

## What's New in the Second Edition

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance has completed a nine-month participatory process to review and strengthen the leading standards for multiple benefit land-based carbon offset projects. Experts and practitioners from environmental, development and indigenous peoples organizations, the private sector, government agencies and research institutes have contributed to the creation of the Second Edition of the CCB Standards, released in December 2008.

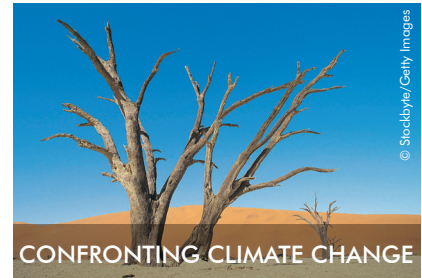

The CCB Standards are a set of rigorous criteria designed to determine the ability of a project to reduce greenhouse gas concentrations while delivering lasting benefits for local communities and for biodiversity. For approval under the Standards, projects must apply best-practice assessment and monitoring methods, respect statutory and customary rights and demonstrate effective local input in project design and implementation.

These criteria have been strengthened and clarified in the Second Edition, requiring project proponents to:

- **Describe the social, economic and cultural diversity within communities** (wealth, gender, age, ethnicity etc.) including specific groups such as Indigenous Peoples;
- **Demonstrate that free, prior and informed consent** has been obtained from all those whose rights are affected by the project;
- **Demonstrate equitable distribution of costs and benefits** of the project among community members and constituent groups;
- **Demonstrate legal ownership of the carbon rights** or that the project is undertaken on behalf of and with the full consent of the carbon owners;
- **Ensure no land tenure disputes** before the start of the project;
- **Identify, maintain and enhance high conservation values** including areas supporting threatened and endemic species, areas providing critical ecosystem services, and areas essential for the basic needs and traditional cultural identity of local communities;
- **Demonstrate that invasive species will not increase** as a result of the project;
- **For REDD projects**, include an analysis of the relevant drivers and rates of deforestation and/or degradation and a description and justification of the approaches, assumptions and data used.

**A new 'Gold Level' is reserved for projects that generate exceptional benefits by:**

- Targeting benefits to globally poorer communities and the poorer, more vulnerable households and individuals within them; or,
- Conserving biodiversity at sites of global significance for biodiversity conservation; or,
- Providing significant support to assist communities and/or biodiversity in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards enable identification of high-quality land-based carbon projects that adopt best practices to generate significant benefits for local communities and biodiversity while delivering credible and robust greenhouse gas emissions reductions.

## THE CCB STANDARDS IN PRACTICE

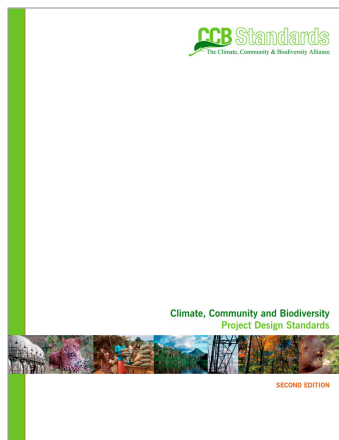
To conform with the CCB Standards, independent 3rd-party auditors must determine that the project satisfies all required criteria and respond to any comments from a mandatory public review period. The Standards can be applied to any forest or agricultural land-based carbon project anywhere in the world, whether undertaken for compliance or for voluntary carbon-offsetting purposes.

The CCB Standards can be applied early as a project design standard to validate that projects have been well designed and are likely to achieve significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits. They can also be applied throughout the project's life to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of project activities. Since CCB Standards do not enable verification of quantified emissions reductions, they can be combined very effectively with a carbon accounting standard (e.g. CDM, VCS).

Over 100 multiple-benefit projects around the world are now using the CCB Standards as a project design guide and to secure additional funding, market preference and/or price premiums for their offsets.

## ENSURING BROAD PARTICIPATION AND A TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR CCB STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT

The First Edition of the Standards was released by the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) in May 2005 following an intensive two-year international stakeholder development process, expert review, public comments and field testing. The Second Edition results from a continuation of that process, and was designed to incorporate recent views from diverse stakeholders in the rapidly evolving forest carbon arena.



The CCB Standards can be downloaded from [www.climate-standards.org](http://www.climate-standards.org).

<b>General Section</b>		
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
<b>Climate Section</b>		
CL1	Net Positive Climate Impacts	Required
CL2	Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")	Required
CL3	Climate Impact Monitoring	Required
<b>Community Section</b>		
CM1	Net Positive Community Impacts	Required
CM2	Offsite Stakeholder Impacts	Required
CM3	Community Impact Monitoring	Required
<b>Biodiversity Section</b>		
B1	Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts	Required
B2	Offsite Biodiversity Impacts	Required
B3	Biodiversity Impact Monitoring	Required
<b>Gold Level Section</b>		
GL1	Climate Change Adaptation Benefits	Optional
GL2	Exceptional Community Benefits	Optional
GL3	Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits	Optional
<b>Total Project Points</b>		

**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](http://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 us on the web at: [www.climate-standards.org](http://www.climate-standards.org)

Or contact:  
 Joanna Durbin, Ph.D  
 Director, CCBA  
[jdurbin@climate-standards.org](mailto:jdurbin@climate-standards.org)  
 +1 703.341.2461