Standards for a Sustainable Future

Verra supports efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve livelihoods and protect ecosystems and the services they provide.

Our standards: 1) enable the transparent and robust assessment of environmental and social impacts; 2) provide the private sector, governments and civil society with tools to advance climate action and sustainable development; and 3) drive finance to sustain and scale up these activities globally. We work in any arena where we see a need for market-based standards that can achieve environmental and social good.

VCS

The Verified Carbon Standard allows certified projects to monetize their climate benefits through global and regional carbon market mechanisms. Since its launch in 2006, the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program has grown into the world's largest voluntary greenhouse gas (GHG) program with over 1,400 registered projects in 82 countries. VCS projects have generated more than 300 million carbon credits, the equivalent of almost 64 million passenger vehicles being taken off the road for one year.

CCBS

With over one hundred registered projects, the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards Program is the leading framework for assessing the social and environmental impacts of land-based carbon projects. In total, projects certified to the CCB Program cover almost 11 million hectares, the size of Cuba, and are generating integrated benefits for local communities, biodiversity and the global climate.

SD VISta

The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) is a flexible framework that enables projects to measure their social and environmental impacts and link these to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). SD VISta enables donors and investors to identify, support and help drive finance to activities that generate measurable sustainable development outcomes.

Which Verra Standard Should You Use?

- The CCB Program and SD VISta can each be used on their own or in combination with the VCS Program for projects seeking to issue Verified Carbon Units.

- While both the CCB Program and SD VISta can be used to assess the social and environmental impacts of projects, the following guidance is intended to help proponents select the most appropriate standard to apply, based on their objectives and the project type.

Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards

The **CCB Program** is only applicable to agriculture, forestry and land use (AFOLU) projects and works best for the following:

- Projects where the proponent wants to demonstrate that they have **net positive impacts on both communities and biodiversity**, such as

  - a tree planting project that is led by an indigenous community, enhances agricultural productivity and protects habitat for critical biodiversity

  - a dryland forest protection project where community members are engaged in livelihood programs aimed at reducing human-wildlife conflict

- Projects where the proponent desires **association with the four internationally-recognized conservation groups that founded the CCB Standards Program**: Conservation International, The Nature Conservancy, Rainforest Alliance and Wildlife Conservation Society

Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

The **SD VISta Program** works best for the following:

- Any project where the proponent wants to **demonstrate contributions to specific SDGs**, such as

  - a mangrove restoration project that sequesters carbon and enhances coastal resiliency (SDG 13, Climate Action), and also provides new income streams for marginalized communities (SDG 1, No Poverty).

  - a project that helps rural communities gain access to health care (SDG 3, Good Health and Well-Being), education (SDG 4, Quality Education), clean water (SDG 6, Clean Water and Sanitation).

- Any project that intends **to issue an asset related to a sustainable development outcome**, such as

  - a project that issues a coastal resilience or increased adaptation asset

NOTE: Though the CCB Standards and SD VISta can be used together, it is recommended that projects use the most appropriate of the two standards considering the above criteria. Verra is also developing a streamlined way for CCB projects to emphasize their SDG benefits.