



Joint Implementation (JI) General Information

What is Joint Implementation?

JI is the project-based mechanism referred to in Article 6 of the Kyoto Protocol. JI stimulates investment in emission reduction projects, while giving industrialized countries and economies in transition some flexibility in how they meet their emission reduction or limitation targets.

It differs from the clean development mechanism (CDM) in that it represents a way for Annex 1 Parties (with a commitment inscribed in Annex B of the Kyoto Protocol) to take part in emission reduction projects or a project that enhances removals by sinks in the territory of another Annex 1 Party (with an Annex B commitment). The resulting emission reduction units (ERUs) from these projects can be counted toward meeting their own Kyoto Protocol's targets.

What are the benefits of JI?

- JI gives industrialized countries and economies in transition some flexibility in how they meet their emission reduction or limitation targets under the Kyoto Protocol.
- JI provides real emission reductions to mitigate climate change. Projects undergo a public registration and issuance process in order to prove the emission reductions would not have occurred without the projects.
- JI spurs private sector involvement and funding in emission reduction activities.
- JI has done what it was designed to do: it has incentivised investment in projects that reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and has helped bring about low-cost GHG reductions.
- JI has shown its potential to involve and improve. The potential of the mechanism has not yet been fully realised; much growth potential remains.

Two tracks, one goal – emission reduction

All JI projects take place in one of the two tracks available. The tracks essentially differ in countries' eligibility and oversight. Under Track 1, the host Party may verify emission reductions or enhancements of removals from a JI project as being additional according to international regulations (set out in decision 9/CMP.1) as well as its own rules. Under Track 2, the project is implemented under the supervision of the Joint Implementation Supervisory Committee (JISC) in accordance with the verification procedure defined in the JI guidelines.

Requirements a host Party must meet in order to qualify to host JI projects:

- It must be a Party to the Kyoto Protocol;
- It must have a calculated and recorded assigned amount;
- It must have a national registry for tracking these assigned amounts.

Parties that meet these requirements can host Track 2 JI projects. In order to host Track 1 projects, a Party must additionally:

- Have an appropriate national system for estimating emissions by sources and removals by sinks;
- Have annually submitted the most recent inventory required;
- Have an accurate and submitted accounting of assigned amount.

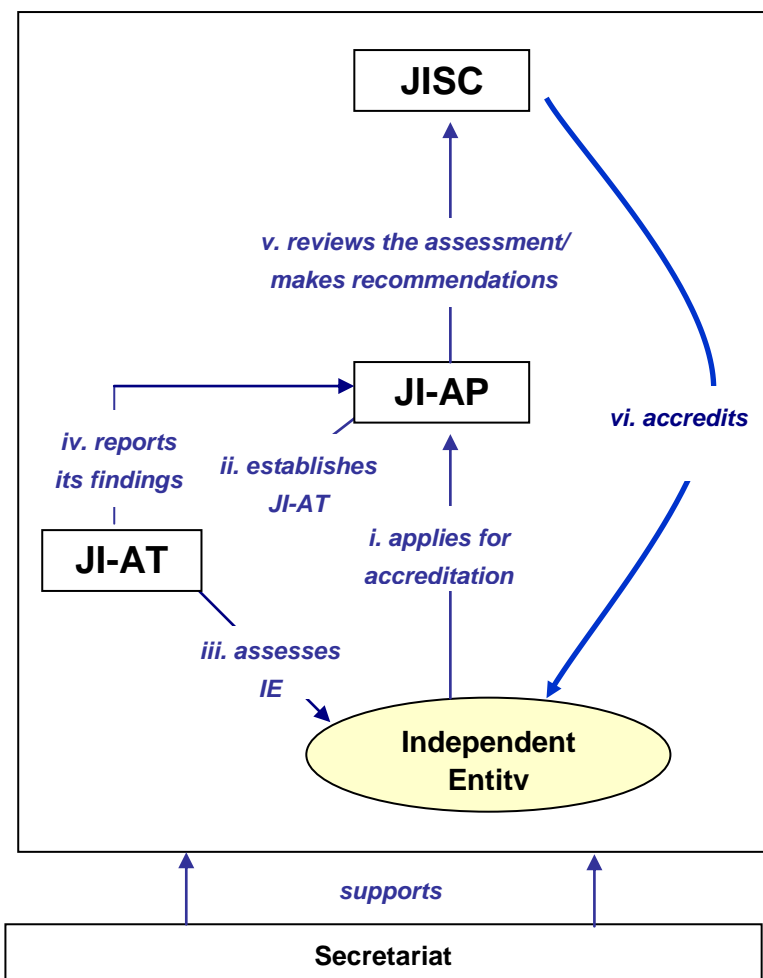
Accreditation Process in Joint Implementation

The JI Track 2 process requires independent entities (third parties) to assess whether the project design meets all JI project requirements (determination) and that the reported GHG emission reductions or enhancements of removals were really achieved (verification). To perform such functions, these independent entities (IEs) must be accredited by the JISC, and are then granted the status of **accredited independent entities (AIEs)**.

To obtain AIE designation, IEs must successfully complete a stringent accreditation process, undergoing various assessments to demonstrate compliance with all JI accreditation requirements. These include competence, impartiality, quality management systems, confidentiality, financial stability and arrangements to cover legal and financial liabilities.

The JI accreditation process was launched in November 2006. As of May 2013, 15 IEs have completed the accreditation process and have had initial accreditation granted. A list of those entities can be found on the JI website: <http://ji.unfccc.int/AIEs/listIL.html>.

Figure 1. OVERVIEW OF THE ACREDITATION PROCESS



Verification bodies accredited under the CDM (called “designated operational entities” or DOEs) that have applied for JI accreditation may act provisionally as AIEs under the JI Track 2 process until the JISC takes a final decision on their application.

An accreditation term is valid for five years. Afterwards, AIEs may go through the re-accreditation process. Accreditation is based on sectoral scopes applied for both determination and verification functions. During their term, AIEs must continue to meet the JI accreditation requirements. Failing to do so will result in the suspension or withdrawal of accreditation by the JISC.

The JI accreditation process is implemented by the JISC, which is supported by the Joint Implementation Accreditation Panel (JI-AP), a number of joint implementation assessment teams (JI-ATs) and the UNFCCC secretariat.

For more information on the JI accreditation process, please visit the following website: <http://ji.unfccc.int/AIEs/index.html>