

VCS JNR Baseline Description Template

*This template is for the development of jurisdictional baselines. This template must be used by jurisdictional proponents seeking registration of jurisdictional baselines applying Scenario 1, in accordance with the VCS JNR Requirements. The VCS JNR Program Description Template must be used by a jurisdictional proponent seeking registration of jurisdictional REDD+ programs (including jurisdictional baselines) under Scenario 2 or 3.*

Instructions for completing the JNR baseline description:

*TITLE PAGE: All items in the box at the bottom of the title page must be completed using Arial 10pt, black, regular (non-italic) font. This box must appear on the title page of the final document. The JNR baseline description may also feature the jurisdictional baseline title, preparer's name and logo more prominently on the title page, using the format below (Arial 24pt and Arial 11pt, black, regular font).*

*JNR BASELINE DESCRIPTION: Instructions for completing the JNR baseline description can be found under the section headings in this template. All instructions must be followed. Instructions relate back to the rules and requirements set out in the JNR Requirements, VCS Standard and accompanying program documents. As such, this template must be completed in accordance with such documents, and the preparer will need to refer to the VCS program documents in order to complete the template. It is also expected that relevant guidance is followed. Note that the instructions in this template are intended to serve as a guide and do not necessarily represent an exhaustive list of the information the preparer should provide under each section of the template.*

*All supporting documentation (eg, GIS maps, spreadsheets) should be attached in annexes.*

*All sections must be completed using Arial 10pt, black, regular (non-italic) font. Where a section is not applicable, same must be stated under the section (the section must not be deleted from the final document).*

*All instructions, including this introductory text, should be deleted from the final document.*

# JNR BASELINE TITLE

Logo (optional)

Document Prepared By (individual or entity)

<b>Jurisdictional REDD+ Baseline Title</b>	<i>Name of jurisdictional baseline</i>
<b>Version</b>	<i>Version number of this document</i>
<b>Date of Issue</b>	<i>DD-Month-YYYY this version of the document issued</i>
<b>Prepared By</b>	<i>Individual or entity that prepared the document</i>
<b>Contact</b>	<i>Physical address, telephone, email, website</i>

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<https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard/vcs-program-details/>.

## Table of Contents

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## 1 JURISDICTIONAL BASELINE SUMMARY

### 1.1 Summary Description of the Jurisdictional Baseline

Provide a summary description of the jurisdictional baseline intended to be registered, including the following (no more than two pages):

- Type of jurisdiction (ie, national or subnational; how many levels below national level).
- The location of the jurisdiction.
- UNFCCC REDD+ activity categories included in the jurisdictional baseline (ie, avoided emissions from deforestation and/or degradation, carbon stock enhancement).
- Forthcoming activities (projects and lower-level jurisdictions) to adopt jurisdictional baseline, including registered activities to be grandparented and activities under development, where known. Where registered, identify GHG program and relevant ID number of activity.
- Quantified jurisdictional baseline GHG emission reductions and/or removals.

### 1.2 Jurisdictional Proponent

Provide contact information and roles/responsibilities for the jurisdictional proponent(s). Copy and paste the table as needed.

Organization name	
Contact person	
Title	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

### 1.3 Other Entities Involved in the Jurisdictional Baseline

Provide contact information and roles/responsibilities for any implementing partners involved in the development of the jurisdictional baseline. Copy and paste the table as needed.

Organization name	
Role in baseline development	
Contact person	
Title	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	

#### 1.4 Jurisdiction Location and Geographic Boundaries

Indicate the jurisdiction's location and geographic boundaries, including information allowing the unique identification of the jurisdiction (ie, name of jurisdiction, maps, geodetic coordinates, total area). A KML file may be submitted separately.

Indicate whether there are permitted gaps in the jurisdictional area and provide justification for these gaps.

Where the jurisdiction is subnational and its geographic boundaries are not aligned with the official administrative boundaries, provide relevant documented approval from the national government of the boundaries to be used by the jurisdiction.

Indicate whether there is any difference between the geographic boundary of the jurisdictional baseline and the geographic boundary of the jurisdiction, and provide justification for this difference.

#### 1.5 Conditions Prior to Jurisdictional Baseline Start Date

Describe the conditions existing prior to the jurisdictional baseline start date, including the present and prior environmental conditions of the jurisdiction. Include, as appropriate, information on the climate, hydrology, topography, relevant historic conditions, soils, vegetation and ecosystems.

#### 1.6 Approvals

Provide identification and contact information for any jurisdictional approval authorities established (see VCS document Program Definitions for definition of jurisdictional approval authority). Where relevant, letter(s) of no-objection or approval from higher-level jurisdiction should be included in annexes.

#### 1.7 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

Identify and demonstrate compliance of the jurisdictional baseline with all and any relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks.

## 2 JURISDICTIONAL BASELINE DETAILS

### 2.1 Jurisdictional Baseline Start Date and Frequency of Update

Indicate and provide rationale for the jurisdictional baseline start date, specifying the day, month and year.

Indicate with what frequency the jurisdictional baseline will be updated (5 to 10 years).

### 2.2 Previously Established Jurisdictional Baseline Establishment and/or Reduction Commitments

Indicate whether a baseline previously accepted and approved under the UNFCCC or another GHG program for domestic or international compliance will be used. Demonstrate that the previously established baseline is appropriately applied.

Indicate whether a higher-level jurisdictional baseline has been adopted. Where relevant, indicate whether any activities or pools not included in the higher-level baseline will continue as independent project or jurisdictional activities.

State any relevant commitments by the jurisdictional government (including NAMAs) to reduce GHG emissions or enhance carbon stocks within the jurisdiction that are not intended to be financed via market mechanisms, and demonstrate how the jurisdictional baseline takes these into account.

### 2.3 REDD+ Activities and Drivers of Deforestation and/or Degradation

Indicate which REDD+ activities (eg, avoided emissions from deforestation and/or degradation, carbon stock enhancement) are included in the jurisdictional baseline.

Identify drivers of deforestation and/or degradation (which may include relative significance and location of drivers). In addition, where carbon stock enhancement will be accounted for, identify any existing (baseline) forest carbon stock enhancement strategies, policies or measures.

### 2.4 Jurisdictional Baseline Boundary

Define the jurisdictional baseline boundary and identify the relevant carbon pools and GHG emissions sources for the jurisdictional baseline using the table below. Justify that the choice of pools and sources is conservative. Add rows to the table to include additional sources, as needed.

Carbon pools/sources	Gas	Included for which activities?	Justification/explanation
Aboveground tree or woody biomass	CO <sub>2</sub>		
Aboveground non-tree or non-woody biomass	CO <sub>2</sub>		
Belowground biomass	CO <sub>2</sub>		
Litter	CO <sub>2</sub>		
Dead wood	CO <sub>2</sub>		
Soil organic carbon (including peat)	CO <sub>2</sub>		
	CH <sub>4</sub>		
Wood products	CO <sub>2</sub>		

Where relevant, identify criteria and procedures by which relevant pools and sources may be deemed conservative to be excluded from jurisdictional level accounting.

In addition to the table, a diagram or map of the jurisdictional baseline boundary may be provided to show the physical locations of the various carbon pools/sources or activities (eg, peatland areas where soil carbon is included in accounting).

## 2.5 Description of Jurisdictional Baseline Method(s)

### 2.5.1 Accounting Method

Indicate whether an activity-based or land-based accounting method is used.

### 2.5.2 Most Plausible Jurisdictional Baseline Scenario

Provide a summary description of the method(s) used for determining alternative jurisdictional baseline scenarios (including at least historical annual average and historical trend baseline scenarios), and explain whether and how the method(s) result in a transparent and credible baseline scenario selection.

Where the procedure involves several steps, describe how each step is applied and clearly document the outcome of each step. Explain and justify key assumptions, rationale and methodological choices. Provide all relevant references.

Justify and demonstrate the conservativeness of the historical reference period selected for the development of alternative baseline scenarios. Identify and justify any modelled adjustments to alternative baseline scenarios that reflect national or subnational circumstances.

## 2.5.3 Baseline Scenario Selection Method

Provide a summary description of the method(s) used to estimate baseline GHG emission reductions and/or removals for the selected baseline scenario for each included activity (eg, avoided emissions from deforestation and/or degradation or carbon stock enhancement). Include the main methodological steps, how each step is applied, and clearly document the outcome of each step. Explain and justify key assumptions, rationale and methodological choices. Provide all relevant references.

Indicate key documents, methodologies and/or jurisdictional baselines or reference levels upon which the proposed method(s) is based. Identify any modules or tools to which the method(s) refers. Include information on author(s) of method(s), if desired.

## 2.5.4 Land Cover Maps

Identify forest stratification and land use and land-use change (LULC) system used for creation of land cover maps.

Describe any unavoidable gaps in LULC maps classified as unknown, and describe the approach used to fill such gaps.

Provide evidence that any forest areas systematically excluded from LULC map are unmanaged.

## 2.5.5 Data and Parameters

Complete the table below for all data and parameters that are determined or available at validation (copy the table as necessary for each data/parameter).

Data / Parameter:	
Data unit:	Indicate the unit of measure
Description:	Provide a brief description of the data/parameter
Source of data:	Indicate the source(s) of data
Value applied:	Provide the value applied
Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied:	Justify the choice of data source, providing references where applicable.  Alternatively, where values are based on measurement, include a description of the measurement methods and procedures applied (eg, what standards or protocols have been followed), indicate the responsible person/entity that undertook the measurement, the date of the measurement and the measurement results. More detailed information may be provided in an appendix.
Purpose of data:	Indicate one of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Determination of baseline scenario</li> <li>Calculation of baseline emissions</li> </ul>
Comments:	Provide any additional comments



### 2.5.6 Description of Data Collection

Describe method(s) for generating, recording, storing, aggregating, collating and reporting on data and parameters relevant to the selected baseline scenario.

Identify the sampling approach used, where relevant, including target precision levels, sample sizes, sample site locations, stratification, and QA/QC procedures.

### 2.5.7 Excluded Forest Loss in Historical Reference Period

Identify any instances of forest loss (eg, large infrastructure projects, geological or weather-related impacts) in the historical reference period that are excluded from the calculation and projection of the rate of deforestation and associated GHG emissions in the baseline, including clearly identifying the associated geographic area and month/year of occurrence. Demonstrate and justify that forest loss exceeds 1,000 ha and is not likely to reoccur during the baseline period.

### 2.5.8 Large Unavoidable Infrastructure Projects

Identify any large unavoidable infrastructure projects that are included in the jurisdictional baseline and associated geographic area. Demonstrate and justify the following:

- The committed forest loss is expected to exceed 1,000 hectares
- The committed activity is included in official development plans and has received all approvals required for the activity to commence
- The committed activity has already commenced or it can be demonstrated that at least 80 percent of required finances are in place

### 2.5.9 Large-Scale Commercial Deforestation

Identify whether large-scale commercial deforestation collectively exceeds 10 percent of historical deforestation in the historical reference period, and justify conclusions. Where applicable, demonstrate that large-scale commercial deforestation is separated out from all other deforestation.

### 2.5.10 Carbon Loss

Indicate the method(s) used to reliably establish the pattern of carbon loss over time. The method(s) should be scientifically sound, based on empirical evidence and not likely to overestimate early carbon losses.

## 2.6 Quantification of Jurisdictional Baseline Emissions

Describe the procedures for quantification of the jurisdictional baseline GHG emission reductions and/or removals for the selected carbon pools and GHG sources and quantify the GHG emissions. Include all relevant equations, and explain and justify all relevant methodological choices (eg, with respect to selection of emission factors and default values).

### 3 SAFEGUARDS

Summarize how the jurisdictional baseline has been developed and documented in a transparent manner and in consultation with relevant stakeholders. Describe the nature of stakeholder consultations related to the design of the jurisdictional baseline, including the following:

- Identify all the relevant stakeholders consulted.
- Describe the manner in which the consultations occurred (including timing, methods used, input received and how this was considered).
- Summarize the outcomes of the consultations.

List any national and subnational social and environmental safeguards requirements relevant to the design of the jurisdictional baseline, and demonstrate how the jurisdictional baseline has addressed and respected safeguards in accordance with all of these requirements and all of the relevant safeguards contained in Appendix 1 of Decision 1/CP.16 of the UNFCCC Cancun Agreements.

Describe the mechanism for handling and resolving grievances and disputes relating to the design of the jurisdictional baseline.

Indicate whether additional standards (eg REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards, Climate Community & Biodiversity Standards, and/or Forest Stewardship Council certification) have been followed, and/or whether other tools and approaches developed by third parties (eg, the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility, or UN-REDD Programme) have been used as guidance to meet safeguard requirements, including in the design of the stakeholder consultation process.

### 4 FURTHER INFORMATION

Include any additional relevant legislative, technical, economic, sectoral, social, environmental, geographic, jurisdictional baseline-specific and/or temporal information that may have a bearing on the eligibility of the jurisdictional baseline or the future quantification of net GHG emission reductions and/or removals of a jurisdictional REDD+ program and/or nested activities.

**APPENDIX X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>**

*Use appendices for supporting information. Delete this appendix (title and instructions) where no appendix is required.*

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