PUBLIC CONSULTATION DOCUMENT

Comparison of key attributes of the draft methodologies *VM0032 v2.0* and *VM0042 v2.2* submitted to public consultation

11 December 2025

Methodology rules and requirements (Section)	***VM0032 Sustainable Native Grasslands Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing, v2.0*** **(draft)**	***VM0042 Improved Agricultural Land Management, v2.2 (draft)***[1]
Eligible grassland system (Section 4)	Natural, untilled grass-dominated bushlands, rangelands, savannas, grassland, grassy woodlands or woodlands in the baseline and project scenarios	• Cultivated grasslands • Temporary grasslands in integrated crop-livestock systems
Eligible project activities, which result in ERRs (Section 4)	• Adjustment of number, type, and husbandry practices of grazing animals • Rotational grazing • Adjustment of frequency, intensity and timing of fires • Introduction of herbaceous grassland species as potential forage for grazing animals or to restore degraded soils	Improve grazing management: • Rotational grazing • Adaptive multi-paddock grazing (rotational, livestock numbers are adjusted to match available forage as conditions change) • Multi-species grazing • Grazing of cover crops and agricultural residues post-harvest • Silvipasture (integration of woody species into pastures) • Integrated crop-livestock system (ICLS)
Applicability restrictions (Section 4)	Project activities may not include tillage, re-seeding, N fertilizer application, and increase of areas covered with dung.	• Project activities may not involve clearing, burning, or mechanical disturbance of existing vegetation.
Project Boundary (Section 5)	SOC and grazing emissions always; woody biomass optional (mandatory if fire mgmt); burning/fossil fuel GHGs optional unless increased.	SOC always; fertilizer and manure N_2O/CH_4 explicitly included; woody biomass if reduced; non-woody biomass excluded.
Baseline period (Section 6)	Fixed 10-year look-back period	≥3-yr historical look-back period (min. 1 full crop rotation)

[1] Expected to start publication mid-January 2025

Baseline SOC stocks (Section 6)	• Modeled baseline SOC based on SOC stock measurement in year y= 0 and model inputs from schedule of activities found in the historical look-back period. • Measured SOC stocks in baseline control sites	• Modeled baseline SOC stocks with model inputs based on schedule of activities defined for the historical look-back period. • Measured SOC stocks in baseline control sites
Additionality (Section 7)	VT0008 tool; no common practice test.	VT0008 + project method; requires common practice test (<20% adoption, stratified regionally).
Quantification Approaches (Section 8)	Three approaches (Measure, Model, Default); SOC sampling ≥5 yrs; remote sensing allowed for biomass; uncertainty via Monte Carlo, deductions if >30%.	Three formal QA pathways (QA1, QA2, QA3); quantification units central; SOC to 30 cm/ESM basis; proximal sensing allowed with strict rules; independent modeling expert required (QA1); uncertainty by probability exceedance per source; cumulative accounting.
Modeled quantification (Section)	• Requires SOC absolute value (not change) calibration through initial (year 0) SOC measurement. • Independent expert model validation model is optional	• Requires SOC change model validation and calibration through the application of VMD0053 – Several years of SOC measurements required. • Independent expert model validation is required
Measured quantification (Section)	• Baseline control sites (BCS) defined per biophysical similarity criteria must be managed according to schedule of activities defined for the historical look-back period. • BCS may be operated by PPs, implementing partners or independent third parties. • Soil sampling to monitor SOC stock changes must be performed every 5 years.	• Baseline control sites (BCS) defined per biophysical similarity criteria must be managed according to schedule of activities defined for the historical look-back period. • BCS may be operated by PPs, implementing partners or independent third parties. • Soil sampling to monitor SOC stock changes must be performed every 5 years.
Eligible methods to measure SOC content	Dry combustion or multi-spectral diffraction	Dry combustion
Equivalent soil mass (ESM)	ESM must be used unless bulk density is not affected by project activity	ESM must be used unless bulk density is not affected by project activity

Fire emissions accounting	• Requires measurement of natural grassland vegetation mass per unit of area pre and post fire • Requires measurement of burnt area pre and post fire (using remote sensing) • Quantifies ERs resulting from natural grassland fire management	• Requires measurement of mass of burnt agricultural residues • Does not require burnt area measurement • Only quantifies ERs when less agricultural residues are burnt in project compared to baseline.