



# VCS FACTS

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Program

## DEMONSTRATING IMPACT

Across the world, projects validated and verified to the CCB Standards reduce emissions and improve lives.

### Benefits Beyond Carbon

More than 1.3 billion indigenous peoples and local communities depend on wild and protected lands. If not mindfully designed, carbon projects may restrict their access to traditional land and resources, degrade traditions and cause conflicts, or damage native ecosystems. On the other hand, well-designed carbon projects can improve livelihoods, create employment, protect traditional cultures and endangered species, and help secure tenure to lands and resources, all while still making a key contribution to combating climate change.

### Independent Validation and Verification

Projects are assessed against the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards through a rigorous and transparent process conducted by an independent auditor that starts with validation of project design followed by verification of project implementation and delivery of benefits. Project documentation and full audit reports are published on the VCS project database. During each audit, comments are invited from the public before the auditor conducts a site visit to investigate the project, address comments and meet with local communities.

### Comprehensive and Objective Criteria

The CCB Standards provide comprehensive and objective criteria to assess and identify agriculture, forestry and other land use projects that effectively address social and environmental risks and deliver significant benefits to local communities, biodiversity and the climate. The criteria ensure that projects:

- Identify all stakeholders and ensure their full and effective participation
- Recognize and respect customary and statutory rights
- Obtain free, prior and informed consent
- Assess and monitor direct and indirect costs, benefits and risks
- Identify and maintain high conservation values
- Demonstrate net positive climate, community and biodiversity benefit



# 102

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## Used by Projects Across the Globe

As of May 2017, 102 projects in 32 countries have been validated to the CCB Standards, with an additional 11 projects undergoing validation. CCB-validated projects represent around 11 million ha of conservation and around 10 million ha of restoration of native forests with total annual emissions reductions of over 70 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.



## Participatory and Inclusive Standards Development

The First Edition of the CCB Standards was released in May 2005 following an intensive two-year international stakeholder development process, expert review, public comments and field testing. The Standards were reviewed and strengthened during a nine-month participatory process involving environmental, development and indigenous peoples organizations, the private sector, government agencies and research institutes leading to the release of the Second Edition in December 2008. After a transparent and multi-stakeholder process, the Third Edition of the CCB Standards was released in December 2013.

## Benefits of Using the CCB Standards

Certification under the CCB program provides a suite of benefits, enabling project proponents, investors and offset buyers to:

- Demonstrate contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals through verified project reporting
- Certify conservation areas that are part of zero deforestation commitments
- Ensure safeguards are met and reduce investment risk through comprehensive monitoring, reporting and verification of project viability
- Gain market access: the CCB Standards have become a requirement for many investors, brokers and offset buyers
- Better fund projects with sales of CCB-labeled Verified Carbon Units (VCUs). Studies have shown that offset buyers are willing to pay a premium for offsets from projects using the CCB Standards.



## Managed by the VCS, the CCB Program is operated with the support of the five members of the Climate Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA)

The CCBA brings together diverse stakeholders through a transparent and inclusive participatory process to develop and implement standards that stimulate, identify and promote land-based carbon activities to credibly mitigate global climate change, improve the well-being and reduce the poverty of local communities and conserve biodiversity.



CONSERVATION  
INTERNATIONAL



The Nature  
Conservancy



Rainforest  
Alliance

Please address any questions to: [ccbstandards@v-c-s.org](mailto:ccbstandards@v-c-s.org)