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VCS Approves Improved Forest Management (IFM) Methodology to Reduce Selective Logging

Carbon Planet IFM methodology aims to create an alternative to revenues from selective logging

WASHINGTON - A new methodology to quantify the greenhouse gas benefits of projects that prevent forest degradation by curbing selective logging through Improved Forest Management has been approved for use under the VCS Program.

Developed by [Carbon Planet Limited](#), the methodology can be used to calculate the greenhouse gas emissions that are avoided when projects lower selective logging rates within their boundaries. Based on those calculations, projects can issue and sell verified GHG credits known as Verified Carbon Units, or VCUs.

The methodology aims to create an avenue for projects to use carbon finance to provide an alternative source of income for entities engaged in selective logging. This should reduce the economic pressure to fell trees.

“This offers a flexible new approach for financing projects that reduce logging in forested areas,” said VCS CEO David Antonioli. “Using carbon finance as an alternative source of income provides an important incentive for more sustainable forest management practices.”

The approach, called the [Methodology for Calculating the GHG Benefits from Preventing Planned Degradation](#), was assessed by two independent auditors under the VCS Methodology Approval Process. Approval means projects may use the methodology to quantify emission reductions and removals and to issue VCUs under the VCS Program.

The first independent auditor to review the methodology was [Rainforest Alliance](#). The second, [Bureau Veritas](#), was contracted directly by the VCS Association. All assessment reports and other documents are available on the VCS website.

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The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) is the most widely used carbon accounting standard among projects issuing credits in the voluntary market. Founded in 2005 by the Climate Group, the International Emissions Trading Association and the World Business Council for Sustainable Development, VCS has pioneered trusted and innovative tools for generating quality GHG credits.

The VCS Methodology Approval Process is a unique pathway for the development and refinement of project methodologies to reduce GHG emissions. The process allows project developers to pioneer new approaches to GHG mitigation that address the challenges they face on the ground.