BioReCer

Biological Resources Certifications Schemes

meo CARBON SOLUTIONS

Integration of BioReCer framework into the existing biobased certification schemes

Monica Pandey

Meo Carbon Solution GmbH

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Integration of the BioReCer framework into the established certification schemes (WP4)

Objectives

To **ensure multistakeholder engagement** in project through Biological Resources Stakeholder Platform (BRSP)

To **complement** the current bio-based value chains **certification schemes** with the proposed assessment framework

To **integrate** the BioReCer framework and guidelines into the **current biobased certification schemes**

The BioReCer Framework

A theoretical framework developed to assess the sustainability and circularity of the biological feedstocks.

This framework brings together a set of principles, criteria and requirements based on the three fundamental pillars (environmental, economic and social)

Requirements are categorized as “Basic” and “Advanced”

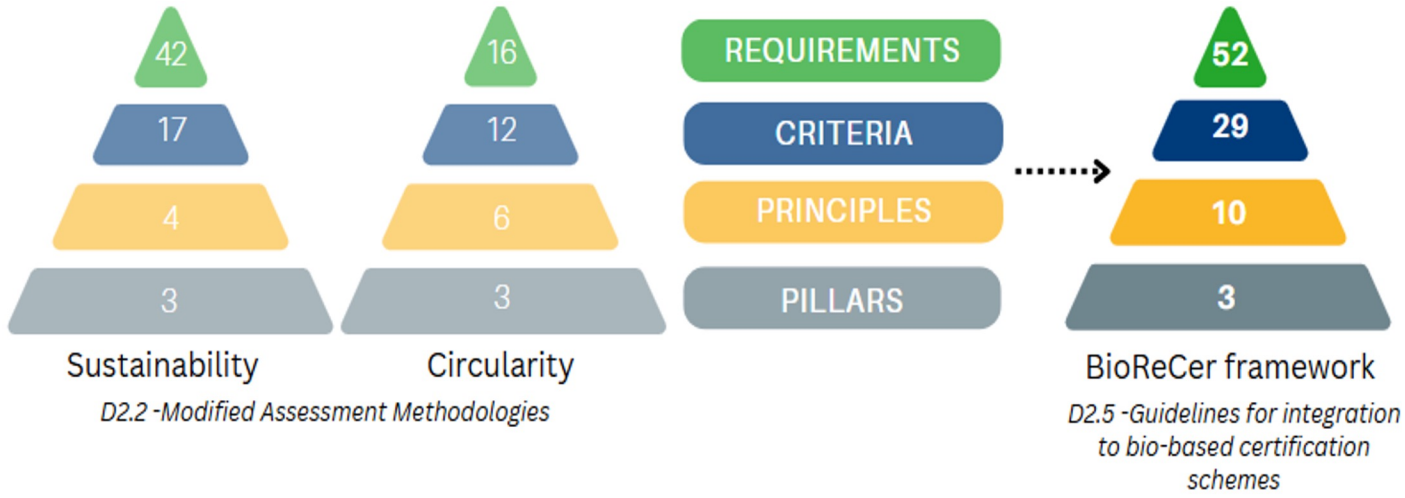


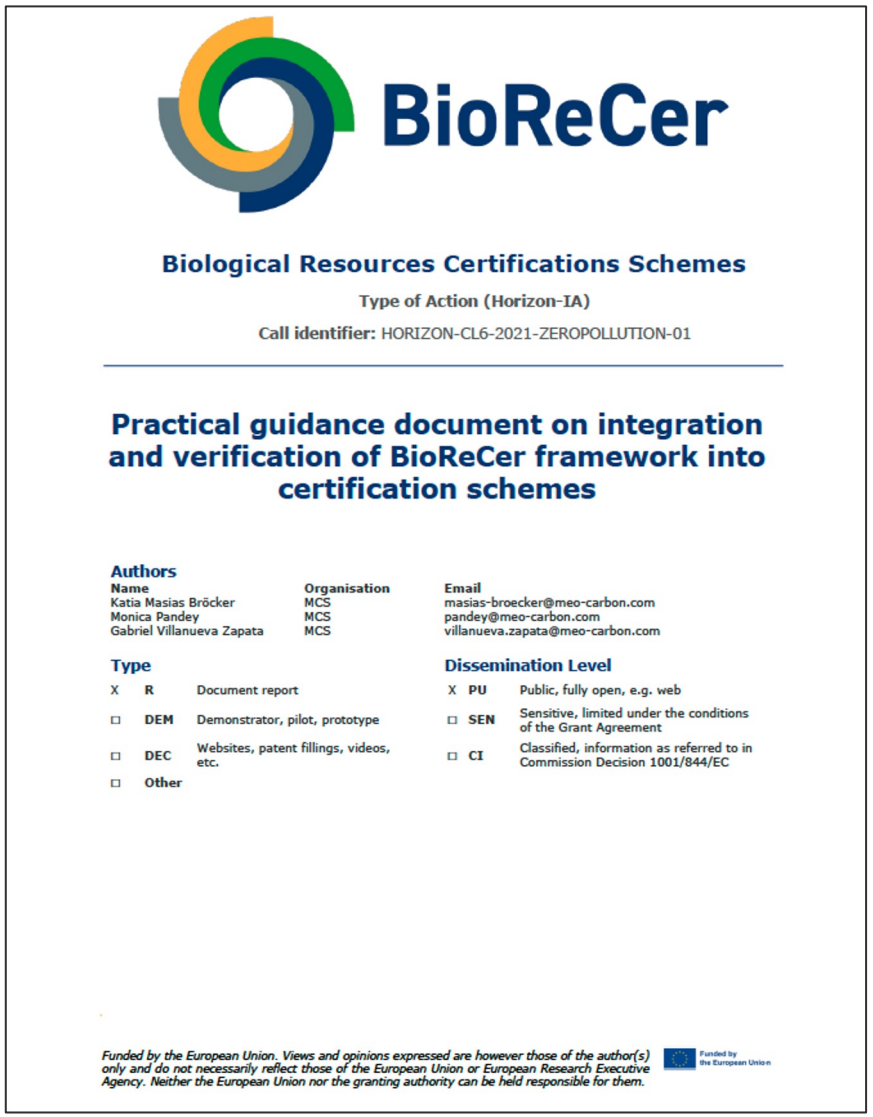
Figure: Structure of BioReCer framework

Activities and outcome of WP4

Selection of biobased certification scheme
E.g.

Benchmark the schemes against the BioReCer Framework

Development of the Practical guidance document for integration of the BioReCer Framework



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Biological Resources Certifications Schemes

Type of Action (Horizon-IA)

Call identifier: HORIZON-CL6-2021-ZEROPOLLUTION-01

Practical guidance document on integration and verification of BioReCer framework into certification schemes

Authors

Name	Organisation	Email
Katia Masias Bröcker	MCS	masias-broecker@meo-carbon.com
Monica Pandey	MCS	pandey@meo-carbon.com
Gabriel Villanueva Zapata	MCS	villanueva.zapata@meo-carbon.com

Type

X	R	Document report
□	DEM	Demonstrator, pilot, prototype
□	DEC	Websites, patent fillings, videos, etc.
□	Other	

Dissemination Level

X	PU	Public, fully open, e.g. web
□	SEN	Sensitive, limited under the conditions of the Grant Agreement
□	CI	Classified, information as referred to in Commission Decision 1001/844/EC

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BioReCer Practical Guidance document

Guideline for integration of BioReCer framework into certification schemes

- **Objective**: to evaluate compatibility, address gaps, and align the operational procedures of the BioReCer framework with those of existing certification systems
- **User:** Certification schemes

Verification guidance

- **Objective:** guide to verify the requirements defined within the of BioReCer framework.
- **User:** Certification schemes, Biobased industries, certification bodies

Audit checklist

- **Objective:** a structured tool developed for auditors to ensure that all necessary audit steps and compliance requirements are covered during the audit process.
- **User:** Certification schemes, certification bodies

Guideline for the integration of the BioReCer framework into existing certification schemes- How?

Step 1

- Assessment of requirements alignment and identification of gaps (Benchmark)

Alignment category	Description	Action
Fully aligned	The requirements of the main certification scheme meet all relevant BioReCer framework requirements.	No further action for integration is required. The current practice must be maintained.
Partially aligned	Some BioReCer requirements are met, but there are areas of non-compliance or incomplete alignment.	Identify gaps and align scheme requirements, procedures, or supporting documentation to ensure full alignment.
Not aligned	The requirements of the main certification scheme do not meet BioReCer framework requirements.	Add the new requirements, procedures, or supporting documentation for full alignment
Not applicable	The BioReCer framework requirements are not relevant for the scheme´s scope	No further action for integration is required. Document justification for non-applicability

Figure: Process for integration of BioReCer framework into current certification scheme

Guideline for integration of BioReCer framework into certification schemes

Step 1

- Assessment of requirements alignment and identification of gaps (Benchmark)

Step 2

- Integration of BioReCer requirement updating standards, audit procedures, and reporting templates to ensure consistency and compliance.

The BioReCer framework allows certification schemes to select an integration approach

BioReCer add-on: integrating the BioReCer framework as supplementary module to the existing certification scheme without altering the core structure of the original standard

BioReCer add-in: directly incorporating the BioReCer framework requirements directly into the core structure of the certification standard.

Figure: Process for integration of BioReCer framework into current certification scheme

Guideline for integration of BioReCer framework into certification schemes

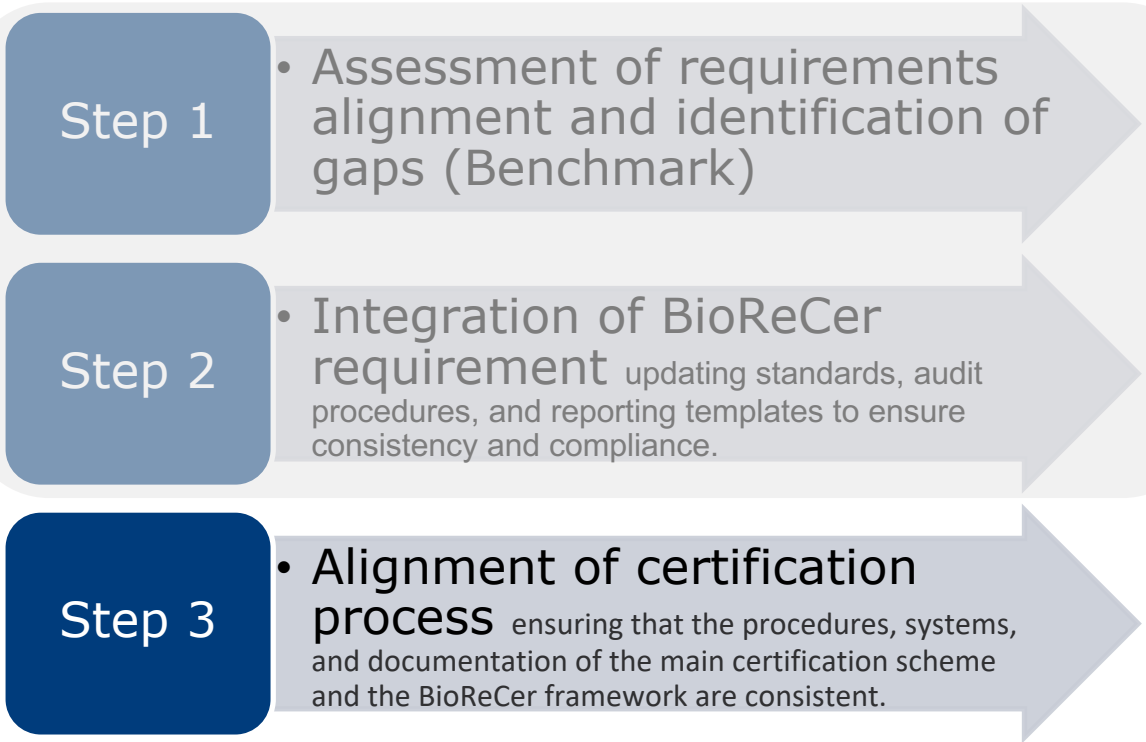

Figure: Process for integration of BioReCer framework into current certification scheme

The main certification scheme shall prepare a formal declaration or recognition document acknowledging the integration of the BioReCer framework .

The key components aligned with the certification process are as below:

- Audit process
- Reporting
- Corrective measures
- Certificates
- Integrity audit

Verification guidance

Level of compliance categorized as basic (mandatory) and advanced (enhanced)

A detailed **description of each requirement** to guide the users and prevent misinterpretation.

A set of **circularity indicators linked to the specific requirements**, providing a quantitative basis for measuring the circularity of the bio-based product.

List of corresponding **evidence and documentation** needed to verify compliance, thereby supporting a consistent and transparent assessment process.

R1.1.2. The company identifies the water sources and downstream from runoffs and discharges

Level of compliance: Basic

The company must map the water protection area that is or may be affected by the operation to identify the operation's potential/actual impact. The company establishes the water management plan that includes measures planned/taken. The measures shall align with the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) (refer to req.1.1.3) covering the operation's impact of runoffs and discharges to the water sources and downstream flows in and outside of the operation. The progress of the measures taken shall be regularly monitored. Runoffs and discharges from the operation and their impacts on the water sources and downstream shall comply with the applicable local, national, and international laws.

For the agriculture and forestry sector, the measures may include good agricultural practices such as efficient handling of fertilizers and implementing wastewater treatment.

For the aquaculture sector, it shall assess and take measures to ensure that the farm operation does not alter the salt concentration of water source and health, and welfare of farmed aquatic species are not negatively affected.

Evidence/documentation:

- EIA including impact of operation's runoff and discharge.
- Map of the water protection area affected by the operation.
- Records of the quality assessment of discharges.
- Water management plan including appropriate measures taken or planned to manage operation's runoff and discharge impact.

Figure : Example of the requirement from the verification guidance

BioReCer Audit checklist

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Note: Please refer to the "Practical Guidance Document on Integration of BioReCer Framework" for detailed description of the requirements and Annex 1 of this document for Circularity Indicators
Please do not leave any cell in Column I and J empty

Principle	Criteria	Req.No.	Requirements	BioReCer Decision	Evidence/documentation	PoO	CoC	Findings (Please do not leave this Column blank)	Conformity Yes/No/ NA
1. Protection of ecosystem	1.1 The company has functions to conserve and manage the environment	1.1.1	The company has data available about the type of sources of water use for the production process, including water reclamation	Basic	· Reports or inventory records for the water consumption, specifying the water source type and the quantity used. · Water use plan or water management plan elaborating on the water use · Permission of authority on the water use, if applicable · Documentations on formal or customary water rights in the area of operation (if applicable)	Yes	Yes		
1. Protection of ecosystem	1.1 The company has functions to conserve and manage the environment	1.1.2	The company identifies the water sources affected by runoffs and discharges	Basic	· EIA including impact of operation's run off and discharge · Map of water protection area affected by the operation · Records of the quality assessment of discharges · Water management plan including appropriate measures taken or planned to manage operation's run off and discharge impact	Yes	Yes		

TO BE FILLED BY AUDITORS

Conclusion

The project has successfully developed a practical guidance document that provides guidelines and tools for understanding and integrating sustainability and circularity requirements into the existing biobased certification schemes.

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Thank you for your attention!

Contact email: pandey@meo-carbon.com