



Standards for a
Sustainable Future

New Methodological Modules for VCS AUDD Projects

November 3, 2021

1. Background



Methodology development process

- In 2020, Verra issued a notice to new REDD+ projects and those considering **baseline reassessment announcing the update** on 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 Avoided Unplanned REDD (AUDD) methodologies**.
- 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

- **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

- 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.

2. Proposed Methodology Modules



Objectives and applicability

- Establish JNR-aligned approach to develop baseline activity data (hectares deforested/degraded)
- Harmonize activity data monitoring, leakage accounting, and uncertainty procedures
- Maintain integrity of remaining methodology components (non-AUDD project activities, applicability conditions, etc.)
- Applicable to all standalone AUDD project
- Must be applied in connection with existing AUDD methodologies

Baseline

- Proposed procedures under review by Verra prior to public consultation
- Scope: unplanned deforestation and forest degradation
- Temporal boundaries
 - ✓ baseline validity period
 - ✓ historic reference period
- Geographic boundaries: jurisdictional area (and area for assessing land cover change)
 - administrative boundaries or biomes (> 200,000 hectares forest area)
 - encouraged to prioritize national level area and leverage existing national or subnational efforts to develop historical deforestation and/or forest degradation information

Baseline (continued)

- Development of activity data

Estimate area of Transition Activities for the Historical Reference Period within the RR-LCC using the Land Cover Transition approach

- Step 1 Develop a historical land cover / land cover change dataset for each included Activity Data Category and LCT using a sample-based approaches
- Step 2 Calculate total historical area of each AD Category
- Step 3 Calculate the uncertainty for estimates of historical areas of change
- Step 4 Discounting of historical area estimates
- Step 5 Calculate historical annual areas of change per AD Activity

Calculate projected Activity Data for RL-DD-AD validity period within Reference Region

- Step 1 Calculation of total projected baseline per AD Category
- Step 2 Baseline area of activity data for Land Cover Transition

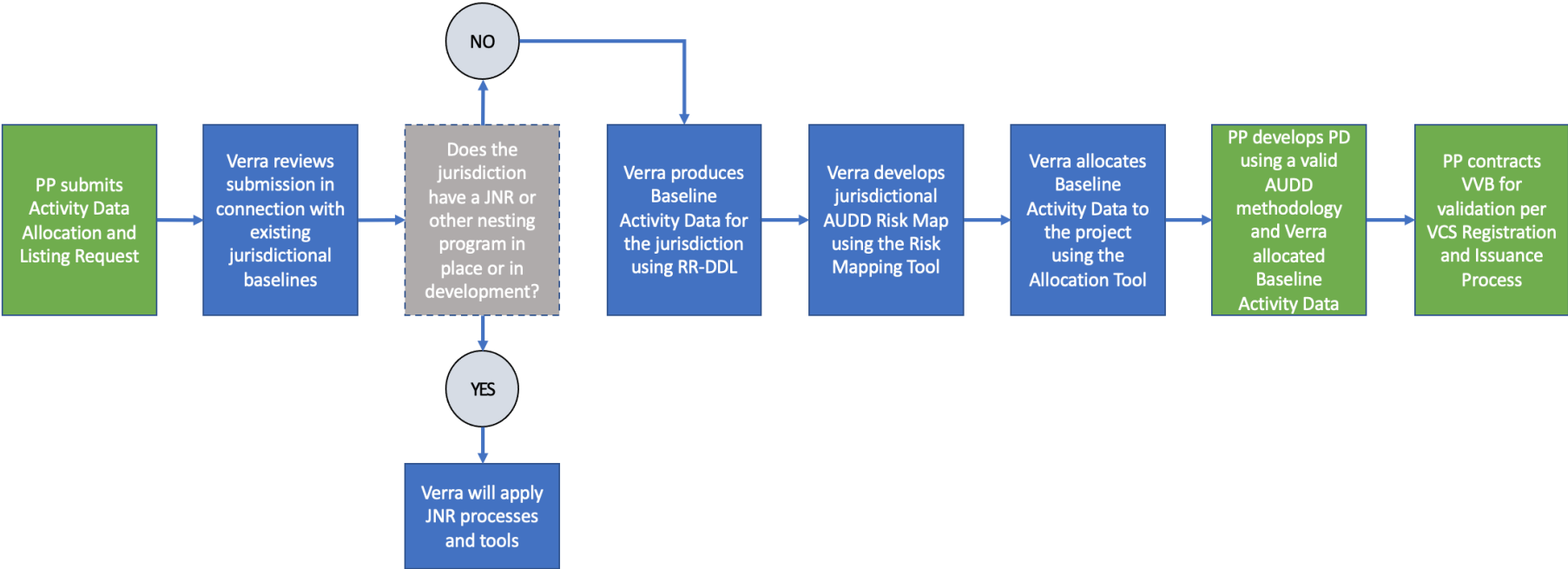
Baseline (continued)

- Development of jurisdictional risk map using JNR Risk Mapping Tool for each land cover transition
- Allocation of activity data to projects using JNR Allocation Tool
- Periodic updating of baseline activity data

Leakage and Monitoring

- Leakage module explores different alternatives
 1. Leakage belt approach for activity shifting + market leakage
 2. Leakage factor approach based on leakage risk assessment and leakage mitigation activities
 3. Attribution of jurisdictional level leakage to projects
- Monitoring
 1. Match procedures used to develop baseline activity data
 2. Monitoring of carbon stock changes and project emissions per existing methodologies
- Uncertainty
 1. Procedures proposed to be integrated in baseline, leakage, and monitoring modules rather than a standalone module

Proposed Application Process



Upcoming REDD+ Stakeholder Discussions

- **Setting the Baseline: Activity Data Collection and Allocation to Projects**

10 November 2021, 11:00 am EST/5:00 pm CET