

Major Revision to VCS Methodology Supports Additional REDD+ Project Types

8 January 2013 – San Francisco California, USA – Today, Wildlife Works and ecoPartners announced the release of an important revision to Wildlife Works' VM0009 – Methodology for Avoided Deforestation. The VCS-approved methodology is now applicable to a wider variety of project baseline types, including those projects that include planned or frontier pattern deforestation.

VM0009 version 2.1, approved in December by the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), makes it easier for REDD+ project proponents and developers validate and verify their projects in a timely and cost-effective manner, resulting in more quickly verified projects and ultimately, greater and more timely contributions to the climate change battle.

Wildlife Works' VM0009 is currently the most widely used REDD+ methodology under the VCS Standard, accounting for over 6 million tonnes of verified reductions on 460,000 hectares, representing about half of all verified REDD+ projects to date.

“In each of our projects, our methodology has been essential to delivering credible and cost-effective credits,” says Mike Korchinsky, founder and CEO of Wildlife Works. “These credits ultimately provide direct and tangible benefits to communities, wildlife and the climate.” Wildlife Works is a leader in applying innovative market-based solutions to the conservation of biodiversity and improving living standards.

Based in Berkeley, CA, ecoPartners provides development services for forest conservation projects in the United States and around the world. “Project developers can use this new version to quantify avoided deforestation and degradation by addressing an array of drivers and agents,” explains Kyle Holland, President of ecoPartners. “It is broadly applicable to many different scenarios, including deforestation by illegal logging and planned conversion.”

Jeremy Freund, Wildlife Works' VP Carbon Development, describes how the methodology is now streamlined for project validation and verification. “We designed the methodology to include clear documentation requirements that allow auditors to quickly assess project design. During project development, these requirements act as a checklist, clarifying the process and making it much more efficient.”

This second version greatly expands VM0009's flexibility and applicability. The following key benefits can dramatically reduce the cost and complexity of project development over a now broader range of project types:

- Planned and unplanned project types: VM0009, v2 dramatically expands its project scope to include both planned and unplanned drivers of deforestation.

- Simplified remote sensing techniques: by visually examining a sample of historical imagery from a variety of image sources, project developers avoid the costly process of acquiring and processing cloud-free imagery. Even very cloudy imagery and Landsat SLC-off tiles can be applied to the analysis of historical patterns of deforestation.
- Robust estimate of deforestation in the without-project (baseline) scenario: in place of traditional linear approximations, VM0009 guides project developers through the analysis of historical deforestation patterns and employs a more realistic and credible logistic model, based on economic theory of resource utilization.
- Saves cost and time: VM0009 specifies documentation requirements for each aspect of project development. Developers know exactly what is required to write a successful PD, and auditors can more efficiently review documentation.

Through these innovative approaches, VM0009 facilitates project development and ensures that carbon revenues can be quickly realized and deployed into forest conservation activities.

VM0009 is being applied successfully in numerous projects in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Colombia, Zimbabwe, Brazil, and elsewhere. The first version of the methodology was used in 2011 to develop the Kasigau Corridor REDD Project in Kenya, the first verified REDD project under the VCS Standard.

For more information about the methodology, please visit the VCS website:

<http://v-c-s.org/methodologies/VM0009>.

About Wildlife Works

[Wildlife Works](#) is the carbon market's leading REDD+ project development and management company, applying innovative market-based solutions to the conservation of biodiversity. Over a 15-year history, Wildlife Works established a successful model that uses the emerging REDD+ marketplace to protect threatened forests and wildlife, and uplift impoverished local communities. The company is recognized for developing the Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Projects, the world's first projects to successfully achieve issuance of REDD+ carbon credits under the VCS and CCBA Standards, and has since gone on to achieve the same feat for the innovative Lac Mai Ndombe REDD+ Project in the Congo Basin.

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About ecoPartners

[ecoPartners](#) works with project developers, forest owners and verification bodies to build successful forest carbon offset projects. We are experts in the technical aspects of project design, planning and development including biometrics, accounting methodologies and remote sensing. ecoPartners has extensive experience validating and verifying projects under the Climate Action Reserve (CAR) Standard,

Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), and Climate Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standard. Using our experience and expertise, we help our clients navigate methodologies, mitigate risk, build long-term capacity and generate credits while reducing the overall cost of protecting the world's forests. We have helped clients implement successful projects in the U.S., Colombia, Brazil, Panama, Peru, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Kenya, Tanzania, DRC, Gabon, Cameroon, Indonesia, Malaysia, Papua New Guinea and the Philippines.

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About Verified Carbon Standard

The [Verified Carbon Standard](#) (VCS) was founded to provide a robust quality assurance standard that projects could use to quantify greenhouse gas emissions and issue credits in voluntary markets. From its early days, VCS has grown into a comprehensive GHG program that is steadily evolving in response to market needs. Our mission is: 1) To provide a trusted, robust and user-friendly program that brings quality assurance to voluntary carbon markets, 2) To pioneer innovative rules and tools that open new avenues for carbon crediting and allow businesses, non-profits and government entities to engage in on-the-ground climate action, and 3) To share knowledge and encourage the uptake of best practice in carbon markets so that markets develop along coherent and compatible lines even as top-down regulations take shape.