

Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market

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A high-integrity VCM can accelerate climate action

Climate crisis requires urgent action

- Global warming has become an existential threat, with 1.5°C increasingly out of reach. We need to act **now** to limit the worst effects of climate change.

Large-scale reductions & removal required

- We need to halve global emissions by 2030 and reach net-zero by 2050. Every ton of emissions reduced and removed matters.

Private sector action & investment critical

- Government action is not enough. The private sector has a critical role to play.

VCM is a key complementary tool

- A high-integrity voluntary carbon market can channel private finance into mitigation projects that reduce and remove emissions above and beyond what would otherwise be possible.

Our work



Assessment

We are assessing carbon-crediting programs and methodologies for adherence to the CCPs. CCP-labelled carbon credits will bring integrity to the market.



Stakeholder Engagement

We are engaging with all stakeholders in the market, including VCM practitioners, governments and regulators, Indigenous Peoples and local communities.



Continuous Improvement

We are working to ensure carbon programs and projects increase ambition over time. Our stakeholder workshops will identify best practice in key areas to feed into the next iteration of the CCPs.



THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL
FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

THE CORE CARBON PRINCIPLES

The CCPs set a global benchmark to ensure integrity in the voluntary carbon market.

GOVERNANCE

1. Effective governance
2. Tracking
3. Transparency
4. Robust independent third-party validation and verification

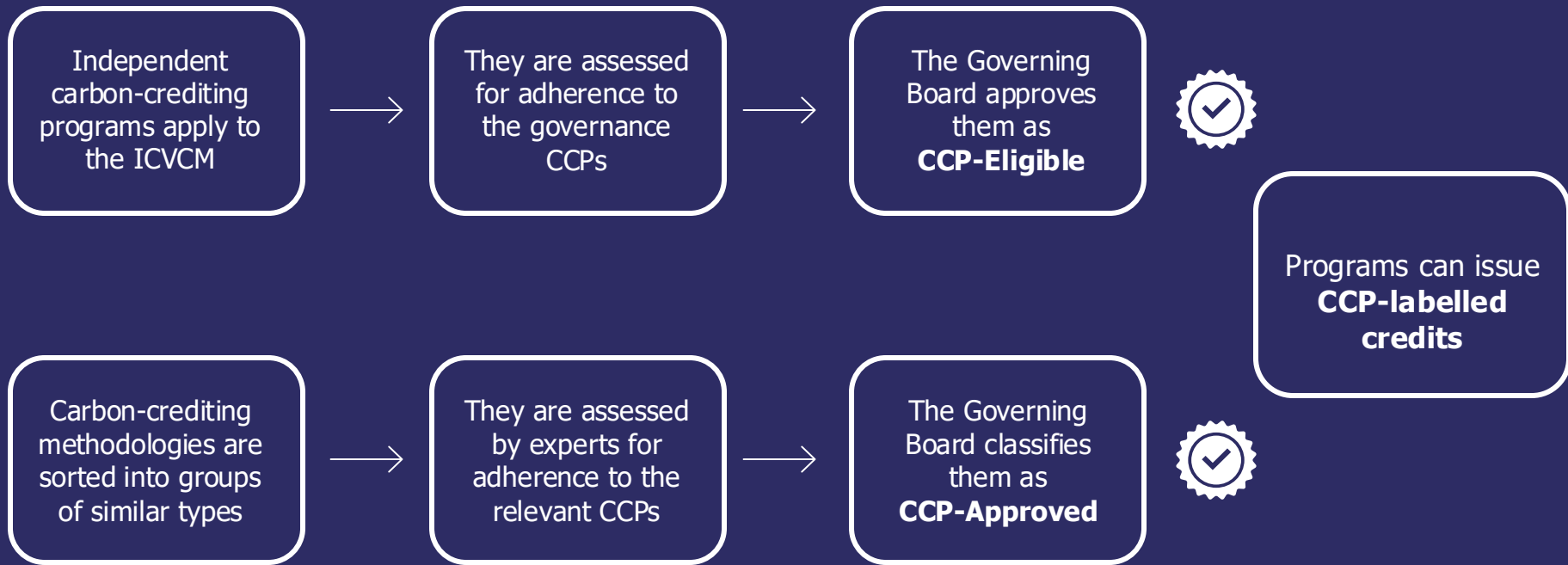
EMISSIONS IMPACT

5. Additionality
6. Permanence
7. Robust quantification of emission reductions and removals
8. No double counting

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

9. Sustainable development benefits and safeguards
10. Contribution to net zero transition

CCP-labelled credits: The Two-Tick Assessment Process



All major carbon crediting programs are now CCP-Eligible

More are under assessment. Our **two-tick approach** means that CCP-Eligible programs may only issue CCP-labelled credits if they were generated using CCP-Approved methodologies.



ACR



Gold Standard



ART



Isometric



CAR



VCS (Verra)

CCP-Approved methodologies

The Integrity Council has approved methodologies covering approximately **50.5 million credits** in the market, as well as some new methodologies which have not yet started issuing credits.



Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR)– 0 credits



Landfill Gas Capture and Utilization (LFG) - 15 million credits



Leak Detection/Repair in Gas Systems (LDAR) - 22.5 million credits



Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS) - 13 million credits



Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation+ (REDD+) (Jurisdictional, Project) - 0 credits

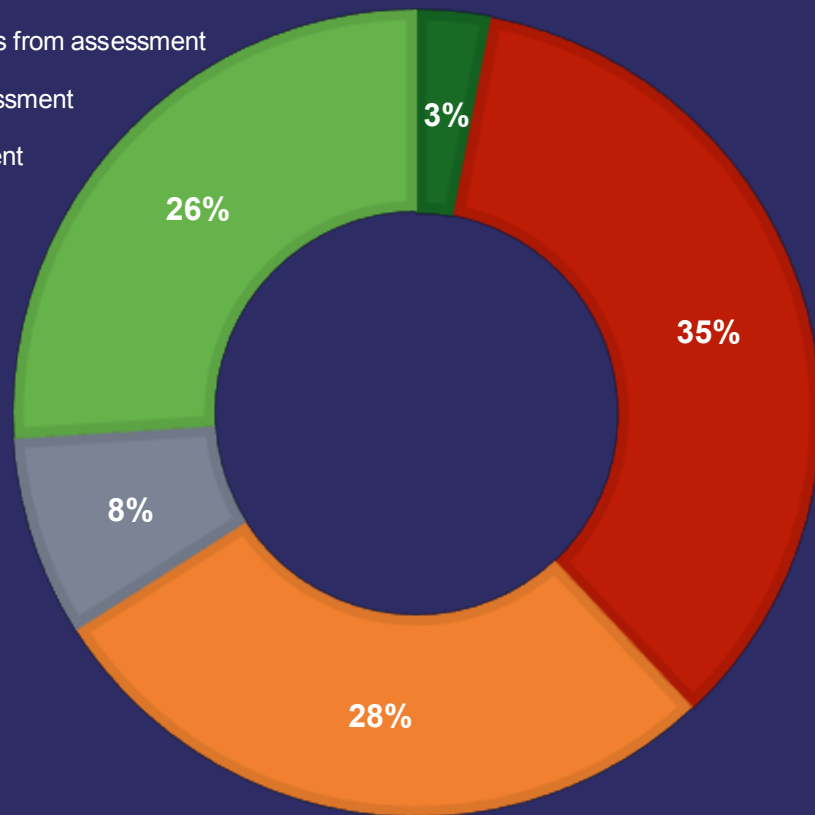
CCP-Approved methodologies

Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS)	Landfill Gas (LFG)	Leak Detection and Repair (LDAR)	REDD+	Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation (ARR)
(ACR) Destruction of ODS from International Sources v1.0	(VCS, GS) ACM0001 Flaring or use of Landfill Gas v15-19	(VCS) AM0023 – Leak Detection and Repair in Gas Production, Processing, Transmission, Storage and Distribution Systems and in Refinery Facilities v4.0.0	(ART) The REDD+ Environmental Excellence Standard (TREES) v2.0, TREES Crediting Level	(VCS) VM0047 Afforestation, Reforestation, and Revegetation v1.0
(CAR) Article 5 Ozone Depleting Substances Project Protocol v1-2	(VCS, GS) AMS iii G – Landfill Methane Recovery v9 and v10		(VCS) VM0048 Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation v1.0	
(CAR) U.S. Ozone Depleting Substances Project Protocol v1-2	(ACR) Landfill Gas Destruction and Beneficial Use Projects v1-2		(VCS) Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) Framework v4.1	
	(CAR) U.S. Landfill Protocol v6			

We have assessed 38% of the market

We are assessing more than 100 carbon credit methodologies for adherence to the CCPs. Assessments are ongoing and we expect decisions on key methodologies to be largely complete in the first half of 2025.

- Assessed - Credits qualifying for CCP-label (to date)
- Assessed - Credits not meeting CCP requirements (to date)
- Excluded by Programs from assessment
- Out of scope for assessment
- Currently in assessment



ICVCM Oversight Process

CCP-Eligible programs
must continue to
follow the ICVCM rules



The ICVCM will
regularly oversee the
implementation of CCP
rules



Measures will be taken
to address non-
compliance

Continuous Improvement Work Programs

Raising ambition in carbon projects over time

Completed CIWPs

- Paris Agreement harmonization – Corresponding Adjustments under Article 6b
- Paris Agreement harmonization – Consideration of a Share of Proceeds for Adaptation
- Paris Agreement harmonization – Alignment of baselines with Nationally Determined Contributions
- Social Safeguards and Benefit Sharing
- Permanence

CIWPs commencing in 2025

- Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) Systems (including DMRV)
- Market Transparency, Standardisation, and Scalability
- Oversight of Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)
- Simplified approaches for small projects to CCP-Approval
- Jurisdictional crediting approaches
- Renewable Energy crediting approaches
- Transition crediting
- Permanence (Monitoring and Compensation)

Regulatory uptake of the CCPs

Governments and regulators representing more than a third of global demand for carbon credits have announced their support for the Integrity Council and the CCPs.

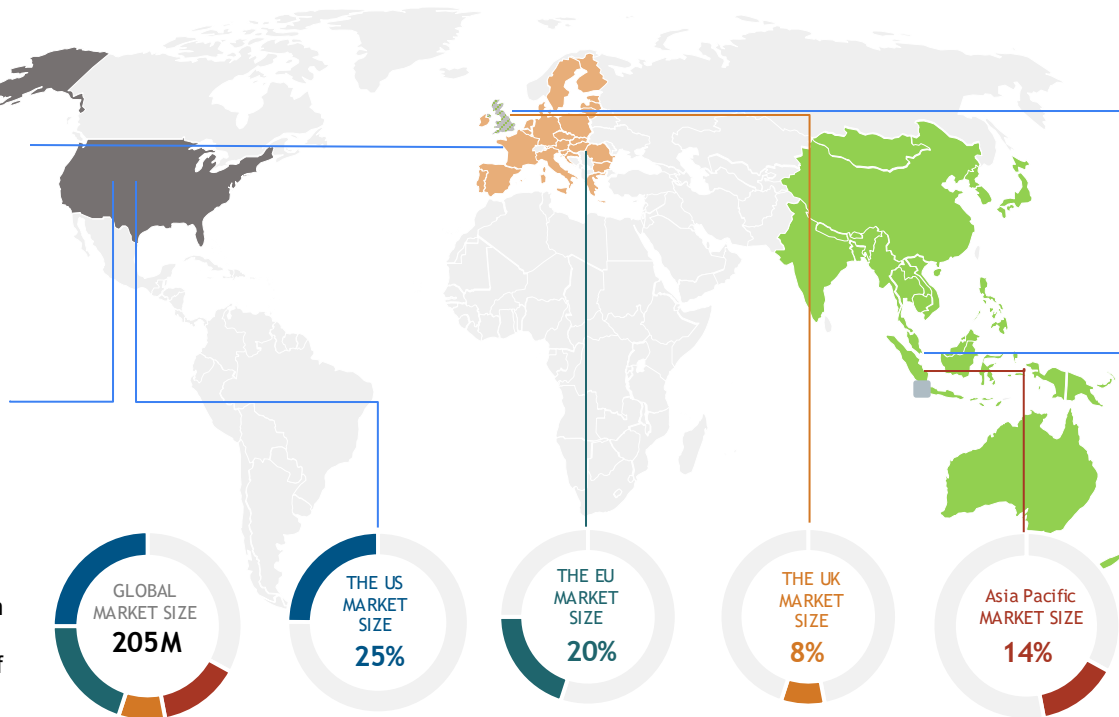
Continued informal engagement with **the EU** to build alignment between the CCPs and emerging regulation (CRCF, GCD).

The Biden **US Government's** principles for high-integrity voluntary carbon markets draw on ICVCM's work and are aligned with the CCPs

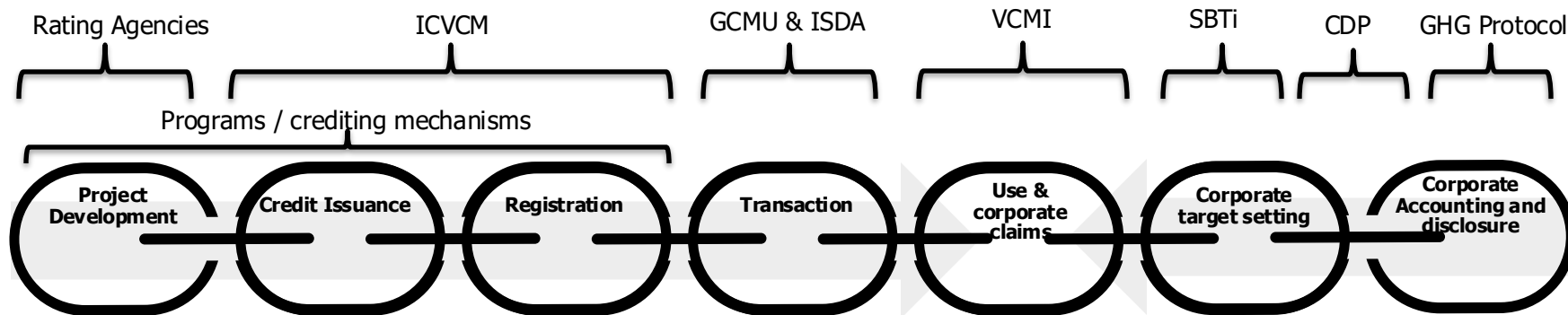
The **US Commodities Future Trading Commission (CFTC)** recognizes the ICVCM and CCP labelled credits as high quality in its proposed guidance regarding listing of voluntary carbon credit derivative contracts.

The **UK government's** newly released principles for high-integrity voluntary carbon and nature markets are aligned with the CCPs.

Singapore The Monetary Authority of Singapore has announced that transition credits must align with the CCPs and other Article 6 integrity requirements as mandated by the UNFCCC, and will explore ways in which transition credits can align with the CCPs in consultation with the Integrity Council.



Lifting integrity in the Carbon Mitigation Chain



Governments, credit buyers, developers, and funders form coalitions to raise ambition and integrity across the chain (**Global methane hub**, **LEAF**, **ETA**, **WMBC**, **centigrade**, **symbiosis**) alongside carbon market industry trade associations (e.g. **CMAI**, **IETA**)

Barriers to overcome

Limited access to information on financial risk, lack of institutional investment structure, lack of structured offtake agreements, fee structures and revenue sharing needed to ensure proper distribution of benefits.

Divergent implementation of methodologies, VVBs can be under-skilled and lack oversight, limited access in developing countries, MRV challenges.

No interoperability of program registries, no shared data fields or open-source data, lags in transaction reporting.

Lack of pricing transparency, primarily OTC bespoke contracts keep the market opaque, difficult to scale liquidity without secondary markets, no internationally recognized legal definition of carbon credit.

Regional fragmentation in claims requirements in regulation for corporates and financial institutions, greenhushing.

Lack of information about value chain emissions, varying capacity for companies to set and deliver targets in-house, evolving guidelines.

Inconsistent approaches to carbon accounting and gaps in accounting approaches for new technologies e.g. removals

Regulatory Oversight & the CCPs

Supply

- **National/regional supply integrity initiatives:**
 - The **UK Nature Markets Framework** intends to refer to the ICVCM CCPs
 - Relevant vintages of CCP-Approved carbon credits would likely meet Singapore eligibility criteria
 - The **Africa Carbon Market Initiative (ACMI)** will require projects it showcases to be ICVCM/CCP compliant
- **Authorisation for 6.2:** CCP criteria align with the quality requirements for an ITMO so CCP labelled carbon credit projects/programs could be cooperative approaches and the CCP labelled carbon credits authorized
- **Finance:** The **U.S. Energy Transition Accelerator** will consult with the ICVCM to develop the accelerator

Intermediaries

- **Derivatives:** The **U.S. Commodities Future Trading Commission (CFTC)** recognises the ICVCM and CCP labelled credits as high quality in its proposed guidance regarding listing of voluntary carbon credit derivative contracts
- **Exchanges:** The **London Stock Exchange** Schedule 8 of the Admission and Disclosure Standards will deem the ICVCM as a Voluntary Carbon Industry Body upon issuance of CCP labelled credits.
- **Developing regulatory initiative:** The **Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS)** Transition Credits Coalition requires alignment to the ICVCM CCPs.
- **IOSCO:** Consultation report to promote integrity – international alignment, regulatory clarity, legal definitions, integrity frameworks

Demand

- **Consumer protection:**
 - The **U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC)** Climate Disclosure Rule includes requirements to report on carbon credit usage
- **EU Carbon Removals Certification Framework (CRCF):** Establishes a robust system for the certification of high-quality carbon removal units
- **EU Green Claims Directive:** The use of units for compensation of fossil emissions must be substantiated by permanent removals as defined in CRCF. Non-CRCF issued units may be used where schemes are recognised by the Commission as part of the list of compliant schemes.