

Summary of changes from v1.0 to v1.1 of the HIFOR Guide and Standard

March 2026

Introduction

The release of v2.1 of the HIFOR Methodology necessitates a small number of changes in the Guide and Standard, and the release of a new version of the latter document also provides an opportunity for other minor corrections.

For transparency and the convenience of stakeholders, this document summarizes the material changes. Minor typographic corrections are not listed.

Changes made

Throughout – changed the standard Monitoring Period to 5 years.

Section 2.1 – expanded text to emphasize the inclusion of IP&LCs, as proponents or fully-involved participants.

Section 2.2 – minor clarifications regarding rights and governance.

Section 2.3 – added text to make the distinction between verification and issuance clearer.

Section 2.5 – included a reference to the ‘High Level Principles to Guide the Biodiversity Credit Markets’.

Section 4.2 – revised requirement of timing of validation to align with Methodology v2.1.

Section 4.4 – changed wording slightly regarding Project reviews so that the ‘Global Administrator will endeavor to complete the review during a reasonable period of time and without unreasonable disruption’ (rather than ‘with the minimum necessary disruption’).

Section 9 – a table is added showing document history.

Annex – Definitions

- For ‘forests’ a clarification is added that, while for certain key HIFOR tests the definition is strictly circumscribed, in some other, more descriptive contexts other definitions may be used.
- A definition is added for the new concept of the Extended Project Zone and definitions are deleted for three concepts that have been retired as a result – Geographic Scope, HIFOR Buffer Zone and HIFOR Monitoring Area.
- For ‘Project proponent’ a clarification is added that, where more than one entity is a proponent, they must be linked by an appropriate governance framework (this point is more fully discussed in the methodology).