



Agricultural Land Management

Update from the VCS

Carolyn Ching, Senior Program Officer

Project and Methodology Stats

VCS Project Statistics

VCS Methodology Statistics

Current Ag Methodologies under Development

VCS Project Statistics

- Registered projects
 - 698 Registered Projects (21 AFOLU projects)
 - Registered AFOLU projects in Colombia, Guatemala, Kenya, Tanzania, Australia, Canada, Belize, Peru, Brazil, Malaysia, Uganda, Indonesia, India
- Volumes
 - Over 68 million VCUs issued (over 4.5 million from AFOLU)
 - 536 projects have issued VCUs
 - AFOLU pooled buffer account holds over 1 million buffer credits

VCS Methodology Statistics

- 10 approved VCS AFOLU methodologies (18 total)
 - Improved Forest Management (IFM) (5)
 - Reduced Emissions from Forest Degradation and Deforestation (REDD) (5)
- 11 AFOLU methodologies under development (17 total)
 - Agricultural Land Management (ALM) (7)
 - IFM (1)
 - REDD (3)

ALM Methodologies under Development

Developer	Methodology Element	Status Update
	The Earth Partners Methodology for Soil Carbon (modular format)	Public Comment
GreenCollar Climate Solutions	Methodology for Agricultural Land Management: Improved Grassland Management	1st Assessment
Terra Global Capital, LLC	Calculating Emission Reductions in Rice Management Systems	1st Assessment
FAO	Methodology for Sustainable Grassland Management (SGM)	1st Assessment
Syracuse University	Adoption of Sustainable Grassland Management through Adjustment of Fire and Grazing	2nd Assessment
MSU/EPRI	Quantifying N ₂ O emissions reductions in US agricultural crops through N fertilizer rate reduction	2nd Assessment
BioCarbon Fund, World Bank	Adoption of Sustainable Agricultural Land Management (SALM)	VCSA review for approval

Soil Carbon Modules – The Earth Partners

- Modular methodology – 1 framework module and 18 other modules
- Eligible Activities: improved cropland mgmt, improved grassland mgmt, cropland and grassland land-use conversions
- Carbon pools & GHG sources: soil, litter, living vegetation pools, N₂O, CH₄
- Widely applicable to many activities
- Soil carbon is measured in baseline and project scenarios
- Open for Public Comment until **3 November**

Improved Grassland Management - GCS

- Eligible Activities: improved grassland management for grass-dominated system where grasslands are used primarily for livestock production
- Carbon pools & GHG sources: soil, aboveground woody biomass, belowground biomass, CO₂, CH₄, N₂O
- First Assessment

Rice Management – TerraGlobal and EDF

- Eligible Activities: Improving mgmt practices in rice cultivation: reducing duration of flooding during or outside of growing season, removing crop residues, switching to low-methane rice cultivars, leveling fields before planting
- Carbon Pools & GHG source: CH₄, N₂O, CO₂
- Uses biogeochemical process models to quantify changes in emissions in the baseline and project scenarios
- First Assessment

Sustainable Grassland Management- FAO

- Eligible Activities: Increase soil organic carbon through sustainable grassland management practices
- Carbon Pools & GHG sources: Above- and belowground biomass, soil, N₂O, CH₄, CO₂
- May use biogeochemical models to estimate changes in SOC pool
- First Assessment

Adjustment of Fire and Grazing Meth – Soils for the Future and Jadora Int'l

- Eligible Activities: Adjustment of the density of grazing animals and the frequency of prescribed fires in uncultivated grasslands
- Carbon pools & GHG sources: aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, dead wood, litter, soil, CO₂, CH₄, N₂O
- Uses a modeled and measured approach
- Second Assessment

Adjustment of N₂O Application - MSU

- Eligible Activities: Adjustment of N₂O application on US cropping systems
- Carbon pools & GHG sources: N₂O
- Standardized approach to setting the baseline crediting threshold and determining additionality
- Second Assessment

SALM – World Bank BioCarbon Fund

- Eligible Activities: Adoption of sustainable agricultural land management practice; such as, manure mgmt, use of cover crops, introduction of trees into the landscape
- Carbon pools & GHG sources: Aboveground biomass, belowground biomass, soil, CH₄, N₂O
- Applicable to smallholders across an agricultural landscape
- Submitted to VCSA for approval

AFOLU Requirements

- ARR
 - Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation
- ALM
 - Agricultural Land Management
- IFM
 - Improved Forest Management
- REDD
 - Reduced Emissions from Degradation and Deforestation
- PRC
 - Peatland Rewetting and Conservation
 - Rewetting of drained peatland; conservation of undrained or partially drained peatland
- ACoGS
 - Avoided Conversion of Grasslands and Shrublands

AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool



AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool

VCS Version 3
Procedural Document
8 March 2011, v3.0

Table 1: Project Management

Project Management		
a)	Species planted (where applicable) associated with more than 25% of the stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued are not native or proven to be adapted to the same or similar agro-ecological zone(s) in which the project is located.	2
b)	Ongoing enforcement to prevent encroachment by outside actors is required to protect more than 50% of stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued.	2
c)	Management team does not include individuals with significant experience in all skills necessary to successfully undertake all project activities (ie, any area of required experience is not covered by at least one individual with at least 5 years experience in the area).	2
d)	Management team does not maintain a presence in the country or is located more than a day of travel from the project site, considering all parcels or polygons in the project area.	2
e)	Mitigation: Management team includes individuals with significant experience in AFOLU project design and implementation, carbon accounting and reporting (eg, individuals who have successfully managed projects through validation, verification and issuance of GHG credits) under the VCS Program or other approved GHG programs.	-2
f)	Mitigation: Adaptive management plan in place.	-2
Total Project Management (PM) [as applicable, (a + b + c + d + e + f)]		
Total may be less than zero.		

Table 11: Overall Risk Rating

Risk Category		Rating
a)	Internal Risk (from Table 5)	
b)	External Risk (from Table 9)	
c)	Natural Risk (from Table 10)	
Overall risk rating (a + b + c)		

Grouped Projects

- Allows the expansion of a project activity over time within a specified geographic area.
- New instances of the project activity can be added during verification as long as they meet pre-defined eligibility criteria.
- Similar to the CDM PoA



Latest Strategic Initiative

New Requirements for Wetlands

Wetlands Restoration and Conservation

- Activities that avoid conversion and restore or/rewet wetlands
- Eligible habitats
 - Mangroves, coastal wetlands, sea grasses
- Status: **Drafting**, to be released late 2011 or early 2012

Cutting Edge Initiatives – Standardized Approaches

- Steering Committee on Standardized Approaches
 - **Performance methods:** performance benchmark for crediting baseline or additionality threshold (emissions per unit input or output or a sequestration metric)
 - **Activity methods:** Positive lists approach for additionality
 - Building blocks for sectoral approaches and NAMAs
 - Undergoing revisions following public consultation

Cutting Edge Initiatives - JNRI

- Jurisdictional and Nested REDD Initiative
 - Developing guidance and criteria for jurisdictional REDD programs to enable crediting at multiple scales (project, state/province and national)
 - Create a pathway for projects to “nest” within larger scale jurisdictional programs
 - Develop best practice nested frameworks that may serve multiple markets (voluntary, bilateral, pre-compliance, potentially compliance)
 - Advisory and Technical Committees convened
 - Draft guidance due in late 2011

Thank You

Carolyn Ching

Senior Program Officer

cching@v-c-s.org

+1 202 296 2312

VCS Association

1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW

Suite 803

Washington, DC 20036

www.v-c-s.org

