



Standards for a  
Sustainable Future

# Introduction to Verra's proposed Updates to VCS AUDD Project Methodologies

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October 27, 2021

# 1. Background



# Why is Verra revising AUDD methodologies?

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- VCS REDD Avoided Unplanned Deforestation and Degradation (AUDD) methodologies currently include **various criteria** for assessing the **appropriateness of reference regions**, which potentially **could lead to inconsistent assessments of reference regions across projects**.
- In a **public consultation carried out in 2018**, Verra requested feedback on a **proposal to standardize reference region selection criteria** for AUDD methodologies.
- The feedback received **suggested that Verra should focus on encouraging projects to align with jurisdictional approaches by developing a methodological tool**, or at minimum a guidance document, to allow project proponents **to determine the baseline scenario and rate of DD based on a jurisdictional rate**.

# Link to the JNR Requirements update

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- Verra agreed with this suggestion and **started exploring ways to encourage projects to align with jurisdictional approaches to setting baselines**, including the **development of rules for how to estimate a jurisdictionally-derived baseline**.
- The main elements of such rules **were developed between 2019 and 2020 as part of the JNR Requirements update**, which included the creation of the **JNR Allocation Tool and the associated JNR Risk Mapping Tool** for the allocation of jurisdictional FREs to **nested projects**.
- The JNR update included **additional improvements in the areas of monitoring and uncertainty**, among others.

## **2. Methodology development process**

# Methodology development process

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- In 2020, Verra issued a notice to new REDD+ projects and those considering **baseline reassessment announcing the update of the baseline, leakage, monitoring, and uncertainty procedures** for AUDD project activities in alignment with VCS JNR Requirements.
- In October 2020, Verra, with the support of Climate Focus and a group of experts, started **assessing options for the consolidation of AUDD methodologies**. This was done **in consultation with methodology developers**.
- The **objective** of this consultancy is to **integrate current best practices and state-of-the-art technologies** and to **ensure consistency** across:
  - ✓ Standalone project emissions/removals estimates;
  - ✓ Nested and standalone projects, and
  - ✓ Jurisdictional emissions/removals data.

# Methodologies under revision

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- **VM0006** Methodology for Carbon Accounting for Mosaic and Landscape-scale REDD Projects, v2.2
- **VM0007** REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD-MF), v1.6
- **VM0009** Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion, v3.0
- **VM0015** Methodology for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation, v1.1
- **VM0037** Methodology for Implementation of REDD+ Activities in Landscapes Affected by Mosaic Deforestation and Degradation, v1.0

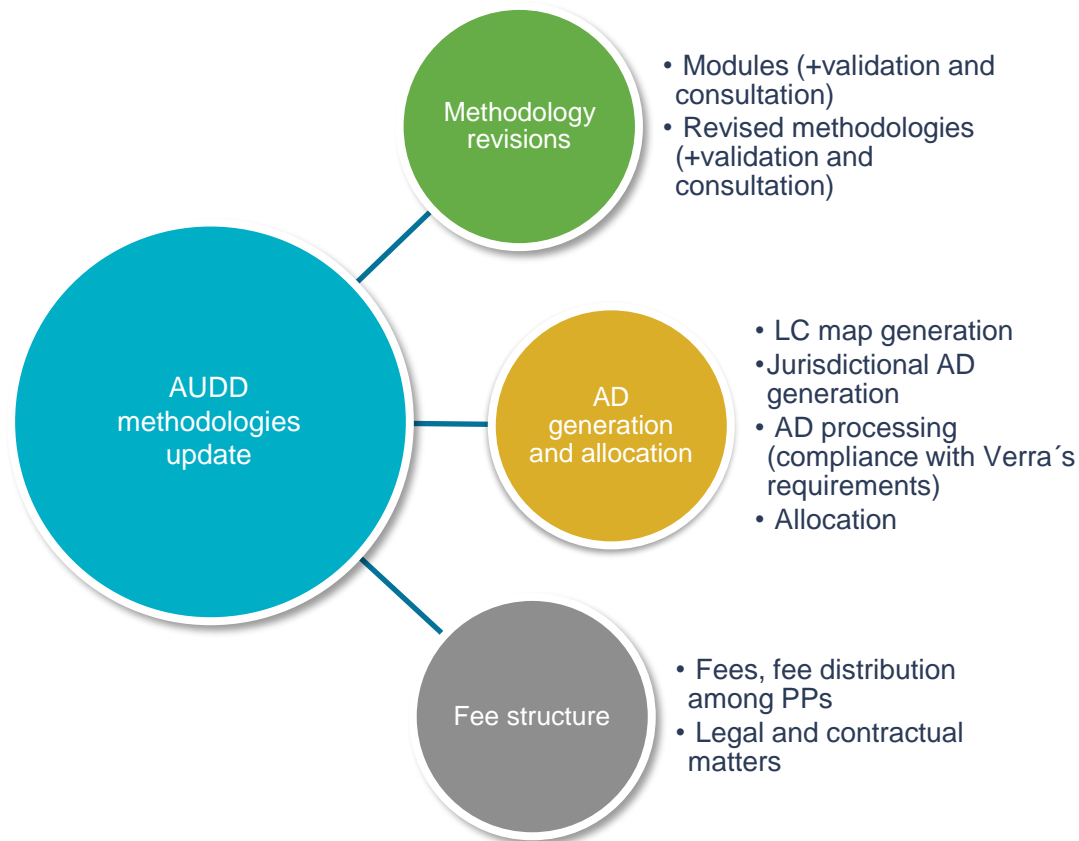
# Methodological approach

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- The consultancy has been developed in two phases:
  1. The assessment of **options for consolidation**; and
  2. The development of a **consolidated methodology** or **revised versions of the existing ones**.
- The main conclusions from the first phase were that:
  - ✓ The development of a **fully consolidated methodology would be a complex endeavor** from a technical perspective given the varied scopes and features of the existing methodologies.
  - ✓ Therefore, it would be more practical to **develop common baseline procedures based on JNR Requirements to replace respective sections of existing methodologies**, likely as a new **methodology modules** to be referenced by existing methodologies.
  - ✓ The **JNR tools could be used to allocate jurisdictional activity data to projects** (instead of emissions). Jurisdictional AD should be the same for all projects in a jurisdiction. Emission factors should be project area-specific.



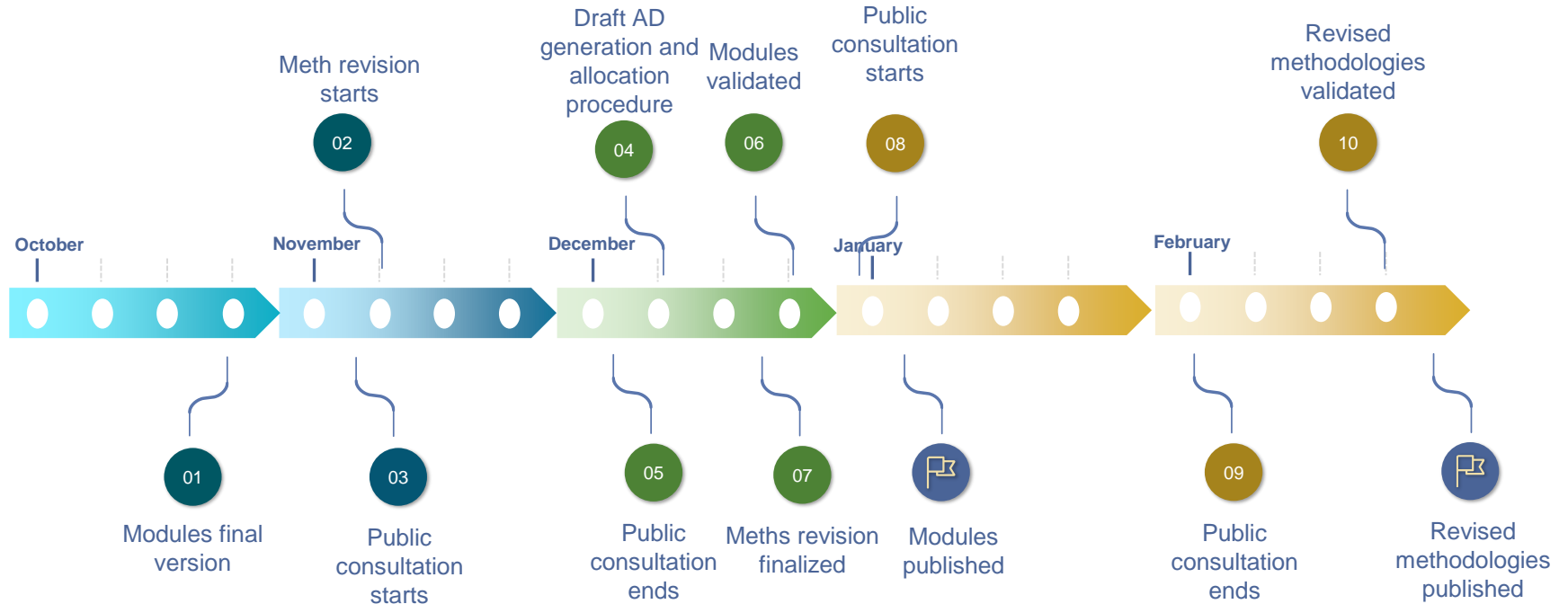
# AUDD methodologies revision process



# 3. Timeline



# Tentative timeline



## **4. Upcoming REDD+ Stakeholder Discussions**

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# Upcoming REDD+ Stakeholder Discussions

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- **New Methodological Modules for VCS AUDD Projects**  
3 November 2021, 11:00 am EDT/4:00 pm CET
- **Setting the Baseline: Activity Data Collection and Allocation to Projects**  
10 November 2021, 11:00 am EST/5:00 pm CET

# Thank you

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