

Voluntary action under the Paris Agreement: its role in raising ambition, mobilizing private sector finance and supporting carbon pricing

How to Design, Implement, Promote and Govern Voluntary Action

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Winrock International

Mission-driven nonprofit organization that works in the U.S. and around the world to empower the disadvantaged, increase economic opportunity, and sustain natural resources



Why operate a carbon offset standard and registry?

Winrock believes:

- Markets are the fastest way to respond to the global threat of climate change
- Rockefeller brand can strengthen market confidence
- Confidence in the integrity of actions is a key driver of enhanced ambition



UNFCCC Secretary General and former Winrock Board member Christiana Figueres accepts ACR's Climate Leadership award

- **Founded in 1996 as the first private voluntary GHG registry & joined Winrock in 2007**

Over 135 million tons of issued offset credits (VERs):

- Forestry, land use and agriculture
- Industrial Processes and Transportation Efficiency
- Energy

- **Approved in 2012 as a California Offset Project Registry (OPR) and Early Action Offset Program**

- Supports ARB's implementation of the state Cap-and-Trade Offset Program

- **Approved by ICROA and Green-e Climate**

- As applying industry best practices



How we assure integrity

Knowledge

- Exceptional carbon technical, market and policy knowledge of ACR and Winrock staff – hundreds of years of combined experience in environmental markets
- Deep expertise in quantification methods & tools, verification, project development
- Network of technical experts for scientific peer review

Systems

- Robust, secure, transparent ACR registry system (APX)
- Winrock IT systems

Operational Policies & Procedures

- ACR standards & methodologies
- ACR verification guidelines
- ACR operational guidelines
- Annual project attestations
- Registry Terms of Use Agreement
- Know-your-customer (KYC) policy
- Verification body approval process
- Verification Body Attestation
- Verifier Conflict of Interest Assessment
- Reversal Risk Mitigation Agreement

Offset Requirements

Projects must meet requirements in the ACR Standard and use an approved methodology

Each offset credit:

- 1 Metric tonne of CO₂-e emission reductions from an unregulated source
- Real, additional, permanent, free from leakage, quantified, monitored and reported, not double counted
- Verified by accredited independent 3rd party
- Serialized with vintage year, registered and tracked

To ensure integrity throughout the offset value chain:

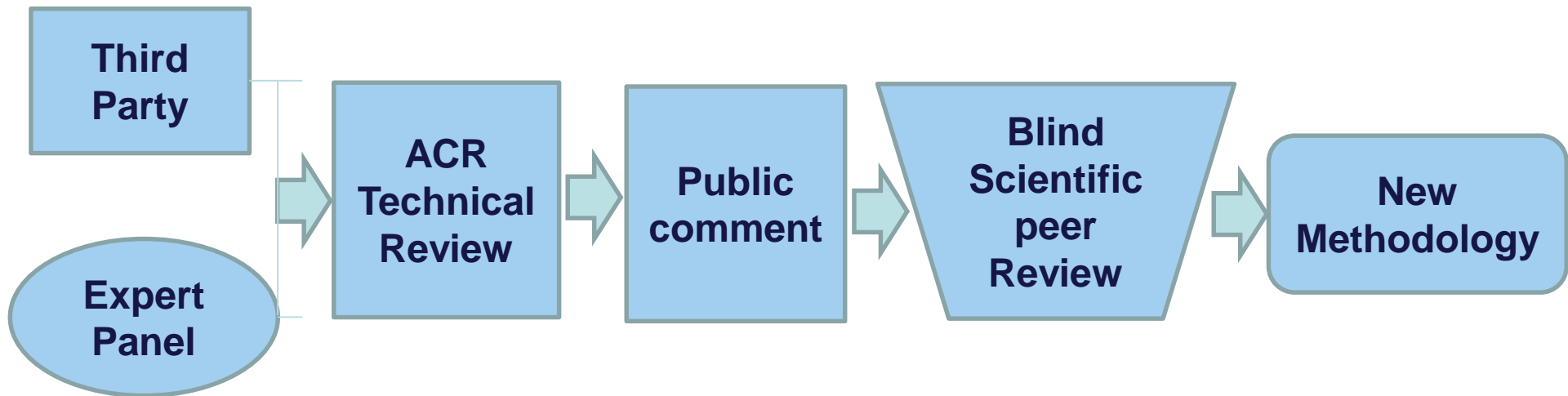
- 1) Develop and approve environmentally rigorous carbon offset accounting standards & methodologies
- 2) Oversee offset project registration
- 3) Oversee independent verification by accredited entities
- 4) Issue and track serialized offsets
- 5) Operate a transparent registry system



- ACR standard provides program framework:
 - Geographic scope, eligible GHGs & project types
 - Requirements to assess additionality, leakage and net positive community and environmental impacts
 - Reversal risk assessment and mitigation requirements for reversible offsets
 - Disclosure of registration or rejection from other GHG Programs
 - Avoidance of double counting
 - Annual attestations

Methodology Approval

Methodologies (protocols) for the quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of GHG emissions reductions / removals to be issued as offset credits



Oversee Project Registration

- ACR staff reviews each offset project's listing documentation / GHG Plan to ensure the project conforms with ACR requirements and is eligible for registration, validation and verification
- Approved and registered projects are made public on the registry, including key project information and the GHG Plan document

Oversee verification

- ACR requires independent verification by Verification Bodies (VBs) accredited under ISO 14065
- Accreditation of VBs must be by a body that is a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF) and with which ACR has a MoU in place (currently ANSI)
- VBs must also be approved by ACR including approval of individual verification team members and execution of a legal attestation agreement regarding verification services
- ACR assesses potential verifier conflict of interest
- ACR conducts verification audits
- ACR reviews all verification reports including sampling plan, calculations and findings log to determine whether to approve the verification determination and issue credits

Issuance and tracking

- After verification documents are approved, ACR issues serialized offset credits representing one metric tonne CO₂-e
- Serial number includes project country, ACR project ID# and vintage year

Example: ACR-US-192-2010-203-1-5000

American Carbon Registry, United States, Project ID 192, Vintage 2010, credit batch 203, serial block begin 1, serial block end 5000

- ACR manages a buffer account for intentional and unintentional reversals from sequestration projects

Operate secure and transparent registry

- ACR's custom registry, powered by APX, is a logic-based knowledge management system for project registration, verification and credit issuance as well as time and date-stamped document management system and credit tracking system
- Offset project documents are all public in the registry (GHG plan, verification report & statement)
- ACR's registry provides full transparency and offers downloadable, sortable public reports including registered projects, issued credits, canceled / retired credits, buffered credits and serial number lookup



Public reports from ACR website

Project Credits Issued											
Date Issued ▲▼	Project ID ▲▼	Project Name ▲▼	Project Developer ▲▼	Project Type ▲▼	Protocol Version ▲▼	Additional Issuance Certifications ▲▼	ARB Eligible ▲▼	Vintage ▲▼	Total Credits Issued ▲▼	Credits Issued to Project ▲▼	Credits Issued to Buffer Pool ▲▼
05/22/2015	ACR213	EOS ACR 213	EOS Climate Inc	Ozone Depleting Substances	October 20, 2011		Yes	2015	127664	127664	0
07/09/2015	ACR214	EOS ACR 214	EOS Climate Inc	Ozone Depleting Substances	October 20, 2011		Yes	2015	145580	145580	0
03/31/2015	ACR225	Wabashco Clean Sweep 4	Wabashco, LLC	Ozone Depleting Substances	October 20, 2011		Yes	2015	110003	110003	0
06/24/2015	ACR244	Wabashco Clean Sweep 5	Wabashco, LLC	Ozone Depleting Substances	October 20, 2011		Yes	2015	57589	57589	0
11/19/2014	ACR206	2014-P4	EOS Climate Inc	Ozone Depleting Substances	October 20, 2011		Yes	2014	71825	71825	0
05/05/2015	ACR202	Blue Source-Goodman Improved Forest Management Project	Blue Source	Forest Carbon	October 20, 2011		Yes	2014	852630	693615	159015



Further Information

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