



**Verified Carbon  
Standard**

A VERRA STANDARD

# Mitigation Outcome Type Labels Guidance



## ABOUT VERRA

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Verra sets the world’s leading standards for climate action and sustainable development. We build standards for activities as diverse as reducing deforestation, to improving agricultural practices, to addressing plastic waste, and to achieving gender equality. We manage programs to certify that these activities achieve measurable high-integrity outcomes. And we work with governments, businesses, and civil society to advance the use of these standards, including through the development of markets. Everything we do is in service of increasingly ambitious climate and sustainable development goals – and an accelerated transition to a sustainable future.

Verra’s certification programs include the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program and its Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) framework, the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) Program, the Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) Program, and the Plastic Waste Reduction Program.

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

Effective 29 August 2023, labels may be applied to distinguish VCUs that result from project activities leading to GHG emission reductions (reductions) and those that lead to carbon dioxide removals (removals). Projects may follow the procedures and equations in the applied methodology to report their reductions and removals separately, in accordance with the VCS Program rules. VCUs which have been verified as reductions or removals may apply the reduction or removal label at issuance.

# 2 ELIGIBILITY

Verified removals and reductions may be eligible for a 'GHG Emissions Reduction' or 'Carbon Dioxide Removal' label at VCU issuance.

Already issued VCUs may also be eligible for labels. Accountholders may request retroactive labels only for projects using 100% GHG emission reduction or carbon dioxide removal methodologies.

At this time, only projects using methodologies listed as compatible with the label in Appendix 1 are eligible with the label at this time. Verra will revise methodologies that include both reductions and removals in the coming months to add equations distinguishing reductions from removals and enable labelling. Registry functionality to enable labelling of VCUs from projects that include both reductions and removals is also under development.

This label is optional for all VCS projects.

# 3 PROCESS

To receive a 'GHG Emissions Reduction' or 'Carbon Dioxide Removal' VCU label, the Verra Registry Accountholder for the project requests the label at VCU issuance under 'Additional Certifications' on the project's Verification Summary page.

To request a retroactive label for VCUs that have already been issued, contact the registry team at [registry@verra.org](mailto:registry@verra.org).

## 4 EXAMPLE MITIGATION OUTCOME TYPES

**Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR):** The increased carbon stock due to CO<sub>2</sub> absorption from the atmosphere and carbon sequestration in tree biomass is a removal.

**REDD (AUD or APD):** The avoided decline of existing carbon stocks from deforestation that would result in the release of carbon to the atmosphere in the baseline scenario is an emission reduction. The carbon stock increase due to CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed from the atmosphere by additional growth of the conserved vegetation is a removal.

**Biochar:** Carbon transferred from short-term carbon pools (e.g., biomass residues decaying or burned in the baseline scenario) to long-term carbon pools (i.e., biochar in soil) is a removal.

**Enhanced weathering:** Acceleration of the natural weathering process where CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere reacts with minerals is a removal. CO<sub>2</sub> captured from an emissions source by reactions with minerals is a reduction.

**Carbon capture and storage:** Capturing CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere -- either directly through direct air capture technologies, or through bioenergy carbon capture technologies -- and durably storing it is a removal. Capturing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from fossil fuel combustion flue gases or industrial processes and durably storing it is an emission reduction.

**Peatland restoration:** Rewetting drained peatlands to prevent the release of GHG emissions into the atmosphere is an emission reduction. The carbon stock increase due to CO<sub>2</sub> absorbed from the atmosphere by additional growth of the conserved or restored aboveground vegetation is a removal. **Blue carbon (e.g., mangroves, tidal marshes, seagrass):** Avoiding GHG emissions by preventing degradation or the conversion of tidal wetlands is an emission reduction. Enhancing, creating, or managing hydrological conditions in a degraded wetland to increase biomass and soil organic carbon is a removal.

# APPENDIX 1 LIST OF METHODOLOGIES BY MITIGATION OUTCOME TYPE

This appendix provides the mitigation outcome type and compatibility with the label for methodologies eligible for use within the VCS Program. Verra will revise all methodologies incompatible with the label and issue a new methodology version for each over the next few months. The mitigation outcome type and compatibility with the label are included on the individual webpage of each methodology.

The list is limited to methodologies with at least one project on the Verra registry as of publication. Please contact [methodologies@verra.org](mailto:methodologies@verra.org) to request an assessment of any methodology that is not currently included on the list.

The mitigation outcome type of all CDM methodologies are emission reductions, except the following that classify as removals and are compatible with the label:

- 1) AR-ACM0003 Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands<sup>1</sup>
- 2) AR-AMS0007 Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on lands other than wetlands<sup>1</sup>
- 3) AR-AM0014 Afforestation and reforestation of degraded mangrove habitats<sup>2</sup>
- 4) AR-AMS0003 Afforestation and reforestation project activities implemented on wetlands<sup>2</sup>

VCS Methodology Title	Mitigation Outcome Type	Current and previous Methodology Versions Compatible with Label
VM0001 Infrared Automatic Refrigerant Leak Detection Efficiency Project Methodology,	Reduction	Yes
VM0003 Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Extension of Rotation Age	Both	No
VM0004 Methodology for Conservation Projects that Avoid Planned Land-use Conversion in Peat Swamp Forests	Both	No
VM0005 Methodology for Conversion of Low-productive Forest to High-productive Forest	Both	No
VM0006 Methodology for Carbon Accounting for Mosaic and Landscape-scale REDD Projects	Both	No

<sup>1</sup> These methodologies will be excluded from the VCS Program for new projects and renewal of crediting periods, once the new VCS Methodology *Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation* is published.

<sup>2</sup> These methodologies were excluded from the VCS Program for new projects and renewal of crediting periods.

VCS Methodology Title	Mitigation Outcome Type	Current and previous Methodology Versions Compatible with Label
VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD-MF)	Both	No
VM0008 Weatherization of Single-Family and Multi-Family Buildings	Reduction	Yes
VM0009 Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion,	Reduction	Yes
VM0010 Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest	Both	No
VM0011 Methodology for Calculating GHG Benefits from Preventing Planned Degradation	Reduction	Yes
VM0012 Improved Forest Management in Temperate and Boreal Forests (LtPF)	Both	No
VM0014 Interception and Destruction of Fugitive Methane from Coal Bed Methane (CBM) Seeps	Reduction	Yes
VM0015 Methodology for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation	Both	No
VM0016 Recovery and Destruction of Ozone-Depleting Substances (ODS) from Products	Reduction	Yes
VM0018 Energy Efficiency and Solid Waste Diversion Activities within a Sustainable Community	Reduction	Yes
VM0019 Fuel Switch from Gasoline to Ethanol in Flex-Fuel Vehicle Fleets	Reduction	Yes
VM0022 Quantifying N <sub>2</sub> O Emissions Reductions in Agricultural Crops through Nitrogen Fertilizer Rate Reduction	Reduction	Yes
VM0025 Campus Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency	Reduction	Yes
VM0026 Methodology for Sustainable Grassland Management (SGM)	Both	No

VCS Methodology Title	Mitigation Outcome Type	Current and previous Methodology Versions Compatible with Label
VM0029 Methodology for Avoided Forest Degradation through Fire Management	Both	No
VM0030 Methodology for Pavement Application using Sulphur Substitute	Reduction	Yes
VM0031 Methodology for Precast Concrete Production using Sulphur Substitute	Reduction	Yes
VM0032 Methodology for the Adoption of Sustainable Grasslands through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing	Both	No
VM0033 Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration	Both	No
VM0034 Canadian Forest Carbon Offset Methodology	Both	No
VM0035 Methodology for Improved Forest Management through Reduced Impact Logging	Reduction	Yes
VM0036 Methodology for Rewetting Drained Temperate Peatlands	Both	No
VM0037 Methodology for Implementation of REDD+ Activities in Landscapes Affected by Mosaic Deforestation and Degradation	Both	No
VM0038 Methodology for Electric Vehicle Charging Systems	Reduction	Yes
VM0039 Methodology for Use of Foam Stabilized Base and Emulsion Asphalt Mixtures in Pavement Application	Reduction	Yes
VM0041 Methodology for the Reduction of Enteric Methane Emissions from Ruminants through the Use of 100% Natural Feed Supplement	Reduction	Yes
VM0042 Methodology for Improved Agricultural Land Management	Both	No
VM0043 Methodology for CO2 Utilization in Concrete Production	Both	No



VCS Methodology Title	Mitigation Outcome Type	Current and previous Methodology Versions Compatible with Label
VM0044 Methodology for Biochar Utilization in Soil and Non-Soil Applications	Removal	Yes
VM0045 Improved Forest Management Methodology Using Dynamic Matched Baselines from National Forest Inventories	Both	No
VMR0001 Revisions to ACM0008 to Include Pre-drainage of Methane from an Active Open Cast Mine as a Methane Emission Reduction Activity	Reduction	Yes
VMR0002 Revisions to ACM0008 to Include Methane Capture and Destruction from Abandoned Coal Mines	Reduction	Yes
VMR0003 Revisions to AMS-III.Y to Include Use of Organic Bedding Material	Reduction	Yes
VMR0004 Revisions to AMS-III.BC to Include Mobile Machinery	Reduction	Yes
VMR0005 Methodology for Installation of Low-Flow Water Devices	Reduction	Yes
VMR0006 Methodology for Installation of High Efficiency Firewood Cookstoves	Reduction	Yes
VMR0007 Revision to AMS-III.AJ: Recovery and recycling of materials from solid wastes --- Version 9.0	Reduction	Yes
VMR0008 AMS-III.BA: Recovery and recycling of materials from E-waste --- Version 3.0	Reduction	Yes

## APPENDIX 2 DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v1.0	29 August 2023	Initial version released.
v1.1	8 September 2023	Main updates (all effective immediately) include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Clarified language in Eligibility section</li><li>• Clarified language in Example Mitigation Outcome Types section</li><li>• Corrected mitigation outcome type for VM0043</li><li>• Added CDM methodologies classified as removals</li></ul>



## Standards for a Sustainable Future



**Verified Carbon  
Standard**



**Jurisdictional  
& Nested REDD+**



**Climate, Community  
& Biodiversity Standards**



**Sustainable Development  
Verified Impact Standard**



**Plastic Waste  
Reduction Standard**