

Forestry, agriculture and other land-use activities are essential components of strategies to mitigate climate change. When sensitively designed, they can deliver significant additional benefits to:

- Help local people;
- Conserve biodiversity; and
- Assist adaptation to the effects of climate change.

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards enable investors, policymakers, project managers and civil society observers to evaluate the social and environmental impacts of site-based forestry, agriculture and other land-use climate change mitigation activities.

The CCB Standards:

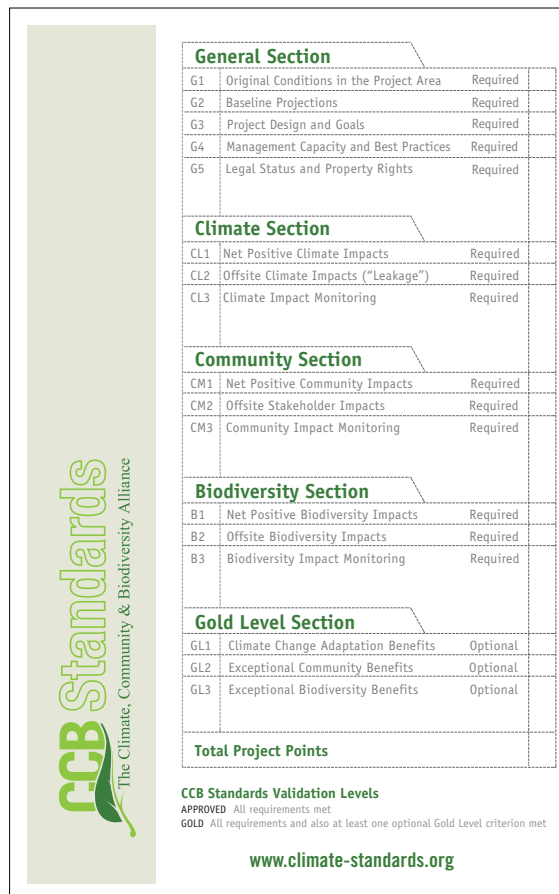
- Identify high-quality projects that adopt best practices to generate significant benefits for local communities and biodiversity while delivering credible and robust carbon offsets;
- Help developers design good projects and secure additional funding, market preference and/or price premiums for their offsets;
- Enable governments and land-use planners to prioritize activities across the landscape to optimize multiple benefits; and,
- Mitigate project risk and create additional value for investors.

To conform to the CCB Standards independent 3rd-party auditors must determine that the project satisfies all required criteria, which together demonstrate that the project will mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity and improve well-being for local communities. The criteria further ensure that: the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities are respected; environmental and social monitoring programs are in place; no invasive species are used; local stakeholders are effectively involved; carbon property rights are clear; and there are no unresolved land tenure disputes.

The CCB Standards can be used as:

- **Project design standards** during initial project development to provide guidance for effective and integrated project design, as well as to build support at a critical stage by demonstrating through 'CCB Validation' that a project is well-designed and likely to achieve significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits; and,
- **Multiple-benefit standards** throughout the life of the project to provide quality assurance through 'CCB Verification' that a project is delivering social and environmental benefits. Combination with a carbon accounting standard (e.g. CDM, VCS) that verifies quantified emissions reductions is recommended. CCB Verification enables the addition of a 'CCB' label to verified emissions reductions units such as VCUs on a registry.

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.



The CCB Standards Scorecard lists the 17 project validation criteria. The scorecard is a table with columns for criteria ID, description, and status (Required or Optional). It is divided into sections: General Section, Climate Section, Community Section, Biodiversity Section, and Gold Level Section. A 'Total Project Points' row is at the bottom. Below the table, there is a legend for 'CCB Standards Validation Levels' with 'APPROVED' (All requirements met) and 'GOLD' (All requirements met and also at least one optional Gold Level criterion met). The website www.climate-standards.org is listed at the bottom.

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 met and also at least one optional Gold Level criterion met

www.climate-standards.org

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Widespread and Increasing Use of the CCB Standards

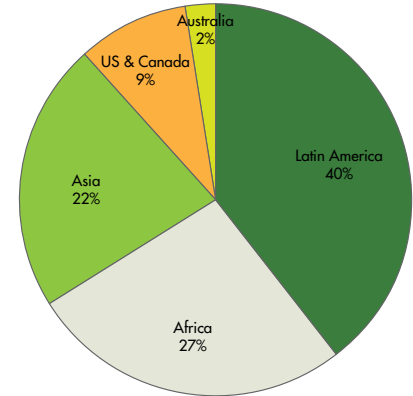
As of December 2009, a total of 14 projects have completed validation, and 23 other projects have initiated the validation process. Of these 37 projects, 29 are in developing countries and represent exciting initiatives to stimulate investment, jobs, biodiversity conservation and many other social and environmental benefits. At least 86 projects are planning to use the standards, representing over 6.8 million ha of conservation and over 350,000 ha of restoration of native forests with total estimated annual emissions reductions of over 12.2 million tons annually.

Preferential Market Access and Premiums

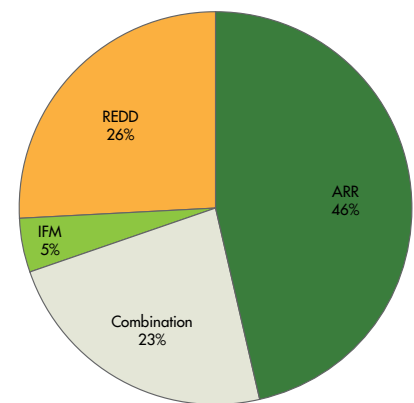
While originally designed to differentiate the highest quality projects, the CCB Standards have become a forest carbon requirement for many investors, brokers and offset buyers. A recent survey¹ confirmed that quality standards and multiple benefits are very important for forest carbon offset buyers. More than 75 percent of respondents would be willing to pay a premium of one dollar or more per ton for carbon credits with CCB verification, 30% of the participants stated they would pay premiums of at least four dollars per ton and 13% would pay over six dollars per ton for the additional multiple-benefits demonstrated by the CCB label. These results confirm that offset buyers are sensitive to the social and environmental risks and opportunities of forest carbon and seek projects validated against the CCB Standards.

Participatory and Inclusive Process for Standards Development

The First Edition of the 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.



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 Forest Degradation
IFM – Improved Forest Management
Combination – includes more than one project type



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 an initiative to develop **REDD+ Social & Environmental Standards** to build support for government-led REDD and other forest carbon programs that make a significant contribution to human rights, poverty alleviation and biodiversity conservation. The standards are being developed through an inclusive process engaging diverse stakeholders with strong participation from countries where REDD would be implemented.



¹The Forest Carbon Offsetting Survey 2009. EcoSecurities, UK. P.26.

