

Dear Members of the Carbon Fund Participants Committee,

As REDD+ Country Participant developing emission reduction (ER) programs supported by the Forest Carbon Partnership Facility (FCPF), we strongly urge Carbon Fund (CF) Participants to consider opportunities for streamlining Carbon Fund processes with those of VCS' Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) so that we may take advantage of both frameworks, while reducing the associated time and cost. We are pursuing application of the JNR (in full or in part) in addition to the FCPF's Methodological Framework (MF) because we need diverse and long-term finance to support REDD+ implementation. In addition, JNR provides a comprehensive, flexible and immediately operational accounting and verification platform and a diversified buffer reserve. It also offers helpful, best-practice guidance, including on how to meet Carbon Fund MF criteria and indicators.

We encourage CF Participants to consider the following opportunities to streamline, as the various relevant Carbon Fund processes are elaborated:

- Undertake a one-off comparison of MF and JNR (or review the December 2014 [Winrock gap analysis](#)) and make a decision whether to deem ER Programs satisfying JNR requirements to have automatically met overlapping indicators of the MF. This would include allowing use of VCS Leakage Tool and buffer approach.
- Allowing use of the official FCPF ER Program Document and monitoring documents supplemented with additional requirements of JNR, to reduce duplication of efforts.
- Allowing countries to use the VCS Registry System. This would be possible even for those countries that do not aim for compliance with JNR, as the third-party registries independent of the VCS.
- Accepting VCUs if desired by Carbon Fund investors/donors now or in the future. This would facilitate market linkages and provides a valuable and tradable asset for Tranche A participants, and could be retired for Tranche B participants. VCUs that meet the MF could be labeled as such, establishing transparency and market linkages and potentially expanding the role/value of the MF beyond the FCPF.

In order to streamline the JNR validation and verification process, we understand that VCS is also considering opportunities to streamline, such as potentially recognizing the review by FMT and Technical Advisory Panel and recognizing approval by Participants Committee as satisfying part of the VCS process.

As a first concrete step, we would welcome the approval of (or no-objection from) the Carbon Fund with respect to the use of a combined ER-PD/ VCS Jurisdictional Program Description (JPD) document. Using a single document for both programs would significantly reduce the time and cost associated with developing these documents. Because the draft document put together by VCS is based on the ER-PD, with addition guidance for programs applying both frameworks, we believe the document would benefit not only REDD+ countries like us, but also the Carbon Fund, by clearly documenting in one place how programs are applying JNR in addition to the MF. Additional documents related to monitoring and program review could also be combined and streamlined in a similar way, further increasing the efficiency of the process.

Certainty about the extent to which Carbon Fund processes and JNR will be able to be streamlined would reduce the amount of work needed to achieve compliance with both systems. Any processes that can be common to both systems or linked would enhance transparency and atmospheric integrity. We urge the Participants Committee to make decisions on the issues outlined in this letter at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,

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DRC National REDD+ Coordinator