

ANNEX C: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE JOINT COMMITTEE

Section I: Scope

These Terms of Reference of the Joint Committee shall govern all meetings and proceedings, decisions, and activities of the Joint Committee under this Agreement.

Section II: Responsibilities

1. The Joint Committee shall be responsible for overseeing the administration of this Agreement and ensuring its proper implementation. To this end, the Joint Committee shall:

- (a) make recommendations to the Parties and take decisions as provided for in this Agreement, including providing guidance on authorisation pursuant to Article 4 (Joint Authorisation of Mitigation Activities and Authorisation for Mitigation Outcomes), the consistency of mitigation activities with Article 5 (Environmental Integrity) and the arrangements to be undertaken by the Parties' respective registries pursuant to Article 7 (Registry);
- (b) establish rules and guidelines for project applicants and project participants, including on the identification of pre-approved carbon crediting programmes and methodologies, forms and templates for project applicants and project participants;
- (c) review this Agreement and its Annexes for consistency with the Paris Agreement and the relevant decisions adopted by the CMA, taking into account revisions and updates to Lao PDR's NDC, and make recommendations to the Parties on amendments to this Agreement or take decisions on amendments to the Annexes, as provided for in Article 20 (Review and Amendments);
- (d) consider potential areas for the further development of this Agreement, including the written proposals by a Party for any amendment to this Agreement, and make recommendations to the Parties on amendments to this Agreement or take decisions on amendments to the Annexes, as provided for in Article 20 (Review and Amendments);

- (e) facilitate the exchange of information, including on documents issued pursuant to the processes established under Article 4 (Joint Authorisation of Mitigation Activities and Authorisation for Mitigation Outcomes) and changes to domestic laws, regulations, and policies of the respective Parties which may affect the implementation of this Agreement or any mitigation activities authorised thereunder;
- (f) further develop areas of cooperation, which may include regulatory matters and capacity-building;
- (g) discuss any questions relating to the application or interpretation of this Agreement; and
- (h) perform such other functions set out in this Agreement and its Annexes.

Section III: Members

1. The Joint Committee shall be co-chaired by:
 - (a) For Singapore, the Director, National Environment Agency; and
 - (b) For Lao PDR, the Director-General (Department of Environment), Ministry of Agriculture and Environment.
2. A Co-Chair of one Party may designate any member of the Joint Committee for that Party as an alternate to perform the functions of a Co-Chair, and shall notify the other Party of such designation in writing.
3. Each Party shall designate officials, including its Co-Chair, as members of the Joint Committee, and shall notify the other Party of such designation in writing. Each Party may remove, change or designate a member at any time, with written notice to the other Party.

Section IV: Secretariat

1. The Parties shall establish a joint Secretariat to support the Joint Committee.
2. Each Party shall nominate relevant officials to be its representatives on the joint Secretariat.

3. The Secretariat shall perform such functions set out in this Agreement and its Annexes, and assigned to it by the Joint Committee.
4. In addition to paragraph 3, the Secretariat shall:
 - (a) record all minutes and activities carried out by the Joint Committee;
 - (b) promptly prepare and distribute minutes of meetings of the Joint Committee;
 - (c) ensure all minutes are signed, whether by electronic means or otherwise, by the two Co-Chairs before they are circulated to the Joint Committee;
 - (d) prepare the agendas of the meetings of the Joint Committee, for approval by the Co-Chairs;
 - (e) issue a notice of a meeting of the Joint Committee including the time and location at least two months before the meeting;
 - (f) ensure all necessary documents, correspondence and information are made available for the meetings of the Joint Committee; and
 - (g) maintain records of the meetings of the Joint Committee.

Section V: Meetings

1. The Joint Committee shall meet within one year of the date of entry into force of this Agreement, and thereafter shall meet as and when necessary and at least once a year. The Joint Committee shall convene alternately in the country of each Party, unless the Parties agree otherwise or the Joint Committee convenes via videoconferencing.
2. Either Party may at any time request unilaterally the convening of a meeting of the Joint Committee. Such a meeting shall take place no later than two months from the date of receipt of the request, unless otherwise agreed by the Parties.
3. The Joint Committee may carry out its functions through means that are appropriate and mutually agreed, which may include electronic mail and videoconferencing.
4. There shall be meeting minutes kept, agreed and signed by the Co-Chairs or their designated alternates, at all meetings of the Joint Committee.

Section VI: Decisions and recommendations

1. Recommendations and decisions of the Joint Committee shall be taken by consensus of the Co-Chairs and recorded in written form.
2. The Joint Committee may adopt decisions by electronic means in accordance with the following procedures:
 - (a) The proposals for the Joint Committee's consideration are distributed by the Secretariat to all members of the Joint Committee in written form by electronic means.
 - (b) The proposed decisions are deemed as adopted when both Co-Chairs have assented to the proposed decision in written form by electronic means.
3. Decisions of the Joint Committee pursuant to Article 4 (Joint Authorisation of Mitigation Activities and Authorisation for Mitigation Outcomes) shall be published in line with Article 12 (Transparency), unless otherwise decided by the Joint Committee.

Section VII: Language

The working language of the Joint Committee is English. Members of the Joint Committee wishing to speak or distribute materials in other languages shall provide for interpretation or translation in English.

Section VIII: Subsidiary bodies, and experts and expert panels

1. To facilitate its decision-making or assist in any of its functions under this Agreement, the Joint Committee may establish subsidiary bodies and delegate part of its work to such bodies, as it deems appropriate. The Joint Committee may also appoint, on an *ad hoc* basis, experts or expert panels to carry out an enquiry or give an expert opinion on any subject.
2. The membership, mandate, terms of reference and rules of procedure of such subsidiary bodies, experts and expert panels shall be decided by the Joint Committee in writing. Subsidiary bodies, experts and expert panels established by the Joint Committee may comprise members from the public or private sector.

3. The Joint Committee shall oversee all matters handled by these subsidiary bodies, experts and expert panels, including appeals by project applicants and project participants arising from the decisions of the subsidiary bodies.