

## **Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities Voluntary Carbon Market Engagement Forum - Partnership Model -**

The Voluntary Carbon Market (VCM) and high-integrity carbon credits can unlock urgently needed private capital that would not otherwise be available to reduce and remove billions of tonnes of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, particularly in emerging markets. Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPs & LCs) are stewards of critical ecosystems worldwide, and many are potential hosts for or have active projects generating carbon credits. However, IPs & LCs remain among the most underserved segments of the population and receive the least assistance and benefits from climate finance.

A high-integrity VCM should ensure that IPs & LCs have the agency to continue managing vital ecosystem services at the local level. It is of primary importance that carbon-credit generation projects or programs deliver sustainable development benefits for the communities where they are hosted, ranging from financial profit and project ownership to job generation and well-being.

An active and inclusive engagement forum can unify voices across the VCM, to support and empower communities in the right way, growing IPs & LCs participation as shareholders, delivering benefits such as enhancing IPs & LCs participation within the VCM, income, livelihood opportunities and biodiversity protection.

The Forum is a common working space where together, public and private specialized agencies and organisations, market actors and representatives of IPs & LCs and the wider VCM can support IPs & LCs to be empowered and grow their participation in and enhance the benefits they receive from the VCM.

### **Partnership Opportunities**

To ensure a successful co-hosting and collaborative approach to the development and running of the Forum, a range of opportunities have been identified to partner both with the Forum and the ICVCM. The ICVCM will be the lead co-host organisation, responsible for coordinating the efforts of partners to ensure the long-term operational capacity of the Forum.

As the Forum defines its strategy and implementation plan, partnership opportunities may evolve over the coming 12-24 months. To clearly define initial contributions to the Forum, these partnerships will be defined as either co-host, supporting or contributing partners. This ensures that the different types of value and commitment that partners may be able to offer are recognised appropriately.

- **Co-host: 2-years**

A **'co-host' partner** entails the greatest level of involvement and commitment. To be a co-host partner you will be invited to provide support for a minimum of a 2-year period, such as personnel for the Forum secretariat, a material financial contribution to the Forum and specified value in kind support such as strategy development or long-term engagement planning and delivery.

- **Supporter: 12 months**

A **supporting partner** aligns with the Forum co-hosts material financial contributions in key areas of the Forum's development and operations, such as translation and logistics services to ensure the inclusion and accessibility of Forum members, and specified value in kind advisory strategic support in engagement planning and delivery.

- **Contributor: 3 to 6 months or one-off**

A **contributing partner** is invited to provide short-term or one-off financial or value-in-kind support focused on the successful delivery of a range of Forum activities, campaigns or events. When appropriate, contribution partners would be expected to partly (covering their contribution at a minimum) or fully cover the costs of the activities in which they are partnering with the Forum.

These suggested requirements are flexible and subject to discussions with partners. All partners will be asked to sign an agreement with the ICVCM to formalise their contribution to the Forum.

The following table presents an indicative overview of the requirements of the Forum for partners. Interested parties will have the opportunity to discuss with the Forum Secretariat the specifics of involvement related to the selected requirements in the table, prior to entering into partnership agreements.

2024/2025		
Forum requirements	Partner	Need category
Provide or cover roles* in the Forum's Secretariat	Co-host	Financial, Value in Kind
Provide legal, finance, procurement or governance advice and support to the Forum Secretariat	Co-host, Supporter	Value in Kind
Funding* the delivery of forum meetings: venue, translations, technical support, travel costs, etc.	Co-host, Supporter	Financial, Value in Kind
Branding development	All	Financial, Value in Kind
Engagement strategy development, planning and delivery	Co-host, Supporter	Value in Kind
Communication, Engagement and outreach activity inc. events and campaigns	All	Financial, Value in Kind
Translation of materials i.e., communication, capacity building.	Supporter, Contributor	Financial, Value in Kind
Capacity building preparation and delivery	Supporter, Contributor	Financial, Value in Kind
Developing and/or sharing technical reports, case studies or other relevant data with the Forum	Supporter, Contributor	Financial, Value in Kind

Use of networks, including social media channels and events, to spread awareness about the Forum and its activities	All	Value in Kind
Capacity building platform development and/or hosting	All	Financial, Value in Kind

*\*Roles provided by co-hosts will be task managed by the ICVCM IPs & LCs Associate Director as the Forum secretariat lead. This role sits under the ICVCM. Roles should be for a minimum of a year. ICVCM will be happy to discuss formal secondments agreements of staff to ICVCM if this is deemed to be more appropriate.*

Co-hosts and Supporters will have direct access to the information and activities of the Forum. As an example, the ICVCM will consult the Forum once the next iteration of its Core Carbon Principle and Assessment Framework is ready to ensure direct and complete feedback is provided.

Co-hosts and Supporters will be recognised on the Forums website while active and included in a range of materials as they are developed. Collaboration partners will be recognised through the work they are collaborating with the Forum on through associated materials.

The Forum’s Secretariat Terms of Reference, including specifics of the diverse roles and detailed requirements of time and other commitments, are being developed by the ICVCM. However, as co-host agreements are completed, co-hosts will have the opportunity to define the role and commitment details alongside the ICVCM.

### Funding model

Through initial discovery work, we are confident that several organisations would be eager to fund the work of the IPs & LCs VCS Engagement Forum. As a result, the expectation is that the Forum will be all, or majority, funded through funding applications. However, wherever possible we ask organisations to provide us with introductions to individuals or organisations who may wish to fund the Forum’s activity.

Any funding secured will initially go towards the delivery of the Forums activity. Once sufficient income has been secured, any remaining funding will be allocated to co-hosting organisations employing core Forum Secretariat Staff on an equal basis until the costs of personnel have been covered (as specified in partnership agreements). Any additional funding beyond this will be held in reserve for the Forum or used to expand the Forum’s activity, as decided by the Forum.

While all partners are requested to contribute towards funding applications, the ICVCM will act as the lead bid organisation and will be the recipient of any funding secured on behalf of the Forum for the United Kingdom and Europe. We welcome partners who are able to be funding leads and recipients (on behalf of the Forum) for the US and other territories globally.

### Commitments to date

The ICVCM has committed annual funding and resourcing to undertake multiple areas of work relevant to the Forum development and in the coming years, including:

- Preparation and delivery of a robust and transparent nomination and selection process for the Forum Governing Board.
- Planning and delivery of the Forum announcement and launch in the second quarter of 2024.
- Internal roles to support the delivery of the Forum development.

The ICVCM is committed to providing at least 80% of their permanent IPs & LCs Associate Director (approximately 4 days a week) to manage the Forum secretariat and to lead funding application bids from 2023-2025 in collaboration with the ICVCM COO and Operations Director, along with funding to support Forum activity alongside its own work with IPs & LCs. While any long-term commitment is to be confirmed due to the Forum's strategy development, the ICVCM is committed to supporting the Forum in the longer-term.

Since the start of the initiative, the ICVCM has been actively engaged with other organizations with diverse role in the VCM and representatives of IPs & LCs.