

THE LEADING SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS FOR LAND-BASED CARBON PROJECTS



Over 1.3 billion indigenous peoples and local communities depend on forests to survive. In some cases, carbon projects may restrict their access to traditional land and resources, degrade traditions and cause conflicts, or damage native ecosystems. On the other hand, when carefully designed, carbon projects can improve livelihoods, create employment, protect traditional cultures and endangered species, and help secure tenure to lands and resources, as well as making a key contribution to combating climate change.

Comprehensive and Objective Criteria

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards provide comprehensive and objective criteria to assess and identify agriculture, forestry and other land use projects that effectively address social and environmental risks and deliver significant benefits to local communities, biodiversity and the global climate. The criteria ensure that projects:

- Identify all stakeholders and ensure their full and effective participation
- Recognize and respect customary and statutory rights
- Obtain free, prior and informed consent
- Assess and monitor direct and indirect costs, benefits and risks
- Identify and maintain high conservation values
- Demonstrate net positive climate, community and biodiversity benefits

Independent Validation and Verification

Projects are assessed against the CCB Standards through a rigorous and transparent process conducted by an independent auditor starting with validation of project design followed by verification of project implementation and delivery of benefits. Project design documentation, project implementation reports and full audit reports are published on the CCB website. During each audit, comments are invited from the public before the auditor conducts a site visit to investigate the project, address comments and meet with local communities.

Look for the CCB label

A CCB label may be added to carbon credits listed on a registry from projects successfully verified (not just validated) to both the CCB Standards and a carbon accounting standard. The CCB label is a permanent marker added to each credit's unique carbon registry identification code.

The CCB label enables investors and offset buyers to identify credits from a project that:

- Has holistic and integrated design
- Screens out reputational risks
- Ensures participation and support of local people
- Implements effective activities that deliver sustainable results
- Achieves multiple climate, social and biodiversity objectives

Preferential Market Access and Price Premiums

The CCB Standards have become a requirement for many investors, brokers and offset buyers and are helping to attract new financing to qualifying projects. Many studies have shown that offset buyers are willing to pay a premium for offsets from projects using the CCB Standards. The first hard evidence of a premium was reported in the Ecosystem Marketplace's State of the Forest Carbon Market 2012 "VCS projects that were also certified to the CCB saw an additional average \$0.5/tCO₂e over [the average] price."¹

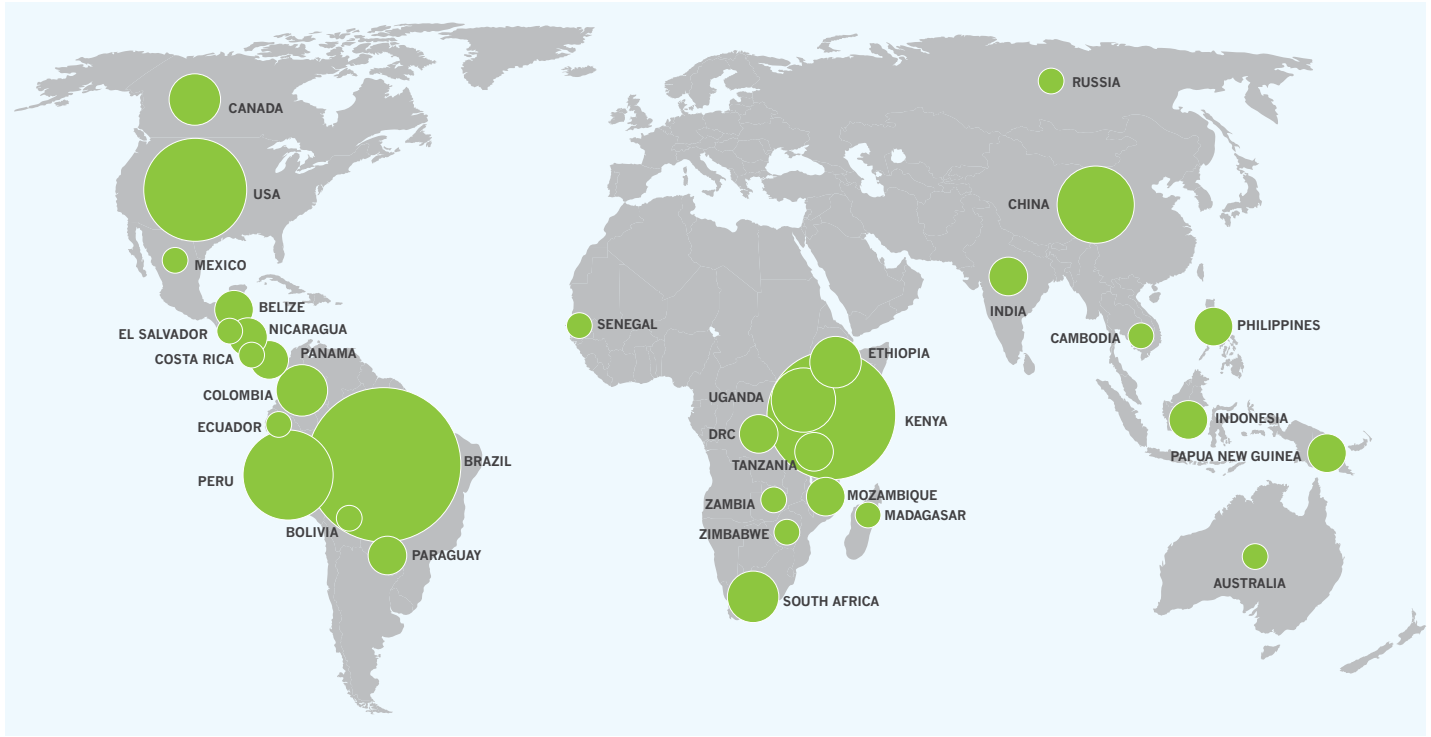
¹ Leveraging the Landscape: State of the Forest Carbon Market 2012. Ecosystem Marketplace. p.32.

Used by Projects Across the Globe

As of May 2013, a total of 70 projects in 34 countries have been validated to the CCB Standards, with an additional 19 projects undergoing validation. Twelve projects have achieved verification, whereby the carbon credits issued from the projects can be tagged with a CCB label. The validated projects represent over 8 million

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) is a partnership of international NGOs seeking to foster the development of forest protection and restoration activities around the world that deliver significant and verifiable climate, community and biodiversity benefits.



Locations of projects validated to the CCB Standards (size of dot corresponds to the number of projects in the country)

ha of conservation and over 180,000 ha of restoration of native forests with total annual emissions reductions of over 40 million tons of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Participatory and Inclusive Standards Development

The First Edition of the CCB Standards was released in May 2005 following an intensive two-year international stakeholder development process, expert review, public comments and field testing. The Standards were reviewed and strengthened during a nine-month participatory process involving environmental, development and indigenous peoples organizations, the private sector, government agencies and research institutes leading to the release of the Second Edition in December 2008. A transparent and multi-stakeholder process is underway in 2013 to develop the Third Edition of the CCB Standards (www.climate-standards.org/ccb-standards/ccb-standards-revision).

The CCBA members—Conservation International, CARE, Rainforest Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society—are all leading the development and implementation of pioneering forest carbon activities demonstrating how effective partnerships and integrated design can deliver effective multiple benefits.

While the CCB Standards are designed for site-based projects, CCBA and CARE are facilitating the REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES) initiative to build support for government-led programs of policies and measures implemented at jurisdictional level that make a significant contribution to human rights, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation (www.redd-standards.org).

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The CCBA brings together diverse stakeholders through a transparent and inclusive participatory process to develop and implement standards that stimulate, identify and promote land-based carbon activities to credibly mitigate global climate change, improve the well-being and reduce the poverty of local communities and conserve biodiversity.

