



# Understanding CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units

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# Webinar Structure

- 1) Background on CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria, Technical Advisory Body (TAB), and Eligibility Recommendations and Decisions – ICAO Secretariat
- 2) Key Documents for Understanding CORSIA Eligibility – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- 3) Next Steps – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson
- 4) Questions and Answers about CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units – TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson

# **Part 1: Background on CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria, Technical Advisory Body, and Eligibility Recommendations and Decisions**

Jane Hupe, Deputy Director, ATB/ENV, ICAO Secretariat

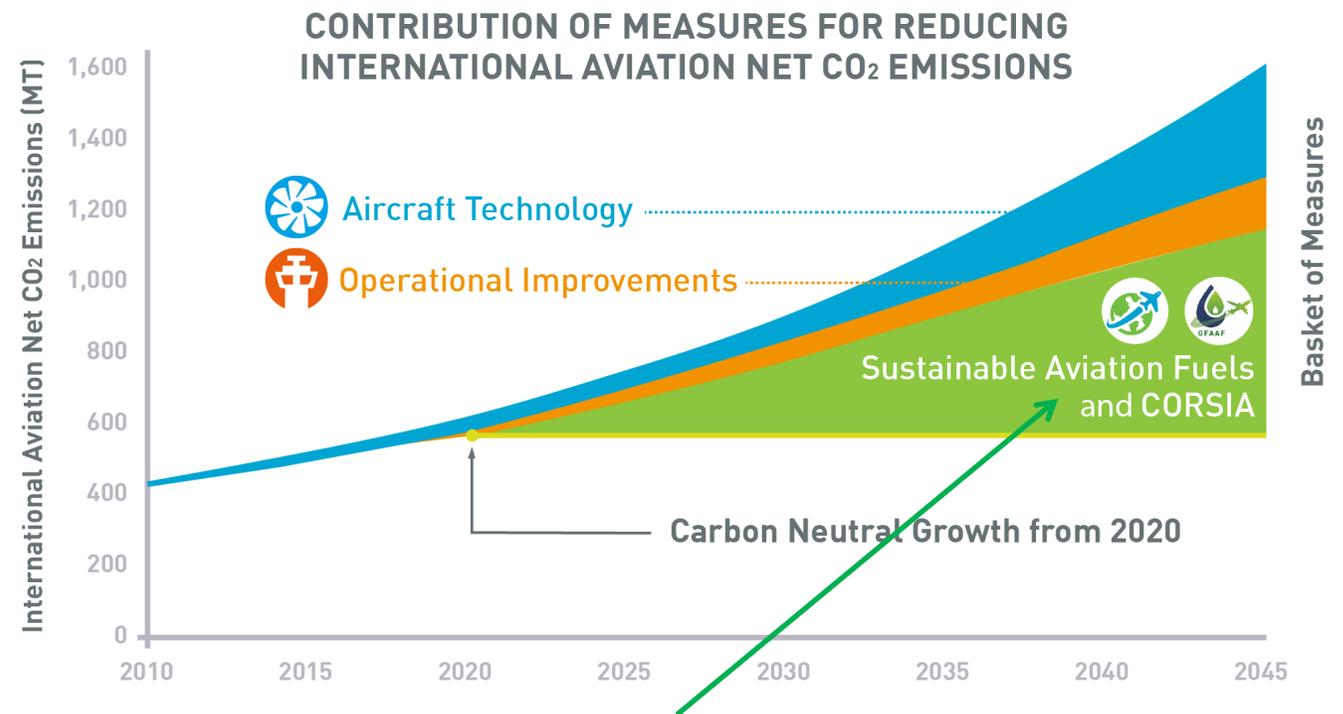
# Background on CORSIA

CORSIA was adopted by the 39th ICAO Assembly (2016) as the **first global market-based measure** for any industry sector

To achieve ICAO’s global aspirational goal of carbon neutral growth from 2020 (CNG2020), CORSIA is **one complementary element in the basket of measures:**

- aircraft technology
- operational improvements
- sustainable aviation fuels

In 2019, the 40<sup>th</sup> Assembly reiterated its support for CORSIA



***CORSIA addresses the remaining “emissions gap” to achieve CNG2020***

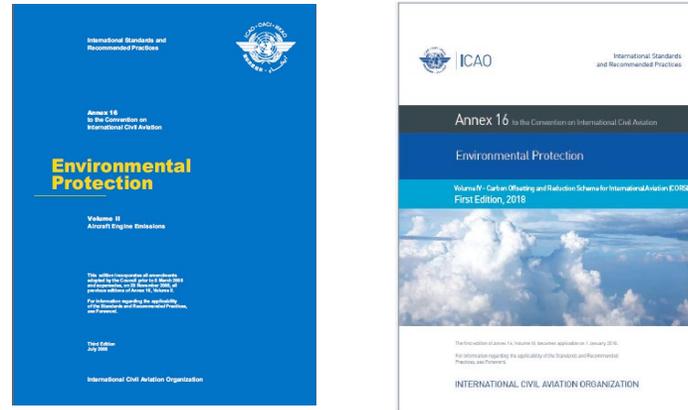
## ICAO Policy



### Chicago Convention

**ICAO Assembly Resolutions A40-17, A40-18 and A40-19:**  
 Consolidated statement of continuing ICAO policies and practices related to environmental protection

## ICAO Standards and Recommended Practices (SARPs)



### Annex 16 - Environmental Protection:

- Volume I, Aircraft Noise
- Volume II, Aircraft Engine Emissions
- Volume III, Aeroplane CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions
- Volume IV, CORSIA**

## ICAO Guidance

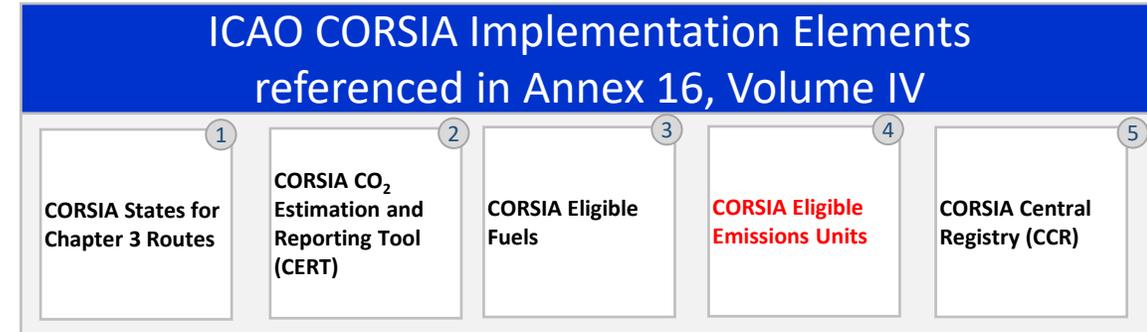


### Various guidance on noise, LAQ and climate change, e.g.:

- Environmental Assessment of Proposed ATM Operational Changes (Doc 10031)
- Environmental Technical Manual Volume IV (Doc 9501)**

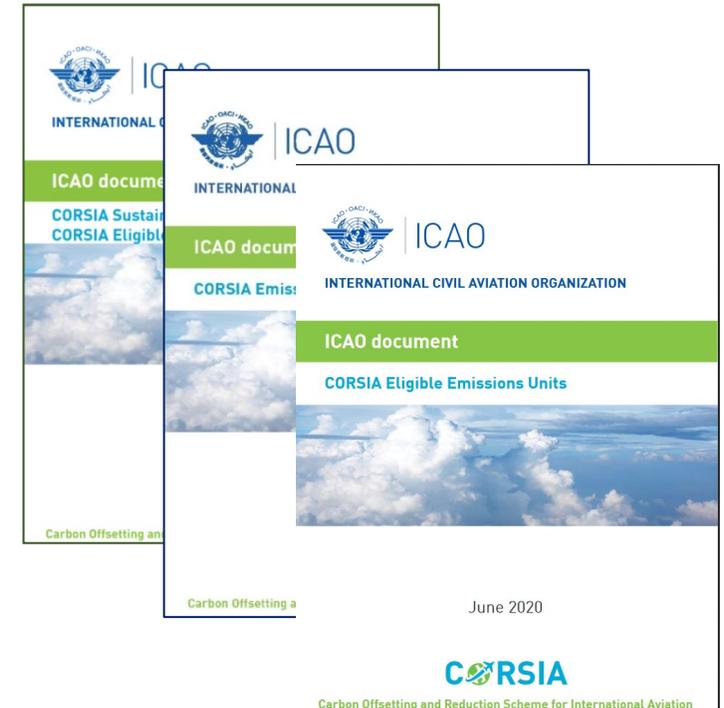
# CORSIA Implementation Elements

- 5 CORSIA Implementation Elements...



- ... reflected in 14 ICAO documents

- Directly referenced in Annex 16, Volume IV
- Contain material approved by the ICAO Council for publication by ICAO to support Annex 16, Volume IV, and essential for the implementation of CORSIA



# CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units

- CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units are determined by the ICAO Council, upon recommendation of an expert group: the Technical Advisory Body (TAB)
- CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units meet the CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria (EUC) by:
  - Originating from programmes that have procedures and measures in place that meet the EUC for Program Design Elements
  - Adhering to the EUC for Carbon Offset Credit Integrity, which are also assessed on the basis of programme-level procedures and measures
- More information on the EUC can be found on the ICAO website:  
<https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/CORSIA-Emissions-Units.aspx>

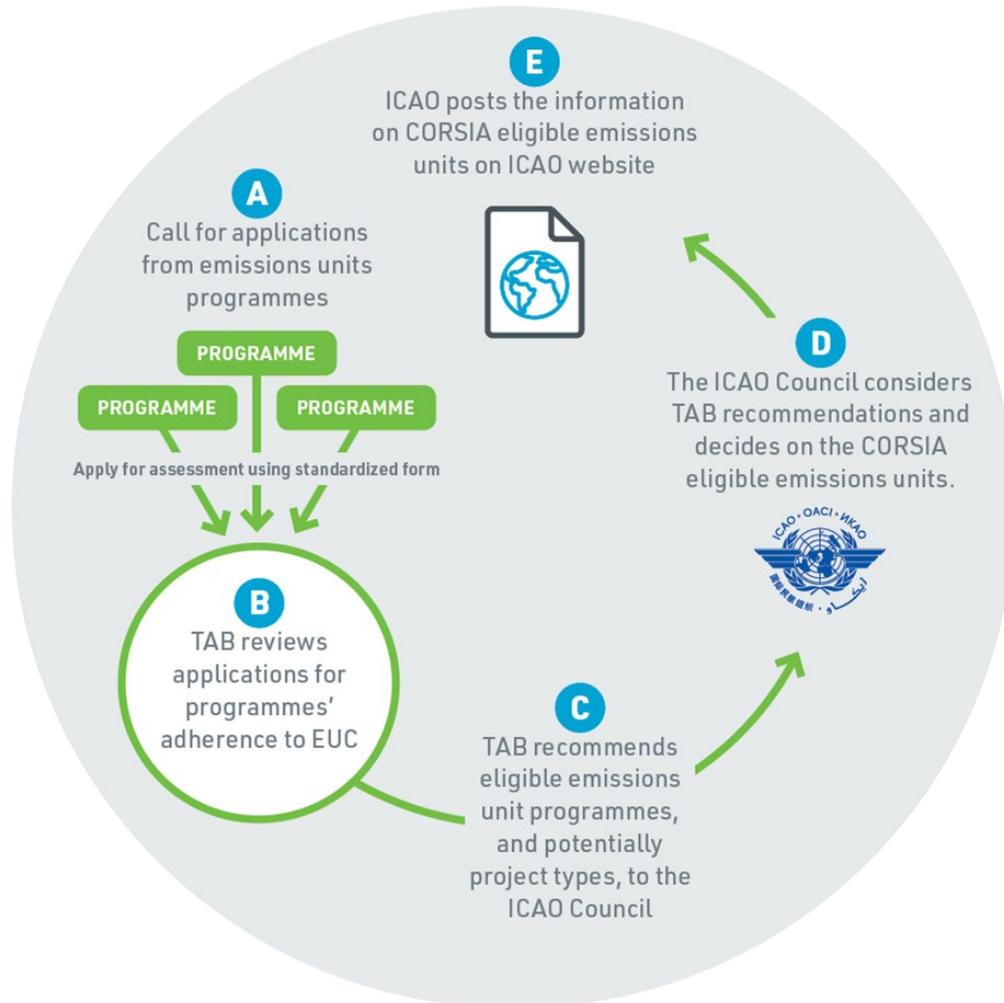
## Programme Design Elements Assessment Criteria

- Clear Methodologies and Protocols, and their Development Process
- Scope Considerations
- Offset Credit Issuance and Retirement Procedures
- Identification and Tracking
- Legal Nature and Transfer of Units
- Validation and Verification procedures
- Program Governance
- Transparency and Public Participation Provisions
- Safeguards System
- Sustainable Development Criteria
- Avoidance of Double Counting, Issuance and Claiming

## Carbon Offset Credit Integrity Assessment Criteria

- Are additional
- Are based on a realistic and credible baseline
- Are quantified, monitored, reported, and verified
- Have a clear and transparent chain of custody
- Represent permanent emissions reductions
- Assess and mitigate against potential increase in emissions elsewhere
- Are only counted once towards a mitigation obligation
- Do no net harm

## ICAO process for determining CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units



- A. Application:** Emissions units programmes apply for consideration to be eligible for CORSIA
- B. Assessment:** An expert group, the Technical Advisory Body (TAB), reviews emissions units programmes for their adherence to the CORSIA Emissions Unit Criteria (EUC)
- C. Recommendations:** TAB makes recommendations on CORSIA eligible emissions units to ICAO Council
- D. Decision:** The ICAO Council decides on CORSIA eligible emissions units
- E. Publication:** Information on CORSIA eligible emissions units is posted on the ICAO CORSIA website

# What is the TAB?

- In March 2019, the ICAO Council made the following decisions:
  - Approved the Emissions Unit Criteria, to be used by the TAB.
  - Established the Technical Advisory Body (TAB). The 19 members of the TAB are experts nominated by their States and approved by Council.
  - Approved the TAB Terms of Reference (TOR), which indicate that the tasks of the TAB are to:
    - ... undertake the assessment of emissions unit programmes against the emissions units criteria
    - ... develop recommendations on the list of eligible emissions unit programmes (and potentially project types) whose emissions units would be eligible for use under the CORSIA, for consideration by the Council



# TAB Recommendations

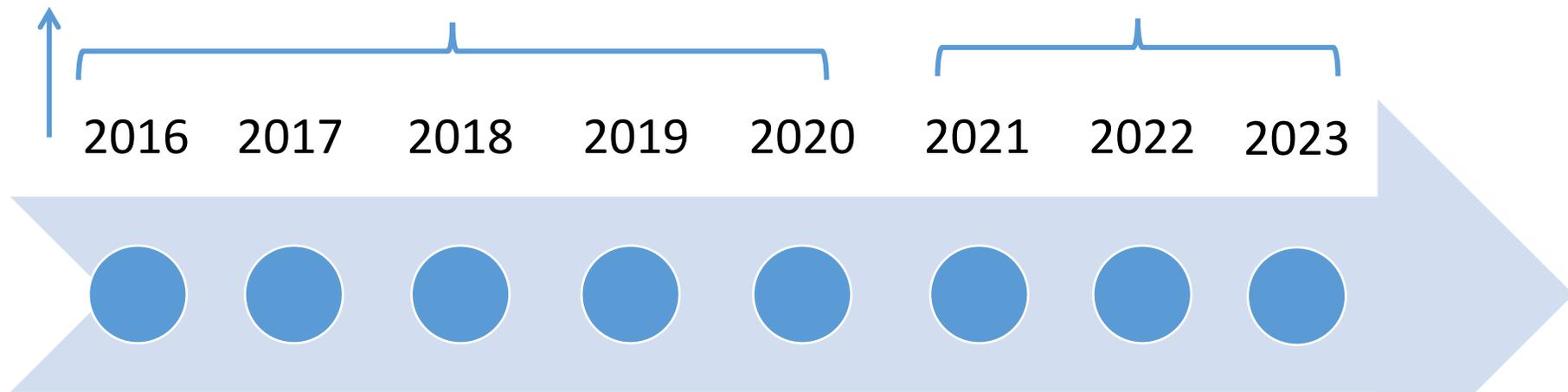
- In January 2020, TAB completed the first assessment of applicant programmes, and submitted a report including its recommendations to Council for consideration
- The TAB recommendations from the first assessment are available in all six ICAO languages here: <https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Pages/TAB2019.aspx>
- The TAB Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson will further discuss their process and recommendations later in the webinar

- In March 2020, the Council considered TAB recommendations from its 1st assessment cycle
- The Council approved **eligible units for the 2021-2023 pilot phase**
- Projects generating units must have **started their first crediting period from 1 January 2016**
- Reductions must occur **no later than 31 December 2020, inclusive**

Crediting  
period start:  
1 January 2016

Emissions units can be  
generated from reductions  
occurring through 2020

Emissions units can be  
used for CORSIA  
offsetting in Pilot Phase



(see ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* and TAB report)

## Six Eligible Programmes

1) American Carbon Registry



2) China GHG Voluntary Emission Reduction Program



3) Clean Development Mechanism



4) Climate Action Reserve



5) The Gold Standard



6) Verified Carbon Standard



## Not all units from these programmes are eligible for use in CORSIA

- Certain emissions units from these programmes are not eligible (see each programme's *Scope of Eligibility* in the ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* and TAB report)

# Part 2: Key Documents for Understanding CORSIA Eligibility

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and  
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)



- Several Documents on the ICAO CORSIA website play an integrated role in determining, defining, and in some cases limiting the eligibility of CORSIA Eligible Emissions Unit programmes. These documents describe...:

## 1. How programmes apply for assessment

- 2020 Application Form for Emissions Unit Programmes
  - Where applicants describe their consistency with the EUC and Guidelines for Criteria Interpretation
- Application Form, Appendix B - Programme *Assessment* Scope (.xlsx)
  - Where applicants list the programme elements described in application forms
- Application Form, Appendix C - Programme *Exclusions* Scope (.xlsx)
  - Where applicants list the programme elements excluded from TAB's assessment

## 2. How TAB conducts its assessment

- Application Form, Appendix A - Supplementary Information (i.e. the EUC and Guidelines)
- TAB Terms of Reference *and* TAB Procedures

# Examples of application materials

- Documents submitted during the application process begin the process of identifying the elements that are within or beyond TAB's assessment and recommendations

Summarize and provide evidence of the procedures referred to in a) through f), including the availability to the public of the procedures referred to in b), d), and f):

\_\_\_\_\_

List any/all international data exchange standards to which the programme's registry(ies) conform: (Paragraph 2.4 (f))

\_\_\_\_\_

Are policies and robust procedures in place to...

a) prevent the programme registry administrators from having financial, commercial or fiduciary conflicts of interest in the governance or provision of registry services?  YES  
(Paragraph 2.4.6)

b) ensure that, where such conflicts arise, they are appropriately declared, and addressed and isolated? (Paragraph 2.4.6)  YES

Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

\_\_\_\_\_

**SHEET A: DESCRIBED ACTIVITIES** (Here, list activities supported by the programme that are described in this form for further assessment)

Sector	Supported activity type(s)	Implementation level(s)	Geography(ies)
e.g. Waste, Energy	e.g., Landfill methane capture; Coal mine methane capture;	e.g., Project-level only; Programmes of activities; Sector-scale	e.g., Global; Non-Annex I-only; Country X only

**SHEET B: METHODOLOGIES / PROTOCOLS LIST** (Here, list all methodologies / protocols that support activities described in Sheet A)

Methodology name	Unique Methodology / Protocol Identifier	Applicable methodology version(s)	Date of entry into force of most recent version	Prior versions of the methodology that are credited by the Programme (if applicable)	Greenhouse / other gases addressed in methodology	Web link to methodology
e.g. "Methodology to XYZ..."	e.g., ABC-123-V.20-XXX	e.g., V2.0	1/1/18			

- Several Documents on the ICAO CORSIA website play an integrated role in determining, defining, and in some cases limiting the eligibility of CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units. These documents describe...:

## 3. How the ICAO Council takes and communicates decisions

- TAB Recommendations

- **Available here:** [https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB\\_JANUARY\\_2020\\_REPORT\\_EXCERPT\\_SECTION\\_4.EN.pdf](https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB_JANUARY_2020_REPORT_EXCERPT_SECTION_4.EN.pdf)

- ICAO Document titled “CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units”

- **Available here:** [https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB%202020/ICAO\\_Doc\\_CORSIA\\_Eligible\\_Emissions\\_Units\\_June\\_2020.pdf](https://www.icao.int/environmental-protection/CORSIA/Documents/TAB/TAB%202020/ICAO_Doc_CORSIA_Eligible_Emissions_Units_June_2020.pdf)

- Some other features of the TAB assessment process, and of programmes themselves, are also important for defining and managing eligibility:

## 4. TAB interactions with applicants

- Regular written clarification questions and answers, between TAB and applicants
- Live interviews with applicants (also transcribed for archiving)

## 5. TAB's internal assessment documents

- Assessment tables that “mirror” each question in the Application Form (to assess each applicant according to ~140 indicators)

## 6. Eligible Programme-designated registry(ies) systems

- The primary resource for programmes, and buyers in turn, to explicitly identify CORSIA-eligible emissions units that fall within the programme's *Eligibility Scope*

- At the 220<sup>th</sup> Council Session in June 2020, Council approved a new version of the *TAB Terms of Reference (TOR)*, which references the *TAB Procedures* document
  - Both documents can be found on the ICAO TAB website
- *TAB Procedures...*
  - outlines some key definitions used in the assessment process and documents;
  - contains procedures and guidelines for applying the emissions unit criteria, including as a source of guidance on any specific procedure or issues not addressed in the *TAB Terms of Reference*;
  - also describes how programme eligibility is managed, once decided by the ICAO Council
  - will be updated to reflect related future decisions and guidance by the ICAO Council, and the experience of TAB.

- *TAB Procedures* define a programme’s “Scope of Eligibility” as:
  - ...the extent and limits of a programme’s eligibility, which is defined, assessed, and granted on the basis of the programme-level governance structures, measures or mechanisms, and procedures that programmes have in place at the time of their initial submission of application materials to the ICAO Secretariat; and any updates to these procedures that are communicated to TAB during the course of its assessment; and as defined in the general or programme-specific eligibility parameters set out in TAB’s recommendations*
  - Applicants for assessment define the scope of their programme to be assessed by TAB, throughout their assessment
  - TAB may recommend additional exclusions or limitations to the programme’s scope of eligibility, for the Council’s approval

- After the Council’s approval and prior to inclusion in the ICAO Document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units*, each programme determined to be eligible will accept the “Terms of Eligibility”, including:
  - Terms of Eligibility – [the] Conditions and limitations to the scope of eligibility and further actions requested of a programme, and agreement to maintain consistency with the EUC as described in the application form and subsequent communications with TAB
- Programmes should notify ICAO Secretariat of any formal decision that materially modifies the Scope of Eligibility, defined as a Material Change:
  - Material Change – an update to a programme’s Scope of Eligibility that would alter the programme’s response(s) to any questions in application form and further inquiries from the TAB over the course of the programme’s assessment
- Such changes are to be communicated to ICAO by the soonest of three deadlines/year that are set for this purpose.

# Discussion of material modifications

- Once CORSIA eligibility is decided, programme information such as this is the basis for defining what is within the programme's Scope of Eligibility (or, what has been assessed and recommended by TAB and approved by the Council) *or not*.

Summarize and provide evidence of the procedures referred to in a) through f), including the availability to the public of the procedures referred to in b), d), and f):

List any/all international data exchange standards to which the programme's registry(ies) conform: (Paragraph 2.4 (f))

Are policies and robust procedures in place to...

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Summarize and provide evidence of the policies and procedures referred to in a) and b):

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## Six Eligible Programmes

- 1) American Carbon Registry 
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- 3) Clean Development Mechanism 
- 4) Climate Action Reserve 
- 5) The Gold Standard 
- 6) Verified Carbon Standard-Verra 

## Not all units from these programmes are eligible for use in CORSIA

- Certain emissions units from these programmes are not eligible (see each programme's *Scope of Eligibility* in the ICAO document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* and TAB report)



- The ICAO Document *CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units* has four sections for each programme:
  - 1) Programme-designated Registry – Name of programme’s registry and link to the registry
  - 2) Eligibility Timeframe – Phase of CORSIA for which units from programme are eligible
  - 3) Eligible Unit Dates – Time period during which eligible emissions units can be generated
  - 4) Scope of Eligibility – Limitations of a programme’s eligibility in CORSIA



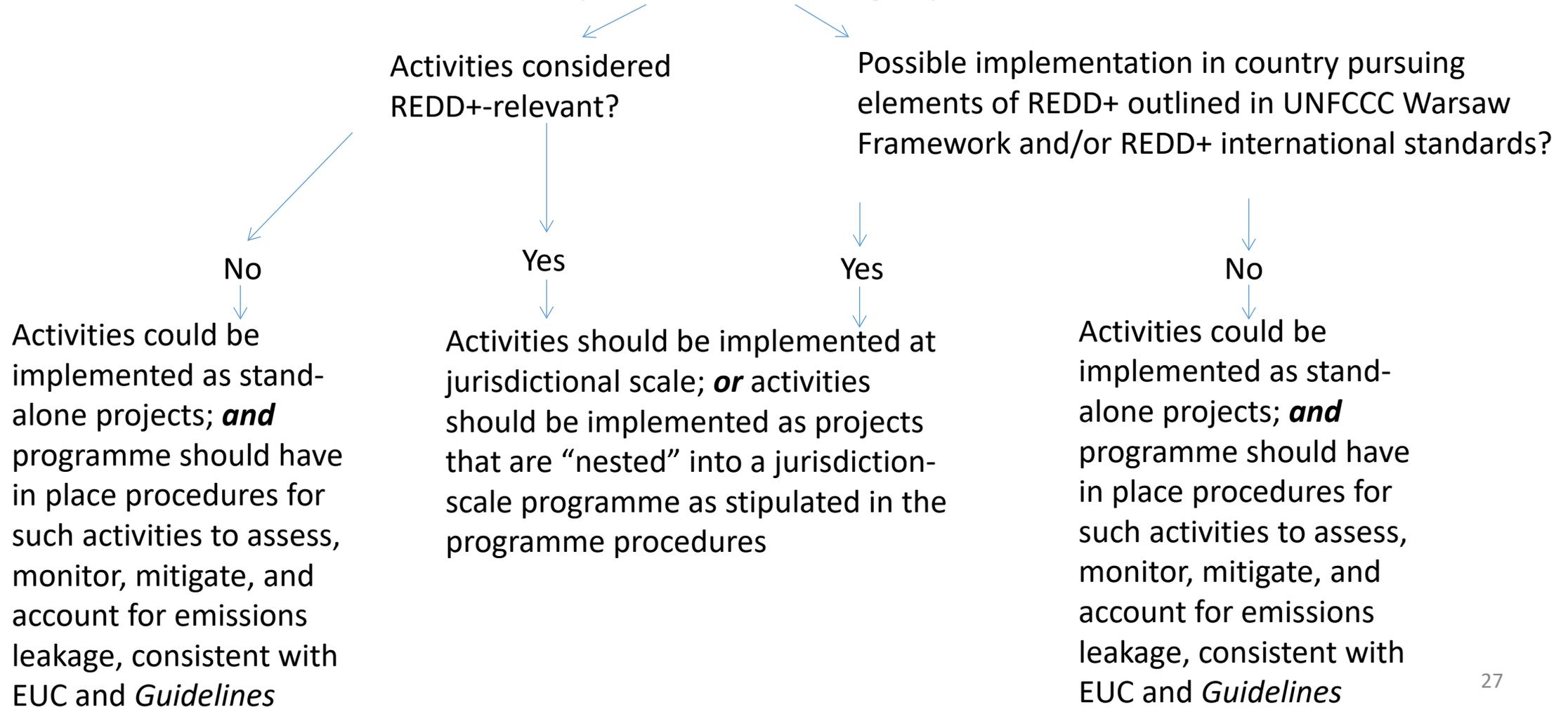
- Several parameters apply generally to all eligible programmes, including:
  - Programme-designated Registry - system must be able to identify CORSIA eligible emissions units, and to enable the public identification of cancelled units that are used toward CORSIA offsetting requirements; and \*any further requirements decided by the ICAO Council\*
    - At the 220<sup>th</sup> Council Session in June 2020, Council approved programme registry requirements which ensure that each registry's functionality is aligned with aeroplane operators' CORSIA requirements
    - Eligible emissions unit programmes will submit a signed programme registry attestation indicating that the programme registry can enable operators to fulfill these CORSIA requirements
      - TAB will review continued consistency of programme registry with EUC
  - Eligibility Timeframe – 2021-2023 CORSIA Compliance Cycle
  - Eligible Unit Dates – issued...
    - to activities that started their first crediting period from 1 January (according to the crediting period start date specified at the time of registration) and
    - in respect of reductions that occurred through 31 December 2020



- Programme-specific parameters apply to individual programmes, including excluding certain emissions units by, e.g.,:
  - Activity type
  - Unit type
  - Methodology
  - Programme element
  - Procedural class
- These exclusions are identified by the programmes themselves during the assessment process, or by TAB in its recommendations regarding the outcomes of assessment.

- AFOLU Case – Decision Tree based on “Leakage” EUC and Guidelines

Does the activity fall under category of REDD+?





# ICAO Document – Understanding eligibility scope and relationship to programme applications

- Other considerations:
  - Programme’s relevance to the procedures for “Assessment of government-vetted programmes”. These state that TAB should... “...consider the *domestic legal and regulatory framework, and general context, in consideration of programmes that function in a single jurisdiction, while respecting and ensuring programme alignment with the underlying objectives of the criteria.*”
  - “Positive lists” defined by methodology
  - *Di minimis* impacts
- TAB is considering how best to clarify and ensure consistency in the application of these complex considerations in future communications and assessment cycles.

- In the TAB Recommendations and communications with programmes, TAB identified further requests of some programmes:
  - Update procedures related to guidelines for host country attestation
  - To state that only units issued for activities reporting Sustainable Development contributions or co-benefits can be identified as CORSIA eligible in the registry
  - To extend the period of reversal risk management procedures at least through the end of CORSIA's implementation period for certain activities

## Part 3: Next Steps

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and  
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)



- Following Council's March 2020 decision on eligible programmes, ICAO launched a second call for applications
- Eight new applicants applied for the 2020 assessment by the TAB:
  1. Architecture for REDD+ Transactions
  2. BioCarbon Fund Initiative for Sustainable Forest Landscapes
  3. Cercarbono
  4. Compte CO2
  5. Joint Crediting Mechanism between Japan and Mongolia
  6. Olkaria IV Geothermal Project
  7. Perform, Achieve and Trade Scheme
  8. Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative
- Additionally, two programmes from the 2019 TAB assessment provided material updates to be assessed by TAB:
  1. Forest Carbon Partnership Facility
  2. Verified Carbon Standard (managed by Verra)

# TAB Second Assessment: 2020 Work Programme

- We are here in the timeline – this webinar to provide further information to applicants

2020 TAB Work Programme (Second Cycle Assessment)

		2020										
Activities		March	April	May	June	July	August	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	
<b>1.1</b>	<b>1st Quarter 2020</b>											
1.2	ICAO begins second call for programme applications	■										
<b>2.1</b>	<b>2nd Quarter 2020</b>											
2.2	ICAO webinar for applicants		■									
2.3	End second call for applications			■								
2.4	Publication of applications and beginning of public comment period				■							
2.5	ICAO sends initial clarification questions from TAB to second cycle applicants					■						
<b>3.1</b>	<b>3rd Quarter 2020</b>											
3.2	End public comment period						■					
3.3	TAB assessment of second cycle applicants						■	■	■			
<b>4.1</b>	<b>4th Quarter 2020</b>											
4.3	221st Council Session: Consideration of TAB recommendations									■	■	
4.4	Communication of 221st Council decisions to applicants and publication on ICAO website										■	

- TAB’s second set of recommendations are expected for consideration by the Council in November 2020

Note 1: The above TAB Work Programme and Timeline is subject to further changes.

Note 2: The TAB process above is iterative, and the third programme application period is foreseen to begin in January 2021.

# Programme Registry Requirement

- At the 220<sup>th</sup> Council Session in June 2020, Council approved programme registry requirements
  - Eligible emissions unit programmes will submit a signed programme registry attestation indicating that the programme registry will continue to meet CORSIA requirements
  - TAB will review continued consistency of programme registry with EUC
  - Attestation documents will be posted to the CORSIA website

# Deadlines for Reporting Material Changes

- Programmes which Council approved as *immediately eligible* in March 2020 were notified of three deadlines for reporting material changes to ICAO:
  - 10 April, 2020
  - 24 August, 2020 → **Next Deadline!**
  - 5 December, 2020
- Programmes which Council deemed *conditionally eligible* in March 2020 were notified of two deadlines for reporting material changes to ICAO:
  - 10 April, 2020
  - 24 August, 2020
- Future deadlines for reporting material changes will occur 2-3 times per year

# Part 4: Questions and Answers about CORSIA Eligible Emissions Units

Molly Peters-Stanley (TAB Chairperson) and  
Benedict Chia (TAB Vice-Chairperson)



[www.icao.int/corsia](http://www.icao.int/corsia)



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THANK YOU