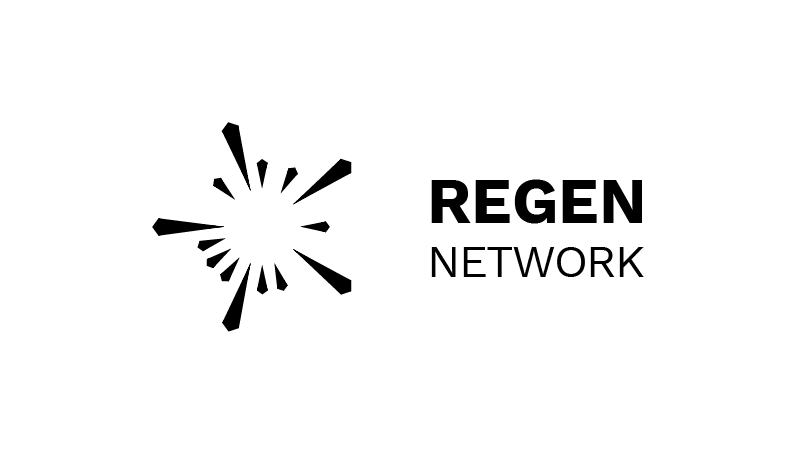


GHG & Co-Benefits in Grazing Systems  
Credit Class



Ecosystem focus: Grasslands



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## 

# Disclaimer

This document has been prepared for informational and procedural purposes only. Its contents are not intended to constitute legal advice. Regen Network Development, Inc (RND) maintains the right to amend or depart from any procedure or practice referred to in this guideline as deemed necessary.

This document is intended to be used in combination with:

* [Regen Registry Program Guide](https://regen-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/Regen+Registry+Program+Guide.pdf)
* [Methodology for GHG and Co-Benefits in Grazing Systems](https://regen-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/Methodology+for+GHG+and+Co-Benefits+in+Grazing+Systems.pdf)

## Definitions

1. Approved Activities - the set of land management or conservation activities that are eligible activities for a given Credit Class.
2. Monitor - an individual or organization that is contracted to measure the benefits / indicators defined in a given Credit Class based on the requirements in the Approved Methodology.
3. Verifier - an individual or organization that is contracted to execute the verification requirements stipulated in a given Credit Class.
4. Project Proponent - the project developer or land steward that is applying to register a project on the registry.
5. Project Developer - the individual or organization that is in charge of managing the project and is the main point of contact with Regen Registry. The Project Developer can be the land steward or a third party.
6. Land Steward - the individual or organization that is performing the work on the ground. This can be a farmer, rancher, conservationist, forester, fisherman, etc.
7. Land Owner - the individual or organization that holds title to the land where the project is occurring. This can be the Land Steward or a third party that rents the land to the Land Steward.
8. Project Registration Date - the official date when a project commences.
9. Project Plan - the template that each project proponent fills out in order to register a project on the registry.
10. Co-Benefit - the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) defines co-benefits of climate change mitigation as the positive benefits related to the reduction of greenhouse gases. We define it more broadly as a benefit that is achieved along with the main indicator tracked and promoted in a given credit - which need not be reduction of GHG necessarily. For example a biodiversity credit might mainly promote the protection of a certain species and at the same time offer co-benefits, such as protection of water resources.
11. Verification - a systematic, independent, and documented assessment by a qualified and impartial third party of the benefits’ assertions for a specific reporting period.
12. Crediting Term - is the finite length of time for which a Project Plan is valid, and during which a project can generate credits.
13. Project Activity - the applied management or conservation practice that a project proponent is undertaking in order to improve the benefits tracked in a given Credit Class.
14. Project Initial Monitoring Date - the date when the baseline measurement was performed.
15. Program Guide - the main document specifying the rules and procedures of Regen Registry.
16. Established Registries - other credible registries in the carbon market that Regen Registry recognizes and accepts for certain purposes such as onboarding verifiers. These registries are:
    1. VCS (Verra)[[1]](#footnote-0)
    2. Gold Standard[[2]](#footnote-1)
    3. American Carbon Registry[[3]](#footnote-2)
    4. Climate Action Reserve[[4]](#footnote-3)
    5. CDM[[5]](#footnote-4)

## Acronyms

* GHG - Greenhouse Gases
* IPCC - Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is an intergovernmental body of the United Nations that is dedicated to providing the world with objective, scientific information relevant to understanding the scientific basis of the risk of human-induced climate change
* AFOLU - Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use; a category of carbon credit projects that related to agriculture, forestry and other land uses (e.g. conservation)
* RND - Regen Network Development, Inc., the entity developing and operating Regen Registry
* SDG - the UN Sustainable Development Goals

# 

# Introduction

Project Drawdown[[6]](#footnote-5) defines managed grazing as a set of practices that sequester carbon in grassland soils by adjusting stocking rates, timing, and intensity of grazing. Livestock grazing covers over 3.3 billion hectares, or 25 percent of the world’s land area, making it humanity’s largest land use (Asner et al, 2004). Unfortunately, poor grazing practices have contributed to land degradation and loss of soil organic carbon. However, there are managed grazing practices that can reverse this negative trend, enhance net carbon sequestration, and improve soil and vegetation quality. These are practices such as controlled intensity and timing of grazing, enclosure of grassland to encourage resting, and/or other kinds of planned and adaptive grazing.

Under managed grazing, emissions of the greenhouse gases methane and nitrous oxide continue, but are more than offset by soil organic carbon sequestration (at least until soil carbon saturation is achieved). The estimated global benefit from managed grazing is between 16.4 and 26 Gt CO2e sequestered in the period between 2020-2050.

The intent of this Credit Class is to provide incentive and a structure to significantly increase the amount of hectares/acres under managed grazing worldwide by providing land stewards with the necessary incentives to make this important work possible.

This Credit Class follows the requirements in the Program Guide. Each section below includes specific adaptations for this Credit Class.

# Credit Class Overview

The Carbon*Plus* credit focuses on soil carbon sequestration in grassland ecosystems. The *Plus* indicates that co-benefits (or secondary ecological benefits) allow for a credit that accounts for more than just carbon.

This credit class is built to outline a holistic credit that includes both primary and secondary ecological benefits. In the case of this credit, the primary benefit that is monitored, quantified and used to determine the quantity of credits issued is Carbon Sequestration. The additional benefits, or co-benefits, may be measured on a project by project basis. More information on co-benefits are outlined in [Section 7. Co-Benefits](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1iaCLH0K1_0t8bBwjur98Og5OlCHgRsHJWQZJTs4huy0/edit#heading=h.lfzifz36q4np).

### Primary Indicator

The primary indicator defined in this credit class is soil organic carbon. The units of this credit are: one crediting unit equals 1 metric tons of CO2e sequestered.

The primary benefit of atmospheric regulation through carbon sequestration is driven by carbon removals through the use of regenerative grazing sequestering carbon into the soil. To ensure a net positive effect, aside from CO2 removals from the atmosphere, it is also important to take into account significant GHG emissions directly resulting from the *project activity.* These should be accounted for each year to accurately calculate creditable carbon change. Emissions sources attributable to the *project activity* might include emissions from livestock or increased fertilizer use as defined by the methodology.

### Secondary Indicators

The list below outlines the approved co-benefits for this credit class. Each of the co-benefits is monitored by a specific set of indicators which are defined within the methodology for each co-benefit. See Section 7 for more information on the co-benefit assessments.

1. Animal Welfare
2. Ecosystem Health
3. Soil Health

### Ecosystem Service Classification

This Credit Class applies to the ecosystem services of atmospheric regulation as defined the RND Taxonomy[[7]](#footnote-6) .

# Project Eligibility

### Ecosystem Type Classification

This Credit Class applies to grasslands, pastureland, and shrubland as defined in the RND Taxonomy7.

### Project Activity

The project activity approved by this credit class is managed grazing. Managed grazing is the process of controlling where and when livestock graze an area of land. There are many practices that fall under the managed grazing approach (see RND Taxonomy under the Managed Grazing tab for a list of specific and approved managed grazing practices in detail).[[8]](#footnote-7)

### Land Ownership Type

This credit class accepts projects under the following ownership types: public, private, tribal.

### Adoption Date

Adoption Date: Projects run under this credit class will accept an adoption date that goes back up to 10 years prior to Project Registration Date. In order to claim an Adoption Date before the Project Registration Date, the Project Proponent must have maintained clear historical records to that effect, as specified in the Approved Methodology.

### Crediting Term

The crediting term for this credit class is 10 years with an option to renew. Each renewal period will be 10 years and there is no limit to the number of renewals.

The Crediting Term does not include the permanence obligation defined in Section 5.3.

# Project Rules and Regulations

### Approved Methodology

The approved methodologies for this Credit Class are:

1. Methodology for GHG and Co-Benefits in Grazing Systems[[9]](#footnote-8)

### Aggregate Projects

Aggregate Projects are permitted in this credit class. Rules and regulations outlining the approach to approve aggregate projects should be defined in the approved methodology.

### Project Plan

Any project run using this Credit Class must have an aligned project plan.

# GHG Removal and Emission Reduction Requirements

The credit class follows the GHG accounting requirements defined in the Program Guide.

### Additionality

Proof of additionality is required for this credit class.

Additionaltiy is required to be accounted for and specified in the approved methodology. in this credit class.

The Approved Methodology specifies how the baseline and the additional carbon emission and/or removal is calculated. Baselines can be static, dynamic or both and additionality can be project or performance based.

### Leakage

Leakage is required to be accounted for in this credit class.

### Permanence Period

This credit class requires a 25-year permanence period.

### Permanence Approach

This credit class allocates an additional 5% of each credit issuance to cover the risks associated with permanence.

### Buffer Pool

A buffer pool is required for this credit class. The buffer pool required for this credit class is the default set by the program guide[[10]](#footnote-9).

Regen Registry will apply a default contribution of 20% of each credit issuance (as quantified by the latest monitoring report) to the Buffer Pool.

### Verification

Verification is required for this credit class. Verification requirements for the measurement of the primary and secondary indicators must be outlined in the approved methodology.

# Co-Benefits

Three co-benefits are included in this credit class. The following are approved co-benefits, but alternative co-benefits can be accepted and appended. ...as long as the minimum of three is reached. Each of these co-benefits is monitored by a specific set of indicators which are defined within the methodology for each co-benefit. The list of co-benefits will be continuously reviewed and updated, in order to account for the most relevant indicators assessing the changes in the ecological state in the project area.

### Animal Welfare

The American Veterinary Medical Association defines Animal Welfare as the means by which “an animal is coping with the conditions in which it lives. An animal is in a good state of welfare if (as indicated by scientific evidence) it is healthy, comfortable, well-nourished, safe, able to express innate behavior, and if it is not suffering from unpleasant states such as pain, fear, and distress. Good animal welfare requires disease prevention and veterinary treatment, appropriate shelter, management, nutrition, humane handling, and humane slaughter.”

### Ecosystem Health

Improve and/or maintain the health of the grasslands ecosystem. Ensure that the project activity is supporting the health of the grasslands in comparison to the surrounding region.

### Soil Health

Improve and/or maintain the health of the soil soil health as a result of good land management practices. Healthy, productive soils can positively support a variety of ecosystem services, some of which include improving water infiltration, improving soil structure, reducing potential for soil erosion, and increasing availability of nutrients for plant growth.

# Metadata Breakdown

**Project Eligibility**

Ecosystem Type: *Grasslands, pastureland, shrubland*

NBS: *managed grazing*

Primary Indicator: *soil organic carbon* ton of Co2

Number of Secondary Indicators: *3*

Credit Unit: *1 metric ton CO2e*

Land Ownership Type: *public, private, tribal*

Adoption Date:

Crediting Term:

**Project Rules and Regulations:**

Approved Methodologies: Methodology for GHG and Co-Benefits in Grazing Systems

Aggregate Projects: Permitted

Project Plan: Required [Insert link to project plan here]

**Co-benefits:**

Approved Co-benefits: soil health, ecosystem health, animal welfare

**GHG Accounting:**

Additionality: Accounted for

Leakage: Accounted for

Permanence: Accounted for

**Verification**

Verification: Required

1. <https://verra.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-0)
2. <https://registry.goldstandard.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
3. <https://americancarbonregistry.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
4. <http://www.climateactionreserve.org/> [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
5. <https://cdm.unfccc.int/index.html> [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
6. <https://drawdown.org/solutions/managed-grazing/technical-summary> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
7. [RND Taxonomy Document](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16QwlMfJ7h9C5-9yTt-WQWfmSwhy6afNhnv23xRkDbHc/edit?usp=sharing) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
8. [RND Taxonomy Document](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16QwlMfJ7h9C5-9yTt-WQWfmSwhy6afNhnv23xRkDbHc/edit?usp=sharing) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
9. [Methodology for GHG & Co-Benefits in Grazing Systems](https://regen-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/Methodology+for+GHG+and+Co-Benefits+in+Grazing+Systems.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
10. [Regen Registry Program Guide](https://regen-registry.s3.amazonaws.com/Regen+Registry+Program+Guide.pdf) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)