ClimatePal EU 110 GLOSSARY

Version 1.0

ClimatePal
by ISCC



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Abbreviation	Name
BCR	biochar carbon removal
BioCCS	biogenic emissions capture with carbon storage
CAB	conformity assessment body
CAS	conformity assessment scheme
CB	certification body
CCS	carbon capture and storage
CEMS	continuous emissions measurement system
CO_2	carbon dioxide
CO_2e	carbon dioxide equivalent
CRCF	Carbon Removals and Carbon Farming
DACCS	direct air carbon capture and storage
DAkkS	Deutsche Akkreditierungsstelle GmbH (German national accreditation body)
EA	European co-operation for Accreditation
EEA	European Economic Area
EN	European Standard
ETS	EU Emissions Trading System
EU	European Union
GHG	greenhouse gas
GWP	global warming potential
IACS	Integrated Administration and Control System
IED	Industrial Emissions Directive

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IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
ISCC	International Sustainability and Carbon Certification
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ISO/IEC	International Organization for Standardization / International Electrotechnical Commission
IT	information technology
JRC	Joint Research Centre
LCA	life-cycle assessment
LHV	lower heating value
LPIS	Land Parcel Identification System
LULUCF	land use, land-use change and forestry
MRV	monitoring, reporting and verification
NAB	national accreditation body
NC	non-conformity
NDC	nationally determined contribution
NGO	non-governmental organisation
PAH	polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyl
PCDD/F	polychlorinated dibenzo-p-dioxins and dibenzofurans
QA/QC	quality assurance and quality control
QMS	quality management system
RED	Renewable Energy Directive
Ro	random reflectance
SSR	source, sink and reservoir

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V/V	validation and verification
VCM	voluntary carbon market
VVB	validation and verification body

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1. Scope and Purpose

Terminology

This glossary establishes the controlled terminology used across the ClimatePal EU certification scheme. It consolidates legal, conformity-assessment, governance, certification-process and methodology-specific terms.

2. Source Hierarchy and Interpretation

Sources

This glossary applies to all controlled ClimatePal EU scheme documents. Definitions are intentionally concise and do not replace the detailed requirements set out in the CRCF Regulation, its delegated and implementing acts, applicable certification methodologies or relevant normative ClimatePal EU documents.

Reference basis

The glossary is based on the terminology used in:

a. Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 establishing a European Union certification framework for permanent carbon removals, carbon farming and carbon storage in products;

b. Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358 laying down rules on certification schemes, certification bodies and audits under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012;

c. Commission Delegated Regulation (EU) 2026/285 establishing certification methodologies for permanent carbon removals, including DACCS, BioCCS and BCR activities; and

d. applicable conformity-assessment standards and the controlled ClimatePal EU documents listed in the master document register, where they introduce scheme-specific terms consistent with the legal framework.

Hierarchy

Definitions established in applicable EU legislation take precedence over inconsistent wording in ClimatePal EU documents. A methodology-specific definition applies within the scope of that methodology. ClimatePal specific definitions govern scheme operation and document interpretation but shall not alter a legal definition. Where this glossary and a more specific applicable requirement overlap, the more specific requirement applies, provided it remains consistent with EU legislation.

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3. Glossary

Definitions

Entries are arranged alphabetically. The same term shall be used for the same concept throughout controlled ClimatePal EU documents. Requirements and responsibilities remain governed by the applicable source document.

Term	Definition
Accreditation	Third-party attestation by a national accreditation body that a certification body is competent to perform specified conformity-assessment activities.
Accreditation route	The route by which a certification body demonstrates eligibility through accreditation by a national accreditation body in accordance with EN ISO/IEC 17065 and the applicable CRCF requirements.
Accreditation scope	The certification schemes, CRCF activities or activity categories, certification methodologies and conformity-assessment activities for which a certification body is formally accredited.
Accuracy	The principle that bias and uncertainty are reduced as far as practicable and that reported data and calculations are sufficiently precise for their intended use.
Activity	One or more practices or processes carried out by an operator or group of operators that result in a permanent carbon removal, a temporary carbon removal through carbon farming or carbon storage in products, or soil emission reductions through carbon farming.
Activity boundary	The geographical, temporal, organisational and operational boundary that identifies the processes, facilities, sites, value-chain interfaces, sources, sinks and reservoirs included in quantification, monitoring and reporting for an activity.
Activity period	The period during which an activity generates a net carbon removal benefit or a net soil emission reduction benefit, as determined by the applicable certification methodology.
Activity plan	The controlled pre-certification document in which the operator describes the activity, boundaries, ownership and control, methodology application, expected benefits, monitoring arrangements, additionality, storage, liability and sustainability information.
Activity stage	A distinct part of the activity value chain used to organise eligibility, quantification, monitoring or audit requirements, such as capture, production, transport, storage, application or incorporation.
Activity-specific baseline	A baseline reflecting the individual performance of a specific activity, used only where the applicable certification methodology permits and justifies its use.

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Term	Definition
Additionality	The quality criterion requiring an activity to go beyond applicable Union and national legal requirements and to need the incentive created by certification in order to become financially viable, as specified by the applicable certification methodology.
Annual operation report	The report submitted by the certification scheme to the European Commission covering the preceding calendar year and the information required by Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358.
Appeal	A request by an affected party for reconsideration of a certification decision or another decision for which an appeal route is provided under the applicable ClimatePal EU or certification-body procedure.
Applicant	An operator or group of operators that has applied to participate in ClimatePal EU or to obtain certification of an activity.
Appointed certification body	A certification body that holds valid accreditation or recognition, has concluded a Cooperation Agreement with ClimatePal Services GmbH and is authorised to perform ClimatePal EU certification activities within its approved scope.
Appointment	Formal approval by ClimatePal Services GmbH authorising a certification body, through a binding Cooperation Agreement, to perform specified ClimatePal EU certification activities.
Associated GHG emissions	The increase in direct and indirect greenhouse-gas emissions over the entire life cycle of an activity that is attributable to implementation of the activity.
Atmospheric CO_2	CO_2 well mixed in the free atmosphere at ambient air temperature, where its concentration is not affected by local point sources but may vary because of regional anthropogenic and natural emission sources.
Attestation	Issue of a statement, following review and a certification decision, that fulfilment of specified requirements has been demonstrated.
Audit	A systematic, independent and documented process for obtaining and evaluating evidence to determine conformity with applicable requirements. Under Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358, the term includes certification, re-certification and monitoring audits.
Audit conclusion	The auditor's reasoned conclusion, based on the audit evidence and findings, on whether the applicable requirements have been fulfilled.
Audit criteria	The legal, methodology, scheme and other specified requirements against which audit evidence is evaluated.
Audit evidence	Documents, records, observations, measurements, calculations and other verifiable information used to support audit findings and the audit conclusion.
Audit finding	The result of evaluating audit evidence against audit criteria, recorded as conformity, non-conformity or another permitted observation.

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Term	Definition
Audit limitation	A restriction on the planned audit scope, timing, access, evidence or procedures that may affect the auditor's ability to reach the intended level of assurance or conclusion.
Audit plan	The documented plan defining the audit objectives, criteria, scope, timing, sites, responsibilities, evidence needs, risk treatment and sampling approach.
Audit report	The certification body's controlled record of an audit, including the operator and activity, audit type, scope, methodology, evidence, findings, conclusion and the applicable minimum information.
Audit scope	The boundaries and subject matter of an audit, including the activity, sites, value-chain entities, processes, period, methodology and requirements to be assessed.
Audit team	One or more auditors, supported where necessary by technical experts, appointed by the certification body to conduct an audit.
Audit trail	The traceable sequence of records and evidence that enables data, calculations, decisions, transactions and changes to be followed back to their source.
Audit type	The category of audit performed for a defined purpose under the certification cycle: certification audit, re-certification audit or monitoring audit.
Auditor	A competent and independent person appointed by a certification body to perform audit activities within an authorised technical scope.
Baseline	The reference level against which the carbon removals or soil emission reductions generated by an activity are quantified.
BCR activity	An activity resulting in the production and permanent storage of biochar through its application to soils or incorporation into materials.
Beneficiary	The natural or legal person identified in the registry as receiving the benefit of a retirement or other permitted use of certified units.
BioCCS activity	An activity that captures biogenic CO_2, transports it and permanently stores it by injection at a geological storage site holding a valid permit under Directive 2009/31/EC.
Biochar	Carbonaceous material produced by thermal treatment of biomass or biomass fuels.
Biogenic carbon pool	A carbon pool consisting of living biomass, litter, deadwood, dead organic matter, mineral soils or organic soils within the relevant LULUCF categories.
Biogenic CO_2	CO_2 produced from a source of biomass, biofuel, bioliquid or biomass fuel by a chemical or biological process acting on its carbon atoms, including combustion, oxidation, anaerobic digestion and fermentation.

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Term	Definition
Calibration	An operation that establishes the relationship between values indicated by measuring equipment and corresponding reference values, and supports the assessment of measurement accuracy and uncertainty.
Capital emissions	Greenhouse-gas emissions associated with the construction of facilities and equipment used by an activity.
Capture facility	A facility that captures CO_2 from the atmosphere or from a biogenic CO_2 containing stream and conditions it to a form ready for transport or storage, including the required purity and pressure.
Captured CO_2	CO_2 captured and concentrated from the atmosphere or from a point source of CO_2.
Carbon dioxide equivalent	A unit expressing the climate effect of a greenhouse gas as the amount of CO_2 having an equivalent warming effect over the specified time horizon.
Carbon farming	A practice or process carried out over an activity period of at least five years in a terrestrial or coastal environment that temporarily stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon in biogenic carbon pools or reduces soil emissions.
Carbon farming sequestration unit	One metric tonne of CO_2e of certified temporary net carbon removal benefit generated by a carbon farming activity and registered in a certification registry or, as applicable, the Union registry.
Carbon removal	Anthropogenic removal of carbon from the atmosphere followed by durable storage in geological, terrestrial or ocean reservoirs or in long-lasting products.
Carbon storage in product unit	One metric tonne of CO_2e of certified temporary net carbon removal benefit generated by a carbon-storage-in-products activity and registered in a certification registry or, as applicable, the Union registry.
Carbon storage in products	A practice or process that captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon in long-lasting products for at least 35 years, allows monitoring and remains subject to certification during the monitoring period.
Certificate of compliance	A conformity statement issued by a certification body certifying that an activity complies with Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 and the applicable certification methodology. The certification scheme reviews the certificate of compliance and the related certification audit report and makes the certificate publicly available in its certification registry.
Certification agreement	The legally enforceable agreement between a certification body and an operator or group of operators that governs the provision of certification services and allocates their respective rights and obligations.
Certification audit	The initial audit carried out by a certification body before an operator or group of operators may participate in the scheme and before an activity is certified. It performs the validation function under the CRCF framework.

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Term	Definition
Certification body	An independent conformity assessment body accredited by a national accreditation body or, where applicable, recognised by the competent national authority, that has concluded an agreement with a certification scheme to conduct certification audits and issue certificates of compliance.
Certification claim	A statement concerning an activity's ClimatePal EU certification, certificate status, verified result or certified units that must remain within the applicable certified scope and be supported by current evidence.
Certification decision	The decision made by an authorised person or group, independent of the audit, to grant, continue, update, reduce, suspend, restore, withdraw, terminate or refuse certification.
Certification decision-maker	A competent person or group authorised by the certification body to make a certification decision and not involved in the audit in a manner that compromises independence.
Certification mark	A protected name, logo or mark used to communicate ClimatePal EU certification only within the conditions, scope and validity of the applicable authorisation.
Certification methodology	An activity-specific methodology adopted by the European Commission under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 that specifies how the quality criteria and certification requirements apply to a particular activity type.
Certification object	The carbon removal or carbon farming activity, within its defined geographical, temporal and operational boundaries, for which an operator or group of operators seeks certification.
Certification output	A formal result of the certification process, including a certificate of compliance, an updated certificate of compliance or certified units, as applicable.
Certification period	The period between a re-certification audit and the most recent preceding certification audit or re-certification audit of the activity.
Certification programme	ClimatePal EU 201, the normative document establishing general participation, operator, audit, certificate, unit and registry requirements. It forms part of, but is not itself the whole of, the ClimatePal EU certification scheme.
Certification refusal	A certification outcome in which certification is not granted because the applicable requirements for a positive certification decision have not been fulfilled.
Certification registry	A registry established or used by a recognised certification scheme to record and trace certified activities, certificates of compliance, certified units, status changes and transactions until the Union registry becomes applicable.
Certification scheme	An organisation that certifies the compliance of activities and operators with the quality criteria and certification rules established under Regulation (EU) 2024/3012.

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Term	Definition
Certification scope	The precisely identified activity or activities covered by an application or certificate, including the applicable methodology, operator or group, sites, boundaries, value-chain elements and any stated limitations.
Certification status	The current certification condition recorded for an activity or certificate, such as valid, suspended, restored, scope-reduced, withdrawn, terminated or expired.
Certified unit	One metric tonne of CO_2e of a certified net carbon removal benefit or net soil emission reduction benefit issued and recorded in the certification registry or, once applicable, the Union registry.
Chain of custody	The documented system that preserves the identity, status, quantity and traceability of CO_2, biochar, feedstock, materials or certified benefits as they move through relevant value-chain stages and entities.
Client	Term used in applicable ISO standards for the person or organisation receiving certification services. In ClimatePal EU, the corresponding term is operator or group of operators whose activity is subject to certification.
ClimatePal EU	The certification scheme owned and operated by ClimatePal Services GmbH. ClimatePal EU is not a separate legal entity.
ClimatePal EU appointment scope	The technical scope approved by ClimatePal Services GmbH for an appointed certification body in the Cooperation Agreement. It must remain within the certification body's valid accreditation or recognition scope.
ClimatePal Registry	The certification registry operated by ClimatePal EU to record and trace activities, certificates of compliance, certified units, status changes and transactions until the Union registry becomes operational.
ClimatePal Services GmbH	The legal owner and operator of the ClimatePal EU certification scheme and the entity responsible for scheme recognition, operation, document control, certification-body appointment and oversight, reporting and registry governance.
CO_2 fugitives	Irregular or unintended CO_2 emissions from sources that are not localised, or are too diverse or not sufficiently substantial to be monitored individually.
CO_2 stream	A measurable flow of CO_2 transferred between capture, transport and storage stages, including its quantity, composition, origin and status.
CO_2 venting	Intentional release of CO_2 for operational or safety reasons.
Competent national authority	An authority designated by an EU Member State or another EEA country to recognise or supervise certification bodies under the CRCF framework.
Complaint	An expression of dissatisfaction concerning the actions, omissions, decisions or performance of ClimatePal EU, an operator or a certification body, where a response or follow-up is expected.

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Term	Definition
Completeness	The principle that all relevant sources, sinks, reservoirs, data, activity stages and effects within the applicable boundary are included and that justified exclusions are disclosed.
Conflict of interest	An actual, potential or perceived personal, professional, organisational or financial interest that could improperly influence impartial governance, audit, review or certification decisions.
Conformity assessment	The process of demonstrating whether specified requirements relating to an activity, process, organisation or other object have been fulfilled.
Conformity assessment body	A body that performs conformity-assessment activities. Under the CRCF framework, the relevant conformity assessment body is the certification body.
Conformity assessment scheme	A structured set of rules and procedures specifying the object assessed, applicable requirements, assessment methods and responsibilities. In CRCF legal terminology, ClimatePal EU is a certification scheme.
Conservatism factor	A methodology-defined factor applied to quantified results to account conservatively for total uncertainty and reduce the risk of over-crediting.
Conservativeness	The principle that assumptions, methods, estimates and data treatment avoid overestimating removals or underestimating associated emissions when uncertainty exists.
Consistency	The principle that methods, data and reporting are applied consistently over time and across comparable activity elements so that results are meaningfully comparable.
Controlled document	A document subject to formal approval, version identification, change control, distribution, review, withdrawal and retention under the ClimatePal EU documentation management system.
Controlled template	An approved ClimatePal EU form or template that captures required information and is subject to document control.
Cooperation Agreement	The legally binding agreement between ClimatePal Services GmbH and a certification body defining the body's appointment, approved scope, responsibilities, oversight arrangements and conditions for ClimatePal EU certification activities.
Corrective action	Action taken to eliminate the cause of a detected non-conformity and prevent recurrence, with implementation and effectiveness verified where required.
Critical non-conformity	A violation such as fraud, an irreversible non-conformity or another breach that jeopardises scheme integrity, including the minimum cases specified in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358.
DACCS activity	An activity that captures atmospheric CO_2 from ambient air, transports it and permanently stores it by injection at a geological storage site holding a valid permit under Directive 2009/31/EC.

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Term	Definition
Data gap	A period, parameter or data point for which required monitoring data are missing, invalid or unusable and must be addressed using an approved conservative method.
Desk audit	An audit or audit activity performed remotely through review of records and evidence without visiting the relevant site. Where allowed for group members, it must provide assurance comparable to an on-site audit and may not rely on self-declarations alone.
Determination	The certification function that evaluates the certification object against specified requirements, principally through certification, re-certification or monitoring audit activities.
Document	Information and the medium on which it is contained that provides instructions, requirements, guidance or other controlled content.
Documentation management system	The controlled system for creating, approving, updating, distributing, storing, accessing, retaining, protecting and reviewing documents and records.
Double certification	Certification or registration of the same activity under more than one scheme where this would permit duplicate recognition of the same carbon removal or soil emission reduction benefit.
Double claiming	Use of the same certified benefit to support more than one claim where such multiple claiming is not expressly permitted by applicable rules.
Double counting	Any situation in which the same carbon removal or soil emission reduction is issued, recorded, used or claimed more than once contrary to the applicable rules.
Double issuance	Issuance of more than one certified unit for the same verified carbon removal or soil emission reduction benefit.
Emission factor	A coefficient that converts activity data into greenhouse-gas emissions for a specified source, gas, unit and set of conditions.
Evaluation	The conformity-assessment function comprising the activities needed to determine whether the certification object fulfils specified requirements; under ClimatePal EU it is principally performed through audits.
Evidence	Information capable of supporting the demonstration or assessment of conformity, including records, data, calculations, measurements, observations and third-party documentation.
Exit point	The point at which CO_2 is transferred out of a capture facility for transport or storage, excluding a smokestack, flue or other outlet from which CO_2 is released to the atmosphere.
Expired certificate	A certificate that is no longer valid because its validity period ended without renewal.

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Term	Definition
Fiduciary responsibility	The Governing Board's duty to exercise its authority in the interests of the integrity and proper operation of the certification scheme with care, diligence and informed judgement.
Fossil CO_2	CO_2 generated from fossil carbon, as determined under the applicable Union monitoring rules.
Fraud	Intentional deception, concealment or falsification intended to obtain an improper certification, unit, financial or other benefit or to undermine scheme integrity.
Geological storage site	A defined geological storage location and associated facilities permitted under Directive 2009/31/EC for injection and permanent storage of CO_2.
Governing Board	The ISCC Association Board of Directors acting as the ClimatePal EU Governing Board with fiduciary responsibility and authority for the governance matters assigned in ClimatePal EU 101.
Greenhouse gas	A gaseous constituent of the atmosphere, natural or anthropogenic, that absorbs and emits radiation at specified wavelengths and contributes to the greenhouse effect.
Group auditing	A process in which the approach to auditing eligible carbon farming activities is defined at group level and may include sampling of group members under the applicable rules.
Group manager	The natural or legal person designated by a group of operators to represent the group, manage its internal control system and certification interface, and ensure that members comply with the applicable certification methodology.
Group member	An operator included within the defined scope and internal control system of a group of operators.
Group of operators	A legal entity representing at least two operators and responsible for ensuring that those operators comply with Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 and the applicable certification requirements.
H/C_{org} molar ratio	The molar ratio of hydrogen to organic carbon in biochar, used as a biochar-characterisation and permanence parameter under the applicable methodology.
Impartiality	The presence of objectivity, including freedom from bias, conflicts of interest, undue influence or preferential treatment.
Independence	Functional and decision-making separation from persons or organisations whose interests could influence governance, audit, review or certification outcomes.
Internal audit	A systematic and independent examination conducted for the scheme or an organisation to determine whether its arrangements conform to planned requirements and are effectively implemented.

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Term	Definition
Internal control system	For a group of operators, the documented risk-based control activities and procedures through which the group manager verifies each member's compliance with the applicable certification methodology.
Internal monitoring	The scheme's periodic, random and risk-based review of audit reports and certification-body performance, with follow-up of identified issues.
ISCC Association	The association that provides governance oversight for ClimatePal EU through its Board of Directors and General Assembly and supports the framework for stakeholder consultation; it does not legally own or operate ClimatePal EU.
ISCC Association General Assembly	The body that elects and removes members of the ISCC Association Board of Directors in accordance with the Association's statutes and has no role in individual ClimatePal EU audits or certification decisions.
Lead auditor	The auditor assigned responsibility for leading the audit team and coordinating the audit process, findings and conclusion.
Leakage	For geological storage, the release of CO_2 from the storage complex as defined in Directive 2009/31/EC; in other contexts, a loss or displacement effect treated in accordance with the applicable methodology.
Liability mechanism	A methodology-compliant mechanism that requires or enables an operator or group of operators to address reversals during the monitoring period.
Major non-conformity	A potentially reversible and repeated violation revealing systematic problems, or one or more issues that may result in a fundamental systemic failure, including the minimum cases specified in Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2025/2358.
Management review	A formal review by responsible management or the Governing Board of the continuing suitability, adequacy and effectiveness of the relevant management or governance system.
Mass balance	A documented reconciliation of quantities entering, leaving, being stored within or lost from a defined system over a specified period.
Material	Capable of affecting scheme recognition, legal compliance, certification integrity, registry integrity, impartiality or the effective operation of the scheme.
Material misstatement	An error, omission or incorrect statement that, individually or together with other misstatements, could affect an audit conclusion or the quantified or reported result.
Materiality	The significance of an error, omission, source, risk or change for a quantified result or conformity conclusion, assessed under the applicable legal, methodology and audit requirements.
Measurement uncertainty	A parameter characterising the dispersion of values that could reasonably be attributed to a measured or calculated quantity.

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Term	Definition
Methodology module	A controlled ClimatePal EU document that organises or supplements methodology-specific technical requirements, evidence and audit controls under an applicable EU certification methodology.
Minor non-conformity	A violation with limited impact that is isolated or temporary and would not result in a fundamental systemic failure if left uncorrected.
Monitoring audit	An audit carried out by a certification body during the monitoring period to verify monitoring of stored carbon and any reversal that may have occurred.
Monitoring parameter	A measured, calculated, estimated or otherwise determined variable that must be collected and controlled to quantify results or demonstrate conformity.
Monitoring period	The period during which an operator or group of operators monitors stored carbon in accordance with the applicable certification methodology and during which reversals remain subject to monitoring and liability requirements.
Monitoring plan	The operator's controlled plan defining monitoring scope, parameters, frequency, data sources, measurement and calibration methods, QA/QC, responsibilities, storage monitoring and record retention.
Monitoring report	The operator's controlled report of monitored data, calculated results, changes, incidents, storage status, reversals and supporting evidence for a certification period or monitoring audit.
National accreditation body	The sole body in a Member State authorised under Regulation (EC) No 765/2008 to perform accreditation with authority derived from the State.
Net carbon removal benefit	The net amount of carbon removal generated by an activity after accounting for the applicable baseline, total removals and associated greenhouse-gas emissions.
Net soil emission reduction benefit	The quantified net reduction in soil-related emissions generated by a carbon farming activity after accounting for the applicable baseline, activity effects and associated greenhouse-gas emissions.
Non-conformity	A failure by an operator or a certification body to comply with the rules and procedures established by the certification scheme under which it operates.
Non-segregated CO_2 stream	A captured CO_2 stream that is mixed with CO_2 from other sources in transport infrastructure or at a storage site and is therefore quantified using the applicable non-segregated accounting route.
Normative document	A controlled document that establishes requirements binding on the persons or activities within its stated scope.
Observation	An audit note that is not classified as a non-conformity but identifies information relevant to future conformity, risk or improvement.

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Term	Definition
On-site audit	An audit or audit activity conducted at the operator's, group manager's, activity or value-chain location. Initial certification audits and audits of a group manager are always conducted on-site.
Operational Management	The ClimatePal EU secretariat function within ClimatePal Services GmbH that administers documents, appointments, training, internal monitoring, complaints, reporting and registry activities without making individual certification decisions.
Operator	A natural or legal person or public entity that operates or controls an activity, or to whom decisive economic power over the technical functioning of the activity has been delegated; the specific categories stated in Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 apply to carbon farming activities.
Operator risk profile	The overall level of risk associated with an operator and its activity, used to adapt audit scope, intensity, sampling and oversight.
Organic carbon content	The mass fraction of organic carbon in biochar, established by an applicable laboratory method and used in BCR quantification.
PAH16	The methodology-defined set of sixteen polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons for which a combined contaminant limit applies to specified biochar uses.
PAH8	The methodology-defined subset of eight polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons for which a combined contaminant limit applies to specified biochar uses.
Permanence fraction	For a biochar production batch, the methodology-determined fraction of organic carbon expected to remain stored over the specified permanence horizon.
Permanent carbon removal	A practice or process that captures and stores atmospheric or biogenic carbon for several centuries under normal circumstances and appropriate management and is not combined with enhanced hydrocarbon recovery.
Permanent carbon removal unit	One metric tonne of CO_2e of certified permanent net carbon removal benefit generated by a permanent carbon removal activity and registered in a certification registry or, as applicable, the Union registry.
Permanent geological storage	Storage of CO_2 at a geological storage site permitted under Directive 2009/31/EC.
Permanent net carbon removal benefit	The positive net amount of permanent carbon removal after accounting for the applicable baseline, total activity removals and associated life-cycle greenhouse-gas emissions.
Permanently chemically bound carbon in products	Carbon chemically stored in a product so that it does not enter the atmosphere during normal use or normal end-of-life treatment.

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Term	Definition
Point source of CO_2	A natural or anthropogenic source of gases with a CO_2 concentration higher than that of the free atmosphere because of CO_2 generation or release from storage or containment.
Production batch	A quantity of biochar sharing a common feedstock mix and common processing conditions and not including biochar produced in more than one certification period.
Public audit report summary	The non-confidential summary of an audit report prepared and published in accordance with the applicable ClimatePal EU transparency requirements.
Quality assurance and quality control	Planned and systematic measures, checks and controls used to ensure that monitoring data, measurements, calculations and records are complete, consistent, accurate and reliable.
Quality criteria	The CRCF criteria concerning quantification, additionality, storage, monitoring and liability, and sustainability.
Quantification boundary	The part of the activity boundary within which removals, emissions, sources, sinks, reservoirs and relevant effects are quantified under the applicable methodology.
Random reflectance	An optical measurement of the reflectance of prepared biochar particles at randomly selected points, used by one permitted approach to determine biochar permanence.
Random sample	A sample selected by chance so that eligible items have a known or unbiased opportunity of selection; it is used alongside risk-based selection where required.
Re-certification audit	An audit carried out in the process of renewing or continuing a certificate of compliance and verifying the results generated during the relevant certification period. It performs the verification function under the CRCF framework.
Reasonable assurance	A high but not absolute level of assurance that reduces validation or verification risk to an acceptably low level as the basis for a positive conclusion.
Recognition of a certification body	Authorisation by a competent national authority for a certification body to operate under the CRCF rules within the authority's territorial and technical scope.
Recognition of a certification scheme	A European Commission decision confirming that a certification scheme complies with the CRCF framework for specified certification methodologies and a defined recognition period.
Recognition route	The route by which a certification body demonstrates eligibility through recognition by a competent national authority under the applicable CRCF requirements.
Recognition scope	The CRCF activities, activity categories and audit functions for which a competent national authority has recognised a certification body.

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Term	Definition
Record	Documented evidence of activities performed, data obtained, decisions made or results achieved, retained without unauthorised alteration for the applicable retention period.
Registry account	An account in a certification registry through which an authorised account holder manages activity, certificate, unit or transaction records.
Registry service provider	A contracted entity that supplies technical registry services under the control of ClimatePal Services GmbH and has no authority to make certification or scheme-governance decisions.
Registry transaction	A controlled registry action affecting a certified unit or account, including issuance, transfer, retirement, cancellation or another permitted status change.
Reinstated certification	Certification restored after the conditions causing suspension have been resolved and the required evaluation, review and decision activities have been completed.
Relevance	The principle that information, sources, methods and boundaries appropriate to the intended quantification, reporting and decision purpose are selected.
Retirement	An irreversible registry action that removes a certified unit from further transfer or use and records the beneficiary and stated purpose.
Reversal	For geological storage, leakage as defined in Directive 2009/31/EC; for other activities, the voluntary or involuntary release back to the atmosphere of carbon captured and stored by an activity.
Risk	The effect of uncertainty on an objective, commonly considered through the combination of the likelihood and consequence of an event or condition.
Risk-based sample	A sample selected using identified risk factors so that higher-risk reports, sites, data, operators or group members receive greater attention.
Sampling method	The documented approach used to select data, records, sites, batches, samples or group members for measurement, testing or audit.
Scheme hopping	An attempt to avoid failed audits, sanctions or unresolved non-conformities by changing certification schemes or certification bodies.
Scheme owner	ClimatePal Services GmbH as the legal entity responsible for developing, operating, maintaining and controlling the ClimatePal EU certification scheme and its rules.
Scheme participation agreement	The agreement under which an operator or group of operators participates in ClimatePal EU and accepts the applicable scheme rules, publication conditions and responsibilities.
Scope reduction	A certification outcome that removes a clearly identifiable part of the certified scope while any remaining scope continues to meet the applicable requirements.

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Term	Definition
Segregated CO_2 stream	A captured CO_2 stream that remains physically segregated from CO_2 from other sources throughout transport, storage and injection and is quantified using the applicable segregated accounting route.
Soil emission reduction	A reduction in net greenhouse-gas emissions from specified biogenic carbon pools or agricultural-soil emission sources where the carbon farming activity overall reduces soil emissions or increases removals in biogenic pools.
Soil emission reduction unit	One metric tonne of CO_2e of certified net soil emission reduction benefit generated by a carbon farming activity and registered in a certification registry or, as applicable, the Union registry.
Source, sink and reservoir	A greenhouse-gas source releases a greenhouse gas, a sink removes it from the atmosphere and a reservoir stores carbon or a greenhouse gas within the activity boundary.
Specified requirements	The legal, methodology, ClimatePal EU and other normative requirements against which the certification object is assessed.
Stakeholder	A person or organisation with an interest in, influence on or potential to be affected by ClimatePal EU or an activity certified under it.
Stakeholder consultation	A transparent process for publishing proposed scheme requirements or major changes, receiving and evaluating comments and explaining how material comments were addressed.
Standardised baseline	A European Commission-established baseline representing standard performance of comparable practices or processes in similar social, economic, environmental, technological and geographical circumstances.
Storage, monitoring and liability	The CRCF quality criterion requiring durable or permanent carbon storage, monitoring, risk mitigation and mechanisms to address reversals during the monitoring period.
Substantial modification	A change to a recognised certification scheme that may affect the basis or conditions of European Commission recognition and therefore requires notification under the applicable rules.
Surveillance	Activities used to monitor continuing fulfilment of certification requirements, including re-certification, monitoring audits and other controls relevant to continued certification status.
Suspended certificate	A certificate whose validity and associated certification rights are temporarily suspended pending remediation or a further certification decision.
Systemic non-conformity	A pattern of critical or major non-conformity across a group sample indicating failure of the group-level internal control system and potentially affecting the whole group certification.
Technical expert	A person who provides specialised technical knowledge or expertise to an audit team but does not independently make the audit conclusion or certification decision.

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Term	Definition
Technical review	An independent review within the certification body of the audit evidence, findings and conclusion before the certification decision.
Technical reviewer	A competent person independent of the audit team who performs the technical review and validates the audit results before the certification decision.
Technical Stakeholder Committee	The advisory committee established under the ISCC Association to provide competent, balanced and stakeholder-informed advice on methodology implementation, technical interpretations and scheme guidance without making individual certification decisions.
Temporary net carbon removal benefit	The positive net temporary carbon removal generated by carbon farming or carbon storage in products after accounting for the applicable baseline, activity removals and associated greenhouse-gas emissions.
Terminated certificate	A certificate that has been voluntarily cancelled while it is still valid.
Traceability	The ability to follow the history, application, location, quantity and status of data, materials, CO_2, biochar, certificates or units through documented identifiers and records.
Transparency	The principle that assumptions, methods, data sources, exclusions, limitations and results are documented clearly enough to enable an informed independent assessment.
Transport infrastructure segment	A defined part of a CO_2 transport pathway used to allocate CO_2 quantities, losses and associated emissions where CO_2 from more than one source is transported.
Uncertainty	A parameter or condition expressing incomplete knowledge about a measured, calculated or estimated value and the range within which the true value could reasonably lie.
Union registry	The Union-level registry provided for by Regulation (EU) 2024/3012 for recording activities, certificates of compliance and certified units once established and operational.
Unit cancellation	An irreversible registry action removing certified units from circulation, including to correct erroneous or fraudulent issuance or address liability obligations.
Unit expiry	The end of a certified unit's validity in accordance with the applicable unit category, methodology and monitoring-period information.
Unit issuance	Creation and registration of certified units on the basis of verified results, a positive re-certification decision and a valid or updated certificate of compliance.
Unit transfer	Movement of a certified unit between authorised registry accounts while preserving the unit's unique identity, status and transaction history.

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Term	Definition
Updated certificate of compliance	A certificate issued following a positive re-certification decision that records verified net benefits and the quantity and validity of certified units that may be issued for the completed certification period.
Useful heat	Heat generated to satisfy an economically justifiable demand for heating or cooling.
Validation	Confirmation, before or at initial certification, that the activity plan, monitoring plan and expected results are based on reasonable assumptions and meet the applicable requirements.
Validation audit	A voluntary-carbon-market or conformity-assessment term corresponding in ClimatePal EU to the validation function performed through the certification audit.
Validation plan	The risk-based plan for evaluating the design and planned implementation of an activity during certification, including scope, complexity and sampling methods.
Value-chain entity	A natural or legal person other than, or in addition to, the operator that performs, controls or provides evidence for a material activity stage, facility, transport, storage, application or other interface within the activity boundary.
Verification	Confirmation, based on historical data and evidence, that reported results and continued conformity meet the applicable requirements.
Verification audit	A voluntary-carbon-market or conformity-assessment term corresponding in ClimatePal EU to the verification function performed through a re-certification or monitoring audit, depending on purpose.
Verification plan	The risk-based plan for verifying achieved results or stored carbon, aligned with the activity scope, complexity and sampling methods.
Voluntary carbon market	A market in which carbon credits are issued, transferred and used outside mandatory compliance systems. It is not the legal name of the CRCF framework.
Whistleblower report	A confidential or anonymous report concerning suspected non-compliance, fraud, misconduct or another threat to scheme integrity.
Withdrawn certificate	A certificate that has been permanently cancelled by the certification body or the certification scheme.

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