Verified Carbon Standard
A VERRA STANDARD

Mitigation Outcome Type Labels Guidance

22 March 2024

v1.2

ABOUT VERRA

Verra sets the world's leading standards for climate action and sustainable development. We build standards for activities as diverse as reducing deforestation, to improving agricultural practices, to addressing plastic waste, and to achieving gender equality. We manage programs to certify that these activities achieve measurable high-integrity outcomes. And we work with governments, businesses, and civil society to advance the use of these standards, including through the development of markets. Everything we do is in service of increasingly ambitious climate and sustainable development goals – and an accelerated transition to a sustainable future.

Verra's certification programs include the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program and its Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) framework, the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) Program, the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) Program, and the Plastic Waste Reduction Program.

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1 INTRODUCTION

Effective 29 August 2023, labels may be applied to distinguish VCUs that result from project activities leading to GHG emission reductions (reductions) and those that lead to carbon dioxide removals (removals). Projects may follow the procedures and equations in the applied methodology to report their reductions and removals separately, in accordance with the VCS Program rules. VCUs which have been verified as reductions or removals may apply the reduction or removal label at issuance.

2 ELIGIBILITY

Verified removals and reductions may be eligible for a 'GHG Emissions Reduction' or 'Carbon Dioxide Removal' label at VCU issuance.

Already issued VCUs may also be eligible for labels. Accountholders may request retroactive labels only for projects using 100% GHG emission reduction or carbon dioxide removal methodologies.

At this time, only projects using methodologies listed as eligible for the labels on the respective methodology page of the Verra website may request the labels at this time. Verra will revise methodologies that include both reductions and removals in the coming months to add equations distinguishing reductions from removals and enable labelling. Registry functionality to enable labelling of VCUs from projects that include both reductions and removals is also under development.

This label is optional for all VCS projects.

3 PROCESS

To receive a 'GHG Emissions Reduction' or 'Carbon Dioxide Removal' VCU label, the Verra Registry Accountholder for the project requests the label at VCU issuance under 'Additional Certifications' on the project's Verification Summary page.

Note: To request a VCU label for projects using a methodology which is eligible for both reduction and removal labels, the Accountholder must make separate issuance requests for each type. Contact the registry team at registry@verra.org for assistance in adding labels to each issuance.

To request a retroactive label for VCUs that have already been issued, contact the registry team at registry@verra.org.

4 EXAMPLE MITIGATION OUTCOME TYPES

Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR): The increased carbon stock due to CO_2 absorption from the atmosphere and carbon sequestration in tree biomass is a removal.

Improved Forest Management (IFM): The avoided decline of existing carbon stocks that would result in the release of carbon to the atmosphere in the baseline scenario is an emission reduction. The carbon stock increase due to CO_2 absorbed from the atmosphere by additional growth from the improved forest management is a removal.

Biochar: Carbon transferred from short-term carbon pools (e.g., biomass residues decaying or burned in the baseline scenario) to long-term carbon pools (i.e., biochar in soil) is a removal.

Enhanced weathering: Acceleration of the natural weathering process where CO_2 from the atmosphere reacts with minerals is a removal. CO_2 captured from an emission source by reactions with minerals is a reduction.

Carbon capture and storage: Capturing CO_2 from the atmosphere -- either directly through direct air capture technologies, or through bioenergy carbon capture technologies -- and durably storing it is a removal. Capturing CO_2 emissions from fossil fuel combustion flue gases or industrial processes and durably storing it is an emission reduction.

Peatland restoration: Rewetting drained peatlands to prevent the release of GHG emissions into the atmosphere is an emission reduction. The carbon stock increase due to CO_2 absorbed from the atmosphere by additional growth of the conserved or restored aboveground vegetation is a removal.

Blue carbon (e.g., mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass): Avoiding GHG emissions by preventing degradation or the conversion of tidal wetlands is an emission reduction. Enhancing, creating, or managing hydrological conditions in a degraded wetland to increase biomass and soil organic carbon is a removal.

APPENDIX 1 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v1.0	29 August 2023	Initial version released.
v1.1	8 September 2023	Main updates (all effective immediately) include: • Clarified language in Eligibility section • Clarified language in Example Mitigation Outcome Types section • Corrected mitigation outcome type for VM0043 • Added CDM methodologies classified as removals
v1.2	21 March 2024	Main updates (all effective immediately) • Updated process guidance to specify that Accountholders should contact the Verra Registry team to request mixed reduction and removal labels at VCU issuance. • Revised the REDD example to Improved Forest Management in the Example Mitigation Outcomes Types section. • Removed Appendix 1 (List of Methodologies by Mitigation Outcome Type) from this guidance document and moved it to the VCU Labels page on the Verra website to enable more frequent updates to this list.

VERRA

Standards for a Sustainable Future

Verified Carbon Standard

Jurisdictional & Nested REDD+

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards

Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

Plastic Waste Reduction Standard