



Standards for a Sustainable Future

Verra develops and manages standards that help the private sector, countries, and civil society achieve ambitious sustainable development and climate action goals. Verra's global standards frameworks serve as linchpins for channeling finance towards high-impact activities that tackle some of the most pressing environmental issues of our day.



The VCS Program **allows certified projects to turn their greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals into tradable carbon credits.** Since its launch in 2006, the VCS Program has grown into **the world's largest voluntary GHG program.** VCS projects include dozens of technologies and measures which result in GHG emission reductions and removals, including forest and wetland conservation and restoration, agricultural land management, transport efficiency improvements, and many others. There are currently almost **1,600 registered projects in over 70 countries** that have generated **more than 380 million carbon credits**, the equivalent of more than 80 million passenger vehicles being taken off the road for one year. (For updated VCS statistics, please visit www.verra.org/datainsights.)

With over one hundred registered projects, the CCB Program is **the leading framework for assessing land management projects that create net-positive benefits for climate change mitigation, local communities and biodiversity.** The CCB Program can be used in conjunction with a GHG-crediting program, such as the VCS Program, and carbon credits can be labeled with the co-benefits certified under the CCB Program. In total, projects certified to the CCB Program cover almost 11 million hectares, the size of Cuba.



Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards



The SD VISta Program is a flexible framework that sets out **rules and criteria for the design, implementation and assessment of projects that aim to deliver high-impact sustainable development benefits.** SD VISta enables projects to **link their social and environmental impacts to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** through certified claims or tradable assets such as health or water credits. The standard enables donors and investors to identify, support and help drive finance to activities that generate measurable sustainable development outcomes.

The JNR Framework is an **accounting and crediting system for jurisdictional REDD+ programs and nested projects, designed for market mechanisms.** It is a practical framework that provides guidance to national and subnational governments to support development of their REDD+ programs and **help nest REDD+ projects within these programs, ensuring environmental integrity and jurisdictional sovereignty.** This ensures that these projects support and align with governments' efforts to achieve countries' climate action goals, while driving finance to high-impact mitigation. In 2020, Verra plans to release an updated version of the framework which will include more detailed guidance on nesting.



Jurisdictional & Nested REDD+



The California OPR **helps the California Air Resources Board (CARB) administer the Compliance Offset Program component of its cap-and-trade system.** The OPR facilitates the listing and verification of GHG offset projects that were developed using CARB Offset Protocols and that issue Registry Offset Credits (ROCs). Entities covered by California's cap-and-trade program can use compliance offset credits to satisfy a portion of their regulatory obligations.



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In addition to the standards programs Verra operates directly, we also collaborate with partners to develop and implement new standards and assessment frameworks in other arenas of climate action and sustainable development.



LandScale provides **a standardized, yet adaptable, framework to track the outcomes of landscape or jurisdictional sustainability approaches and communicate those outcomes** to commodity-buying companies, donors, and other external stakeholders, facilitating multi-stakeholder, cross-sector collaboration. LandScale enables users to obtain reliable information about the status of ecosystems, human well-being, governance, and productivity in a landscape and to determine the state and trajectory of its sustainability. **LandScale assessments will help drive improvements in sustainability performance by informing locally relevant policies and management interventions, guiding sustainable sourcing and investment decisions, and spurring new market incentives for landscape sustainability.**

LandScale is “co-led by Verra, the Rainforest Alliance and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance, in collaboration with a growing number of global partners. It is generously supported by the BHP Foundation and the International Climate Initiative of the German Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation & Nuclear Safety.

ICAT **aims to help countries assess the impacts of their climate actions and to support greater transparency, effectiveness, ambition and trust in climate policies.** ICAT integrates methodological guidance, capacity building and knowledge sharing to strengthen the transparency and effectiveness of climate policies and actions worldwide. To this end, the initiative has **developed a series of impact assessment guides and is also working with developing countries to strengthen their capacity to assess climate actions** in the context of their Nationally Determined Contributions. To date, more than thirty countries have accepted to join ICAT.



ICAT is a multi-donor fund that is managed by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Italian National Institute for Environmental Protection and Research, UNEP-DTU Partnership, Verra and World Resources Institute are implementing the Initiative.



To catalyze zero plastic waste corporate leadership, 3RI is developing **a market-based approach that will scale up recovery and recycling activities and increase accountability for plastic waste reduction efforts** around the world. The 3RI's flexible market mechanism, underpinned by robust standards, will transparently and sustainably **increase the value of plastic waste and incentivize new activities that support the circular economy.**

Verra and BVRio have established the 3R Initiative with Steering Committee members Conservation International, Danone, McKinsey.org, Natural Capital Partners, Nestlé, South Pole, SYSTEMIQ, Tetra Pak and Veolia.

