April 2024 VCS Program Updates – Overview | Q&A Report

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This Q&A report summarizes the questions that were addressed with live or written answers by Verra during the Q&A session of the 'April 2024 VCS Program Updates - Overview' webinar on 25 April, 2024. Questions that were answered live can found in the recording of the webinar available on the Verra website. For any further questions related to the topic of the webinar, please email programupdates@verra.org

#	Question	Asker Name	Answer
1	The announcment is a bit confusing as it alludes to allowing non-native species monoculture, but upate doesn't provide guidance on this. What is Verra's possition on non-native species, monculture, and invasive species? The invasive species content in the update was contradictory in places.	Anonymous Attendee	version 4.6 of the VCS Standard included the update on safeguards related to non-native monocultures. https://verra.org/verra-releases-version-4-6-of-the-vcs-standard/ The focus of this webinar is the updates included in version 4.7 of the VCS Standard. Projects are only allowed to use non-native monocultures if they satisfy all safeguard requirements and other program and methodology requirements
2	Why has Verra weakened its enviromental Safeguards guidance from what it announced in 4.5? Non-native species and monoculture are harmful (other than for already established IFM). It is not easy to contain harm. Invasive species are spread through gravity, wind, water, animals, etc. Allowing this would not be best practice. Why has Verra weakened its stance on environmental Safeguards? Environmental integrity and biodiversity are the flip side of climate change - not separate climate benefits. IPCC definition for ARR only allows native species.	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
3	can u send all the slides, as well as the recording?	paddy gourlay	The recording and the slide deck for this webinar will be made available on the Verra website later today: https://verra.org/vcs-program-updates-address-corsia-conditions-clarify-icvcm-alignment/
4	What is the definition of "habitat connectivity"? Acres? How large of an area? How do we verify this?	Phillip Cunningham	Thanks for this question. The size of the area dedicated for habitat connectivity is entirely dependent on the area and ecosystem(s) where the project is located, and specifically on whether the project has presence of rare, threatened, and/or endangered species.
5	From VCS 4.5 to 4.6 and onwards it was taken out the requirement of no conversion of native ecosystems 10 years prior for ARR projects. Under VCS 4.7, is a project elegible if it was deforested or converted less than 10 years to now?	Daniel Blum	Answered live - see recording
6	Great Inititative by you all	Shakeb Elahi	Thank you for this feedback! We really appreciate you taking the time to join us today.
7	the standard version 4.7 is ineffect immediately whereas for template (4.4 version) the timeline is from Jan 2025. Can PD be submitted in version 4.3 for projects before 1st Jan 2025?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording

8	any update on sharing of revenue generated in form of carbon credits with community in case of community based projects as also required by ICVCM	Anonymous Attendee	Yes, we see that the VCS Program requirements related to benefit or revenue sharing are aligned with the current ICVCM requirements. This update included updates to our project templates to ensure that these requirements are adequately reported on.
9	Can the project start date be prior to the registration date? Is it possible that there are VCUs issued prior to the registration date? Is there a time limit for defining the project start date?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
10	Under the pilot CORSIA phase, not all VCS methodologies were eligible (e.g., some of the ARR methodologies were not eligible). Under the first phase of CORSIA (2024-2026) does the VCS anticipate all of its methodologies to be eligible (specifically VM0047)?	Andrew Butt	Answered live - see recording
11	Under the pilot CORSIA phase, not all VCS methodologies were eligible (e.g., some of the ARR methodologies were not eligible). Under the first phase of CORSIA (2024-2026) does the VCS anticipate all of its methodologies to be eligible (specifically VM0047)?	Andrew Butt	Answered live by Justin, thank you
12	Under the VM0048, the forest degradation (AUDeg) module is not included, it is a serious aspect w.r.t forest protection, by when can we expect the module to be added?	Indradeep Das	Answered live - see recording
13	de-registration with other program will also include selling of environmental attributes not directly in form of GHG but in terms of renewable energy as in case of lot of countries in form of domestic renewable energy certification schemes for e.g. YEK-G in case of Turkey, REC in India, or green credits in case of China	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
14	ICAO has expressed that the risk of revocation of Corresponding Adjustments is a concern to allowing standards to supply for CORSIA- how does Verra plan to mitigate this risk	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
15	what PD and MR templates should be used for submissions prior to 01 Jan 2025	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
16	What are Verra's expectation for V/VBs checking safeguards of industrial projects that take place on private property carried out by private companies? What is the boundary for assessing who stakeholders are?	Phillip Cunningham	Answered live - see recording
17	Thank you for highlighting how you have addressed point b) of the TAB's further actions requested of the programme. How have you addressed the action regarding a 'compensation mechanism' in point c) iv? Full wording below of c) iv. : Put in place procedures for the program, or proponents of the activities it supports, to compensate for, replace, or otherwise reconcile double-claimed mitigation associated with units used under the CORSIA which the host country's national accounting focal point or designee otherwise attested to its intention to not double-claim, such that double claiming does not occur between the airline and the host country of the emissions reduction activity.	Luke Chauvineau	Answered live - see recording
18	Will VCS be eligible under the CORSIA with these updates? Did you have any communication with TAB of CORSIA in order to align the VCS with the CORSIA?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording

19	Is there any minimum time period after the last date of issuance for a project to be inactive?	Shreya Kunj	Answered live - see recording
20	Regarding CORSIA phase 1 approval, could you please clarify how Verra plans to address potential risks from revocation of LoAs by host countries? It seemed to be a sticking point for ICAO	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
21	Just wanted to clarify if the VM0007 REDD+ v1.7 methodology was submitted and if yes what the status / expected timeline for ICVCM CCP approval is	Niklas Jehle	Answered live - see recording
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23	When can we expect VERRA to be fully CORSIA eligible?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
24	VM0047 is one of the most complex yet comprehensive methodology, would be useful for project developers if Verra can conduct a workshop surrounding issues/queries on VM47.	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
25	VM0047 is one of the most complex yet comprehensive methodology, would be useful for project developers if Verra can conduct a workshop surrounding issues/queries on VM47.	Anonymous Attendee	Here is the link to the webinar that Verra held: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=det3m42HMdk
26	Will Verra be doing any regular training the VVB's	Shakeb Elahi	To find out about VVB training, I recommend reaching out to our Auditing and Accreditation Team at auditing@verra.org
27	Do you have a list of eligible methodologies for the 2024-2026 phase? If so, where can it be found?	Anonymous Attendee	You can find information about VCS methodologies, including a list of active methodologies and a list of methodologies under development that are open for public comment, here: https://verra.org/methodologies-main/#vcs-methodologies
28	Since Verra anticipated having data for all jurisdictions with existing REDD projects by January 1, 2025- 1) Is this timeline on track? 2) When can we expect the activity data availability of asian countries such as India, Bangladesh etc?	Harshit C	This question can be directed to info@verra.org or forestcarbon@verra.org
29	Will the compensation mechanism be akin to something like ACR has included? Risk profile basis OECD risk ratings? If so, will a CORSIA buffer pool be introduced?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
30	Is there a timeline for when Verra expects its CORSIA guidance to be ready for the ICAO to review?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
31	Regarding CORSIA eligible methodologies: is there a list of the methodologies that you have submitted to CORSIA for use in the 2024-2026 phase?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording

32	What is meant by project request date? Listing request or registration request as mentioned by 1 jan 2025?	Anonymous Attendee	'All project requests' refers to all project requests submitted to the Verra Registry, including listing requests or registration approval requests.
33	Does Verra plan to publicly consult with PDs on the CAs revocation compensation before submitting to ICAO?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
34	For the new combined VCS/CCB template that is not yet out, when will it be obligatory?	Tom Van Loon	These will be available shortly and will have the same effective date as the standalone VCS project templates of 1 January 2025 for all project requests, thank you.
35	Apologies if this has been answered but can you clarify if there are any CORSIA guidelines specific to new project types (as in new VCS methodologies)?	Jules Fogarty	Answered live - see recording
36	May I check if a project already received LOA and if VERRA receive ICAO approval, will the project need to propose to VERRA an acceptable compensation package before being tag Corsia Phase 1 eligible?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
37	I just joined the Webinar. Can you share the recording later?	Tomoya Hasegawa	Welcome! Yes, the webinar recording and slide deck will be made available on the Verra website later today: https://verra.org/vcs-program-updates-address-corsia-conditions-clarify-icvcm-alignment/
38	Do you think VERRA will be able to tag projects with CORSIA phase 1 eligible credits by end of 2024	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
39	For Agricultural Land Management projects with VM0042 is there a requirement to define stakeholders beyond the land-owner or tenant implementing the practice change? With the new safeguards measures we'd like to be more clear on in farming the extent of stakeholder engagement that is expected on private land.	Anonymous Attendee	Thanks for the question. There are definitely cases where relevant stakeholders expand beyond the land owner or tenant, especially when it comes to ensuring the project causes no net harm. For instance, now that in the new version of the VCS standard we require to minimize the release of chemical pesticides and fertilizers, the release may go beyond the project boundary (farm in this case), so it is imperative that the project proponent maps all the relevant stakeholders, especially those that may be at risk from the implementation of project activities.
40	If a project's LOA is revoked will the project get untagged as CORSIA eligible?	Anonymous Attendee	Answered live - see recording
41	World Bank Safeguards which are considered best pratice do not allow for use of WHO banned chemicals and pesticides. Some are also banned in host countries. Update allows for banned chemicals to be used as per its current wording as long as it is "minimized". Why is this guidance on this weaker than established best practices?	Anonymous Attendee	Verra also does not allow the use of banned chemical and pesticides, this is stated in VCS requirement "3.1.4 Projects and the implementation of project activities shall not lead to the violation of any applicable law, regardless of whether or not the law is enforced."