



## The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance

Land use changes are an essential component of strategies to mitigate climate change, effectively limiting greenhouse gases by reducing emissions from deforestation and degradation and sequestering carbon through reforestation and agroforestry activities.

These land-based carbon activities also have exceptional potential to deliver additional benefits. When sensitively designed, they can:

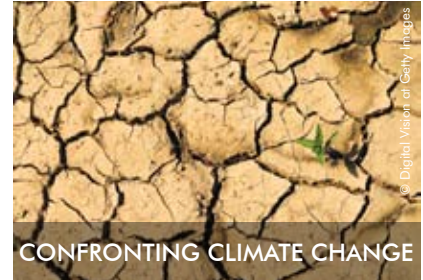
- **Help local people** by creating sustainable livelihoods for example by diversifying agriculture, protecting soil and water resources, generating direct employment, and enabling use and sale of forest products;
- **Conserve biodiversity** by restoring and protecting natural ecosystems necessary to save threatened animal and plant species from extinction and maintain productive natural life-support;
- **Assist adaptation to the effects of climate change** by building the capacity and resilience of vulnerable communities and species.

The Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) was formed in 2003 to respond to this opportunity. The CCBA is a partnership between leading NGOs and companies seeking to foster the development of forest protection and restoration activities around the world that deliver significant climate, community and biodiversity benefits.

To achieve this goal, the CCBA has developed and is promoting the Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards and is working towards the creation of a policy and market environment that supports multiple-benefit forest protection, restoration and agroforestry activities around the world.

CCBA members include six companies—BP, Intel, SC Johnson, Sustainable Forestry Management, Weyerhaeuser and GFA Invest—and five NGOs—Conservation International, CARE, Rainforest Alliance, The Nature Conservancy and the Wildlife Conservation Society.

Experience from the extensive and rapidly growing portfolio of over 100 multiple-benefit projects around the world using the CCB Standards and their expanding market influence enables CCBA to provide a practical contribution to the definition of new policies and frameworks.



The CCBA brings together diverse actors to develop global standards that drive creation of forest carbon policies, programs and projects to stabilize global climate change, benefit the world's poor and maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems.



The Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards enable investors, policymakers, project managers and civil society observers to evaluate land-based climate change mitigation projects.

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.

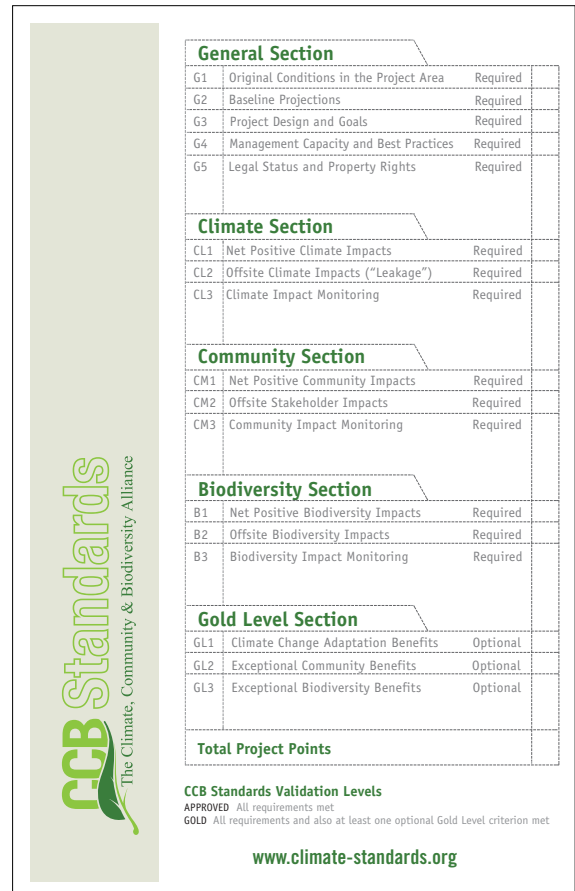
To conform with the CCB Standards, independent 3rd-party auditors must determine that the project satisfies all required criteria which together demonstrate the project will mitigate climate change, conserve biodiversity, and improve well-being for local communities. The criteria further ensure that 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 rules and guidance for effective and integrated project design, and build support at a critical stage by demonstrating 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 on a project's social and environmental benefits in combination with a carbon accounting standard (e.g. CDM, VCS) that provides verification of quantified emissions reductions.

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 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.



The CCB Standards Scorecard lists the 17 project validation criteria. The scorecard is presented in a table format with sections for General, Climate, Community, Biodiversity, and Gold Level sections. A legend at the bottom explains the validation levels: APPROVED (All requirements met) and GOLD (All requirements met and also at least one optional Gold Level criterion met).

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
<b>Total Project Points</b>		

**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](http://www.climate-standards.org)

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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)

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