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VCS+CCB Project Development Process

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1 | Introduction

1.1 OVERVIEW

This document provides guidance for the development of agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU) projects that are pursuing certification under both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and the Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) Standards. Such VCS+CCB projects are eligible for the issuance of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) tagged with a CCB label.

In order to streamline the joint project development process, VCS and CCB have developed templates for project descriptions, monitoring & implementation reports, validation reports and verification reports, which project proponents and validation/verification bodies are encouraged to use. The templates are available on both the VCS and the CCB Alliance (CCBA) websites.

Note that CCB Standards do not require the use of templates. Therefore, project proponents may use VCS templates for the carbon component of the project and create separate documents for the community and biodiversity components. However, project proponents are encouraged to use the VCS+CCB joint templates, which helps to simplify and streamline the project development process by presenting all the relevant project information in a single set of documents.

Grouped projects currently cannot follow the VCS+CCB project development process. VCS and CCB Standards set out different procedures for documenting and auditing grouped projects. Specifically, VCS requires new project activity instances be documented in the monitoring report and audited in the verification report, whereas the CCB Standards require new project activity instances be documented in an updated project design document and audited in a new validation report. As such, the carbon component of grouped projects must be documented and audited using VCS templates, and the community and biodiversity components must be documented and audited separately under the CCB Standards.

The full VCS Program and CCB Standards requirements are set out in the respective documentation of each standard.

1.2 TERMINOLOGY

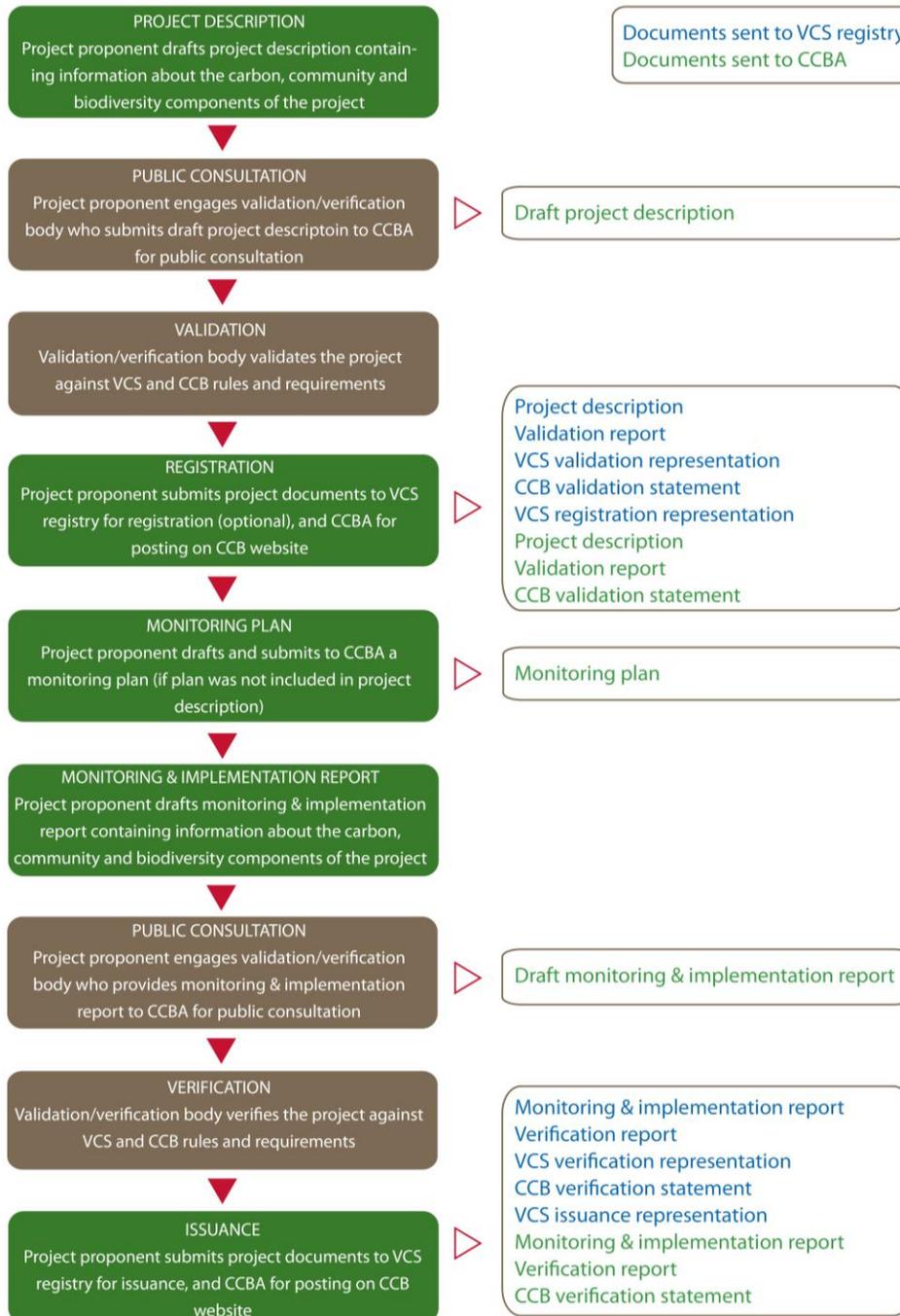
Terminology used under the VCS Program and the CCB Standards is broadly similar. However, the following terms have different names but similar meanings (the definitions for each term can be found in the respective standard's documentation):

- Project description (VCS) and project design documentation (CCB)
- Project crediting period (VCS) and GHG accounting period (CCB)
- Validation/verification body (VCS) and auditor (CCB)

2 | Project Development Process

A project developed in accordance with both the VCS and the CCB Standards must meet the applicable rules and requirements set out under each standard. The flowchart in Diagram 1 sets out the main steps for developing a VCS+CCB project. The following sections provide further information about each step.

Diagram 1: VCS+CCB Project Development Process



3 | Development, Validation and Registration

3.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proponent drafts a project description, using the *VCS+CCB Project Description Template*, containing information about the carbon, community and biodiversity components of the project. The carbon component follows the VCS rules and requirements (eg, the project-level requirements set out in the *VCS Standard* and the requirements of the applied methodology). The community and biodiversity components of the project follow the CCB Standards requirements.

Note that VCS requires that the monitoring plan be described in the project description. The CCB Standards do not require that the monitoring plan for the community and biodiversity components of the project be described in the project description (ie, the project proponent may submit the monitoring plan within six months of the project start date or within one year of validation).

3.2 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The project proponent selects a validation/verification body (VVB) eligible under both the VCS and the CCB Standards to undertake project validation. The project proponent submits the draft project description to the VVB, who in turn submits it to CCBA. The draft project description is posted on the CCBA website for a 30-day public comment period. Project proponents may also choose to list the project on the VCS project pipeline at this stage.

The project proponent updates the project description, as necessary, taking due account of comments received as part of the public comment period.

3.3 VALIDATION

The VVB assesses the project against all applicable VCS and CCB Standards rules and requirements.

The VVB produces a validation report, using the *VCS+CCB Validation Report Template*, and issues a VCS validation representation and a CCB validation statement.

3.4 REGISTRATION

Once validation is complete, the project proponent may register the project on the VCS registry system by submitting the project description, validation report, VCS validation representation, CCB validation statement and VCS registration representation to a VCS registry. The VVB submits the project description, validation report and CCB validation statement to CCBA for posting on the CCBA website.

4 | Monitoring, Verification and Issuance

4.1 MONITORING PLAN

Where the project description does not set out the monitoring plan for the community and biodiversity components of the project, the project proponent drafts and submits to CCBA a monitoring plan for the community and biodiversity components of the project within six months of the project start date or within one year of validation. There is no specific template for monitoring plans submitted to the CCBA.

4.2 MONITORING & IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

At the end of the monitoring period the project proponent drafts a monitoring & implementation report, using the *VCS+CCB Monitoring & Implementation Report Template*, containing information about the carbon, community and biodiversity components of the project. The monitoring & implementation report serves as the VCS monitoring report and the CCB project implementation report when projects are following the joint VCS+CCB process.

4.3 PUBLIC CONSULTATION

The project proponent selects a VVB that is eligible under both the VCS and the CCB Standards to undertake project verification. The project proponent submits the draft monitoring & implementation report to the VVB, who in turn submits it to CCBA. The draft monitoring & implementation report is posted on the CCBA website for a 30-day public comment period.

Note that where the *VCS+CCB Monitoring & Implementation Report Template* has not been used (ie, separate VCS and CCB Standards reports have been issued), only the CCB Standards report needs to be submitted to CCBA.

The project proponent updates the monitoring & implementation report, as necessary, taking due account of comments received as part of the public comment period.

4.4 VERIFICATION

The VVB assesses the project and its GHG emission reductions and removals against all applicable VCS and CCB Standards rules and requirements.

The VVB produces a verification report, using the *VCS+CCB Verification Report Template*, and issues a VCS verification representation and a CCB verification statement.

4.5 ISSUANCE

Once the verification is complete, the project proponent may request issuance of VCUs tagged with a CCB label by submitting the monitoring & implementation report, verification report, VCS verification representation, CCB verification statement and VCS issuance representation to a VCS registry. The VVB submits the monitoring & implementation report, the verification report and CCB verification statement to CCBA for posting on the CCB website.

Project proponents may register the project and issue the VCUs simultaneously, in which case the project documents set out in Section 3.4 shall also be provided to the VCS registry.

APPENDIX 1: DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v3.0	26 Nov 2012	Initial version released under <i>VCS Version 3</i> and <i>CCB Standards Second Edition</i>

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