

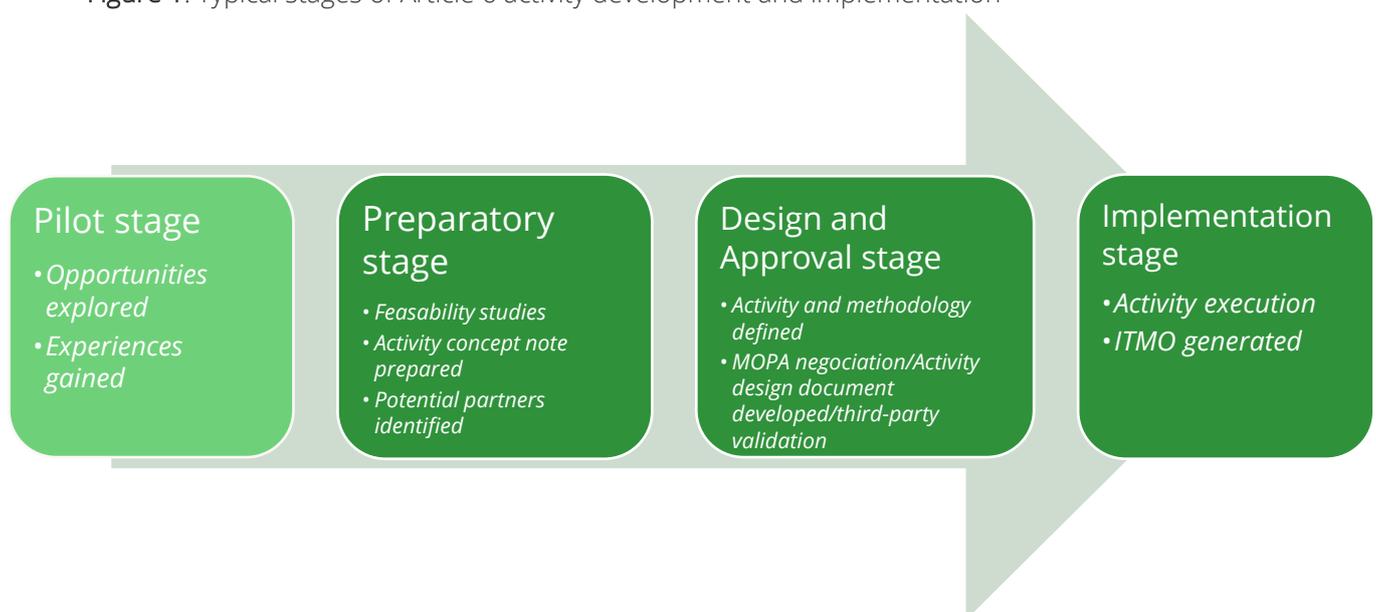
Information Note  
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# TYPICAL STAGES OF ARTICLE 6 ACTIVITIES

For government stakeholders, mapping potential Article 6 activities plays a pivotal role in gaining a deeper grasp of a country's mitigation efforts and engaging the private sector. This exercise, which also requires a thorough understanding of the distinct **project development cycles** under **Article 6.2** and **Article 6.4 (PACM)**, can uncover untapped opportunities within Article 6, fostering greater participation in international carbon markets.

Article 6 activities encompass any project, programme, or sectoral mitigation activity governed by and complying with the Article 6 rules, which go through various stages of development. While Article 6.2 has been more widely applied to cooperative approaches, the Paris Agreement Crediting Mechanism (PACM) under Article 6.4 is still in its early stages of operationalisation. Both market-based approaches follow distinct activity cycles, and understanding these differences is crucial for effectively coordinating engagement with stakeholders and ensuring alignment at the national level.

Figure 1. Typical stages of Article 6 activity development and implementation



Source: Authors

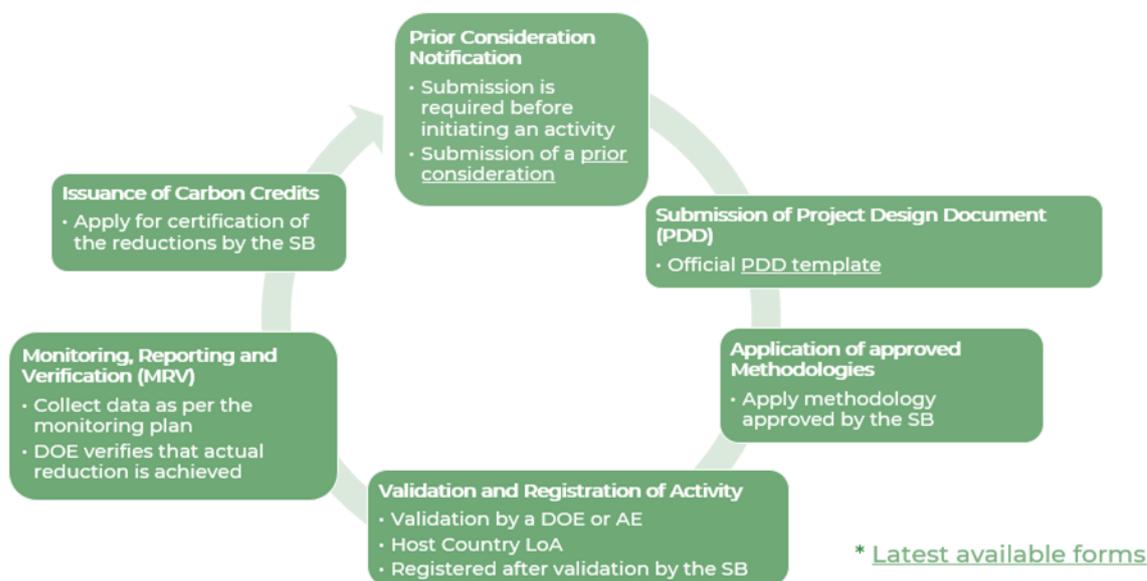
It is important to note that not all Article 6 activities necessarily undergo a **pilot stage** or can be classified as pilot activities. Pilots refer to the initial Article 6 activities in a country or an activity that is the first of its kind, are aimed at exploring opportunities and building experience. Once experience is acquired, and the Article 6 readiness strategy becomes more consolidated, the general term “Article 6 activities” is preferred.

During **the preparatory stage**, an Article 6.2 activity typically exists at the mitigation activity idea note (MAIN) level. At this stage, preliminary feasibility studies may have been conducted to assess its eligibility under Article 6 and the requirements for implementation (e.g., such as regulatory, financial, technical aspects, stakeholder interactions). From a host country perspective, bilateral agreements should be in place, or at least prepared, to ensure that buyer countries are available to acquire potential ITMOs generated by the activity.

When referring to the PACM, this stage includes the additional step of a Prior Consideration Notification, a critical step to submit the description of the activity via an office form depending on the type of project (For A6.4 projects, A6.4-FORM-AC-013. For A6.4 programme of activities, A6.4-FORM-AC-014. For A6.4 component projects) available by clicking this [link](#).

**Figure 2** below provides an overview of key steps involved in the development of activities under the PACM.

Figure 2: Simplified figure of the steps for developing an Article 6.4 activity under the PACM.



Source: Perspectives Climate Group

**The activity design and approval stages** are essential for comprehensively developing and describing all relevant aspects of the activity, ensuring that it aligns with Article 6 requirements and can be effectively implemented in the local, regional and national context. This primarily involves providing a detailed description of the activity, the methodology for calculating baseline and mitigation potential, the additionality of the activity, the institutional arrangements, the alignment with the NDC and sustainable development objectives of the host

country, as well as instruments to address risks and barriers. Once the A6.2 activity is fully designed, negotiations for the mitigation outcome purchase agreement (MOPA) must be initiated, defining the terms and conditions for purchasing ITMOs generated by the activity. This phase formally begins when investments in mitigation activities are made, and/or a mitigation activity design document (MADD) is developed, along with third-party validation and compliance with monitoring, reporting, and verification (MRV) activities. It may also involve a Letter of Intent, the host country's approval of the activity and a pre-authorisation letter for ITMOs to be generated under the activity.

In the case of an Article 6.4 activity, the developer must submit a Project Design Document, from the templates provided by the SBM of the PACM. Here are the **design document** forms you might need:

- A6.4-FORM-AC-020. Project Design Document Form: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)
- A6.4-FORM-AC-041. Programme of Activity Design Document Form: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)
- A6.4-FORM-AC-061. Component Project Design Document Form: [Word](#) | [PDF](#)

Lastly, **the full implementation stage** is characterised by the execution of the activity. This eventually results in generating mitigation outcomes and their authorisation renders them to become ITMOs. This stage may also encompass the actual transfer of ITMOs and the implementation of corresponding adjustments by the host country. It is worth noting that only a limited number of Article 6 activities have progressed to the full implementation stage. Nevertheless, more activities will transition to full implementation with the guidelines carved out for fully operationalising Article 6 mechanisms.

For the PACM, once that the DOE verifies that the actual reductions have been achieved, the application to obtain the certification of Emission Reductions for the activity can be submitted to the SB.

Considering the various stages when mapping Article 6 activities can enhance the awareness of national Article 6 focal points of opportunities for engagement in Article 6. It provides insights into the level of involvement and interest of private actors in participating in such activities. By accessing the [Global Carbon Project Database](#), you can track projects underpinning international cooperation under Article 6.

Moreover, the [Article 6 pipeline](#) managed by the UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre (UNEP-CCC) can be a starting point for activity mapping. The pipeline is an Excel-based repository for Article 6 activities. The transition to the full implementation stage is contingent on the successful transfer of ITMOs and the application of corresponding adjustments.

Authors: Annika Wallengren, Kaja Weldner, Ingrid Wawrynowicz, Stephan Hoch (Perspectives Climate Group)

