

## Terms Of Reference for the Category Working Group (CWG)

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (Integrity Council or ICVCM) is an independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market (VCM). Its purpose is to ensure that the VCM accelerates progress toward the objective of combatting climate change. To achieve this, the Integrity Council has established a global threshold standard for carbon credit quality, drawing on the best science and expertise available, with a view to ensuring that high-quality carbon credits efficiently mobilise finance towards urgent climate action.

The Core Carbon Principle (CCP) label will provide a credible, rigorous, and readily accessible means of identifying high-quality carbon credits.

The next phase of work is to assess carbon-crediting programs and categories of carbon credits against the CCPs and Assessment Framework. Central to launching assessment of categories of carbon credits is the role of the Category Working Group (CWG) as set out below.

These Terms of Reference outline the mandate of the CWG and the requirements for and selection of CWG members. It should be read together with the related CWG Modalities and Procedures. The CWG Modalities and Procedures describes role, composition, duties and decision-making process and is subject to periodic revisions by the Governing Board.

### 1. Mandate of the CWG along the assessment process

- (1) The CWG's role is to perform initial analysis of whether carbon credit Categories appear to meet the criteria and requirements in the Assessment Framework. The initial analysis of the CWG will result in Categories being provisionally grouped for assessment into one of the following groups:
  - (a) Fast track consideration
  - (b) Deeper assessment
  - (c) Very unlikely to meet the criteria and requirements of part II of the Assessment Framework.
  
- (2) The role of the CWG is advisory. The decision-making process is set out in the Assessment Procedure and in the CWG Modalities & Procedures. In summary:
  - (a) The Integrity Council Secretariat will prepare a draft recommendation for consideration by the Standards Oversight Committee (SOC) on grouping of categories that includes the initial analysis by the CWG, for decision by the Governing Board.
  - (b) For Fast-Track Categories, an Evaluation Report is prepared by the Integrity Council Secretariat for consideration by the SOC. It will include the CWG's initial analysis and any additional relevant information, such as policy considerations. The SOC will make a recommendation for decision by the Governing Board.

### 2. CWG members selection criteria

#### (1) Sought technical expertise of CWG members

- (a) The CWG reflects the combined knowledge and experience of its members. Members will hold a level of technical proficiency of the six Category-level Core Carbon Principles developed in the Assessment Framework
  - (i) Additionality
  - (ii) Permanence
  - (iii) Robust quantification of emission reductions and removals
  - (iv) No double counting
  - (v) Sustainable development benefits and safeguards

(vi) Contribution toward net zero transition

(b) and will demonstrate prior experience/expertise in a number of the following Carbon Credit Thematic Groups defined by the Integrity Council (or as updated from time to time)

- (i) Agriculture
- (ii) Forestry and Other Land Use (for instance IFM, Afforestation/Reforestation, Project-based REDD+, Jurisdictional REDD+)
- (iii) Industry and Industrial Gases
- (iv) Waste
- (v) Transport
- (vi) Energy (Supply Side) – Renewables
- (vii) Energy (Demand Side) – Households/Community
- (viii) Energy – Others

(2) The ICVCM Executive Secretariat is committed to fostering a diverse and inclusive membership, such as geographical and gender mix and IP&LC representation.

### **3. CWG Selection Process**

- (1) The Governing Board decides on the target composition of the CWG
- (2) The ICVCM Executive Secretariat seeks nomination of CWG members by inviting nominations from selected organisations in line with the target composition, as set out in the Modalities & Procedures.
- (3) The Executive Secretariat presents a recommendation of CWG members based on the criteria listed in section 2 above, for approval by the ICVCM SOC co-chairs and the ICVCM Governing Board Chair.
- (4) The chair of the CWG will be selected as set out in the CWG Modalities & Procedures.
- (5) CWG membership is at the sole discretion of the ICVCM.

### **4. Time Commitment**

- (1) The CWG will hold four virtual 3-hour meetings during the second half of 2023.
- (2) In addition to (1), Members should plan for preparation time and time to comment after meetings.
- (3) Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- (4) CWG membership is not remunerated.

### **5. Public Reference**

- (1) Members of the CWG will be publicly mentioned on the ICVCM website.
- (2) Members of the CWG are allowed to publicly mention their engagement as a member of the CWG. Members are required to respect the confidentiality provisions set out in the CWG Modalities & Procedures.