

Need for the Standards

Forestry, agriculture and other land use activities are essential components of strategies to mitigate climate change. When well designed, they can also deliver significant additional benefits to enhance the well-being of local people, to conserve biodiversity and to assist with adaptation to the effects of climate change. When poorly designed, these activities carry risks of negative social and environmental impacts.

Role of the Standards

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards:

- Identify high-quality forestry, agriculture and other land use climate change mitigation projects that adopt best practices to generate significant benefits for local communities and biodiversity;
- Help developers to design good projects and attract investors and offset buyers, securing additional funding, market preference and/or price premiums for their offsets;
- Mitigate project risk and create additional value for investors;
- Assist governments and other organizations to ensure consistent quality across multiple projects.

Using the Standards

The CCB Standards require a high degree of transparency and evaluation of projects by an approved 3rd-party auditor. Project documents must be publicized to local stakeholders and posted on the internet for public comment. Auditors must consider all comments and conduct a site visit to determine whether a project satisfies all required criteria. Together, these criteria demonstrate that a project will mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity and improve well-being for local communities and also show that:

- the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are recognized and respected with no involuntary resettlement;
- local stakeholders are effectively involved in design, implementation and evaluation;
- carbon property rights are clear and there are no unresolved land tenure disputes;
- positive and negative social and environmental impacts are monitored and the results are made public;
- no use of invasive species, no GMOs for mitigation activities and must demonstrate no negative impacts for any use of non-native species.

The CCB Standards must be used through a two-step process:

- **Validation** demonstrates good project design to generate significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits. Successful CCB Validation can help build support for the project among stakeholders and investors.
- **Verification** is a rigorous independent endorsement of the quality of project implementation and the delivery of multiple benefits. Successful CCB Verification enables the addition of a '**CCB label**' to verified emissions reductions units such as VCUs. The CCB Standards used alone do not lead to delivery of quantified emissions reductions certificates so they should be used in combination with a carbon accounting standard (e.g. CDM, VCS).

The Standards can be applied to any forestry, agriculture or other land use carbon project anywhere in the world, whether undertaken for compliance or for voluntary carbon-offsetting purposes.



General Section		
G1	Original Conditions in the Project Area	Required
G2	Baseline Projections	Required
G3	Project Design and Goals	Required
G4	Management Capacity and Best Practices	Required
G5	Legal Status and Property Rights	Required
Climate Section		
CL1	Net Positive Climate Impacts	Required
CL2	Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")	Required
CL3	Climate Impact Monitoring	Required
Community Section		
CM1	Net Positive Community Impacts	Required
CM2	Offsite Stakeholder Impacts	Required
CM3	Community Impact Monitoring	Required
Biodiversity Section		
B1	Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts	Required
B2	Offsite Biodiversity Impacts	Required
B3	Biodiversity Impact Monitoring	Required
Gold Level Section		
GL1	Climate Change Adaptation Benefits	Optional
GL2	Exceptional Community Benefits	Optional
GL3	Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits	Optional
Total Project Points		
CCB Standards Validation Levels APPROVED All requirements met GOLD All requirements and also at least one optional Gold Level criterion met		
www.climate-standards.org		

The CCB Standards Scorecard lists the 17 project validation criteria.



To learn more about the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance or Standards please visit:
www.climate-standards.org

Or contact:
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Widespread and Increasing Use of the CCB Standards

As of May 2011, a total of 37 projects have completed validation, 14 projects have initiated the validation process, and two projects have achieved verification. Of these 51 projects, 41 are in developing countries and represent exciting initiatives to stimulate investment, jobs, biodiversity conservation and many other social and environmental benefits. At least 100 projects are planning to use the standards, representing over 9 million ha of conservation and over 450,000 ha of restoration of native forests with total estimated annual emissions reductions of over 17 million tons annually.

Preferential Market Access and Premiums

The CCB Standards have become a forest carbon requirement for many investors, brokers and offset buyers. A recent survey¹ confirmed that quality standards and multiple benefits are very important for forest carbon offset buyers. CCB Standards were rated the most 'highly desirable' standards. 67 percent of respondents globally and 79 percent in Europe would be willing to pay a premium of one dollar or more per ton for carbon credits which also have CCB verification in addition to a carbon accounting standard. These results confirm that offset buyers are sensitive to the social and environmental risks and opportunities of forest carbon and seek projects using the CCB Standards.

Participatory and Inclusive Process for 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.

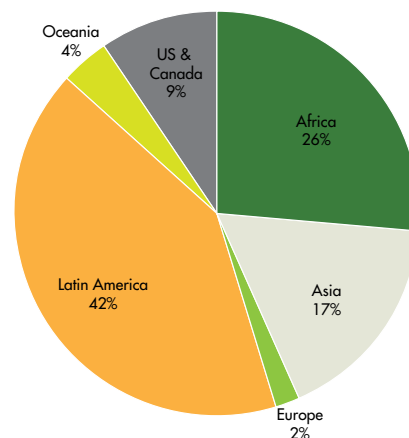


The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance

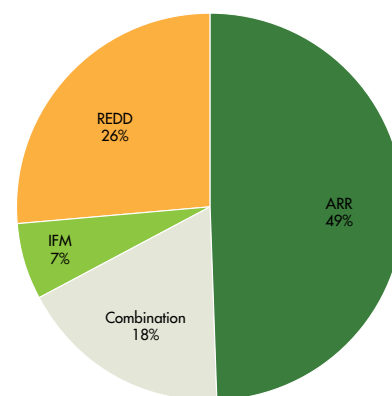
The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) is a partnership of international NGOs seeking to foster the development of forest protection and restoration activities around the world that deliver significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits.

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 significant multiple benefits.

While the CCB Standards are designed for site-based forest carbon activities, CCBA and CARE are facilitating the **REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards (REDD+ SES)** initiative to build support for government-led REDD+ programs that make a significant contribution to human rights, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation (www.redd-standards.org).

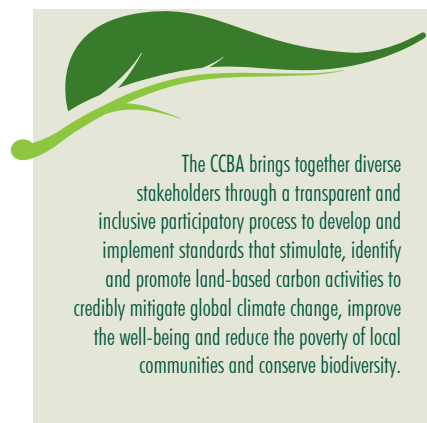


Geographic Location of Projects
(includes projects validated and in the pipeline)



Project Types
(includes projects validated and in the pipeline)

ARR — Afforestation, Reforestation, Revegetation
REDD — Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation
IFM — Improved Forest Management
Combination — includes more than one project type



¹The Forest Carbon Offsetting Survey 2010. EcoSecurities, UK.

