

Application of the Oeko-Institut/WWF-US/ EDF methodology for assessing the quality of carbon credits

This document presents results from the application of version 3.0 of a methodology, developed by Oeko-Institut, World Wildlife Fund (WWF-US) and Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), for assessing the quality of carbon credits. The methodology is applied by Oeko-Institut with support by Carbon Limits, Greenhouse Gas Management Institute (GHGMI), INFRAS, Stockholm Environment Institute, and individual carbon market experts. This document evaluates one specific criterion or sub-criterion with respect to a specific carbon crediting program, project type, quantification methodology and/or host country, as specified in the below table. Please note that the CCQI website [Site terms and Privacy Policy](#) apply with respect to any use of the information provided in this document. Further information on the project and the methodology can be found here: www.carboncreditquality.org

Criterion:	2.3: Avoiding double use
Carbon crediting program:	VCS
Assessment based on carbon crediting program documents valid as of:	30 June 2021
Date of final assessment:	20 May 2022
Score:	3.13

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Assessment

Indicator 2.3.1

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“To address the risk of double use due to the cancellation of one carbon credit for more than one purpose, the registry system has functionalities to document the purposes for which carbon credits are used.”

Information sources considered

- 1 Verra registry for VCUs, available at <https://registry.verra.org/app/search/VCS/VCUs>
- 2 Verra Registry User Guide, available at <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Verra-Registry-User-Guide.pdf>

Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

- Provision 1 Source 2, section 8: “The Beneficial Owner is the entity you are retiring the credits for. There can be multiple emails applied to the email notification by separating each individual email with a semicolon. Finally, there are two options regarding information you may make public if any. Check the boxes of information you want public and then hit submit”.

The screenshot shows a web form for retiring carbon credits. The form includes the following fields and options:

- Beneficial Owner: ***: A text input field.
- Retirement Reason: ***: A dropdown menu with the option "Select a Reason".
- Retirement Reason Details: ****: A text input field.
- Email Notification: ***: A text input field with the instruction "(list address separated with ';')".
- Retirement Certificate Language Preference:**: A dropdown menu with "English" selected and the note "(Retirement certificate will be attached to notification email(s))".
- Make Account Name, Beneficial Owner, and Retirement Reason Public:**: A checkbox.
- Make Retirement Reason Details Public:**: A checkbox.

Assessment outcome

Yes (2 Points)

Justification of assessment

The above documentation shows that the users of carbon credits are required to document the purpose for which a carbon credit is retired. However, they can decide whether to make that information public. Additionally, it is not mandatory to provide detailed reasons for the retirement (field is marked with two asterisks) (Provision 1). Only for some retirements, information on the purpose for which the carbon credits are used is therefore available in the column “retirement detail” in the registry (Source 1). The indicator is considered to be fulfilled as the registry system has functionalities in place to document the purposes for which carbon credits are used.

Indicator 2.3.2

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

The program *requires* users of carbon credits (and/or their representatives) to transparently and unambiguously specify, either within the registry system or in another information system, the following information in relation to a cancellation:

- a) The voluntary goal or requirement that is achieved through the cancellation of the carbon credits (e.g., "for voluntary offsetting purposes" or "CORSIA offsetting obligation")
- b) The beneficiary, i.e. which entity's voluntary goals or mandatory requirements are met (e.g. "XYZ Airlines")
- c) The calendar year(s) for which these voluntary goals or requirements are achieved (e.g., 2024 offsetting requirement covering the 2021-2023 compliance period under CORSIA”).

Information sources considered

- 1 Verra Registry User Guide, available at <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Verra-Registry-User-Guide.pdf>
- 2 Verra registry for VCs, available at <https://registry.verra.org/app/search/VCS/VCs>

Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

Provision 1 Source 1, section 8: “The Beneficial Owner is the entity you are retiring the credits for. There can be multiple emails applied to the email notification by separating each individual email with a semicolon. Finally, there are two options regarding information you may make public if any. Check the boxes of information you want public and then hit submit”

The screenshot shows a form with the following fields and options:

- Beneficial Owner: *** [Text input field]
- Retirement Reason: *** [Dropdown menu with "Select a Reason" and a downward arrow]
- Retirement Reason Details: **** [Text input field]
- Email Notification: *** [Text input field with a note: "(list address separated with ',')"]
- Retirement Certificate Language Preference:** [Dropdown menu with "English" and a downward arrow, with a note: "(Retirement certificate will be attached to notification email(s))"]
- Make Account Name, Beneficial Owner, and Retirement Reason Public:** [Checkbox]
- Make Retirement Reason Details Public:** [Checkbox]

Assessment outcome

- a. Yes (1 Point)
- b. Yes (1 Point)
- c. No (0 Points)

Justification of assessment

The above documentation shows that the users of carbon credits are required to document the beneficiary as well as the purpose for which a carbon credit is retired. However, they can decide whether to make that information public. Additionally, it is not mandatory to provide detailed reasons for the retirement (field is marked with two asterisks) (Provision 1). Nevertheless, elements a. and b. are considered to be fulfilled as the program requires the users of carbon credits to indicate this information.

There is no mandatory field for specifying the calendar year(s) for which the voluntary goals or requirements are to be met through the cancellation of carbon credits. In the registry, only for some retirements, information on the calendar year is available in the section “retirement detail” (Source 2). Element c. is therefore not fulfilled.

Indicator 2.3.3

Relevant scoring methodology provisions

“The program enables the users of the carbon credits to voluntarily make the information in relation to a cancellation publicly accessible through the registry or project database system.

OR

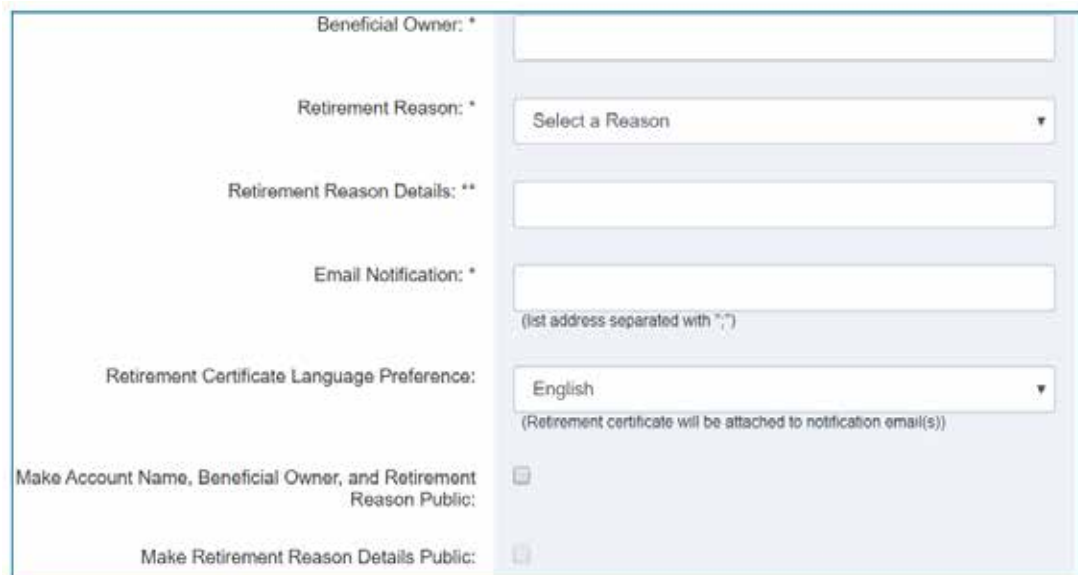
The program requires that the information provided by the users of the carbon credits in relation to a cancellation be made publicly accessible through the registry or project database system.”

Information sources considered

- 1 Verra Registry User Guide, available at <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Verra-Registry-User-Guide.pdf>
- 2 Verra registry for VCUs, available at <https://registry.verra.org/app/search/VCS/VCUs>

Relevant carbon crediting program provisions

Provision 1 Source 1, section 8: “The Beneficial Owner is the entity you are retiring the credits for. There can be multiple emails applied to the email notification by separating each individual email with a semicolon. Finally, there are two options regarding information you may make public if any. Check the boxes of information you want public and then hit submit”.



The screenshot shows a web form with the following fields and options:

- Beneficial Owner: *** (Text input field)
- Retirement Reason: *** (Dropdown menu with "Select a Reason" selected)
- Retirement Reason Details: **** (Text input field)
- Email Notification: *** (Text input field with placeholder "(list address separated with ';')")
- Retirement Certificate Language Preference:** (Dropdown menu with "English" selected and note "(Retirement certificate will be attached to notification email(s))")
- Make Account Name, Beneficial Owner, and Retirement Reason Public:** (Checkbox)
- Make Retirement Reason Details Public:** (Checkbox)

Assessment outcome

The first of the two conditions is met (1 Point).

Justification of assessment

Verra enables the users of carbon credits to voluntarily make the information related to a cancellation of carbon credits publicly available through the registry. However, it is up to the discretion of the users whether to provide detailed information on the use of carbon credits and whether the information is made publicly available.

Scoring results

The carbon crediting program receives 5 out of 8 achievable points. Applying the scoring approach of the methodology, this results in a score of 3.13.