



VCS to lead development of new jurisdictional accounting frameworks for Reducing Emissions from Deforestation

VCS will invite global experts and government representatives to establish a common platform for integrated REDD

Wednesday 8 December 2010 (Cancun) – The VCS Association, in partnership with [Climate Focus](#), is embarking on a new initiative to develop a robust framework for operationalizing jurisdictional and nested REDD.

This broad initiative will engage experts and stakeholders in developing criteria and procedures that will provide a pathway for national and state REDD initiatives to integrate the accounting of emissions reductions, whether generated by policies, programs or individual projects.

This effort will also develop VCS guidance for the use of regional baselines by REDD projects. As the most widely used REDD standard, the VCS sees a growing need to facilitate the use of common baselines where projects are clustered in a region. This would help streamline processes while maintaining atmospheric integrity and consistency, as well as reducing transaction costs for individual projects.

The VCS, with Climate Focus, will establish an advisory group of technical experts, government representatives and other stakeholders to lead the effort. By collaborating with other initiatives, the VCS aims to meet the needs of emerging compliance markets and bilateral and multilateral donors that are seeking to apply consistent best-practice frameworks for scaling-up REDD activities.

“Many national and sub-national governments are already taking leadership by promoting REDD within their jurisdictions, and yet currently there are no commonly accepted and applied criteria to account for emissions reductions at all scales, including nested projects,” said VCS CEO David Antonioli, “It’s a key missing component. Filling this need should increase confidence in the sector and has the potential to bring additional donor and investor resources to reducing emissions from deforestation.”

“This initiative will facilitate regional and national implementation of REDD. It will secure environmental integrity and ensure coherence in REDD accounting and crediting while creating effective incentives for reducing deforestation on the ground. Climate Focus is a proud partner of the VCS in this work,” said Climate Focus Director Charlotte Streck.

The VCS will issue a call for advisory group members in the coming weeks, with the aim of developing criteria and procedures for regional baselines and jurisdictional accounting by the end of 2011. The new initiative is supported by the Climate and Land Use Alliance, a collaborative initiative of the Climate Works Foundation, David and Lucille Packard Foundation, Ford Foundation, and Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation. END

The Voluntary Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is among the most widely used greenhouse gas programs used by projects to account for emission reductions or removals and issue credits in the voluntary carbon market. Founded in 2005 by the Climate Group, the International Emissions Trading Association and the World Sustainable Development Business Council, the VCS has pioneered flexible and reliable tools for generating quality GHG credits with environmental integrity and value.