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Guidance on Use of VCS Tool VT0005

VT0005 Tool for measuring aboveground live forest biomass using remote sensing, v1.0 was approved on 5 March 2015 and is available for use by VCS AFOLU projects. *VT0005* provides a method for determining aboveground live forest biomass (ALFB) through a combination of remote sensing data and field measurements to provide accurate and cost effective estimation of ALFB across varied LULC classification types and broad spatial extents.

VT0005 may be utilized during project design and validation by projects that are applying methodologies that do not reference the tool. In these situations, project proponents can use the tool by applying a methodology deviation.¹

When applying a methodology deviation, the project proponent must include in the project description a demonstration and rationale for why the tool is appropriate for use by the project (eg, an explanation of how the methodology requires the determination of parameters for aboveground live tree biomass). In addition, the project description must include a demonstration and justification for how the project meets each applicability condition of the tool.

Included in the discussion of the methodology deviation should be a brief description of the method required by the methodology for determining the parameters, and justification for how the method included in the tool meets the VCS requirements for methodology deviations.

Further, the validation report must include a discussion of why the validation/verification body (VVB) has determined that use of the tool is appropriate and complies with VCS' rules for methodology deviations. As the tool has been approved for use with the VCS Program, the VVB does not need to validate the method included in the tool, only the appropriateness of its use in the project.

¹ For information on methodology deviations, see Section 3.5.1 of the *VCS Standard* v3.4, or latest version