LFM Rating Framework V1.0

WHITEPAPER

Sylvera

Executive Summary

This document details the V1.0 Rating framework logic for the LFM project type.

Landfill management carbon projects are climate-mitigation projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from landfills, primarily by controlling methane released as waste decomposes. Current version of Sylvera's LFM rating framework logic covers methane flaring, waste incineration, and energy generation (methane-to-energy and waste-to-energy) landfill management activities. This white paper explains how we provide the Rating a project would receive based on select material data points provided by the project and benchmarked against Sylvera-provided data.

This document contains a **description** of each component used in the assessment, **scoring logic** which breaks down the rules used to derive a quality score for each component, and **data inputs** where these are used in specific tests.

Rating Grade

Pt.1

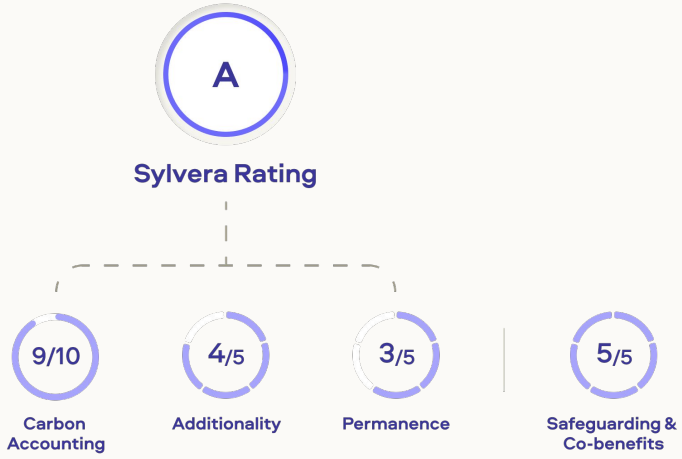
Rating Grade

AAA — D

Description

The eight point **Rating Grade** spans **AAA–D**, reflecting carbon removal integrity — the likelihood that each credit represents 1 tCO2e sequestered. The **Rating Grade** combines each scoring pillar, **Carbon Accounting**, **Additionality** and **Permanence,** mapping these against Ratings matrices to ensure that fundamental flaws or underperformance in key areas drives integrity insights.

A **Safeguarding and Co-Benefits** scoring pillar is also calculated to assess beyond-carbon aspects but is not factored into the **Rating Grade.**



Carbon Accounting	Additionality	Permanence	Safeguarding & Co-Benefits
Assesses the project's methods, assumptions, and reporting of carbon fluxes used to calculate net emission reductions and credit volumes.	Assesses additionality by evaluating the credibility of the difference between the project and baseline scenario, considering financial viability, policy and regulatory context, and common practice in the project's region.	Evaluates risk of reversals to assess the likelihood that carbon removals will persist for an atmospherically significant period of time. LFM projects are not exposed to risks of reversals since they do not store carbon.	Assesses biodiversity and community impact, considering safeguards against negative outcomes, and beyond-carbon benefits.

Notes:

High scores indicate low risk. Carbon Accounting scored on 1-10 scale; all other pillars scored on 1-5 scale.
(10 = very low risk; 1 = very high risk).
(5 = very low risk; 1 = very high risk).

Rating Grade

Pt.2

Scoring Logic - Ratings matrices

Step 1: The unrounded (1-10) **Additionality** and **Carbon Accounting** scores are combined to create a **"Carbon Impact"** score. This score represents the maximum impact of a project, or the likelihood that each claimed credit represents an accurately quantified, and additional tCO2e reduced, assuming there is no risk of reversal.

Carbon Impact

Carbon Accounting \ Additionality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2	1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
3	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
4	1	2	3	4	4	4	4	4	5	5
5	1	2	3	4	5	5	5	5	5	5
6	1	2	3	4	5	5	6	6	6	6
7	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	7	7	7
8	1	2	4	5	5	6	7	8	8	8
9	1	2	4	5	5	7	8	9	9	9
10	1	2	4	5	5	7	8	9	9	10

Step 2: The **Carbon Impact** and unrounded **Permanence** scores are combined to produce the **Rating Grade,** representing the likelihood that one credit represents one tCO2e reduced for an atmospherically significant amount of time.

Rating

Carbon Impact (Carbon Accounting x Additionality) \ Permanence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
2	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D	D
3	D	D	C	C	C	C	C	C	C	C
4	D	C	C	B	B	B	B	B	B	B
5	D	B	B	B	BB	BB	BB	BB	BB	BB
6	D	B	B	BB	BB	BBB	BBB	BBB	BBB	BBB
7	D	B	B	BB	BBB	BBB	BBB	BBB	BBB	BBB
8	D	B	B	BB	BBB	A	A	A	A	A
9	D	B	B	BB	BBB	A	A	A	AA	AA
10	D	B	B	BB	BBB	AA	AA	AA	AA	AAA

Carbon Accounting

Description

Carbon accounting refers to the methods, assumptions and reporting of the project related to carbon fluxes on the ground which are ultimately used to calculate net reductions and subsequent credit volumes. Accurate carbon accounting is essential to minimizing over crediting risk.

Scoring Logic

The **Carbon Accounting** score is calculated by combining the **Carbon Modeling** and **Project Reporting** components. **Project Reporting** assesses the risk of overissuance, measured by examining the methods and factors used in the administration and monitoring of the project. **Carbon Modeling** considers the reporting accuracy and conservativeness, measured by comparing project claims and calculations to Sylvera's recreated allometric equations.

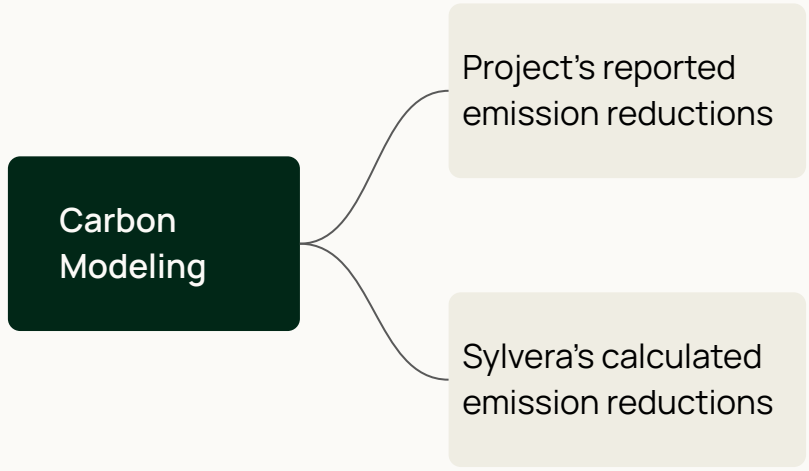
Two **Carbon Modeling** scenarios exist depending on projects reporting and data availability (see flowcharts):

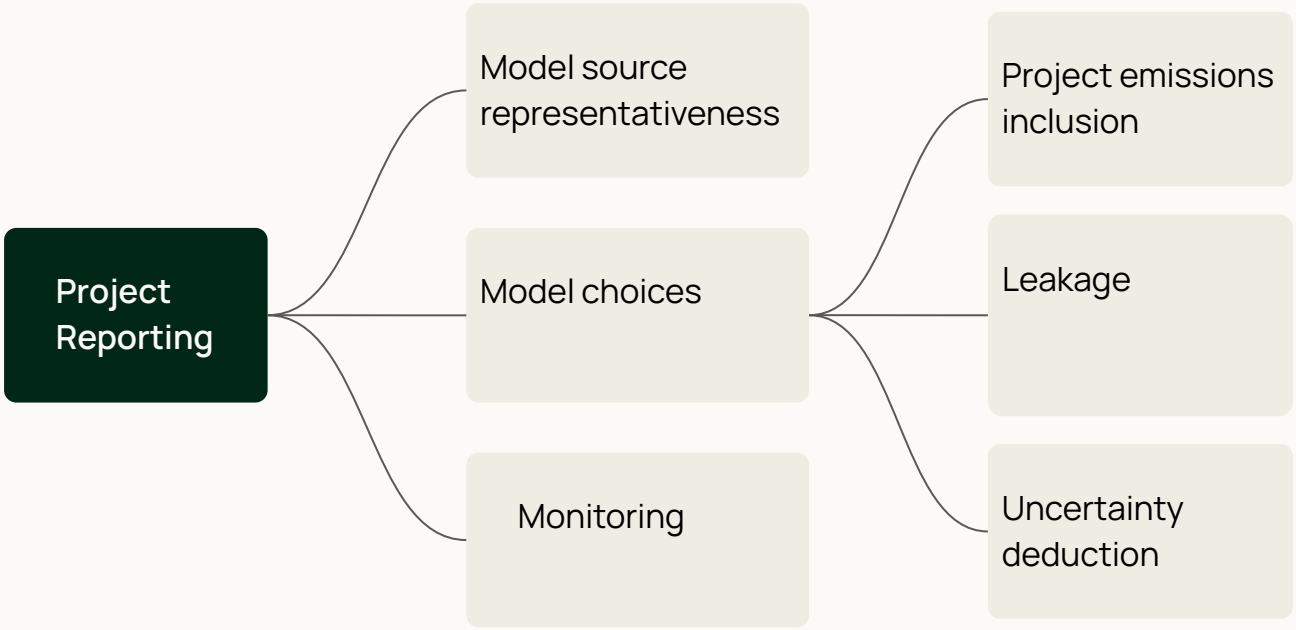
- Pathway 1: Projects with suitable and transparent reporting; project reported values could be compared against Sylvera's recreated equations
- Pathway 2: Projects with scarce/incomplete reporting; no data to compare against Sylvera's recreated equations

A modifier is introduced if Sylvera cannot compare the projects calculation approach due to the lack of transparent reporting to account for uncertainties arising from non-transparent reporting. Otherwise, the **Carbon Accounting** pillar score is a weighted average of the **Carbon Modeling** and **Project Reporting** components.

Carbon Accounting

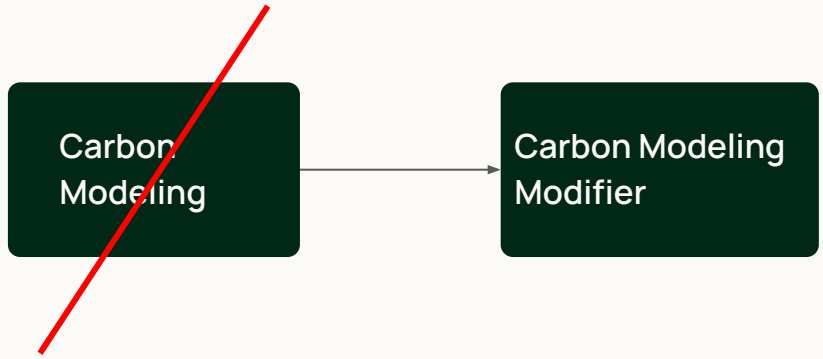
Pathway 1: *Projects with suitable and transparent reporting; project reported values could be compared against Sylvera's recreated equations*

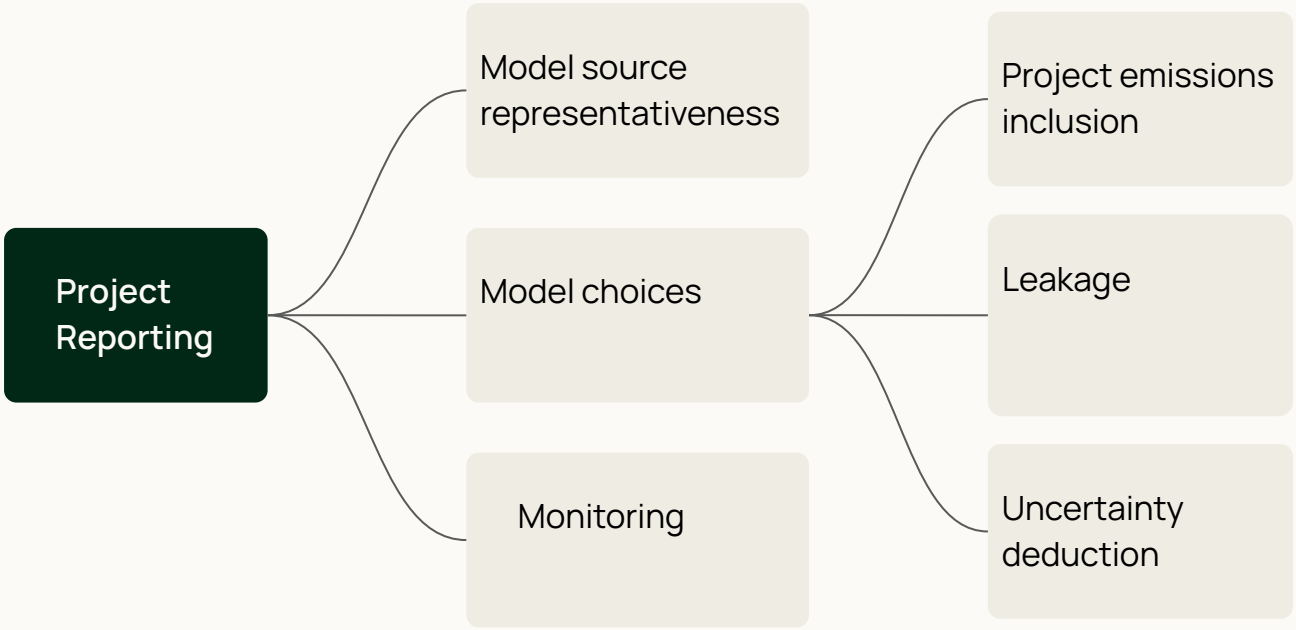




Carbon Accounting

Pathway 2: *Projects with scarce/incomplete reporting; no data to compare against Sylvera's recreated equations*





Carbon Modeling

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING

Description

The reporting accuracy and conservativeness of project's claimed emission reduction carbon from methane reduction, measured by comparing project claims and calculations to Sylvera's recreated allometric equations.
Benchmarking claimed sequestrations against Sylvera's recreated allometric equations with externally researched and regional values, where possible, such as relevant national grid's electricity emission factors (EF).

Scoring Logic

The **Carbon Modeling** score takes two pathways depending on data availability:

Pathway 1: Projects with suitable and transparent reporting.
Projects that transparently report on their calculations, values, and factors used in calculating the final emission reduction claims are scored through Pathway 1. Calculated as a direct comparison between the project's reported baseline emissions, project emissions, and leakage emissions and Sylvera's calculated values for the three above-mentioned categories, using recreated equations and externally researched regional and project-specific values, where possible. The score evaluates whether a project's emission reduction calculation approach is accurate, valid, and transparently reported across the total project's credit issuance period.

Pathway 2: Projects with scarce/incomplete reporting.
Projects that do not comprehensively report on their calculations, measured values, and factors used will be assessed through qualitative checks, under Project Reporting, but penalized based on the lack of reported data in public documentation, as it could introduce uncertainties and potential overcrediting risks.

Carbon Modeling

Pt.2

Description

The project's measured and monitored values, allometric equations and associated parameters used in calculations based on publicly available documentation, monitoring reports, and GHG calculation records.

Scoring Logic

Pathway 1: Projects with suitable and transparent reporting

Compares project reported measured and monitored values, factor and parameter values used to derive the final emission reduction claims and its GHG quantification approach, including its equations, by benchmarking its calculations and values against Sylvera's independently recreated equations and reference data for emission reduction claims from methane flaring and electricity generation. We compare the project's reported parameters, such as the electricity EF, against independently researched country-, region-, or grid-specific values. In this LFM framework version, Sylvera uses the project's reported oxidation factor and global warming potential values when recreating calculations, due to the high variability and uncertainty associated with these parameters, and instead, evaluates these factors qualitatively under the Project Reporting assessment.

Carbon Modeling Risk score = Sylvera's calculated emission reductions / Project's reported emission reductions

If the project's reporting is not fully transparent for all currently available monitoring periods/vintages, a modifier is introduced to account for and surface potential uncertainties that could arise from partial availability of the project's data.

Carbon Modeling

Scoring Logic – illustrative example

Pathway 1: Projects with suitable and transparent reporting

Situation 1. Full reporting data availability (transparent reporting for all available vintages)

Emission reductions claimed by project = 70

- Using their measured data and reported factor values (baseline emissions, project emissions, electricity EF, etc.)

Emission reductions from Sylvera's recreated equations = 60

- Using the project's measured values, but introducing Sylvera's recreated equations and researched values, i.e., electricity EF

Score = **60/70 => 86% → 8**

Situation 2. Partial reporting data availability (missing reporting data for some available vintages)

Emission reductions claimed by project = 70

- Using their measured data and reported factor values (baseline emissions, project emissions, electricity EF, etc.)

Emission reductions from Sylvera's recreated equations = 60

- Using the project's measured values, but introducing Sylvera's recreated equations and researched values, i.e., electricity EF

Modifier to account for uncertainties arising from incomplete data → Score = **60/70 => 86% → 8 – 1 = 7**

Example (theoretical) project: comparison between project reported emission reduction claims and Sylvera's calculated values. Scoring is based on relative size of project claim, compared to Sylvera's recreated equations; Score 86%

Project's reported emission reductions

Pathway 1. Scoring Logic and Data Inputs

Assessment and the extraction of the measured and monitored values, and the factors and parameters used to derive the final emission reduction claims.

Emission Reductions = Baseline Emissions - Project Emissions - Leakage Emissions

Input name	Description
Baseline emissions—project reported: • Baseline emissions of methane • Baseline emissions associated with electricity generation • Baseline emissions associated with natural gas • Baseline emissions associated with heat generation	Project reported values for baseline emissions associated with methane reduction, electricity generation, natural gas, and heat generation. Projects use these values to calculate their final emission reduction claims.
Project emissions—project reported: • Project emissions from fossil fuel consumption • Project emissions from electricity consumption • Project emissions—other	Project reported values on emissions arising from its activities during the project initiation and implementation. Projects use these values to calculate their final emission reduction claims.
Leakage emissions—project reported	Project reported values on leakage emissions arising as a result of project activities during their implementation.
Monitoring Period Duration	Start and end date of each relevant monitoring period.

Sylvera's calculated emission reductions

Pt.1

Pathway 1. Scoring Logic and Data Inputs

Sylvera's recreated equations use project reported measured values, which are later combined with the most relevant, peer-reviewed parameter values for i.e., electricity EF (for electricity generating LFM projects only). Current version of the LFM framework uses project-reported values for oxidation factor and global warming potential when recreating calculations, due to the high variability and uncertainty associated with these parameters, and instead, evaluates these factors qualitatively under the Project Reporting assessment

Sylvera's recreated, methodology agnostic, allometric equations

Emission Reductions

Emission Reductions = Baseline Emissions - Project Emissions - Leakage Emissions

Baseline Emissions

$$BE = BE_{CH4} + BE_{EC} + BE_{NG} + BE_{H} + BE_{other}$$

BE_{CH4} → *Baseline emissions of methane*
BE_{EC} → *Baseline emissions associated with electricity generation*
BE_{NG} → *Baseline emissions associated with natural gas*
BE_{H} → *Baseline emissions associated with heat generation*
BE_{other} → *Baseline emissions from other sources*

Baseline emissions related to natural gas use, heat generation, and other sources are taken as reported by the project, due to the limitations in accurately assessing them through the external remote research. This approach avoids penalising projects where more precise data are not available. Nevertheless, the reported values and underlying assumptions are reviewed as part of the Project Reporting assessment through qualitative analysis.

Sylvera's calculated emission reductions

Pt.2

Pathway 1. Scoring Logic and Data Inputs

Baseline Emissions of methane

$$BE_{CH4} = ((1 - OX) * Met_{flared,\ project} - Met_{flared,\ baseline}) * GWP$$

BE_{CH4} → Baseline emissions of methane
OX → Oxidation factor value reported by the project
$Met_{flared,\ project}$ → Amount of methane flared by the project
$Met_{flared,\ baseline}$ → Amount of methane that would be flared in the baseline
GWP → Global warming potential of methane reported by the project

Using the equation above, we apply a methodology-agnostic and conservative approach to calculating methane emission reductions. Specifically, the oxidation factor is applied only to the volume of methane flared by the project, and not to the baseline flaring volume. This approach reduces uncertainty and mitigates the risk of potential over-crediting that could arise from inaccurately estimated baseline values.

The current version of the LFM framework relies on project-reported values for the methane oxidation factor and the global warming potential (GWP) of methane, given the high variability and uncertainty associated with these parameters. As these values are extremely difficult to determine accurately through remote research alone, and to avoid unjustly penalising projects for factors beyond their control, the framework assesses these highly uncertain parameters primarily through qualitative checks.

Sylvera's calculated emission reductions

Pt.3

Pathway 1. Scoring Logic and Data Inputs

Baseline Emissions associated with electricity generation

$$BE_{EC} = EF_{value} * EL_{consumed,baseline} * (1 - TDL_{baseline})$$

BE_{EC} → Baseline emissions associated with electricity generation
EF_{value} → Sylvera's researched relevant electricity EF
$EL_{consumed,baseline}$ → Amount of electricity generated by the project / Or amount of energy that would be consumed in the baseline
$TDL_{baseline}$ → Average technical transmission and distribution losses for providing electricity

Sylvera's is introducing project's monitored and measured values for the electricity generated from the project activities, as well as the average technical transmission and distribution losses values, and combines them with the independently researched most relevant, dynamic (yearly values) emission EF based on the relevant grid EF values.

Baseline Emissions associated with electricity generation

$$PE = PE_{EC} + PE_{fossil\ fuel} + PE_{other}$$

PE_{EC} → Project emissions from electricity consumption
$PE_{fossil\ fuel}$ → Project emissions from fossil fuel consumption
PE_{other} → Project emissions from other sources

Project emissions from fossil fuel consumption and other sources are taken as reported by the project, due to the limitations in accurately assessing them through the external remote research; however, they are reviewed as part of the Project Reporting assessment through qualitative analysis.

Sylvera's calculated emission reductions

Pt.4

Pathway 1. Scoring Logic and Data Inputs

Project Emissions from electricity consumption

$$PE_{EC} = EF_{value} * EL_{consumed,project} * (1 - TDL_{project})$$

PE_{EC} → Project emissions from electricity consumption
EF_{value} → Sylvera's researched relevant electricity EF
$EL_{consumed,project}$ → Amount of electricity consumed by the project
$TDL_{project}$ → Average technical transmission and distribution losses for providing electricity

Sylvera's is introducing project's monitored and measured values for the electricity consumed by the project, as well as the average technical transmission and distribution losses values, and combines them with the independently researched most relevant, dynamic (yearly values) emission electricity EF based on the relevant grid EF values.

Leakage Emissions

Leakage emissions are taken as reported by the project for the purpose of recreating the project's emission reduction calculation approach, but are reviewed as part of the Project Reporting assessment through qualitative analysis

Project Reporting

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Description

LFM carbon projects are mostly relying on the default values of highly variable and uncertain parameters and factors, where quantitative assessment is often impossible or hard and uncertain to conduct. Thus, this check assesses the risk of overissuance, measured by examining the methods and factors used in the administration and monitoring of the project, i.e. what cannot be quantitatively measured and assessed.

Scoring Logic

Project Reporting score is a weighted sum of its subcomponents: **Model Source representativeness**, **Model Choices**, and **Monitoring Score**, where the Model Source Representativeness component is weighted the lowest.

Model Source Representativeness

Description

Model Sources Representativeness refers to the extent to which the data sources used in project modeling accurately reflect real-world conditions. Using conservative and context-appropriate sources is essential for credible baselines and ensuring integrity in carbon accounting.

Scoring Logic

Model Source Representativeness score is a sum of **Model Source Representativeness Subscore**, and **Uncertainty Value** score, that acts as a modifier.

Model Source Representativeness subscore Pt.1

Description

Model Sources Representativeness refers to the extent to which the data sources used in project modeling accurately reflect real-world conditions. Using conservative and context-appropriate sources is essential for credible baselines and ensuring integrity in carbon accounting.

Scoring Logic

Model Source Representativeness subcore is an average of its subcomponents (**Oxidation Factor Value**, **Fraction of Degradable Organic Carbon (DOCf) Value**, **Methane Generation Rate (k) Value**, **Methane Correction Factor (MCF) Value**, and **Electricity EF Value**) with some specific rules following scenario-based scoring logic and introducing caps to the highest maximum score to include for potential uncertainties that could arise.

Model Source Representativeness subscore Pt.2

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Oxidation Factor Value	A check to assess whether the project conduct site-specific measurements based on peer-reviewed methods/models, rather than using default values.
Fraction of Degradable Organic Carbon (DOCf) Value	Assessing whether the project calculates the DOCf value based on the landfill site-specific waste type and composition, as well as local conditions.
Methane Generation Rate (k) Value	A check to assess if the project utilizes site-specific calculation based on the waste depth, density, pH, climate, and moisture content, or defaults to standardized values, such as IPCC value.
Methane Correction Factor (MCF) Value	Assessing whether the projects use project-specific, peer-reviewed MCF values based on measured site conditions, such as landfill management type, waste depth, aeration, moisture content.
Electricity EF Value	*Electricity generating projects only*. A check to determine whether projects use site- or grid-specific emission factors sourced from peer-reviewed literature or national databases.

Uncertainty Deduction Modifier

Description

LFM project emission reduction calculations carry uncertainties because they rely on factors (such are OX, DOCf, MCF, k) that can vary widely, depend on site-specific conditions and waste types, and are often difficult to measure, potentially leading to inaccurate or not region-specific values. By applying an uncertainty deduction value when using default parameter/factor values could reduce the risk of over-crediting, and thus, is considered as best practice.

Scoring Logic

The **Uncertainty Deduction Modifier** serves as an adjustment factor that may slightly reduce uncertainty and associated risks arising from the use of default values. As a result, it can slightly increase the Model Source Representativeness score in the projects that apply an uncertainty deduction value to their emission reductions calculations.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Uncertainty Deduction Modifier	A check to assess whether the project accounts for the inherent uncertainty when applying default factor values by applying an uncertainty deduction.

Model Choices

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Description

Project's model choices—inclusion of project emissions, leakage assessment, and uncertainty deduction, should be well-justified and transparent across all key areas. Projects that comprehensively address and include project emissions, identify and assess leakage, and account and apply uncertainty deductions where necessary, are likely to significantly lower the risk of overcrediting.

Scoring Logic

Non-energy generating projects:
Model Choices score is an average of its subcomponents (**Project Emissions Inclusion**, **Leakage Assessment**, **Uncertainty Deduction Inclusion**, **Project GWP vs Benchmark**) with some specific rules following scenario-based scoring logic and introducing caps to the highest maximum score to include for potential uncertainties that could arise from inappropriate model choices selection.

Energy-generating projects:
Model Choices score is an average of its subcomponents (**Project Emissions Inclusion**, **Leakage Assessment**, **Uncertainty Deduction Inclusion**, **Project GWP vs Benchmark**, **Project Electricity EF vs Benchmark**) with some specific rules following scenario-based scoring logic and introducing caps to the highest maximum score to include for potential uncertainties that could arise from inappropriate model choices selection.

Model Choices

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Project Emissions Inclusion	Assessing whether projects conduct a comprehensive assessment of potential emission sources, by accounting for all relevant sources or provide supporting evidence for the exclusion of non-relevant ones.
Leakage Assessment	Assessing whether projects have included leakage in their calculations or conducted a comprehensive leakage assessment before determining that no leakage occurs.
Monitoring method—electricity EF	A check assessing the project's modeling choices regarding the uncertainty deduction inclusion, determining whether the project introduces uncertainty deduction to its emission reduction calculation approach.
Project GWP vs Benchmark	We assess whether the project reported GWP value falls within the research consensus range. Applying high values, above the current research consensus, can raise concerns about the accuracy the project's emission reductions, and could indicate a potential over-crediting risk.
Project Electricity EF vs Benchmark	**Electricity generating projects only**. Assessing whether the project-reported electricity EF value matches the country national grid's value.

Monitoring Approaches

Pt.1

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Description

The most robust estimates come from direct parameter value measurements, which provide ground-truth data for further model calibration. Continuous monitoring and measurement of key parameters will ensure that the most accurate and up-to-date information is used in the project's emission reduction calculations.

Scoring Logic

Non-energy generation projects (waste incineration and methane flaring): **Monitoring** score is an average of its subcomponents (**Monitoring method—gas flow**, **Monitoring method—system efficiency**) with some specific rules following scenario-based scoring logic and introducing caps to the highest maximum score to include for potential uncertainties that could arise from inappropriate and inconsistent monitoring approach.

Energy-generating projects (flare-to-energy/waste-to-energy): **Monitoring** score is an average of its subcomponents (**Monitoring method—gas flow**, **Monitoring method—system efficiency**, **Monitoring method—electricity generation**, **Electricity EF—static vs dynamic**) with some specific rules following scenario-based scoring logic and introducing caps to the highest maximum score to include for potential uncertainties that could arise from inappropriate and inconsistent monitoring approach.

Model Choices

CARBON ACCOUNTING – PROJECT REPORTING

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Monitoring method—gas flow	Assesses whether the gas flow is continuously monitored and supported by documented calibration and QA procedures.
Monitoring method—system efficiency	Looks at whether system efficiency is determined through direct measurements instead of assumptions, which would provide the highest level of confidence in methane destruction performance.
Monitoring method—electricity generation	**Electricity generating projects**. Assesses whether the electricity generated is continuously monitored with independent meters and supported with the QA procedures and calibration devices.
Electricity EF—static vs dynamic	**Electricity generating projects**. Projects should constantly monitor and update accordingly their emission factor values to match the current situation and the most recent national grid's EF value. Updating the EF ensures that project emission reductions reflect the most accurate and current electricity mix of the country's grid.

Additionality

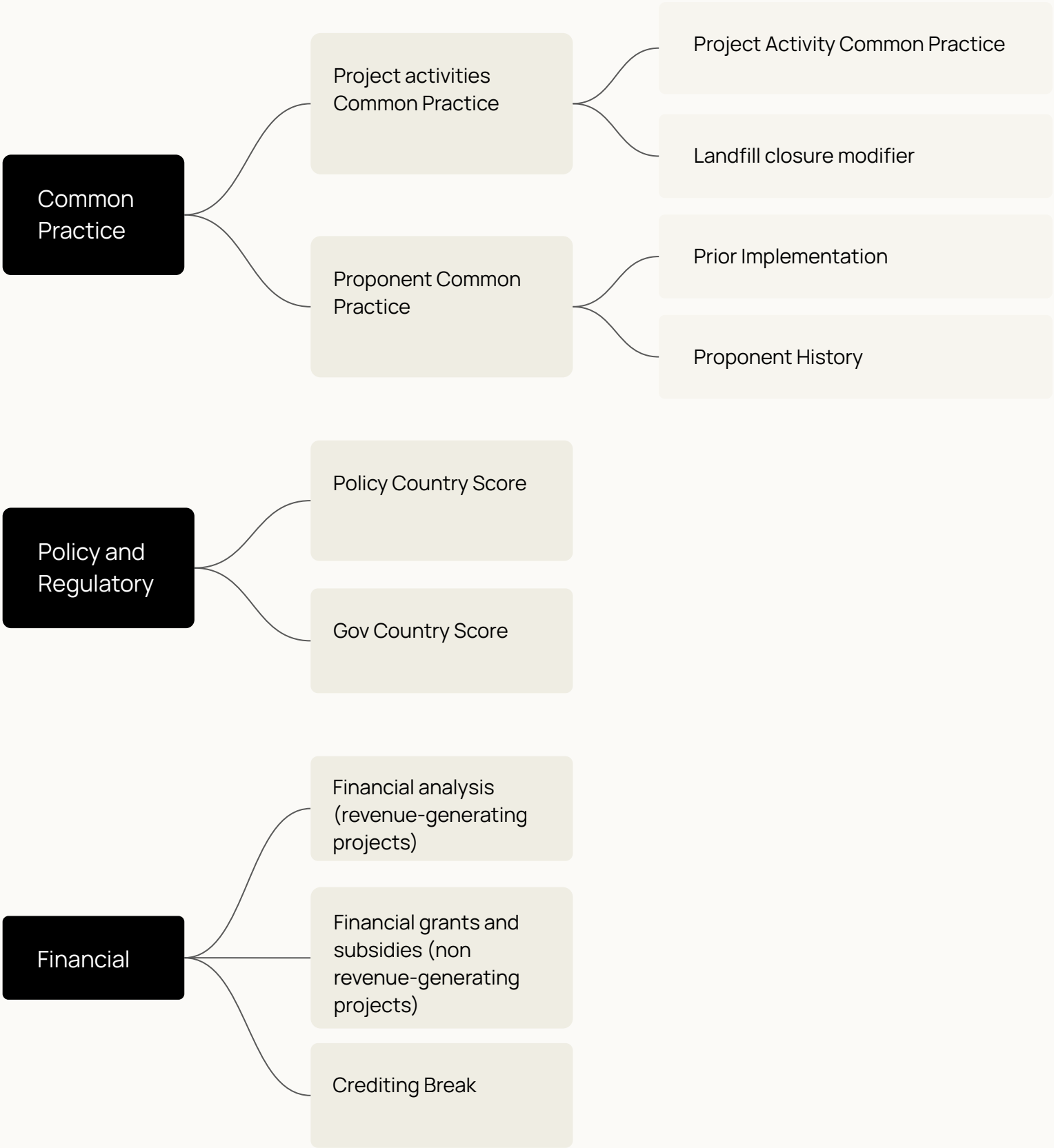
Description

The project's additionality reflects the likelihood that the emission removals/reductions are a direct consequence of the project activities and would not occur in the absence of the project. Assessing additionality involves examining the credibility of the difference between the project and baseline scenario by considering the financial viability of the project activities, policy and regulatory incentives/restrictions, as well as common practice in the project's region.

Scoring Logic

Take the minimum of the additionality components: **Financial**, **Common Practice** and **Policy & Regulatory**. If data for one factor is missing, the calculation uses the available factors only, with the applied scoring cap to account for uncertainties.

Additionality



Common Practice

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Examining whether the project activities are commonly conducted in the baseline scenario, in the project's country/region helps with identifying significant barriers or support for their implementation. This could highlight the necessity (or lack thereof) of the carbon project and undermine/support the project's additionality.

Scoring Logic

The **Common Practice** score is taken through the average of the **Project Activities in Baseline Common Practice** and **Proponent Common Practice** scores, with specific score caps based on the evident project proponent practices.

Project Activities in the Baseline Common Practice

Description

Project activities in the baseline common practice assesses whether the project's landfill management activities are already widely implemented in the project's country/region and whether similar outcomes would be expected without the project. This component evaluates the extent to which the project represents a departure from prevailing landfill management practices, considering the commonality of the specific project activities. A project that is uncommon in terms of its activities or occurs on a previously unmanaged landfill indicates a lower likelihood that the observed reductions would have occurred without the project, supporting additionality.

Scoring Logic

Flaring methane projects and flare-to-energy projects

The **Project Activities in the Baseline Common Practice** score equals to the **Project Activities Common Practice** score.

Waste incineration projects and waste-to-energy projects

The **Project Activities in the Baseline Common Practice** score equals to the **Project Activities Common Practice** modified with the **Landfill Closure Modifier** score.

Project Activity Common Practice

Description

This component evaluates whether landfill management activities comparable to those implemented by the project are commonly practiced in the project's country or region. The assessment is tailored to the project's activity type and draws only on relevant common practice indicators (such as methane flaring, energy generation, or waste incineration prevalence at landfills). Activities that are less common indicate that similar outcomes are less likely to occur without the project, supporting additionality. Where no applicable activity category exists or sufficient data is unavailable, this component is not scored.

Scoring Logic

The **Project Activity Common Practice** score is calculated through the average of any of the following that are available and relevant to the project type: **Flaring Methane Common Practice**, **Energy Generation Common Practice**, **Waste Incineration Common Practice**, and is based on the project activity start year.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Flaring Methane Common Practice	This assessment evaluates the prevalence of methane flaring practices at landfills within the project's country or region. Multiple scores are assigned to each country across defined five-year periods to ensure the assessment reflects the most accurate and representative conditions for the relevant timeframe.
Energy Generation Common Practice	This assessment evaluates the prevalence of energy generation activities at landfills within the project's country or region. Multiple scores are assigned to each country across defined five-year periods to ensure the assessment reflects the most accurate and representative conditions for the relevant timeframe.
Waste Incineration Common Practice	This assessment evaluates the prevalence of waste incineration activities at landfills within the project's country or region. Multiple scores are assigned to each country across defined five-year periods to ensure the assessment reflects the most accurate and representative conditions for the relevant timeframe.

Landfill Closure Modifier

Description

A check specific to the waste incineration projects. It assesses whether the landfill is operating beyond its designed or permitted lifetime. If a landfill has reached capacity and was scheduled for closure but continues to operate, it could indicate that waste incineration was implemented due to landfill space constraints rather than as a result of carbon market incentives.

Scoring Logic

A modifier introduced to account for potential risks that project activities were already in place, or would be implemented independently of carbon revenue considerations due to landfill capacity constraints.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Landfill Closure Modifier	Assesses whether there is evidence that the landfill was already scheduled for closure prior to the implementation of project activities as a result of reaching its capacity.

Proponent Common Practice

Description

Proponent Common Practice assesses whether the project developer has an established track record of implementing comparable activities without reliance on carbon market revenues. This component evaluates the extent to which the proponent's prior experience and behaviour indicate that the project activities would not be routinely undertaken in the absence of carbon finance. A proponent with limited or recent experience, or with a history of reliance on carbon revenues, is less likely to implement similar activities without the project, supporting additionality.

Scoring Logic

The Proponent Common Practice score is calculated as the minimum of the **Proponent History** and **Prior Implementation** components where available.

Proponent History

Description

Proponent History evaluates the extent and nature of the proponent's past experience with activities comparable to those implemented by the project. The assessment distinguishes between exact versus similar activities, recent versus established implementation, and whether past activities were undertaken independently or have been consistently reliant on carbon finance. Lower scores reflect a stronger history of independently delivering similar activities, while higher scores reflect limited, unclear, or carbon-dependent experience.

Scoring Logic

The score is determined based on qualitative categories describing the proponent's historical involvement in comparable activities, including the type of activities undertaken, the duration of experience, and the extent of reliance on carbon finance.

Prior Implementation

ADDITIONALITY – COMMON PRACTICE – PROPONENT COMMON PRACTICE

Description

Prior Implementation assesses whether the project activities were already being implemented before formal project registration and the extent to which those activities pre-date the project's ex-post crediting period.

Scoring Logic

The score is based on the evidence suggesting the project has been established without carbon revenue in mind. It is applied only where there is clear evidence that project activities were implemented prior to registration as a carbon project and were driven by other factors or events rather than by carbon market incentives.

Financial Additionality

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Financial Additionality assesses whether carbon credit revenues are a necessary factor for implementing and sustaining the project's landfill management activities. This component evaluates whether the activities are likely to proceed in the absence of carbon market support, through **Financial Grants and Subsidies** check for non-revenue generating projects, and where available, **Financial Analysis** for revenue-generating projects (i.e., energy generation and selling electricity). The assessment considers expected costs, alternative sources of value, and the extent to which non-carbon incentives may already justify implementation. Where project activities are likely to occur without carbon revenues, the case for additionality is weaker.

Scoring Logic

The Financial Additionality score is determined by the presence of secondary revenue and the availability of a financial model. Where no financial model is provided for revenue-generating projects, the assessment is capped at lower score to account for uncertainties. Where a financial model is available, a **Financial Additionality Assessment** is conducted, based on the project's IRR values (with and without carbon revenue) and hurdle rates. In addition, the score is further modified by the existence of crediting breaks.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Financial Grants and Subsidies	Assesses whether the project receives material non-carbon funding alongside carbon revenues. The presence of parallel funding suggests reduced reliance on carbon finance, while its absence supports financial additionality.
Financial Analysis	Assesses the extent to which the project is expected to generate material non-carbon revenues, such as from selling electricity. Higher expected secondary revenues indicate reduced dependence on carbon finance.
Crediting Period Break	Examines whether the project has multiple crediting periods and whether any significant gaps exist between them. It serves as a modifier to the credibility of the project's financial additionality claims, as breaks in crediting periods may indicate a reduced reliance on carbon credit revenues.

Financial Analysis

ADDITIONALITY – FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY

Description

The scale of the project activities and their commercialization potential could indicate the availability and extent of alternative revenue streams outside the carbon market, which could incentivize the project's implementation even without VCM support and undermine the project's additionality claims.

Scoring Logic

This check assesses the extent to which the project's expected financial performance is influenced by carbon credit revenues by comparing the internal rate of return (IRR) with and without credits against the applicable hurdle rate. The results are further benchmarked against Sylvera's independently calculated financial data to validate and strengthen the conclusions drawn from the project's financial information.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Financial analysis	Financial analysis is based on a set of inputs: project's start date, lifetime, currency, yearly expected electricity production, tariff, yearly expected emission reduction, carbon price, CAPEX, OPEX, tax rate, project's (with) and business-as-usual (without carbon revenue) IRR, hurdle rate; in order to conduct an independent financial assessment.

Crediting Period Break

ADDITIONALITY – FINANCIAL ADDITIONALITY

Description

The Crediting Period Break check evaluates whether the project's experienced a a break in-between its crediting period. This check acts as a modifier to the credibility of the financial additionality claims based on whether the projects had a crediting period break, which could suggest the lack of reliance on carbon credits.

Scoring Logic

The Crediting Period Break score takes the sum of the **Crediting Period Break** and the **Crediting Break Evidence**.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Crediting Period Break	This check examines if the project has multiple crediting periods and if there have been any significant breaks between them. It acts as a modifier to the credibility of the financial additionality claims based on whether the projects had a crediting period break, which could suggest the lack of reliance on carbon credits.
Crediting Break Evidence	Breaks in crediting may indicate interruptions in activity or re-initiations of the project primarily for crediting purposes. However, if credible evidence shows that underlying barriers or conditions persisted during the break, the risk of non-additionality is reduced.

Policy and Regulatory

ADDITIONALITY

Description

Policy and Regulatory assesses the extent to which existing laws, regulations, and public policy incentives support or mandate the implementation of the project's landfill management activities. This component evaluates whether the policy environment reduces the need for carbon market incentives by making similar activities economically attractive or legally required. Strong policy and regulatory support can weaken the case for additionality, while limited or unclear policy support strengthens it.

Scoring Logic

The Policy and Regulatory score is determined using the **Policy Country Score** and the **Gov Country Score**. Where the policy country score indicates fully supportive conditions, it is used on its own. If the gov country score is not applicable, the final score is equal to the policy country score. In all other cases, the final score is calculated as the sum of the policy country score and the gov country score.

Policy Country Score

ADDITIONALITY – POLICY AND REGULATORY

Description

All relevant policies that could apply to the project or baseline activities in the project's country are taken into account, as their extensiveness and effectiveness (or lack thereof) can undermine/support the project's additionality.

Scoring Logic

This components filters a database of policies that we have assessed while rating LFM projects. The test filters policies on applicability, based on whether they are in the same jurisdiction and are relevant to the project activities, taking the maximum (highest risk) applicable policy.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Policies	List of all policies extracted, marked as incentive or regulation.

Gov Country Score

ADDITIONALITY – POLICY AND REGULATORY

Description

Gov Country assesses the quality of governance in the project's host country and its potential influence on the likelihood that project activities would occur without carbon market support. This component draws on an external governance effectiveness indicator and is applied only where governance conditions materially affect project additionality, taking into account the strength of the country's policy environment. Where governance is strong and policy conditions already support implementation, this component is not applied.

Scoring Logic

The Gov Country score is applied where **Governance Effectiveness** is sufficiently strong to influence project implementation and where the **Policy Country Indicator** does not already reflect supportive policy conditions; in all other cases, this component is not scored.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Governance Effectiveness	An external indicator reflecting the quality of public institutions, regulatory effectiveness, and government capacity in the project's host country.
Policy Country Indicator	An assessment of the strength of country-level policies relevant to the project's activities, used to determine whether governance conditions are already reflected elsewhere in the additionality assessment.

Permanence

Description

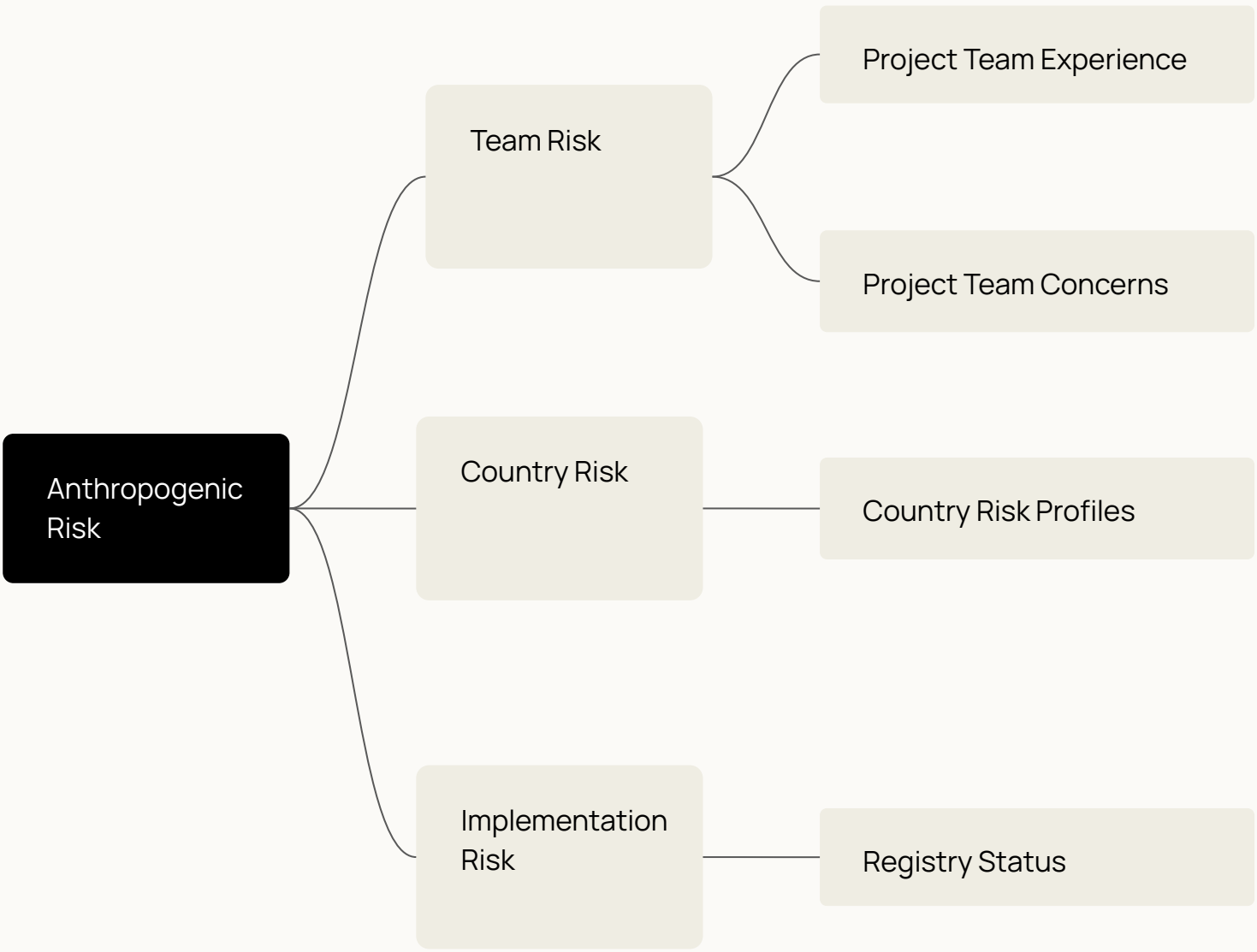
The project's permanence reflects the likelihood of carbon being successfully sequestered for an atmospherically significant time (i.e. 100 years) as a result of the project activities. Assessing permanence involves examining potential risks that could prevent long-term sequestration of carbon.

Scoring Logic

All landfill methane projects are avoidance-based, meaning they are not exposed to risks of reversals, since they do not store carbon (e.g. as biomass or in underground storage), which would introduce reversal risks. This means **all LFM projects will gain a 5/5 Permanence Score**.

However, LFM projects may be exposed to some **anthropogenic risks** which could **inhibit their delivery**. This check serves as an indicator of potential risks to the project's future delivery, coming from the external and internal anthropogenic risks.

Permanence


Anthropogenic Risk
Team Risk
Project Team Experience
Project Team Concerns
Country Risk
Country Risk Profiles
Implementation Risk
Registry Status

Anthropogenic Risk

PERMANENCE

Description

The project's impact could be reversed or hindered due to human-driven factors. Assessing potential internal and external anthropogenic risks is crucial for understanding the likelihood of the project being interrupted and/or its impact reversed due to human interference.

LFM projects may be exposed to some anthropogenic risks that could inhibit their delivery. This serves as an indicator of potential risks coming from the external and internal anthropogenic risks, but does not impact the overall permanence risk.

Scoring Logic

The Anthropogenic Risk indicator check takes the minimum of **Country Risk, Team Risk,** and **Design Risk**. Where **Country Risk** is below a defined threshold, the minimum is taken between **Team Risk** and **Design Risk**, with the result capped accordingly; where **Country Risk** exceeds this threshold, the minimum is taken across **Country Risk**, **Team Risk**, and **Design Risk.**

Team Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

Team Risk assesses the likelihood of anthropogenic risks arising from the capacity, experience, and reliability of the project team. This component evaluates whether the project team has the expertise, organisational strength, and financial backing required to implement and sustain project activities over time.

Scoring Logic

The Team Risk score is first determined using specific conditions where **Project Team Risks** or uniformly moderate assessments across **Project Team Experience** and **Project Team Concerns** directly assign the score. In all other cases, the score is calculated by converting **Project Team Experience** and **Project Team Concerns** into risk-oriented values, averaging these inputs, and mapping the result to a higher-risk score range. Lower experience, greater concerns, weaker funding, and higher identified risks result in higher Team Risk scores.

Project Team Experience

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – TEAM RISK

Description

The project's team experience (or lack thereof) could affect the way in which the project activities are implemented. This could potentially limit or ensure the long-term effectiveness of the activities, affecting the project's permanence.

Scoring Logic

Projects are scored on the basis of the proponents' track record in developing carbon projects, using the number of projects implemented by the proponents as a proxy of experience, assuming a lack of experience (i.e. no involvement in other projects) would limit effective project operations.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Team project count	Number of carbon projects the entities are involved with.

Project Team Concerns

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK – TEAM RISK

Description

The project's team reputation could point to potential mismanagement risks, which could limit the long-term effectiveness of the project activities or interrupt their implementation.

Scoring Logic

The **Project Team Concerns** score evaluates potential risks associated with the project team using compliance checks (e.g., ComplyAdvantage). It assumes that links with nefarious activities could undermine the effectiveness of project operations.

- If there are no ComplyAdvantage results of concern → very low risk.
- If there is one ComplyAdvantage result of concern → moderate risk.
- If there are multiple ComplyAdvantage results of concern → very high risk.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Known proponent legal flags	Whether there any ComplyAdvantage hits of concern related to the project proponents.

Country Risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

External factors associated with the geopolitical context of the project's country could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities. Assessing potential geopolitical risks is crucial for understanding the likelihood of the project's impact being reversed.

Scoring Logic

The **Country Risk** score is based on the **Country Risk Profiles** component, underlying data on government reputation, political stability and track record with human risks to infer the inherent risk to operations in that country.

Country Risk Profiles

Description

Country risk score reflects the risk levels associated with a variety of factors that could hinder the project's implementation, including the country's political stability, government effectiveness and reputation, corruption levels etc.

Scoring Logic

Countries are scored on:

- Government reputation
- Political stability and
- Track record with human rights

to infer the inherent risk to operations in that country.

See more with Country Profiles.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Sylvera Country Profiles Product	Risk profiles for carbon credit projects across key countries.

Implementation risk

PERMANENCE – ANTHROPOGENIC RISK

Description

Internal factors associated with the management and implementation of the project could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities and issuance of credits. The project's status with its associated registry is a key point to consider current and future risk of activities or credit issuance being ceased or reversed.

Scoring Logic

Project's can be suspended or withdrawn from their registry, meaning they cannot issue credits. This could impact the project's delivery in the future.

Registry status

Description

Internal factors associated with the management and implementation of the project could interrupt or reverse the impact of the project's activities and issuance of credits. The project's status with its associated registry is a key point to consider current and future risk of activities or credit issuance being ceased or reversed.

Scoring Logic

This check is based solely on the project current status on the registry and only serves as an indicator of potential risks to the continuous project implementation in the future.

- If the project is withdrawn → very high risk to future delivery
- If the project is on hold, inactive, canceled, or rejected by the administrator → high risk to future delivery
- If the project is registered with no indications of potential termination → very low risk to future delivery

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Registry status	Current status of the project, based on the registry information.

Safeguarding and Co-Benefits

Description

Ensuring that appropriate community and environmental safeguards are in place is critical for the project's continued successful operation, its reputation, and adherence to the No Net Harm principle.

The extent to which a project goes beyond carbon outcomes to benefit local communities and biodiversity is assessed as "Co-benefits." This considers the nature of project activities and the presence of benefit-sharing mechanisms, and can serve as a quality differentiator depending on user priorities.

Scoring Logic

The **Safeguarding and Co-Benefits** score provides a blended view of a project's overall beyond-carbon impact, combining Safeguarding and Co-benefits to evaluate the likelihood and extent that a project delivers a net benefit for communities and biodiversity by confirming if the requirement of No Net Harm is met, and quantifying Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) contributions. The score assumes that significant risk of net harm to the community or biodiversity prevents any net positive co-benefits.

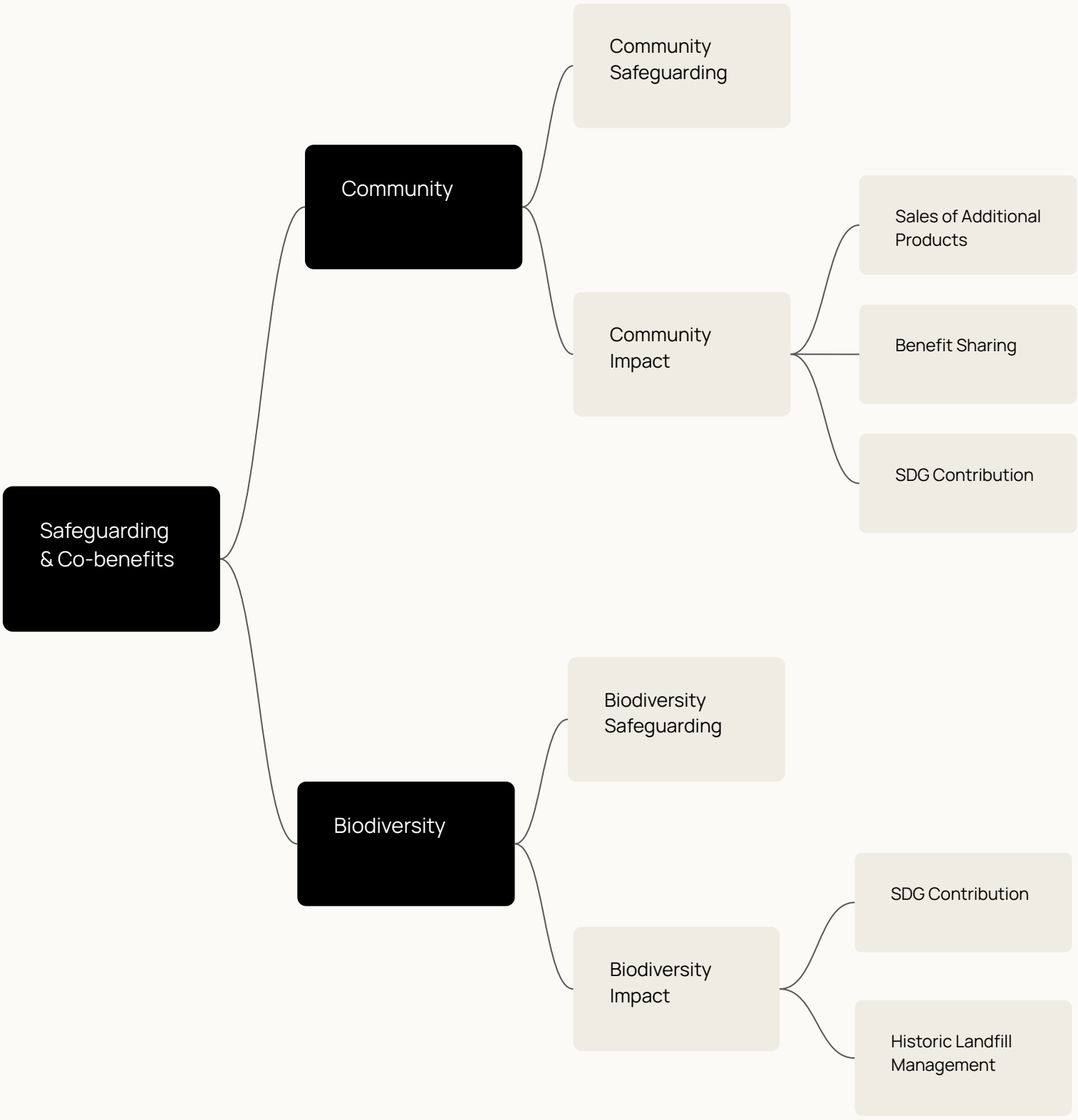
If significant safeguarding risks are present:

- The score is the minimum of the **Biodiversity** and **Community** scores; this ensures positive outcomes in one sub-component cannot override evidence of severe harm in the other. A net benefit in both **Biodiversity** and **Community** are required for a positive score.

If significant safeguarding risks are not present:

- The score is the average of the **Biodiversity** and **Community** scores.

Safeguarding and Co-Benefits



Community

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS

Description

A holistic assessment of the project's impact on local communities and stakeholders. Evaluates whether the project meets the principle of *do no harm* to surrounding communities, with safeguards against operational risks specific to landfill gas capture and destruction, including noise, odour, fire/explosion, and air quality, while also assessing the scale of positive co-benefits such as Sustainable Development Goal (SDG)-aligned activities, benefit sharing, and additional economic contributions.

Scoring Logic

The **Community** score is derived from two sub-components: **Community Safeguarding** and **Community Impact**. The two sub-component scores are combined via a first-hit decision table that maps each combination to a final Community score (1–5). Where safeguarding is critically weak (score ≤1), this caps the overall Community score regardless of co-benefits performance.

Community Safeguarding

Description

Evaluates the risk of potential adverse impacts on local communities from landfill gas or waste incineration project operations. Considers whether the project has adequate mechanisms to prevent harm, including grievance redress, noise and odour management, fire/explosion prevention, worker health and safety, community health protection, and labor rights, relative to the project's proximity to settlements and operational characteristics, which act as modifiers and adjust the score accordingly. Specifically, enclosed flares reduce odor and noise relative to open flares. On the other hand, proximity within 2km elevates the risk and tightens requirements for noise and odor mitigation.

Scoring Logic

The **Community Safeguarding** score is produced by a multi-input decision table that combines sub-components' scores into a **base community safeguarding score** (1–5 scale) which is relevant to all landfill methane management activities (methane flaring and waste incineration).

Additional subcomponents are included into scoring for the waste incineration activities (**Incineration community safeguarding score**), and are further combined with the **base community safeguarding score**, by taking the average of the two.

Community Safeguarding

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Grievance Redress Mechanism	Whether a formal grievance channel is described in project documentation. Checks whether there are clear and accessible processes for communities to raise concerns and resolve disputes.
Noise mitigation plan	LFM projects can negatively impact communities through noise disturbances. Extent of noise prevention plans, cross-referenced with distance from settlements and flare type to determine residual risk.
Odor Management	Assesses the presence of measures to control odors that could impact community well-being.
Fire/Explosion Prevention	Considers what measure the project puts in place to avoid risks from fire or explosion of methane.
Labor Rights	Looks at whether the project safeguards fair working conditions, wages and workers' rights.
Additional Safeguarding Concerns	Assesses any additional safeguarding concerns which have not been captured by the methodology or structured inputs.
Gender Equality	Evaluates whether the project promotes opportunities and participation for all people of all genders.
Worker and health safety	*Waste incineration projects only*. Assesses whether the project implements measures to protect workers' health and safety, particularly given the hazards of waste incineration.
Community health protection	*Waste incineration projects only*. Assesses whether the project proactively protects community health by monitoring, evaluating, and communicating potential impacts of emissions.
Incineration facility operational integrity	*Waste incineration projects only*. Assess whether the project maintains the incineration facility in good operational condition, which can ensure safe and effective emission control.

Community Impact

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Description

Assesses the scale and quality of the project's positive contributions to the community beyond basic requirements, including Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)-aligned activities, benefit-sharing mechanisms, and additional economic contributions such as electricity generation or co-product sales, beyond those required for the functioning of the project.

Scoring Logic

The **Community Impact** score is derived from three subcomponents scores, that are combined through a decision table producing the final Community Impact score (1–5 scale):

1. **SDG Contribution**: Combines SDG matching (alignment of claimed SDGs with community needs) and SDG monitoring quality, which acts as a modifier to the SDG Contribution score
2. **Benefit Sharing**: Evaluates the share of carbon revenue directed to local communities and the quality of evidence.
3. **Additional Product Generation**: Considers whether the project generates and sells co-products (e.g. electricity).

Community Impact

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS – COMMUNITY

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
SDG Contribution	Maps the project's community-related outcomes to relevant SDG targets. Co-benefits are assessed through the lens of the SDGs, with project activities thematically aligned to specific targets and indicators to demonstrate contributions and, where possible, quantify the community benefits delivered.
SDG Monitoring	Checks whether the project has systems in place to track progress towards SDG related goals. Co-benefits impact should only be considered strong if implementation and impacts can be reliably monitored and quantified. Projects should have some form of SDG/co-benefits monitoring plan in place to demonstrate tangible impacts.
Benefit Sharing	Assesses how fairly the project shares benefits such as revenues or resources with affected communities.
Additional Product Generation	Considers any additional products generated as part of the project's activities that may benefit local communities.

Biodiversity

SAFEGUARDING AND CO-BENEFITS

Description

A holistic assessment of the likelihood that landfill gas project activities (methane flaring and/or waste incineration) produce a net benefit to biodiversity and the surrounding environment. Evaluates whether the project prevents ecological harm through pollution controls and environmental management, and delivers positive co-benefits such as habitat enhancement or measurable pollution reduction.

Scoring Logic

The **Biodiversity** score combines **Biodiversity Safeguarding** and **Biodiversity Impact** sub-component scores. The Safeguarding and Impact scores are combined via a decision table to produce a final score (1–5); however, where any of the subscores indicate severe risk (≤1), the overall Biodiversity score is capped at 1.

Biodiversity Safeguarding

Description

This subcomponent examines the systems and measures in place to prevent biodiversity loss or degradation due to project activities. Assessment of environmental safeguards implemented by landfill methane capture projects to prevent adverse biodiversity impacts. Evaluates pre-project risk identification through Environmental Impact Assessments, ongoing management of air emissions, water quality, leachate, and soil contamination, as well as the presence of formal environmental management plans. In addition to this, and specifically to waste incineration project activities,

Scoring Logic

The **Biodiversity Safeguarding** score is produced by a multi-input decision table that combines sub-components' scores into a **Base Biodiversity Safeguarding Score** (1–5 scale) which is relevant to all landfill methane management activities (methane flaring and waste incineration).

Additional subcomponents are included into scoring for the waste incineration activities (**Incineration biodiversity safeguarding score**), and are further combined with the **Base Biodiversity Safeguarding Score**, by taking the average of the two, to get the Biodiversity Safeguarding score for waste incineration projects.

Base Biodiversity Safeguarding Score

Description

This section assesses the presence of environmental safeguards applicable to both methane flaring and waste incineration activities, by looking into the whether the activities, such as identification of pre-project biodiversity risks, air emissions and pollution control, water quality, soil contamination, and the presence of formal environmental management plans, that prevent adverse biodiversity impacts are present.

Scoring Logic

The **Base Biodiversity Safeguarding Score** score is derived from five subcomponents (**Identification of Pre-project Biodiversity Risks**, **Air Emissions and Pollution Control**, **Water Quality and Leachate** Management, **Soil and Land Contamination Management**, and **On-going Environmental Management**), whose scores are further combined and mapped to produce a final Base Community Safeguarding Score (1–5). In addition to this, a cap mechanism is applied: if any individual subcomponent is scored 1 or is null, the overall safeguarding score is capped to 1, reflecting critical unmanaged risk.

Base Biodiversity Safeguarding Score

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Identification of Pre-project Biodiversity Risks	A check to assess whether the project identified potential biodiversity risks before implementation and considered regulatory requirements.
Air Emissions and Pollution Control	Assesses the presence of measures to control and monitor air pollutants (e.g., methane, particulates) that can impact nearby ecosystems.
Water Quality and Leachate Management	Assesses the presence of controls to prevent contamination of groundwater and surface water from landfill leachate or runoff.
Soil and Land Contamination Management	Assesses the presence of measures to prevent and monitor soil contamination or solid waste leaks.
On-going Environmental Management	Assesses whether the project maintains a systematic process for managing biodiversity and environmental risks.

Incineration Biodiversity Safeguarding Score

Description

This section assesses additional environmental safeguards specific to waste incineration activities, including incineration efficiency, the handling and disposal of fly ash and bottom ash, and controls on acid gas emissions, to determine whether adequate measures are in place to prevent adverse impacts on biodiversity.

Scoring Logic

The **Incineration Biodiversity Safeguarding Score** is the average from three subcomponents' (**Incineration efficiency**, **Fly Ash and Bottom Ash Handling/Disposal**, and **Acid Gas Emissions Control**) scores.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Incineration efficiency	Assesses whether the project states, monitors, or tests the efficiency of waste incineration, which affects both air pollutant formation (including dioxins, CO, and particulates) and residual ash content.
Fly Ash and Bottom Ash Handling/Disposal	Assesses if a project identifies, mitigates, and monitors fly ash and bottom ash risks. Fly ash and bottom ash risks are unique to waste incineration projects, bringing in persistent hazardous substances, such as heavy metals (Hg, Pb, Cd, Cr), alkali salts, dioxins and furans (in fly ash especially), PAHs…
Acid Gas Emissions Control	Assesses if a project identifies, controls, and monitors acid gas emissions. Acid gases are unique to incineration, adding significant acid gas formation, including H_2S (from anaerobic pockets or sulphur compounds), and SO_2 (from sulphur-containing plastics, residues, or organic waste).

Biodiversity Impact

Description

Assessment of positive biodiversity outcomes generated by methane flaring and waste incineration project activities, including pollution prevention, habitat protection and enhancement, and the consideration of changes in the management of landfill sites compared to the historical management activities.

Scoring Logic

The **Biodiversity Impact** score is derived from two sub-component scores (**SDG Contribution** and **Historic landfill management**) that are then averaged to get the final Biodiversity Impact score (1–5), with some specific rules, where low sub-scores or lack of information could act as a cap to the final score, communicating the existence of uncertainties.

SDG Contributions

Description

Evaluates the project's positive contributions to biodiversity-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This indicator links tangible project outcomes (pollution prevention, habitat protection) to global biodiversity targets.

Scoring Logic

The **SDG Contributions** score identifies the project activities and maps them to SDG 15 (Life on Land) targets. **Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Health** and **Habitat Protection and Enhancement** are considered to have strong alignment with SDG 15 aims. However, where the project does not actively address pollution prevention and habitat protection, this limits the extent of its positive contributions to surrounding biodiversity, and is therefore, reflected in the scoring logic.

The score is further weighted based on the country's progress towards achieving SDG 15. Projects in countries where SDG 15 progress has been limited are considered higher impact.

Data Inputs

Input name	Description
Pollution Prevention and Ecosystem Health	Assess if the project reduces pollution loads and improves local environmental (air and water) quality.
Habitat Protection and Enhancement	Evaluates actions to protect or restore habitats affected by the project.

Historic Landfill Management

Description

The Historic Landfill Management theme is unique to the LFM framework. It assesses the environmental uplift provided by the project relative to the site's prior management status, recognising that interventions at historically unmanaged landfills deliver greater incremental biodiversity benefit.

Scoring Logic

Historic Landfill Management: Scores the highest for historically unmanaged sites (assumed greatest environmental uplift), slightly lower for historically partially managed; and the lowest for sites already managed with capture/flaring and lining, or where status is unclear.

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