

Terms Of Reference for the Multi-stakeholder Working Groups (MSWGs)

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.

Part of the work of the ICVCM is to assess carbon-crediting programs and categories of carbon credits against the CCPs and Assessment Framework. Central to assessment of categories of carbon credits is the role of the Multi-stakeholder Working Groups (MSWGs), as set out below.

These Terms of Reference outline the mandate of the MSWGs and the requirements for and selection of MSWG members. The document should be read together with the related MSWG Modalities and Procedures. The MSWG Modalities and Procedures describe the role, composition, duties and decision-making process for MSWG. This document may be revised from time to time by the ICVCM.

1. Mandate of the MSWG along the assessment process

- (1) The MSWG's role is to assess relevant key criteria of specific Categories, including their underlying methodologies, based on, inter alia, public classifications of Categories¹, publicly available academic literature², information from ratings agencies, carbon-crediting program-specific information including information submitted as part of its Application, and other public information relating to Categories. The MSWGs will take into consideration any decisions that impose restrictions and/or changes in the scope or applicability of relevant Categories that have been taken by carbon-crediting programs.

The role of the MSWG is advisory. The decision-making process is set out in the Assessment Procedure and in the MSWG Modalities & Procedures.

2. MSWG member selection criteria

- (1) Technical expertise of MSWG members
 - (a) The MSWG 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

¹ For example, [Berkeley Voluntary Registry Offsets Database](#).

² In relation to additionality requirements, literature may be used to support an assessment that the Category is additional in the event that the relevant carbon-crediting program documents do not meet all of the relevant criteria and requirements.

- (b) and will demonstrate prior experience/expertise in a number of the following Carbon Credit thematic groups used by the Integrity Council (or as updated or revised 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) Buildings
 - (v) Waste
 - (vi) Transport
 - (vii) Energy (Supply Side) – Renewables
 - (viii) Energy (Demand Side) – Households/Community
 - (ix) 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. MSWG Selection Process

- (1) The Governing Board decides on the target composition of the MSWGs.
- (2) The ICVCM Executive Secretariat will seek applications for their Roster of Experts list, which will be used for MSWGs, through the relevant link on the ICVCM website.
- (3) The Executive Secretariat presents a recommendation of MSWG members based on the criteria listed in section 2 above, for approval by the ICVCM Standard Oversight Committee (SOC) Co-Chairs and the ICVCM Governing Board Chair
- (4) The Facilitator(s) of each MSWG will be selected as set out in the MSWG Modalities & Procedures.
- (5) MSWG membership is at the sole discretion of the ICVCM.

4. Time Commitment

- (1) The MSWGs will hold virtual 3-hour meetings during the first half of 2024. The MSWGs will be staggered and likely to vary in duration.
- (2) In addition to 4 (1), Members should plan for preparation time and time to comment after meetings.
- (3) Additional meetings may be scheduled as needed.
- (4) MSWG membership is not remunerated.

5. Public Reference

- (1) The affiliation of members of an MSWG will be publicly mentioned on the ICVCM website (along with any relevant anonymized information deemed appropriate, such as gender balance, or country)
- (2) Members of the MSWG are allowed to publicly mention their engagement as a member of an MSWG.
- (3) Members are required to respect the provisions set out in the MSWG Modalities & Procedures, the Code of Conduct, and the Conflicts of Interest policy.