

## Argentina Livestock Protocol Workgroup Meeting Notes and Takeaways

Workgroup Meeting #1 Notes – 4/11/2024 | 4:00 - 6:00 pm (ARG time)

**Reserve Attendees:** Amy Kessler, Rachel Mooney, Claudia Jurado

[Link to review recording](#)

### Workgroup Members in attendance:

Organization (alphabetically)	Name	Present (P) or Absent (A)
Bret Consultores	Rene Ibarra	P
Displaced Carbon Committee - Government of Córdoba	Marine Iriart	P
Ecosecurities	Federico Fritz	A
Génesis	Laura Garzón	P
HINS Energía	Javier Slythe	P
MEXICO2	Yulissa Camacho	P
Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Services of Córdoba	Pablo Gabutti	P
Ministry of Bioagroindustry of Córdoba	Catalina Boetto	A
National Technological University	Ariel Clebañer	P
National University of La Plata	Guillermo Piovano	P
Secretariat for Energy Transition - Ministry of Infrastructure and Public Services of Córdoba	Juan Martin Lemos	P
Secretary of Energy Planning	Pamela Zanel	P
SEGAM – Responsabilidad Ambiental	Marcos Cena	P
Subsecretary of the Nation's Environment	Agustina Cundari	P

### Agenda:

- Introduction
- Process overview
- Protocol Considerations
  - Project Definition: Eligible Livestock Categories
  - Project Ownership
  - Social and Environmental Safeguards
  - Anaerobic Baseline – Greenfields
  - Site-specific B<sub>0</sub> value
  - Open discussion
- Next steps

## Main Points of Discussion and Decisions Made:

### 1. Project definition, project ownership, and eligibility rules.

- The Reserve further reviewed requirements on project definition, project ownership, and eligibility rules.
- The Reserve discussed the documents that verifiers should review to confirm ownership of facilities in Argentina. The WG members informed that there is a National Registry to verify project ownership of livestock operations. In addition, land tenure is regulated at the provincial level. Specifically, the verifier should review the project contract to confirm carbon ownership.
- The WG clarified that most livestock operations are primarily privately owned; there was no knowledge within the WG of public property operations. No further detail is needed on communal ownership.
- The WG commented that there are livestock operations that operate through "hotelerías", where livestock producers hire a service to take care of/grow their cattle. However, the cattle are not owned by the hotelerías, so it is necessary to clarify carbon credit claims; the Reserve generally aligns the carbon credit ownership with the livestock facility owner, which can then assign that ownership to a third-party, i.e. project developer.
- The WG mentioned key contacts who could provide more information on the livestock sector and committed to follow up with the Reserve.

### 2. Anaerobic Baseline and Greenfields

- The Reserve requested studies that could demonstrate uncontrolled anaerobic digestion as common practice throughout Argentina or specific geographic regions.
- The WG confirmed that the National Entity for Sanitation Waterworks (ENOHSA) defines good practices on the design and maintenance of anaerobic waste treatment systems at the national level. Specifically, for Córdoba Province, there is Decree 847/16 - Regulation of Standards on Discharges for the Preservation of Water Resources.
- The WG commented that uncontrolled anaerobic digestion in Greenfield projects is a common practice in Argentina. The Reserve requested studies to support this claim.
- There was no further discussion or input.

### 3. Additionality and Regulatory Compliance

- The Reserve reviewed the requirements to demonstrate additionality (performance standard test and legal requirements test) and regulatory compliance.
- The WG confirmed that there are no current legal requirements impacting the project additionality.
- There was no further discussion or input.
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### 4. Eligible Livestock Categories

- The Reserve reviewed the eligible livestock categories: dairy cows, beef cows, and swine.
- The WG clarified that the National Service of Agri-Food Health and Quality (SENASA) and the Ministry of Livestock are the main sources for reviewing the eligible livestock subcategories in Argentina. The Geographic Information System for Agricultural Plots (SIMPAC) was also cited as part of the sources of information. The Reserve requests WG members to follow up with sources.
- A WG member considered the inclusion of sheep. However, it was clarified that the common practice for waste management on sheep farms is not through uncontrolled anaerobic lagoon systems. Sheep were excluded from the eligible livestock categories.
- The WG suggested clarifying the definition of livestock (i.e. *ganado*) in the Protocol, as it has been used in Argentina as a synonym for beef cattle. The Reserve will add this definition to the Protocol and request laws/regulations containing this definition (if available).

## 5. Social safeguards

- The Reserve further reviewed social safeguards: Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC); ongoing notification, participation and documentation; labor and safety, and dispute resolution.
- The WG confirmed that Law 26.727 - Agricultural Labor regulates compliance at the national level with safety and labor regulations in livestock operations. Likewise, for Cordoba, there is DECREE 617/97 - Regulation of Hygiene and Safety for Agricultural Activity. Additionally, the National Registry of Rural Workers and Employers (RENATRE) serves as the regulatory agency that Verifiers can contact to confirm regulatory compliance at the national level.
- A WG member asked about the scope of the livestock operator in FPIC and ongoing notification, participation and documentation. The Reserve will add the definition of livestock operator to the Protocol to clarify that it refers to the livestock operation owner.
- The WG commented that the sources for disclosing carbon price estimates to the livestock operator change over time, which could complicate compliance with the FPIC safeguard. The Reserve clarified this safeguard refers to reviewing recent published studies and to explain the carbon market dynamics to livestock operators.

## 6. Environmental safeguards

- The Reserve further reviewed environmental safeguards: air and water quality; mitigation of pollutants, and animal welfare.
- The WG clarified that there are separate environmental agencies and regulations in each province. Specifically for Córdoba, the Ministry of the Environment regulates and supervises compliance with environmental regulations.

## 7. Site Specific Determination of B<sub>0</sub> Value (Maximum Methane Potential)

- The Reserve requested information on milk production trends per month in order to apply the site specific B<sub>0</sub> value methodology.
- The Reserve further requested information on potential laboratories or accreditation bodies available in Argentina for the labs that could support the required analysis (BMP assays). The WG identified possible contacts and sources of information.



**Pending Questions for the Workgroup:**

- Share key contacts that could provide more information about the livestock sector.
- Share the specific sources of information to review the eligible livestock subcategories in Argentina and the required data set: typical average mass.
- Studies or datasets demonstrating that uncontrolled aerobic digestion is a common practice for existing livestock operations and greenfield projects (new livestock facilities that do not have prior manure management systems).
- Studies or datasets on monthly milk production trends.
- Information on accreditation bodies or laboratories available in Argentina to perform BMP assays.
- Laws/regulations containing the definition of livestock (i.e. *ganado*).