

Potential questions for the **SELECTION OF CLIMATE PROTECTION PROJECTS**



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More and more companies, organisations, municipalities, and private individuals have decided to reduce their ecological footprint and make processes more sustainable, save emissions, and, as a final step, offset them or make a general contribution to reducing emissions through financial contributions. There are many carbon credit providers in the voluntary carbon market, and choosing the right partners and projects is complex. Which projects are truly sustainable? Which partners are trustworthy? Where is my financial support particularly effective? The Foundation Development and Climate Alliance presents a catalogue of questions that can provide you with the best possible information by asking precise questions in order to decide on a partner and a project on this basis. You can customise the questions for the topics that are most important to you or your company.

General questions regarding the projects

- ☐ Do you offer climate protection projects in the Global South, and are these projects certified according to specific standards? If so, according to which standards?¹
- ☐ Do you develop the climate protection projects you offer yourself, or do you purchase certificates from other project developers? How do you select them?
- ☐ What criteria do you use when planning and implementing a climate protection project in the Global South?
- ☐ How is compliance with national legal regulations of the registered projects verified?
Are internationally established environmental and social guidelines taken into account?
- ☐ How do you calculate the costs for one tonne of CO₂ in project development? What is the relationship between certificate price and project type?

Questions regarding greenhouse gas accounting

- ☐ Do you help organisations to draw up their greenhouse gas balance sheet? How do you do this? How do you check the information provided by them (organisations)?
- ☐ Do your offers and products comply with the so-called “reduction hierarchy”? What measures do you propose to reduce and avoid GHG emissions?
- ☐ What data basis (especially emission factors) and methodology (e.g. Greenhouse Gas Protocol) do you use for the calculation?

¹ Standards recommended by the Foundation Development and Climate Alliance can be found here:
https://allianz-entwicklung-klima.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2512_Quality-standards_EN.pdf (SAEK 2024).

Questions regarding quality criteria

- ☐ Do you protect your projects against the risks of non-permanence (especially forest projects)? How do you do this in concrete terms?
- ☐ Do your projects fulfil the criterion of additionality? How do you currently ensure this?
- ☐ Do you pay attention to the risk of carbon leakage in your projects?
- ☐ Do you involve the local population in the entire project process? How do you ensure this?
- ☐ How do you prevent double claiming (double counting) of an emission reduction?
- ☐ Do you decommission the certificates in a publicly accessible register?

Questions regarding social and ecological aspects of the projects

- ☐ What positive, measurable impact does the project have on local communities apart from CO₂ avoidance or removal?
- ☐ Were potential environmental impacts analysed before the project was implemented? How do you counteract potentially negative effects, e.g. on the surrounding ecosystem?
- ☐ Do your projects make a positive, measurable contribution to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in addition to the climate impact achieved? If so, which ones, and how do you ensure this?
- ☐ How does the project align with the host country's climate goals (Nationally Determined Contributions, NDCs) and other sustainability strategies?

Questions regarding market developments

- ☐ Do you offer alternative products/measures/certificates to conventional GHG offsetting - e.g. so-called „contribution claims“? What types of projects do you support or plan to support?
- ☐ Are the generated carbon credits in accordance with the requirements of the “Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism” (PACM) under Article 6.4?
- ☐ Does the project developer aim to apply for authorisation from the host country for the emission reductions generated by the project?

What happens to my financial contribution?

- ☐ How do you calculate the cost of an emission certificate?
- ☐ What happens to the project when the financial support from voluntary carbon market certificates ends?
- ☐ How do you ensure that my contribution achieves the planned effects?