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Carbon Markets in Ghana

From climate action to business opportunity



UKGCC

—

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Setting the Context



Who is already measuring emissions data?

Who has heard of Article 6?

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Carbon credits: The Basics



Carbon credit

What?

A tradable unit representing one metric ton of carbon dioxide (CO_2), or an equivalent amount of another greenhouse gas (GHG), reduced or removed from the Earth's atmosphere.

Types

There are two types of carbon credits:

1. Reductions
2. Removals

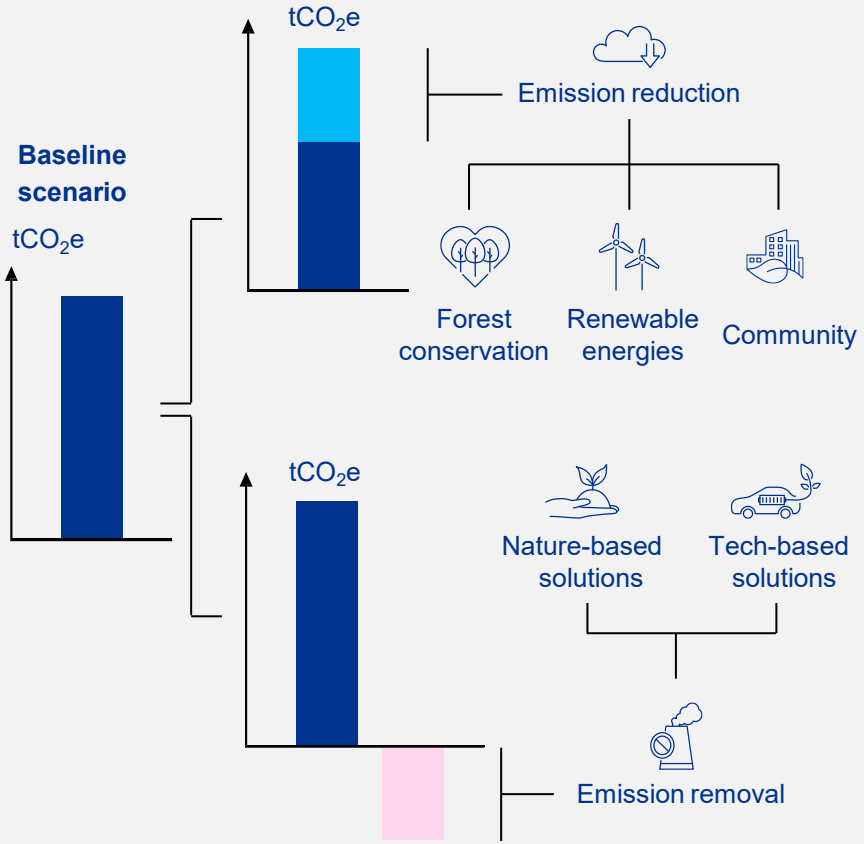
Potential uses

Compensation (or offsetting)

Action taken outside of the buyer's value chain that is counted towards its emissions reductions target.

'Mitigation contribution'

To assist developing countries to achieve their mitigation targets or broader Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (non-compensatory).



Reduction-type credits

Prevent the release of GHG emissions that would otherwise have been released into the atmosphere.

Removal-type credits

Withdrawal of GHG emissions from the atmosphere by biological processes or deliberate human activities.

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The Carbon Credit Lifecycle: From Design to Issuance

The process below provides a high-level overview of **how projects become validated and generate carbon credits**.



Project idea and Baseline

Validation / Verification Body (VVB)

Registry and Sale

Project idea and Baseline

- Define the climate intervention, e.g. methane capture from agro-waste
- Establish a baseline: what emissions would occur without the project?

Validation / Verification Body (VVB)

- Collect credible, continuous performance data
- Independent third-party review of the evidence

Registry

- Credits enter a recognised registry, the asset is created
- Buyer, price and contract convert the asset into revenue

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Carbon markets are rapidly evolving as pressure to meet Paris Agreement commitments grows

Carbon Market

Carbon Markets are a mechanism that aim to reduce GHG emissions cost-effectively by setting limits on emissions and enabling the trading of emissions units, which represent emission reductions.

Types of carbon pricing



Implicit

This form of regulation is associated with **activities** that produce carbon and are not placed directly on the emissions.

Eg: taxes on fuels such as petrol, diesel and gasoline.

Explicit

It puts a price **directly** on CO2 emissions, thereby providing an economic signal to emitters and allows them to decide to transform their activities or continue emitting by paying for their emissions.

Eg: Emissions Trading Schemes IETS.

Types of credits



Voluntary Emission Reduction (VER)

This is a type of carbon offset exchanged in voluntary markets.
1 VER is equivalent to 1 tonne of CO2e emissions.

They are created by projects which have been verified outside of the Kyoto Protocol.

Certified Emission Reduction (CER)

This type of carbon credit is issued or CDM projects.

CERs can be used by Annex 1 countries in order to comply with their emissions limits.

Types of markets



Voluntary

Voluntary Carbon Markets comprise all voluntary emissions trading schemes established to mitigate emissions and meet corporate responsibility goals, offering product or service differentiation, brand building etc. through the buying and selling of Verified Emission Reductions.

Mandatory

A mandatory market is created by the need for compliance with a regulatory mandate of an annual emissions threshold. In a cap-and-trade market, actors buy and sell Certified Emission Reduction to ensure compliance with the limit imposed on their emissions.

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The opportunity extends far beyond selling credits

Most businesses may find their best opportunity somewhere in the ecosystem, not necessarily as standalone credit generators.



For banks

Carbon markets create structured finance opportunities: project lending, offtake-backed facilities, risk products and advisory mandates. Access Bank Ghana and peers are positioned across multiple roles in this value chain.

For SMEs

Entry points include project ownership, technology supply, monitoring services, community facilitation and aggregation partnerships. Climate-finance support programmes can reduce the barrier to entry.

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Ghana's opportunity is practical and sector-specific

These sectors represent the most actionable opportunities for Ghana’s low-carbon development.

Cleaner Energy & Use

Renewable energy, industrial and commercial efficiency, cleaner cooking



Mobility

Electric fleets, mass transit and non-motorised transport



Waste & Methane

Composting, landfill-gas capture, biogas and wastewater treatment



Land & Food Systems

Agroforestry, sustainable agriculture, forest restoration and mangroves



Cooling & Industry

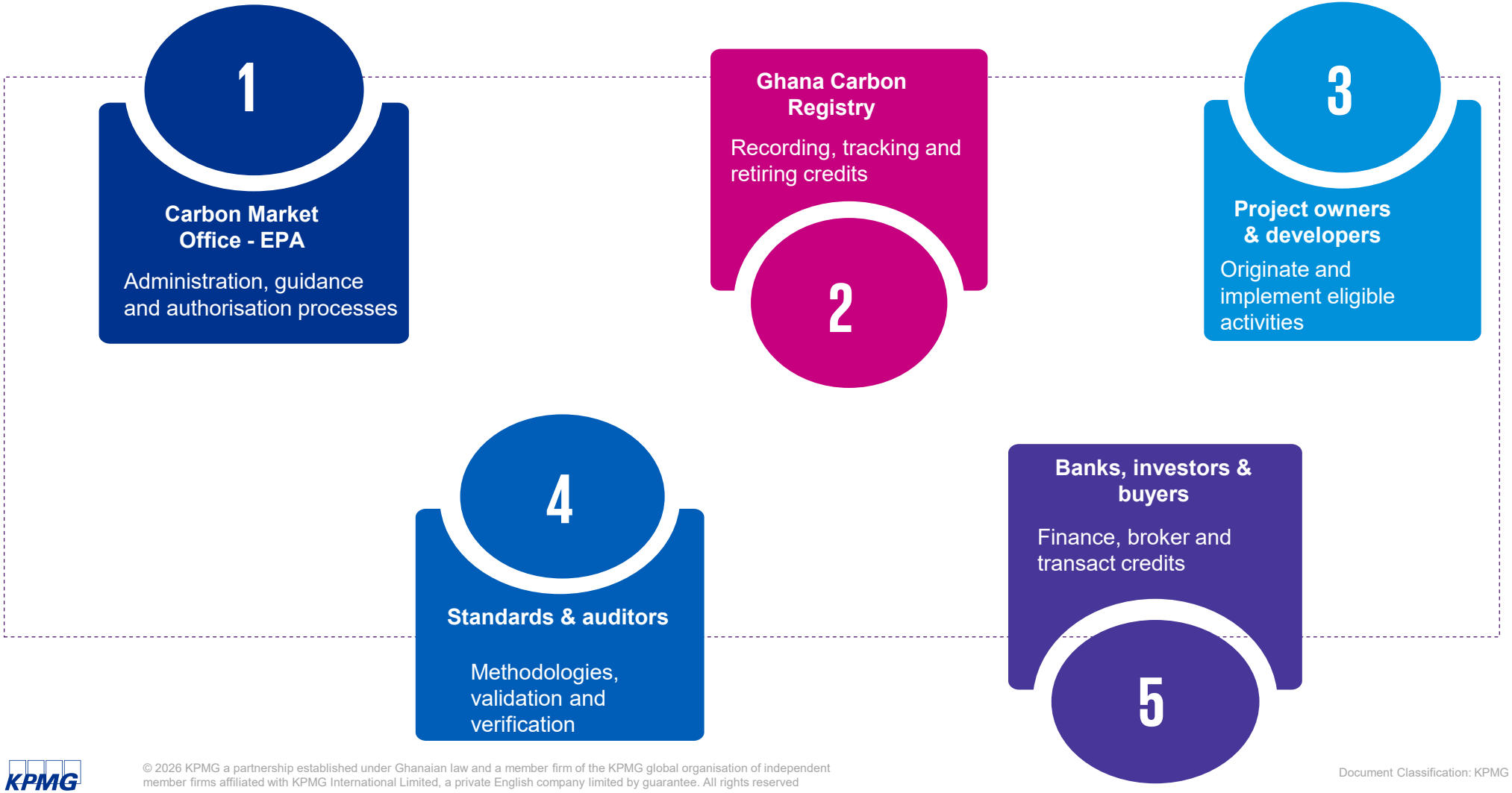
Efficient cooling, refrigerant transition and process improvements



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Ghana is building the rails for participation

Ghana is not starting from zero. A national ecosystem is already in place. Projects must work through the applicable national and market rules.



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Carbon revenue is earned only when integrity survives scrutiny

High-integrity credits protect climate outcomes, communities, buyers and the seller's reputation. The following are common reasons projects fail to generate credits or generate credits that are later challenged.

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Technical & methodological risks

- Weak or inflated baseline assumptions
- Activity is already legally required or common practice, failing additionality
- Poor or incomplete monitoring data
- Reversal or permanence risk for nature-based projects
- Double counting or competing claims on the same emission reduction

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Commercial & governance risks

- Unclear land, asset or carbon rights
- Community harm or unfair benefit sharing
- Development costs and timelines larger than expected
- Uncertain price, buyer or offtake terms at the point of sale

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Thank You!!!