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# FCPF UPDATES 2025

August 2025

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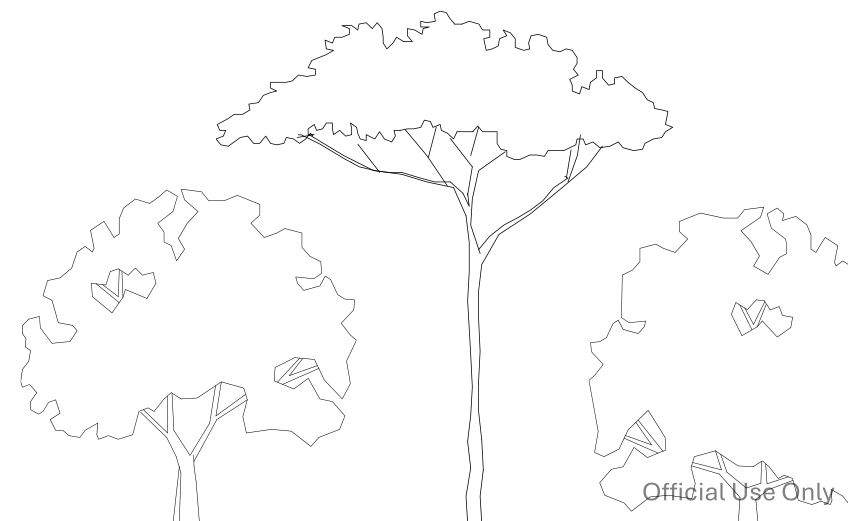
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# 01 Overview of updates

## Overview of updates

- **March 2024:** ER-MR Template, Buffer Guidelines (grace period in the application of new risk assessment began in September 2024), Process Guidelines.
- **July 2024:** Improvements to Buffer Guidelines to strengthen it, ER-MR Template.
- **January 2025:** Improvements to Validation and Verification Guidelines, Process Guidelines, ER-MR Template, Glossary of Terms, and adoption of Gap Validation Report Template.
- **Later in 2025:** Further improvements to Process Guidelines.
- **Upcoming:** To accommodate new ISO requirements, and facilitate reporting efforts by REDD+ Country Participants, new updates have been made and will be presented.





## 02 Validation and Verification Guidelines

## Updates to Validation and Verification Guidelines

**Main updates** focus on principles and auditing practices, including:

- Level of assurance
- Site visit requirements
- Types of audit opinions

Main changes relevant for ER Programs:

- **Validations: now conducted with ‘limited level of assurance’** → No impact for ER Programs.
- **Site visits: Mandatory once per crediting period unless justified** → ER Programs without prior VVB site visits must schedule one for the next verification.
- **Audit opinions: Four types of opinions could be issued:** Unmodified (Positive), Modified (Qualified Positive), Adverse (Negative) and Disclaim the issuance of an opinion

ISO 14064-3 2006 → 2019

ISO 14065 2013 → 2020

ISO 14066 2011 → 2023

ISO/IEC 17029:2019

IAF MD 6 2014 → 2023

A man in a yellow shirt is rowing a white boat on a river. The background is a lush mangrove forest with many palm trees. The water is dark green and reflects the surrounding vegetation. The man is smiling and looking towards the camera. The boat has some text on its side, but it is partially obscured by the text overlay.

# 03 Buffer Guidelines

## Updates to the Buffer Guidelines (BGL) - 1

- In September 2024, the FMT conducted a series of regional webinars to socialize the new BGL for the application of the reversal risk assessment tool contained in Annex I of the BGL.
- These additions to the BGL were generally well-received, and suggestions were made to improve the risk assessment tool.
- To address these recommendations, the FMT has developed an **Interactive Risk Assessment Tool** that helps on the calculation of the Reversal Risk Set-Aside Percentage.
- The following video will walk us through the tool: [Risk Assessment Tool](#)



### Buffer Guidelines

Version 4.2.1

March 2025

## **Updates to the Buffer Guidelines (BGL) - 2**

Minor updates have been made to improve clarity:

- **Sub-indicator a) ER Program consultations' procedures, processes, and outcomes:**
  - Clarifying the terms "community representatives" and "civil society representatives"
  - Including reference to REDD+ strategies or plans
  - Clarifying that if force majeure events prevent the participation of stakeholders in consultations, previous assessments can be used instead.
- **Sub-indicator b) Performance of the Benefit Sharing Plan:**
  - Introduced clear text specifying that stakeholders are those directly receiving benefits from the BSP, refining the stakeholder definition
  - Clarified that only unresolved complaints should be considered in the assessment
- **Sub-indicator c) Performance of the FGMR:**
  - Clarified that only complaints and conflicts over land and resource rights, directly triggered or impacted by the ER Program, are relevant.
  - Clarified that the assessment should focus on complaints that remain unresolved.

## Updates to the Buffer Guidelines (BGL) - 3



- The six-month **grace period** for the entry into force of the changes presented in September 2024 (new assessment tool and Annex 1) has ended.
- **ER-MRs** that have not been submitted yet to FMT for completeness will need to use the new assessment tool.
- If any issue arises, contact FMT or the Task Team.
- Version 4.3 of the Buffer Guidelines, containing the presented changes, as well as the Excel version of the Risk Assessment Tool will be published in the coming weeks.

## Reminder – Use of Buffer ERs post-ERPA

### Uncertainty buffer

- If the Program Entity would like to maintain an uncertainty buffer reserve post-ERPA → FMT will transfer its Uncertainty Buffer ERs to an equivalent buffer account.
- Otherwise → FMT will cancel its Uncertainty Buffer ERs.

### Non permanence Buffer ERs

- The ER Program shall have in place a robust Reversal Management Mechanism that addresses the risk of Reversals beyond the ERPA (at least until 31 December 2037) and is equivalent to the FCPF Buffer.
- If such mechanism is in place → FMT will transfer the respective portion of the Buffer ERs to such other buffer reserve account.
- If otherwise → FMT will cancel its pro-rata share of Buffer ERs.

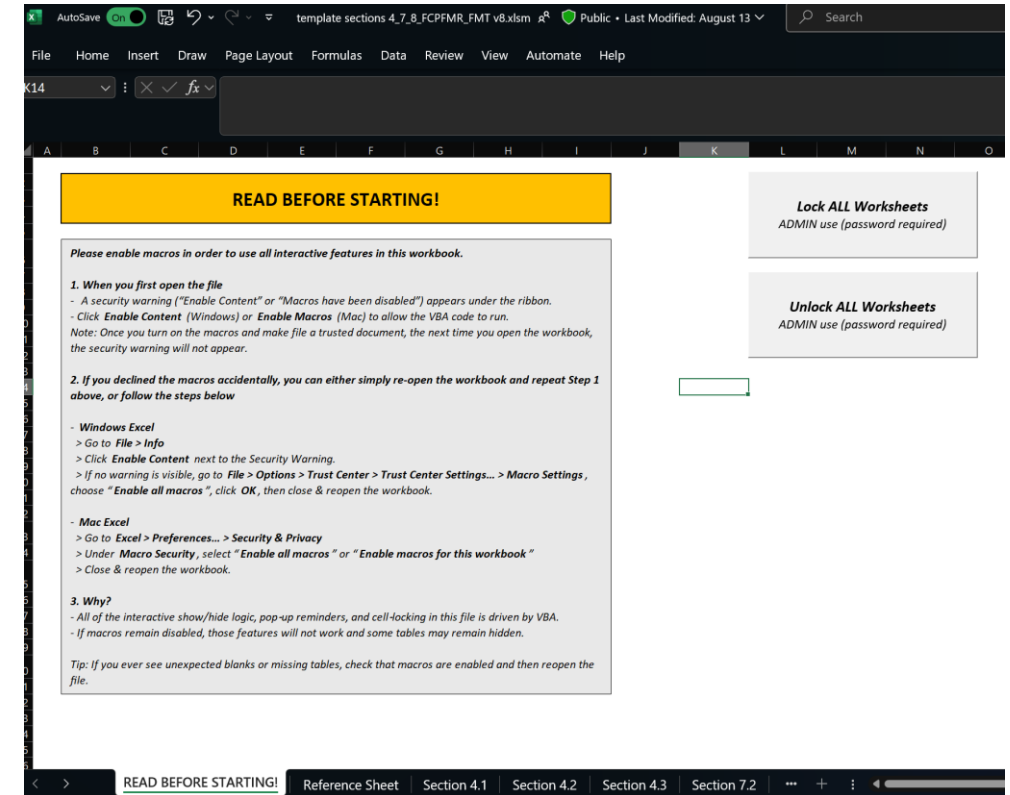
**Timeline:** Although such actions must happen before the end of the ERPA, the FMT will give Program Entities until 2028 before cancelling the units.

A photograph of a woman in a colorful striped shawl (red, orange, yellow, and blue) working in a cornfield. She is smiling and looking down at her work. The corn plants are tall and green, with some ears of corn visible. The background is a dense field of green plants.

# 04 Monitoring Report Template Tool

# Updates to Monitoring Report Template Tool - 1

- The FMT has developed a new reporting tool that provides a streamlined, automated Excel-based solution for preparing ER-MR calculations under FCPF.
- It ensures that all calculations are consistent across ER Programs, and addresses issues with internal inconsistencies caused by rounding of decimals.
- Highlights of Updates:
  - Automation of reference data, decimals, ER calculations, and reversals.
  - Visual and functional improvements for usability and consistency.
  - Full compatibility with upcoming updates to the FCPF ER-MR Word template.
  - Cell protection and VBA-based guidance.
- More details on the tool may be found in the following video: [Template Tool FCPF ER-MR 4](#)



## Updates to Monitoring Report Template Tool - 2



- This new ER-MR Template Tool will become mandatory after this webinar for all ER-MRs under FCPF.
- ER Programs undergoing verification will also need to use the new tool to ensure that there are no issues with the VVB and pre-issuance
- The tool is user-friendly, and calculations should not take more than 10 minutes to update.
- FMT is available to support REDD+ country participants in updating the calculations.
- The ER-MR Template will be updated accordingly.
- Feedback and suggestions are welcome for further refinements.



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# 05 Labelling of Removals

# Labelling of Removals

	Deforestation	If applicable, forest degradation	If applicable, enhanced removals from afforestation/ reforestation (A/R)	If applicable, enhanced removals from other activities besides A/R*	Total (tCO <sub>2-e</sub> )
Emission or removals in the Reference Level (tCO <sub>2-e</sub> )					
Emission or removals under the ER Program during the Reporting Period (tCO <sub>2-e</sub> )					
Emission Reductions during the Reporting Period (tCO <sub>2-e</sub> )					

- The **ER-MR Template enables** countries to report separately emission reductions from removals (either from afforestation / reforestation or other removal activities)
- Reporting is only required if:
  1. REDD+ Country Participant wishes to label FCPF ERs resulting from AR as ‘removals’
  2. REDD+ Country Participant is also seeking crediting for the same period under a different standard (e.g., TREES), so that appropriate discounts can be made by the other standard.
- Labeling by FMT will only be done if ERs from both deforestation and forest degradation for the relevant year are more than zero.



**Thank you!**

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**Any questions?**

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