



# *The Acorn Glossary*

*Version 1.0 – October 2024*



UNDER REVIEW

The developer of this Glossary is Acorn at Rabobank.  
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## Definitions

### **Aboveground Biomass (AGB)**

The total mass of living matter above the ground is expressed as dry weight (e.g. trees and shrubs).

### **Accounting system**

A financial reporting mechanism maintained by or maintained on behalf of a *Local Partner* that records the *Local Partner's* income and expenses for the *Acorn project intervention*.

### **Acorn Design Document (ADD)**

A project-specific document completed by the *Local Partner* and approved by Acorn detailing the project design and implementation process, certification assessments, and other specifications to demonstrate conformance with the Acorn Framework and Acorn Methodology.

### **Acorn program**

The *agroforestry* program by Acorn is based on the most recent Acorn Framework & Methodology.

### **Acorn project**

An *agroforestry* project described in an *Acorn Design Document* under the *Acorn program*. An *Acorn project* is locally coordinated by a *Local Partner* and performed by *Participants* and entails one or more *Acorn project intervention(s)* in a certain area with a certain number of *Participants* within a certain country.

### **Acorn project intervention(s)**

A set of activities that are coordinated by a *Local Partner* under an *Acorn project* to implement *agroforestry*, improve sustainable management of land, increase carbon removal storage, enhance ecosystems, improve local livelihoods, and stimulate economies.

### **Acorn Project Period**

The timeframe from the start to the end of an *Acorn project*, covering the *Design Period*, *Crediting Period* and *Durability Period*.

### **Additional indicator**

One or more indicators selected by a *Local Partner* related to *livelihood conditions*, that the *Local Partner* must monitor throughout the *Crediting Period*.

### **Additionality**

The presence of benefits from an *Acorn project intervention* that would not have been achieved in the absence of an *Acorn project*. *Smallholder farmers* or community groups can only participate in an *Acorn project* if they would not have been able to successfully establish and/or maintain an *agroforestry* system absent the *Acorn project*.

### **Agroforestry**

A holistic farm management system made up of a range of strategies, where woody perennials are intentionally integrated with crops and/or livestock to generate *carbon benefits*, *livelihood benefits*, and *ecosystem benefits* on the same parcel of land.

### **Agroforestry Design**

A description of an *agroforestry* system that will be established and managed under an *Acorn project*, including crop and/or pastoral farming practices, selected tree species, the arrangement of trees, crops and/or livestock, the interaction of components in the system, and sustainable land use and management practices. The *Agroforestry Design* for an *Acorn project* will be prepared by Local Agronomists together with the *Local Partner* and *Local Stakeholders* and is part of the *Acorn Design Document*.

### **Animal husbandry**

A branch of agricultural activities that includes the production and care of domesticated animals.

### **Annual Report**

A written report submitted by a *Local Partner* to Acorn once a year, no later than 3 months after a *Reporting Period*, detailing amongst other things project implementation, project finances, payment to *Participants*, *monitoring* of the *Acorn project* and preventive and/or corrective actions taken over the past year; and any Acorn approved changes made to the project design during the corresponding *Reporting Period*.

### **Arbitrator**

An independent third-party who is required to resolve disputes when *grievances* raised in the *Acorn project* cannot be resolved by the affected stakeholders and the *Local Partner*, *Outsourcing Party* and/or *Subcontracting Partner* respectively.

### **Baseline scenario**

The most likely future scenario predicted for land use and management practices in a *project area* in the absence of an *Acorn project intervention*.

### **Belowground Biomass (BGB)**

The total mass of living matter below the ground expressed as dry weight.

**Beneficiary**

A legal entity or an individual who is the end user of the *Carbon Removal Units* and who is the one ultimately claiming the *carbon benefits*.

**Benefit Sharing Mechanism (BSM)**

A plan agreed upon in the *project council* of an *Acorn project* describing the allocation of the proceeds of *Carbon Removal Unit* sales to *Participants*, explaining when and how the proceeds are to be dispersed. The initial BSM is defined, by the *Local Partner* and *Farmer Representatives*, during the *Design Period* and can be updated during the *Crediting Period* by means of *Project Councils*.

**Biodiversity**

The diversity within and between plant (e.g. trees, shrubs, flowers, crops) and animal (e.g. wildlife, livestock, insects) species and ecosystems.

**Biological control**

A method of controlling pests (insects, mites, weeds, and plant diseases) using natural enemies such as other insects, diseases and organisms.

**Biomass**

Renewable organic matter that can be found aboveground (*AGB*), such as trees and shrubs, or belowground (*BGB*), such as roots.

**Buffer Carbon Removal Unit (BCRU)**

A replacement *Carbon Removal Unit* is reserved within the *buffer pool* for unforeseen *carbon reversal* risks associated with an *Acorn project*. *Buffer Carbon Removal Units* are not eligible to be sold and are not remunerated to *Participants*.

**Buffer pool**

A reserve of *Buffer Carbon Removal Units* is maintained by Acorn.

**Business Case**

Realistic estimations, for both the *Local Partner* and *Participants*, of the costs involved in the design, implementation, *monitoring* and reporting of an *Acorn project intervention*, and the expected revenue from *Carbon Removal Units*.

**Buyer**

A third party who has purchased *CRUs* generated by *Acorn projects* from Rabobank, and who has a committed science based target (SBTi) aligned to limiting a global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees and/or a written strategy in place to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in

line with the SBTi industry standard and/or proven greenhouse gases reduction in line with the SBTi industry standard (publicly available or available to Acorn).

**Carbon baseline**

The change in *carbon stocks* and greenhouse gas emissions expected in the *project area* under the *baseline scenario*.

**Carbon benefits**

A net increase in *carbon stock* relative to the *carbon baseline* as a result of an *Acorn project intervention*.

**Carbon Cycle**

A cycle concerns the estimated yearly stock of carbon present in tree *biomass* over the *Acorn Project Period* and is determined based on the *Agroforestry Design*.

**Carbon pool**

A reservoir that has the capacity to store or release carbon, including *aboveground biomass*, *belowground biomass*, litter, dead wood, *Soil Organic Carbon* and harvested wood products.

**Carbon recovery time**

Time period in which *carbon stock* recovers to levels directly prior to the *partial felling* or *harvesting* activity.

**Carbon Removal Unit (CRU)**

One unit represents a metric ton of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) that has been removed from the atmosphere as a result of an *Acorn project intervention*. Each *Carbon Removal Unit* has a unique serial number and it is retired in the Rabobank carbon registry after it has been sold.

**Carbon reversal**

An escape or release of stored carbon or otherwise sequestered CO<sub>2</sub> back into the atmosphere, resulting from a *reversal event* during the *Crediting Period* and/or the *Durability Period*.

**Carbon sequestration**

A process by which carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is captured and stored in *carbon pool(s)*, therefore reducing the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere.

**Carbon stock**

The quantity of carbon stored in a given *carbon pool*.

### **Certifier**

An independent accredited third party that manages the standards that carbon projects must follow, and certifies carbon projects against those standards.

### **Collective payment**

A form of payment that distributes carbon revenue as *in-kind provision(s)*, that benefit the wider community, and/or as monetary payment that is equally shared by every *Participant* in the *Acorn project*.

### **Communal land**

One piece of land owned or managed by a community, rather than by an individual or a company, including governmental-owned land that has been allocated to a community for management and use. Under a communal *land tenure* system, each member of the community has a right to manage and/or use the land and natural resources, including agricultural and grazing land.

### **Consent Form**

A document that *Participants* must understand and sign, at the start of the *Acorn project intervention*, explaining the types of personal data collected, their rights in this regard, and how this data will be displayed on the Acorn platform and potentially shared with *buyers of Carbon Removal Units*.

### **Coppicing**

Cutting trees and shrubs to ground level to promote vigorous re-growth and the sprouting of many smaller shoots.

### **Community Representatives**

Members of communities and/or Indigenous groups in the project region that are designated to speak on behalf of fellow community members and Indigenous groups.

### **Corrective Action Required (CAR)**

A notification by a *Validation and Verification Body* to Acorn of a non-conformance with the *Acorn Design Document*, the Acorn Framework and/or the Acorn Methodology that is resulting in or is expected to result in the incompliance of an *Acorn project*, or reduce its ability to generate the intended benefits.

### **Crediting Period**

A period of a minimum of 15 years to a maximum of 50 years in which *Carbon Removal Units* can be generated within an *Acorn project*. This period begins on the date the relevant *Acorn Design Document* is approved. The start and the intended end date of a *Crediting Period* will be mentioned in the *Acorn Design Document*.

### **Customary law**

Not a formal written law but a course of conduct that is (and has been) generally and continuously accepted and followed for a long period of time, and that one is in principle required to adhere to, in a certain country, region, ethnic group or community.

### **Customer Due Diligence (CDD)**

An essential control in identifying and assessing Money Laundering, Terrorism Financing and sanctions risks. Business relationships or occasional transactions are only permitted if Rabobank have conducted the full *Customer Due Diligence* procedure, the *Customer Due Diligence* has led to the envisaged result, and Rabobank is in possession of all the required identification and verification details and other information.

### **Deforestation**

The act of clearing trees (human-induced) resulting in forest land being converted to non-forest land.

### **Deforestation assessment**

An evaluation to determine whether deforestation activities have taken place on a *plot* 5 years before *plot* onboarding.

### **Design Period**

The first period of time of the *Acorn Project Period* that is used to design and prepare for the *Acorn project intervention* and the *Acorn Design Document*. The *Design Period* starts when a *Local Partner* is onboarded onto the Acorn platform and ends when the *Acorn Design Document* is approved by Acorn and a project may generate *CRUs*.

### **Developing countries**

Countries with a low standard of living (e.g., poor literacy, education and life expectancy) and often a moderate to low Human Development Index, that are aiming to advance their economy and society.

### **Disadvantaged groups**

Groups that are socially vulnerable, often marginalized, excluded, and discriminated against, such as women and Indigenous Peoples.

### **Double counting**

A situation in which an emission removal is counted more than once towards achieving an NDC or more than once towards achieving a mitigation target(s) or goal(s). *Double counting* can occur through double use, double claiming (more than one corporate claiming the same *carbon benefit*) and double issuance (more than one *Carbon Removal Unit* registered for the same *carbon benefit* under different mechanisms).



### **Durability Period**

A 25-year period, commencing the year each *Carbon Removal Unit* is generated, during which the CO<sub>2</sub>e represented by a *Carbon Removal Unit* is expected to remain removed from the atmosphere and stored in a *carbon pool*.

### **Ecological conditions**

Conditions that represent the quality of an ecosystem, including physical, biological and chemical properties and processes, and how these are connected. *Ecological conditions* are measured by *Acorn projects* with a *mandatory indicator* on agricultural *biodiversity*.

### **Ecoregion**

A large area of land and/or water, ecologically and geographically characterized by distinct ecosystems, flora, and fauna, as further defined in the "terrestrial scheme" by WWF, see also: [Terrestrial Ecoregions of the World | Publications | WWF \(worldwildlife.org\)](#).

### **Ecosystem baseline**

The change in *ecological conditions* expected in the *project area* under the *baseline scenario*.

### **Ecosystem benefits**

Benefits such as increased soil health and enhanced *biodiversity* that positively impact the ecosystem as a result of an *Acorn project intervention*.

### **Enteric fermentation**

The fermentation that takes place in the digestive system of animals, especially ruminant animals, that results in methane emissions.

### **Exclusion List**

A list of prohibited activities that must not be a part of an *Acorn project intervention*.

### **Ex-post**

Based on actual results that have been obtained after an event (i.e., carbon that has been sequestered), rather than estimations of future results (i.e., carbon that is expected to be sequestered).

### **Farmer Representatives**

Members of farming communities, in the *project region*, that have strong relationships and engagement with other farmers and community members in their area and that have been designated by *Participants* to speak on their behalf.

### **Fodder**

*Fodder* is food for livestock that is produced from *fodder* trees and shrubs, including high protein pods, seeds or foliage.

### **Forward Action Required (FAR)**

A notification by a *Validation and Verification Body* to Acorn of a non-conformance with the *Acorn Design Document*, the Acorn Framework and/or Acorn Methodology that does not require immediate action, but if left unresolved could affect an *Acorn project's* ability to generate the intended benefits.

### **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)**

FPIC is a principle protected by international human rights standards that state, 'all peoples have the right to self-determination' and – linked to the right to self-determination – 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'.

### **Grievance**

An expression of concern or complaint voiced by any person who feels that they have been or will be negatively impacted by an *Acorn project*. *Grievances* are reported in *Acorn projects* via a *grievance mechanism*.

### **Grievance Mechanism**

A complaint process that enables *Participants* and other stakeholders to raise *grievances* with the *Local Partner* and seek remedial action(s) when they identify negative impact(s) resulting from the *Acorn project*.

### **Ground truth data**

*Biomass* measurements collected on-site by manually counting trees in a specific *sample plot* to know the "true" *biomass* in the field. This data is used for *validation* purposes to test and determine model accuracy.

### **Ground truth measurement**

The realization of an inventory through manual measurement and counting of trees in a specific *sample plot*.

### **Harvesting**

Activity of removing *biomass* as part of the *Acorn project intervention* after the establishment of the *agroforestry* system, resulting in a *carbon recovery time* to pre-*harvesting* levels of more than 5 years (i.e., *harvesting* activity).

### **Harvesting design**

An *Agroforestry Design* that includes *harvesting*.

**Harvesting project**

A project that plans to include *harvesting* activities.

**Heavy machinery**

Machinery, such as large tractors, that generally do not form part of regenerative agricultural practices due to high soil disturbance, emissions and use of non-renewable energy excluding necessary hand-operated machinery, such as chainsaws (that may require non-renewable energy).

**In-kind provisions**

Goods or services that are or can be provided to *Participants* as a form of payment of their share in the revenue of *Carbon Removal Units* generated and sold under the *Acorn project* instead of cash.

**Irrigation**

The artificial supply of water to land or crops to help growth.

**Land tenure**

A formal legal regime or a *customary law* which defines who owns or holds the rights of use of a given *plot* of land or area.

**Leakage**

An unintended reduction in *carbon stocks* or increase in CO<sub>2</sub>e emissions outside a *project area*, as a result of an *Acorn project intervention*.

**Letter of no objection**

An official approval of the *Acorn project* from the governmental body with overall responsibilities on land management and/or greenhouse gas emissions.

**Livelihood baseline**

The change in *livelihood conditions* expected in the *project area* under the *baseline scenario*.

**Livelihood benefits**

Benefits such as increased income and food security that positively impact the livelihood of farmers and/or the community as a result of an *Acorn project intervention*.

**Livelihood conditions**

Conditions that represent the quality of farmer and/or community livelihood, including, amongst other things, income, food security and wellbeing. *Livelihood conditions* are measured by *Acorn projects* with *mandatory indicators* and *additional indicator(s)*.

### **Local Partner**

A legal entity that is responsible for the *Agroforestry Design, Acorn project* implementation, *monitoring* the correct execution of the *Acorn project*, payment to *Participants* and taking preventive or corrective actions and/or measures if and when necessary, in conformance with the requirements of the Acorn Framework and Acorn Methodology throughout the *Acorn Project Period*.

### **Local Stakeholder**

*Participants*, Non-Participants, community members and/or Indigenous Peoples that reside within the *project region* who/which are or could be impacted by or influence an *Acorn project*.

### **Mandatory indicators**

A set of indicators related to the *carbon baseline, ecosystem baseline* and *livelihood baseline*, that a *Local Partner* must monitor and report on at least every 3 years throughout the *Crediting Period*.

### **Manure decomposition**

A microbe-mediated process that leads to the degradation or mineralization of organic compounds in manure, which results in methane and nitrous oxide emissions.

### **Measuring Period**

Difference between two points in time, which define the period for estimation of a *Carbon Removal Unit*.

### **Monitoring**

Activities of collecting and recording data in accordance with any relevant standards or conditions provided for in the Acorn Framework and Methodology to determine the impact underlying the carbon removals resulting from the *Acorn project*.

### **Native species**

Plant or animal species that is indigenous to a given region or ecosystem, which is the case if its presence in that region or ecosystem is the result of only natural evolution and not the result of human interference, such as active or passive introduction of that species.

### **Naturalized species**

Plant or animal species, also known as exotic species, that are introduced into the ecosystem as a result of human interference and can reproduce harmoniously in the new environment.

### **New Information Request (NIR)**

A notification by a *Validation and Verification Body* to Acorn when the *Validation and Verification Body* cannot determine compliance with one or more Acorn Framework and/or

Acorn Methodology and requests additional information or documentation in order to conclude the *validation* and *verification* process.

### **Observations**

Recommendations by a *Validation and Verification Body* to Acorn on areas where procedures, data or documentation could be clarified or improved, but which are not deemed material enough to impose a CAR, FAR or NIR. Acorn is responsible for following up on any *observation* at its own discretion.

### **Outsourcing Party**

A person or legal entity other than Participants with which the *Local Partner* has a contractual relationship to outsource some of its activities under an *Acorn project*.

### **Partial felling**

Activity of removing *biomass* (i.e. thinning) as part of the *Acorn project intervention* after the establishment of the *agroforestry* system, resulting in a *carbon recovery time* to pre-felling levels within 5 years.

### **Participant**

A *Smallholder Farmer* or a community group that meets the eligibility criteria set out in the Acorn Framework, has signed a *Participant Agreement*, and is implementing an *Acorn project intervention* as part of an *Acorn project*.

### **Participant Agreement**

A legal contract between the *Participant* and the *Local Partner*, outlining the roles and responsibilities of each party and containing each party's obligations in connection with the *Acorn project*.

### **Partnership Agreement**

An agreement between Rabobank and a *Local Partner*, outlining the terms and conditions of the *Acorn project* and each party's obligations in connection with the *Acorn project*.

### **Past planting intervention**

The period of maximum 5 years prior to the start of the *Acorn Project Period* in which trees were first planted in the *project area*.

### **Planned harvesting**

A cyclical process of cutting down certain tree species (loss of the whole tree).

**Plot**

A discrete area of a smallholder's property within which one or more project intervention(s) is applied, excluding roads, buildings etc. *Plots* are defined by polygons. *Plots* are also referred to as "instances" in other programs.

**Plot level**

A term used to describe a type of *monitoring*, data collection or reporting that takes place at the level of the individual farmer's land.

**Pollarding**

The removal of the upper branches of a tree (the crown), which promotes the growth of a dense head of foliage and branches, to keep trees smaller than they would naturally grow.

**Pre-existing biomass**

*Biomass* that exists prior to the *Acorn Project Period*, including, where applicable, the *past planting intervention*.

**Primary forest**

Forests of native tree species, where there are no clearly visible indications of human activities, and the ecological processes are not significantly disturbed.

**Program level**

A term used to describe a type of *monitoring*, data collection or reporting that is based on all *Acorn projects* in the *Acorn program* portfolio.

**Project area**

All eligible *plots* mapped using GPS coordinates within an *Acorn project*, on which the *Acorn project intervention* will be implemented.

**Project council**

A governance structure within an *Acorn project* that brings together representatives from *Local Partners*, *Participants* (via *Farmer Representatives*) and other *Local Stakeholders* which serves as a platform to actively participate in decision-making, oversight, and *monitoring* of the *Acorn project* and where decisions are made regarding the *Acorn project*, for instance (but not limited to) decisions regarding the *Acorn Design Document*, time and form of payments of *Carbon Removal Unit* sales revenue to *Participants* and/or their communities and handling of *grievance(s)*.

**Project level**

A term used to describe a type of *monitoring*, data collection or reporting that is based on input from the *Local Partner* or a sample of farmers from an *Acorn project*, that views the project as a whole without looking at each specific *plot*.

**Project region**

The wider geographical region, in which *project areas* under an *Acorn project* are located.

**Recognized accreditation**

An accreditation from an International Accreditation Forum member or an appropriate authority such as the UNFCCC's Clean Development Mechanism with a scope covering nature-based solutions such as Agriculture, Forest and Other Land Use (AFOLU) projects and demonstrating compliance with ISO14065.

**Reporting Period**

A 12-month period, the first one starting on the date of completion and approval of a project's *Acorn Design Document* and the last one ending at the end of the *Crediting Period*. Reporting is done through an *Annual Report*.

**Reversal event**

An avoidable or unavoidable event or circumstance occurring after the transfer of a *Carbon Removal Unit* that results, or is reasonably likely to result, in a *carbon reversal* during the *Acorn Project Period*. An avoidable event refers to activities that could have otherwise been avoided through appropriate implementation of the *Acorn project*, such as improper management. An unavoidable event refers to activities that the *Local Partner* cannot have been reasonably expected to manage, for example, extreme weather events or social unrest.

**Root/shoot cuttings**

A vegetative plant propagation technique which involves cutting the roots that derive from woody plants to reproduce plants that naturally produce new shoots (suckers) from their roots.

**Sample plot**

An area of a maximum of 1 ha within a *plot*, where *ground truth measurements* take place.

**Secondary forest**

Forest that has been disturbed (due to natural or anthropogenic reasons), in which the trees are regenerating again, either as a result of natural reasons (e.g., animals acting as seeds' dispersers) or human intervention (e.g., afforestation and reforestation).

### **Secondary Stakeholder**

An external person or group, indirectly impacted by or having an indirect interest in an *Acorn project*, for example (but not limited to) local religious leaders, groups with special interests, and/or the academic community.

### **Silvopastoral projects**

Projects that combine silvicultural practices in combination with *animal husbandry*, i.e. the planting of trees, bushes and forage for the benefits of raised farm animals. For Acorn, *silvopastoral projects* are those where the *Agroforestry Design* is purposefully designed for farming on *plots* where the main economic dedication is *animal husbandry* with ruminants (cattle, buffalo, sheep and goat).

### **Smallholder Farmer**

A farmer who carries out agricultural land management activities on a small area of land (0.1 – 10 ha) or a farmer with larger areas who is not structurally dependent on hired labor all year round.

### **Soil covering crops**

Crops such as cereals and peas that are grown either for a short or long time for the purpose of fertilizing and enhancing soil properties rather than just for consumption.

### **Soil disturbance**

The act of disturbing and affecting soil structure and exposure to wind and water as a result of certain farming practices (e.g. ploughing, ripping, scarification, digging of pits, stump removal, compaction by vehicles) which often results in e.g. reduced vegetative growth capacity, soil aeration and higher erosion risks.

### **Soil Organic Carbon (SOC)**

A measure of carbon contained in soil organic matter. It is a *carbon pool* of carbon stored in soil.

### **Stakeholder Analysis**

A procedure that the *Local Partner* must undertake, at the start of the *Acorn project intervention*, to identify *Local Stakeholders* and *Secondary Stakeholders*. This activity can be split in two phases based on the type of stakeholders, but the *Local Stakeholder Analysis* must involve farmers and/or community members.

### **Stratum**

A group into which members of a population/*project area(s)* are divided in stratified sampling based on specific characteristics. Acorn defines *stratum* based on *ecoregion*. Where necessary,



further stratification can be done through for example variety of *pre-existing biomass* or project activities.

### **Sub-Contracting Partner**

A party which is engaged by the *Local Partner* by way of a *Sub-Contracting Partnership Agreement* and which in turn contracts the *Participants* by way of *Participant Agreements* (in which case the *Local Partner* does not contract directly with the *Participants*).

### **Sub-Contracting Partnership Agreement**

A contract between a *Local Partner* and a *Sub-Contracting Partner*, outlining the terms and conditions of their collaboration and each party's obligations in connection with the *Acorn project*.

### **Terms of Reference (ToR)**

A *Certifier*-approved guiding template that *Validation and Verification Bodies* must use during *validation* and *verification* to improve the efficiency of the reporting, *validation* and *verification* process.

### **Theory of Change**

An *Acorn project* logic that describes the target community, challenges *Participants* face, expected impact on carbon, livelihood and ecosystems, the desired change, and project intervention and objectives to achieve this change.

### **Tillage**

The agricultural preparation and manipulation of soil (e.g. digging, stirring, and overturning) by mechanical tools.

### **Unavoidable emissions**

Greenhouse gas emissions that remain despite emissions reductions efforts, and which require offsets to decrease their impact on climate change and achieve net-zero.

### **Uncertainty**

The calculated percentage of temporal change of the *aboveground biomass* in a *plot* that determines the *uncertainty* adjustment factor following the procedures outlined in the *Acorn Methodology*.

### **Validation**

Periodic evaluations to ensure an *Acorn project* (design and implementation) is validated in terms of compliance with the *Acorn Framework* and *Acorn Methodology*.

**Validation and Verification Body (VVB)**

A third party performing a *validation* and/or *verification* that has a *recognized accreditation* and the expertise to complete an audit to validate and verify an *Acorn project*.

**Validation Report**

A report produced by a *Validation and Verification Body* describing whether an *Acorn project* has satisfied the requirements in the Acorn Framework and whether the *Acorn Design Document* portrays an accurate representation of the *Acorn project intervention* on the ground.

**Verification**

Periodic evaluations to ensure an *Acorn project* (implementation, *monitoring* and reporting) is verified in terms of compliance with the Acorn Framework and Acorn Methodology.

**Verification Report**

A report produced by a *Validation and Verification Body* describing whether an *Acorn project* is adhering to the Acorn Methodology, and whether the project carbon calculations and applicable adjustment factors accurately represent the *Acorn project intervention* implemented on the ground.

**Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM)**

Systems and associated schemes or standards, that enable the generation, buying and selling of carbon credits on a voluntary basis, as defined by the UNFCCC.

**Wetlands**

Land that is covered or saturated by water for all or part of the year (e.g., marshes, swamps, peatland).

**Woody perennial**

A plant (i.e., tree, shrub and vine) that lives for more than two years above the ground.