



**THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL**  
FOR THE VOLUNTARY CARBON MARKET

**BUILD INTEGRITY AND SCALE WILL FOLLOW**



# **CORE CARBON PRINCIPLES, ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK AND ASSESSMENT PROCEDURE**

**Draft for public consultation**

**July 2022**

**The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (Integrity Council) is an independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market. Our purpose is to ensure the voluntary carbon market accelerates a just transition to 1.5 °C.**

The Integrity Council's role is to set and enforce a definitive global threshold standard for high-quality carbon credits. **The purpose of the draft Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) and Assessment Framework is to provide a credible, rigorous, and readily accessible means of identifying high-quality carbon credits that create real, additional and verifiable climate impact with high environmental and social integrity.** We will do this by establishing a definitive and consistent benchmark for high-integrity carbon credits, based on solid science and best practice; assessing crediting programs and credit types against that benchmark; and clearly identifying those that meet it.

The draft **Assessment Procedure** sets out a proposed process for assessing CCP-eligibility, how eligible carbon credits will be tagged, and how the Integrity Council will continue to oversee and enforce the CCPs, and facilitate the continual development of the voluntary carbon market.

**This document contains draft CCPs, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure for public consultation.** These proposals build on existing best practice, infrastructure and efforts in the voluntary carbon market, and the work of the Taskforce for Scaling the Voluntary Carbon Markets. The proposals do not represent an already-formed consensus view by the Integrity Council; the documents are intended to serve as a robust, independent starting point that will be further informed by the insights and dialogue gathered during the public consultation.

The proposed CCPs and Assessment Framework have been developed based on recommendations by our **Expert Panel**, supported by eleven subject matter experts. The Expert Panel works under the oversight of the Standards Oversight Committee, which is made up of members of the Integrity Council's Governing Board. The proposals have also been developed in open dialogue with stakeholders from across the voluntary carbon market ecosystem.

**The Integrity Council is running a full, open public consultation on the draft CCPs, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure outlined in this document.**

**Co-creation is the cornerstone of success.** This consultation is designed to capture insight and knowledge from truly diverse and complementary points of view from stakeholders across the VCM value chain. We welcome and expect diversity of views and expertise, and invite everyone to share their knowledge, experiences and innovations so we can co-create the CCPs and Assessment Framework

**The consultation is open until 23:59pm BST on 27th September 2022.**

The proposals in these documents will be updated/revised in response to feedback from the public consultation. Respondents are asked to provide both generic and detailed comments and suggestions for improvements to these proposals. The consultation is overseen by the British Standards Institute (BSI). **Comments must be submitted via the BSI's [online commenting system](#).**

The Integrity Council intends to publish all comments received during the public consultation on our website so our decision-making process is transparent and robust. This may include attributing comments to each respondent.

### ***Question:***

***Would you prefer your comments to be published anonymously?***

## Disclaimer

This document uses forward-looking statements to reflect the Integrity Council's present expectations of future events. These statements are subject to a number of factors and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those described in forward-looking statements.

The proposed CCPs and Assessment Framework have been developed based on recommendations by our Expert Panel, supported by eleven subject matter experts. The Expert Panel works under the oversight of the Standards Oversight Committee, which is made up of members of the Integrity Council's Governing Board. The proposals have also been developed in open dialogue with stakeholders from across the voluntary carbon market ecosystem.

## About The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market

The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (Integrity Council) is an independent governance body for the voluntary carbon market. Our purpose is to ensure the voluntary carbon market accelerates a just transition to 1.5°C.

We do this by setting and enforcing definitive global threshold standards, drawing on the best science and expertise available, so high-quality carbon credits channel finance towards genuine and additional greenhouse gas reductions and removals that go above and beyond what can otherwise be achieved, and contribute to climate resilient development.

## Our mandate

### 1.

Establish, host, and curate a set of [Core Carbon Principles \(CCPs\)](#), which will set new threshold standards for high-quality carbon credits and define which carbon-crediting programs and methodology types are CCP-eligible

### 2.

Provide [governance and oversight over standard setting organizations on adherence to CCPs](#) as well as on market infrastructure and participant eligibility

### 3.

Help to coordinate and manage [interlinkages between individual bodies](#); define a roadmap for the [responsible growth](#) of the Voluntary Carbon Market

## Foreword from Annette Nazareth

### Chair of the Integrity Council



Our starting point for the voluntary carbon market is that it exists to accelerate a just transition to 1.5 °C. We cannot understate how desperately urgent that imperative is. We need every tool available working at full speed to channel investment towards keeping the global temperature within 1.5°C, in line with the goals of the Paris Agreement.

Governments and philanthropies cannot achieve this on their own. Mobilising private capital will be a deciding factor in whether we achieve this goal.

High-integrity carbon credits can unlock urgently-needed finance that would not otherwise be available to reduce and remove billions of tons of emissions that would not otherwise happen, particularly in emerging markets.

A high-integrity voluntary carbon market is an important complementary tool – and to be clear – it is not a replacement for robust policy action, nor for rigorous and rapid internal decarbonisation of a company's value chain.

But the voluntary carbon market will only deliver on its promise if it is rooted in high integrity.

A key point to understand about the voluntary carbon markets is that it is – as the name suggests – voluntary. It is driven by private sector actors, and is not regulated by governments or financial authorities. But unregulated should not mean fragmented or opaque, and it certainly should not limit the potential of the market to contribute as fully as possible to securing a liveable future for the planet and everyone on it.

That is why, in designing an effective market that can deliver genuine climate impact at speed and scale, we need to start with integrity. It is a pre-condition for a transparent, deep, liquid, standardised and scalable market that efficiently channels capital to where it is most urgently needed. Markets and integrity have to go hand in hand.

The ultimate purpose of our Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) and Assessment Framework is to provide a credible, rigorous, and readily accessible means of identifying high-quality carbon credits that create real, additional and verifiable climate impact with high environmental and social integrity. We can achieve this by establishing a definitive and consistent benchmark for high-integrity carbon credits, based on solid science and best practice; assessing carbon-crediting programs and credit types against that benchmark; and clearly identifying those that meet it.

Our goal is to build a widely-shared understanding of what high integrity means for carbon-crediting programs and credit types in a framework that is workable and establishes a clear pathway for continual improvement, based on shared learning, evolving science and practices, technological innovation and market developments.

This will underpin trust in the integrity of carbon credits, unlock urgently-needed private capital and channel it efficiently towards real climate impact at speed and scale.

If we build integrity, scale will follow and the voluntary carbon market can help accelerate the uptake of emerging technologies, and protect and promote nature and biodiversity. It can also put vital funding into the hands of Indigenous Peoples and local communities (IPLCs) who are critical stewards of many key carbon sinks.

And that means the voluntary carbon market can reach its full potential in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals.

To succeed, we need your input. Co-creation is the cornerstone of success.

We welcome and expect diversity of views and expertise. Inclusion is the foundation of trust and integrity.

We want to listen to and learn from all stakeholders – from project developers and carbon-crediting programs, to NGOs and academics, policy makers, buyers and investors. It is particularly critical we hear from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, who are often among the most marginalised segments of the population. Our ability to achieve a just transition to 1.5°C on a global level depends on ensuring these communities are able to continue managing vital ecosystem services at the local level – and that means we need to design a framework that protects and promotes their rights and livelihoods.

The proposals set out in the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework do not represent an already-formed consensus view by the Integrity Council. They are intended to serve as a robust, independent starting point that will be further informed by the insights and dialogue gathered during the public consultation.

So come to the table. Share your experiences, knowledge, expertise, innovations and solutions by responding to the public consultation so we can co-create the CCPs and Assessment Framework.

Together, we can build the structure for a high-integrity, highly-liquid, regulated-like market. If we start with integrity, scale will follow, and the VCM will work to accelerate a just transition to 1.5 °C.



THE INTEGRITY COUNCIL  
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# Part 1: Introduction

***We urgently need a high-integrity VCM operating at scale.***

To limit global warming to 1.5 °C above pre-industrial levels, we need every tool working as effectively as possible. A high-integrity VCM is an important complementary tool to unlock urgently-needed additional finance and channel it efficiently towards the most impactful, cost-effective climate mitigation activities globally at speed and scale.

Without a definitive global threshold standard for high-integrity carbon credits, the voluntary carbon market (VCM) cannot meet its full potential to deliver urgent climate impact in support of the Paris Agreement.

***The purpose of the CCPs and Assessment Framework is to provide a credible, rigorous, and readily accessible means of identifying high-quality carbon credits that create real, additional and verifiable climate impact with high environmental and social integrity.***

We will do this by establishing a definitive and consistent benchmark for high-integrity carbon credits, based on solid science and best practice; assessing crediting programs and credit types against that benchmark; and clearly identifying those that meet it.

The Integrity Council's draft Core Carbon Principles (CCPs) are designed to represent the commonly-accepted and interlinked fundamental elements for high-integrity carbon credits. The CCPs form the basis of the Assessment Framework, which provides guidance and criteria for the Integrity Council to assess whether carbon credits and carbon-crediting programs reach the high-quality threshold.

***This will underpin trust in the integrity of carbon markets, unlock investment and accelerate climate impact.***

By creating a standardised benchmark, the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework are designed to reduce confusion and fragmentation, allowing buyers to more easily identify high-quality carbon credits that meet their preferences at transparent prices. This should also provide a clear signal to suppliers about buyers' expectations to reduce uncertainty and help direct investment decisions.

It will help provide accessible finance for climate mitigation activities that might not otherwise meet the risk and return expectations of investors, but are critical to achieve the emissions reductions and removals necessary to help stabilise the global temperature at 1.5°C. This could include nature-based solutions and emerging breakthrough technologies that are difficult to commercialise today, for example.





A standardised benchmark would also pave the way for core carbon futures and spot contracts, for example, which are highly liquid, scalable and help drive a transparent price signal and better price risk management.

As a result, the VCM will become more effective at mobilising additional capital, and channelling it efficiently towards the most impactful, cost-effective climate-mitigation activities, regardless of where on the planet that occurs.

This is particularly important for developing economies where there is significant opportunity to develop mitigation activities. Ninety percent of potential nature-based solutions, for example, are situated in the Global South<sup>1</sup>.

It could also help deliver critical funding to IPLCs, who play a key role in the stewardship of forests, climate, biodiversity and other local and global ecosystem services.<sup>2</sup> IPLCs manage around 40% of the planet's remaining ecologically intact landscapes.<sup>3</sup> Their continued ability to protect and enhance those landscapes is inextricably linked with our ability to achieve our collective climate and sustainable development goals, and high-integrity carbon credits could play a meaningful role in providing urgently-needed capital to these communities.

A transparent price signal should also work to ensure the VCM provides more effective economic incentives for companies to rapidly decarbonize their value chain, rather than relying on carbon offsetting to meet their commitments.

### ***The draft CCPs and Assessment Framework have been developed based on recommendations from the Expert Panel.***

The draft CCPs and Assessment Framework have been developed by the Integrity Council based on recommendations from the Expert Panel. This is designed to ensure the development and implementation of the Integrity Council's work is informed by best-practice and based on the best science and technical expertise available.

The Integrity Council has assembled a formidable group of twelve carbon market experts with long-standing experience in the environmental and social integrity of carbon markets and methodologies. This Expert Panel is led by three Co-Chairs, Pedro Martins Barata, Daniel Ortega-Pacheco, and Lambert Schneider. It is supported by a body of eleven subject matter experts with technical expertise in topics ranging from additionality and permanence of carbon credits, to the social dimensions related to IPLC.

The Expert Panel works under the oversight of the Standards Oversight Committee, which is made up of members of the Integrity Council's Governing Board. The SOC is responsible for providing guidance to the Expert Panel, ensuring the CCPs being developed are aligned with our mandate, and making recommendations to the Board. Where there is either difference of views, or in matters of policy, for example, the Expert Panel will refer those issues to the SOC and Governing Board for consideration. No single member of the Integrity Council should be presumed to be in full agreement with all aspects.

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<sup>1</sup> McKinsey analysis, [Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets Final Report](#), January 2021

<sup>2</sup> World Resources Institute, [9 Facts About Community Land and Climate Mitigation](#), October 2021, Peter G. Veit

<sup>3</sup> Garnett et al (2018), [A spatial overview of the global importance of Indigenous lands for conservation](#), *Nature Sustainability*, 1, 369-374

In some instances, the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework include options with a view to gathering further input during the public consultation to inform further deliberation and final decisions.

The Integrity Council works by consensus, bringing together a diverse set of expertise and perspectives.

The CCPs and the Assessment Framework have been developed in open dialogue with stakeholders from across the voluntary carbon market ecosystem. This was designed to ensure the drafts published for public consultation reflect the knowledge and learnings from experts across the value chain, including how the VCM can add value to IPLCs as well as technical issues affecting the implementation of the threshold standard.

The Expert Panel has also drawn from several sources, including different initiatives on carbon-crediting quality and other processes, such as the development of the assessment framework for carbon credit eligibility under ICAO's CORSIA scheme, or initiatives such as Calyx Global or the Carbon Credit Quality Initiative. These assessments and ratings frameworks operate under specific contexts and goals; therefore, the work of the Integrity Council may differ from the outputs of these organisations.

### ***The Integrity Council is running a public consultation on the draft CCPs, Assessment Framework and the Assessment Procedure.***

The proposals set out in the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework do not represent an already-formed consensus view by the Integrity Council; the documents are intended to serve as a robust, independent starting point that will be further informed by the insights and dialogue gathered during the public consultation.

The Integrity Council is holding a full, open public consultation on the draft CCPs, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure. This is to ensure the final documents reflect genuine diversity of expertise, knowledge and opinions from all stakeholder groups across the ecosystem.

The Integrity Council encourages wide participation from across the market and welcomes all points of view.

Respondents are invited to submit both generic and detailed comments and suggestions for improvements to the proposals laid out in the draft CCP, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure.

The documents also include some questions and options where the Integrity Council is looking for further input to inform its decision making on specific points, or in relation to the wider policies of the Integrity Council. In some areas, alternative references are given in square brackets and we welcome views on the best form to adopt.

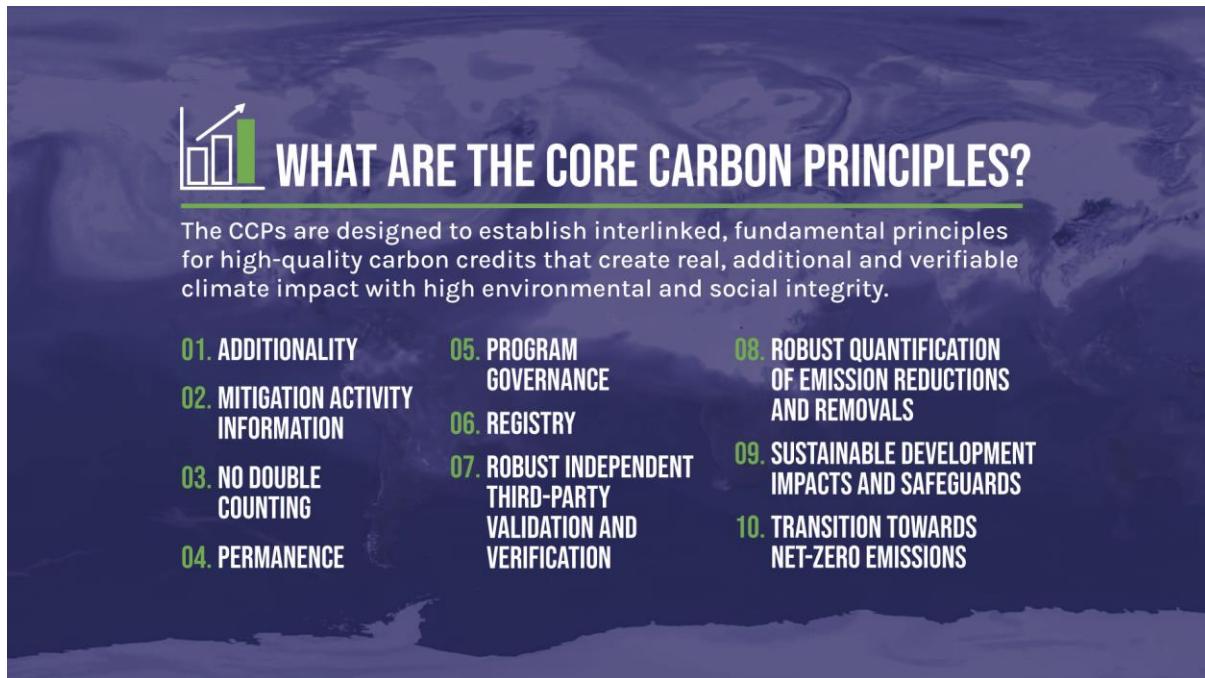
The public consultation will be overseen by the British Standards Institution (BSI), which has over one hundred years of experience in standard setting. Comments must be submitted in writing via the BSI website.

The Integrity Council will run a series of webinars open to the public during the consultation period to provide the opportunity to get a fuller understanding of the documentation and ask questions.

Further details on these webinars and how to respond to the public consultation can be found on the Integrity Council's website: [www.icvcm.org](http://www.icvcm.org)

## The draft CCPs: setting the foundations for high-quality carbon credits

The draft CCPs set out in this document define high-level principles for assuring consistent high integrity of carbon credits that create real, additional and verifiable climate impact with high environmental and social integrity, based on solid science and best-practice:



**WHAT ARE THE CORE CARBON PRINCIPLES?**

The CCPs are designed to establish interlinked, fundamental principles for high-quality carbon credits that create real, additional and verifiable climate impact with high environmental and social integrity.

01. ADDITIONALITY
02. MITIGATION ACTIVITY INFORMATION
03. NO DOUBLE COUNTING
04. PERMANENCE
05. PROGRAM GOVERNANCE
06. REGISTRY
07. ROBUST INDEPENDENT THIRD-PARTY VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION
08. ROBUST QUANTIFICATION OF EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS
09. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS AND SAFEGUARDS
10. TRANSITION TOWARDS NET-ZERO EMISSIONS

The draft CCPs also propose key attributes for tagging carbon credits. These attributes are designed to allow the market to classify credits so buyers can more readily identify credits that match their preferences. Carbon-crediting programs may tag specific carbon credits with relevant attributes, under the oversight of the Integrity Council.

## The draft Assessment Framework: putting the CCPs into practice

The draft CCPs are operationalised through the draft Assessment Framework, which provides rigorous criteria and decision tools for each high-level principle. This will ensure the Integrity Council can consistently determine whether carbon-crediting programs and the methodologies they apply to different types of carbon credits meet the provisions outlined in the CCPs.

The draft Assessment Framework is designed to be applicable to all credit types, although the Integrity Council may decide to develop additional specific guidance for some types of credits.

The CCPs and Assessment Framework are not designed to exclude existing credits from the market. They will provide a benchmark for quality and foster continual improvement in the market by making high-integrity credits readily identifiable.

The CCPs and Assessment Framework both define requirements that apply to carbon-crediting programs and types of carbon credits. Carbon credits can only be tagged as CCP-approved if:

- a) they are issued by a carbon-crediting program that meets the requirements set out in the CCPs and Assessment Framework; and
- b) their methodologies for verifying different types of carbon credits meet the requirements for carbon credits the CCPs and Assessment Framework.

In applying the Assessment Framework, the Integrity Council will apply the same level of stringency and rigor in identifying CCP-eligible carbon-crediting programs and credit types.

## Carbon-crediting programs

The CCPs and the Assessment Framework will be applied to clearly defined *carbon-crediting programs*.

Some organisations operate different carbon-crediting programs (e.g., Verra operates the Verified Carbon Standard, the Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ program as well as other programs). They may also operate under different tracks (e.g., the Clean Development Mechanism has a different set of rules for afforestation and reforestation projects, carbon capture and storage projects and other types of projects), or issue different types of units (e.g., the Gold Standard issues Verified Emission Reductions and also labels Certified Emission Reductions issued under the Clean Development Mechanism).

In cases where organisations have more than one carbon-crediting program, the Integrity Council's assessment will clearly articulate which program, track and unit types are being evaluated, including which version(s) of the carbon-crediting program's methodology is being evaluated.

In assessing CCP-eligibility, the Integrity Council will not only consider whether carbon-crediting programs meet the requirements, but also how they are implemented and their level of enforcement in practice.

## Credit types

The CCPs and Assessment Framework will also be applied to clearly defined *types of carbon credits*. These are characterised by:

- c) the carbon-crediting program issuing the carbon credits;
- d) the type of mitigation activity;
- e) the quantification methodology(ies) applied; and
- f) other possible criteria such as the scale of the mitigation activity or the country in which the mitigation activity takes place.

Each combination of these aspects is a unique type of carbon credit.

The type of mitigation activity will depend on key characteristics, including the types of mitigation measures covered and the assumed baseline scenario. While these characteristics will stay as generic as possible, they will be outlined in sufficient detail to ensure mitigation activities can be clearly distinguished where they differ substantially in relation to the criteria set out in the draft CCPs and Assessment framework (e.g., reforestation activity in a specific geography using a specific methodology). Some carbon-crediting programs also allow for more than one quantification methodology to be used to estimate the emission reductions or removals from a specific type of mitigation activity. In

some instances, different versions of quantification methodologies differ substantially. In such cases, the different versions might need to be assessed separately.

Some carbon-crediting programs also combine different quantification methodologies to determine the overall emission reductions or removals (e.g., by combining a “baselines and monitoring methodology” with several “methodological tools”). In these instances, the Integrity Council’s assessment will cover all quantification methodologies that can be expected to have a material impact on the overall outcome.

## A flexible approach

The Integrity Council’s evaluation approach will have the flexibility to vary in some key areas. This is designed to ensure the process is efficient and allows for innovative approaches. For example, in some cases, the Integrity Council will use a risk-based approach for some criteria using a combination of different factors to determine:

- a) the inherent risk for the type of mitigation activity; and
- b) the strength of the carbon-crediting program’s provisions to address the risk.

For example, for non-permanence the inherent risk is the degree of reversal risk. Where there is no inherent risk, there is no need for the carbon-crediting program to have provisions in place to address non-permanence, but where there is a significant inherent risk, robust provisions are needed, such as monitoring and compensation for reversals.

The Assessment Framework is also designed to be flexible with regard to alternative approaches to satisfy some criteria, e.g., only one of two requirements need to be satisfied.

The Assessment Framework will be kept under periodic review and updated to ensure that it reflects experience with its use, new developments and changing circumstances. Public consultation will be a key feature of any future updates.

## A clear pathway for continual improvement

It is critical that the CCPs and Assessment Framework ultimately establish a consistent threshold standard in the immediate term, and a clear path towards continual improvement. We recognise that it may take time for the market to reach the full standards proposed in the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework.

In the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework, the Integrity Council have identified areas of existing best practice that are important to advancing high integrity carbon credits, but have not yet been consistently implemented by carbon-crediting programs. In some areas, the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework propose new requirements.

The intention of the Integrity Council is that, over time, programs and credit types level up to consistently implement the best practice and additional requirements outlined in the proposals in order to be CCP-eligible.

However, it is also critical that the market continues to function smoothly given the important role revenues from carbon credits play in financing climate mitigation as well as the technical difficulties around vintages and crediting periods and programs’ own consultation requirements, for example.

All carbon-crediting programs utilise policies, procedures, tools and methodologies in developing and implementing their programs, although the approach and level of stringency is not consistent across programs.

The Integrity Council is specifying draft requirements in each area of the draft Assessment Framework for two stringency thresholds, which are subject to the outcome of this consultation:

1. The initial stringency threshold is for carbon credits with consistent atmospheric, environmental and social integrity in line with current good practice.
2. In addition, the Integrity Council has identified many areas of existing best practice that are important to advancing high integrity carbon credits, but have not yet been consistently implemented by carbon-crediting programs, alongside new requirements needed in a few areas. These comprise the requirements for the full stringency threshold.

The document sets out criteria that, when met, promote a high degree of integrity. However, it is important to note that assessing the integrity of carbon credits is not a matter of certainty, rather a matter of likelihood that a CCP is met. The Integrity Council is therefore proposing a risk-based approach to assessment for some CCPs.

The intention of the Integrity Council is that, over time, programs and credit types level up to consistently implement the best practice and additional requirements outlined in the proposed full stringency requirements in order to be CCP-eligible.

The pathway for implementing this approach is one of the key areas where the Integrity Council is looking for additional input and dialogue during the public consultation.

Once the official documents are finalised and published, in order to be CCP-eligible in the immediate term, carbon-crediting programs and credit types will have to meet the initial threshold and commit to meet the more stringent requirements in a timely manner. The Integrity Council will facilitate uptake and adoption of the CCPs to contribute towards early compliance with the initial threshold. Some carbon-crediting programs show initial signals of meeting many of the criteria required to satisfy the relevant CCP for the initial threshold level.

As part of its oversight of the CCPs, the Integrity Council will monitor whether carbon-crediting programs and credit types are delivering on their commitments to meet the higher-stringency requirements in order to maintain CCP-approved status.

The Integrity Council will facilitate uptake and adoption of the CCPs to contribute towards early compliance with the initial threshold. This approach is designed to ensure market continuity, create an immediate impact by rapidly increasing consistency and differentiation in the market, and establish a clear pathway towards consistent best practice and continual improvement across the VCM.

The Integrity Council also intends to update the CCPs and Assessment Framework over time based on evolving best practice and scientific advances, technological innovation and common learning. Public consultation will be a key feature of this process.

## Proposed requirements for JREDD

The proposals recognise and adapt for the unique characteristics of JREDD, which is different in nature, as it comprises mitigation activities that are sponsored by national or regional governments. The draft proposals have introduced a JREDD alternative approach under Additionality, for example, and include JREDD considerations in certain other areas taking Cancun Safeguards as the starting point for best practice.

The Integrity Council welcomes views during the public consultation on approaches to risk of non-permanence for JREDD, which is an area of significant debate.

## Paris Alignment – questions related to the Integrity Council’s policy

The Integrity Council is also consulting on key elements relating to Paris Alignment to inform our wider policy decisions, including whether or not Corresponding Adjustments should be required for CCP-approved credits.

### A note on use of carbon credits

At this point in time, the Assessment Framework does not distinguish between different uses of carbon credits. In order to set an appropriate level of stringency for the draft CCPs and Assessment Framework, the drafts are based on the assumption that credits may be used by companies to compensate for residual emissions.

We recognise that a high-integrity VCM needs to be based on a common understanding that carbon credits only count if they are used as a complementary tool within a legitimate net-zero pathway.

The Integrity Council’s work to set and enforce a global benchmark for high-integrity carbon credits, and to facilitate the continued improvement of the voluntary carbon market, runs alongside complementary work by the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative (VCMI). The VCMI is currently consulting on a Claims Code of Practice. This includes guidance for companies on how to use carbon credits to make credible claims about their progress towards net zero commitments.

## The draft Assessment Procedure: embedding the CCPs into the market

The Integrity Council will assess carbon-crediting programs and credit types based on the draft Assessment Procedure.

The Integrity Council will start assessing programs and credit types once the official version of the CCPs, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure is published, which we expect will be in Q4 2022.

Carbon-crediting programs will be invited to apply for assessment. The consultation is also looking for input on whether the Integrity Council should reserve the right to assess programs at its own discretion, based on publicly available information.

The Integrity Council will also assess methodologies for credit types in several parallel streams.

This will be a transparent and inclusive process; Both program and credit-type assessments will be open to stakeholder input and the Integrity Council’s final decision will be published on our website.

Once a carbon-crediting program and a particular credit type has been approved, the carbon-crediting program will then identify and tag the relevant carbon credits in its registry.

The Integrity Council will provide ongoing assurance and enforcement to ensure consistently high-integrity over time, monitor ongoing practice and ensure the programs have an effective process to investigate and resolve issues and grievances.

The Integrity Council will have a range of interventions to ensure integrity is maintained in the market in the event a concern arises; in the first instance we will engage with the program and may recommend improvements to maintain CCP-eligibility. Where this is not

implemented, the Integrity Council can suspend CCP-approval of a program, or terminate approval in severe cases.

The Integrity Council will also facilitate continual improvement of the VCM by identifying themes and ensuring lessons are shared across the market. The Integrity Council will refine and update the CCPs and Assessment Framework over time as outlined above.

The draft Assessment Procedure also includes a proposed complaints and appeals process to consider appeals against decisions made by the Integrity Council or concerns about our own processes.

## What happens next?

The public consultation deadline is 23:59 on 27 September 2022 British Standard Time.

The consultation will be open, transparent and run for 60 days in line with international best practice. All comments will be logged and fully considered as the Integrity Council revise the CCPs and Assessment Framework for approval by the Governing Board. Our intention is to publish comments so our decision-making process is transparent and robust.

Details on how to take part in the public consultation have been published on the Integrity Council website ([www.icvcm.org](http://www.icvcm.org)) and will be communicated via the Integrity Council's newsletter and social media channels. If you would like to be kept informed of our progress, please sign up for our newsletter on the Integrity Council website.

Comments must be submitted in writing via the BSI's [online commenting system](#).

The Integrity Council is targeting Q4 2022 for publication of the official CCPs, Assessment Framework and Assessment Procedure.

To contact the Integrity Council, please visit the website ([www.icvcm.org](http://www.icvcm.org)) or email the team at [info@icvcm.org](mailto:info@icvcm.org).