Q4 2016 VCS Program Update

An introduction to the 19 October 2016 VCS Program update
What we’ll cover today

1) Q4 2016 VCS Program update
   ✓ What was updated, and what does it mean for you?
   ✓ Why did we make these updates?

2) Q/A
   ✓ Please type in your questions during the presentation
   ✓ We’ll consolidate questions and answer them at the end
What was updated?

• Four primary updates:
  ✓ Clarified ‘right of use’ requirements
  ✓ New requirements for addressing negative impacts
  ✓ New requirements for local stakeholder consultations
  ✓ New requirements for public comment periods for projects

• Other minor updates:
  ✓ Incorporation of errata and clarifications
  ✓ Provided space in templates to discuss sustainable development contributions of projects
  ✓ Clarified VCU retirement and cancellation processes
  ✓ Replaced term ‘VCU tag’ with ‘VCU label’
Clarified ‘right of use’ requirements

• Replaced ‘right of use’ with ‘project ownership’
• Updated definition as:
  
  *The legal right to control and operate the project activities. Distinct from proof of right.*

• Definition of ‘project proponent’ updated as:
  
  *The individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for the project... The entity(s) that can demonstrate project ownership in respect of the project.*

• All templates and representations updated
• Purpose is to clarify, not change, the concept
Identification / mitigation of negative impacts

No Net Harm

3.17.1 The project proponent shall identify potential negative environmental and socio-economic impacts, and shall take steps to mitigate them. Additional certification standards may be applied to demonstrate social and environmental benefits beyond GHG emission reductions or removals.

- New requirement for non-AFOLU projects; has always existed for AFOLU projects
- Relevant templates updated
- **Grace period**: Effective immediately, unless evidence of contracting for validation prior to 19 April 2017 is provided
Local stakeholder consultations

Local Stakeholder Consultation

3.17.2 The project proponent shall conduct a local stakeholder consultation prior to validation as a way to inform the design of the project and maximize participation from stakeholders. Such consultations allow stakeholders to evaluate impacts, raise concerns about potential negative impacts and provide input on the project design.

3.17.3 The project proponent shall establish mechanisms for ongoing communication with local stakeholders to allow stakeholders to raise concerns about potential negative impacts during project implementation.

3.17.4 The project proponent shall take due account of all and any input received during the local stakeholder consultation and through ongoing communications, which means it will need to either update the project design or justify why updates are not appropriate. The project proponent shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken in respect of the local stakeholder consultation as part of validation, and in respect of ongoing communications as part of each subsequent verification.

Grace period: Effective immediately, unless evidence of contracting for validation prior to 19 April 2017 is provided
Public comment periods for projects

**Public Comment Period**

3.17.5 All VCS projects are subject to a 30-day public comment period. The date on which the project is listed on the project pipeline marks the beginning of the project’s 30-day public comment period (see VCS document *Registration and Issuance Process* for more information on the VCS project pipeline).

3.17.6 Projects shall remain on the project pipeline for the entirety of their 30-day public comment period.

3.17.7 Any comments shall be submitted to the VCSA at secretariat@v-c-s.org and respondents shall provide their name, organization, country and email address. At the end of the public comment period, the VCSA provides all and any comments received to the project proponent.

3.17.8 The project proponent shall take due account of any and all comments received during the consultation, which means it will need to either update the project design or demonstrate the insignificance or irrelevance of the comment. It shall demonstrate to the validation/verification body what action it has taken.

**Grace period:** Effective from 19 April 2017
Questions?
Thank You!

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