and After 1st February 2026)			
	Existing Project under Pre-Registration Stage Project under Validation (Projects which have continued	It is mandatory for existing project activity at GSC and Validation stage to transit to GCC 2.0.	The process for transition as outlined to under section 8.1.3 of this table above is also applicable also for the mandatory phase.	

¹⁵ Subject to operationalizing the NBS and TR tracks on the new GCC Project Portal.

Sr. No	Project Stage	Principle	GCC 2.0 Transition	
			Transition requirement	Process outline
	with GCC 1.0 till the validation stage)			
8.2.3	Mandatory Phase (On and After 1st July 2026)			
	Existing Project under Pre-Registration Stage Project under Request for Registration	It is mandatory for all project activities under the Request for Registration stage to transit to GCC 2.0.	The process for transition, as outlined in section 8.1.4 of this table above, is also applicable to the mandatory phase.	

DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
V2.0	22/01/2026	Update of the start date for the onset of the mandatory phase from 1 st February 2026 to 1 st July 2026
V 1.0	22/01/2025	Initial version released

