

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS TO VM0033 METHODOLOGY FOR TIDAL WETLAND AND SEAGRASS RESTORATION, V2.0

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This document provides corrections and clarifications applicable to *VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration, v2.0*. Such errata and clarifications are effective on the dates provided in the table below. Project proponents and validation/verification bodies (VVBs) shall apply and interpret *VM0033, v2.0* consistent with the clarifications set out in this document.

These corrections and clarifications will be incorporated into the next issued version of the methodology.

Correction/ Clarification	Description	Section Reference	Effective Date
Clarification 1	Clarification that the VCS <i>AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool</i> must be used to assess the risk of erosion and submergence due to sea level rise and resulting impacts on carbon stocks in the project scenario	Sections 5.2.3, 8.2.2, 8.2.4.1, and 8.2.4.2.1	1 January 2024
Correction 1	Removed text that incorrectly states that project area cannot be changed during the project crediting period	Section 5.2.3	Immediately

1 CLARIFICATION 1

Clarification:

The latest version of the *VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (NPRT)* must be used to assess the risk of erosion and submergence due to sea level rise and resulting impacts on carbon stocks in the project scenario (see Sections 5.2.3, 8.2.2, 8.2.4.1, and 8.2.4.2.1).

Background:

The VCS Program assesses the risk of non-permanence in AFOLU projects using the AFOLU NPRT. Verra released a new version of the AFOLU NPRT on 29 August 2023 that includes predicted impacts of sea level rise on carbon stocks in coastal WRC projects. The NPRT requires projects to deposit a percentage of credits into a pooled buffer account which may be drawn upon in the case of a loss event (e.g., submergence of carbon stocks due to sea level rise). Where a net reversal occurs, buffer credits are canceled from the buffer pool to cover the loss and projects are required to replenish the buffer as described in the *VCS Standard* and *Registration and Issuance Process*.

The use of the AFOLU NPRT will replace the existing procedures within VM0033 to quantify impacts from erosion and submergence due to sea level rise in the project scenario (Sections 8.2.2, 8.2.4.1, and 8.2.4.2.1). Projects will still need to assess the potential for wetland migration due to sea level rise and plan for the potential expansion of the project area landward.

2 CORRECTION 1

Correction 1:

The first paragraph of section 5.2.3 of the methodology should read as:

When defining geographic project boundaries and strata, the project proponent must consider expected relative sea level rise and the potential for expanding the project area landward to account for wetland migration, inundation and erosion. ~~The project area cannot be changed during the project crediting period.~~

Background:

VCS Standard. V4.4, Section 3.11.4(5) states the following: “WRC projects located in a coastal zone shall consider the impact of expected sea level rise on wetland migration (e.g., the potential for landward expansion of the wetland area) when establishing the project area. Where it is not possible to include the entire area expected to be impacted by landward expansion of the wetland area at validation, coastal WRC projects may add land to the project area after the first verification to accommodate wetland migration due to sea level rise, following the requirements for a project description deviation as set out in Section 3.20.”

Thus, projects using VM0033 may add new areas after the first verification to accommodate potential landward migration of coastal ecosystems due to sea level rise.