21 May 2014, v3.0

VCS+SOCIALCARBON Project Development Process

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1 | Introduction

1.1 OVERVIEW

This document provides guidance for the development of GHG emission reduction and removal projects that are pursuing certification under both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) and SOCIALCARBON Standard. Such VCS+SOCIALCARBON projects are eligible for the issuance of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) tagged with a SOCIALCARBON label.

In order to streamline the joint project development process, VCS and SOCIALCARBON have developed templates for the project description, monitoring report, validation report and verification report, which project proponents and validation/verification bodies are encouraged to use. The templates are available on both the VCS and SOCIALCARBON websites.

VCS and SOCIALCARBON require the use of templates where they are provided. Project proponents may use VCS templates for the carbon component of the project and separately use the SOCIALCARBON templates for the social and environmental components. However, project proponents are encouraged to use the VCS+SOCIALCARBON joint templates, which helps to simplify and streamline the project development process by presenting all the relevant project information in a single set of documents.

The full VCS Program and SOCIALCARBON requirements are set out in the respective documentation of each standard.

1.2 TERMINOLOGY

Terminology used under the VCS Program and the SOCIALCARBON Standard is broadly similar. The following terms have different names but similar meanings (the definitions for each term can be found in the respective standard's documentation):
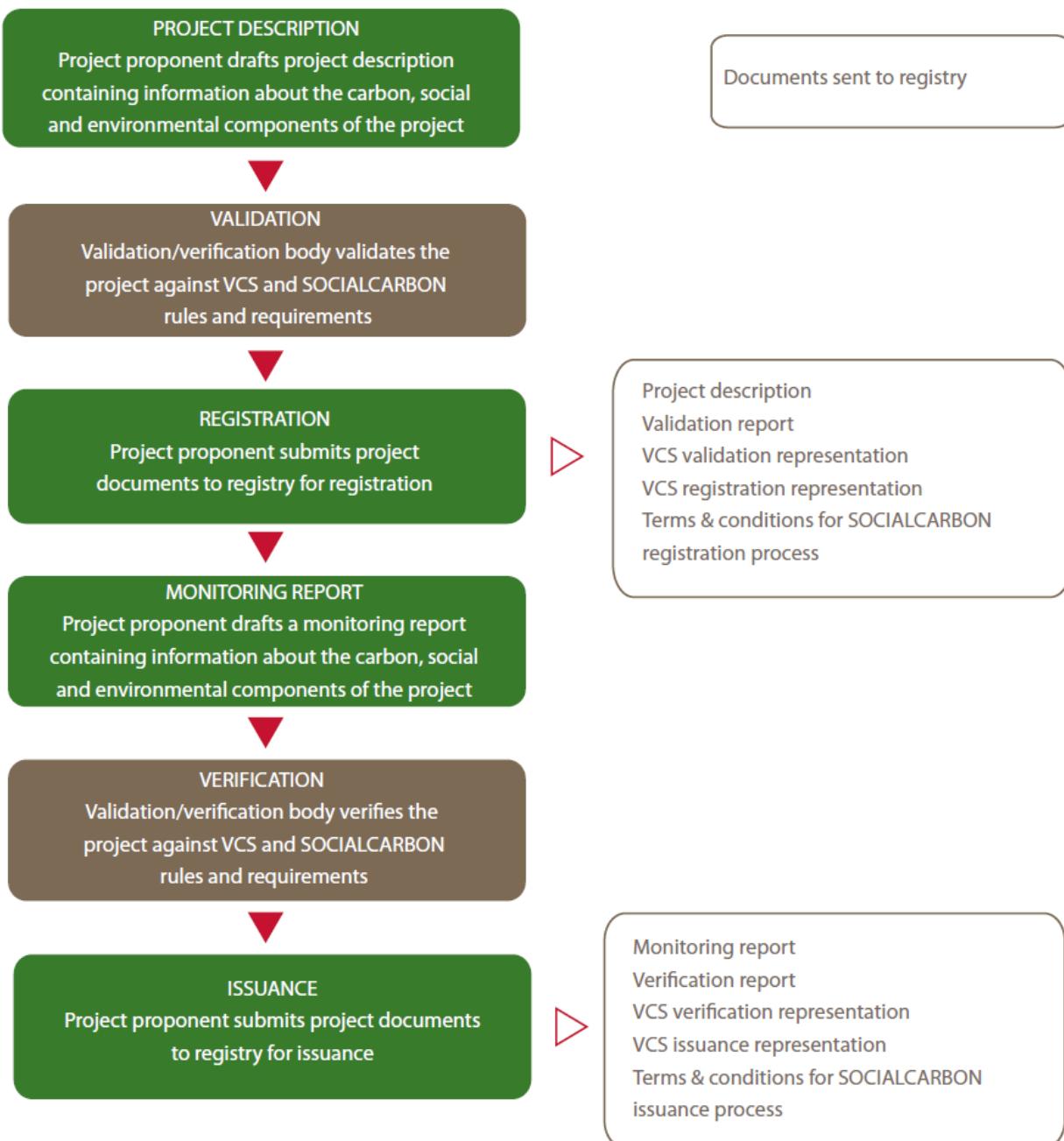
- Validation/verification body (VCS) and certifying entity (SOCIALCARBON)

- Project proponent (VCS) and project owner (SOCIALCARBON)

Note that the VCS terms are used throughout this document.

2 | Project Development Process

A project developed in accordance with both the VCS and SOCIALCARBON must meet the applicable rules and requirements set out under each standard. The flowchart in Diagram 1 sets out the main steps for developing a VCS+SOCIALCARBON project. The subsequent sections provide further information about each step.

Diagram 1: VCS+SOCIALCARBON Project Development Process

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
Project proponent drafts project description containing information about the carbon, social and environmental components of the project

Documents sent to registry

VALIDATION
Validation/verification body validates the project against VCS and SOCIALCARBON rules and requirements

REGISTRATION
Project proponent submits project documents to registry for registration

Project description
Validation report
VCS validation representation
VCS registration representation
Terms & conditions for SOCIALCARBON registration process

MONITORING REPORT
Project proponent drafts a monitoring report containing information about the carbon, social and environmental components of the project

VERIFICATION
Validation/verification body verifies the project against VCS and SOCIALCARBON rules and requirements

ISSUANCE
Project proponent submits project documents to registry for issuance

Monitoring report
Verification report
VCS verification representation
VCS issuance representation
Terms & conditions for SOCIALCARBON issuance process

3 | Development, Validation and Registration

3.1   PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The project proponent drafts a project description, using the *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Project Description Template,* containing information about the carbon, social and environmental components of the project. The carbon component follows the VCS rules and requirements (eg, the project-level requirements set out in the *VCS Standard* and the requirements of the applied methodology). The social and environmental components of the project (ie, social, human, financial, natural, biodiversity/technology, and carbon resources) of the project follow the SOCIALCARBON Standard requirements.

The *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Project Description Template* serves as the VCS project description and the point zero SOCIALCARBON report for projects following the joint project development process.

3.2   VALIDATION

The validation/verification body (VVB) assesses the project against all applicable VCS and SOCIALCARBON rules and requirements.

The VVB produces a validation report, using the *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Validation Report Template*, and issues a VCS validation representation.

3.3   REGISTRATION

Once validation is complete, the project proponent may register the project on the VCS registry system and on the SOCIALCARBON Registry. Prior to registration, the project proponent must notify SOCIALCARBON via email at info@socialcarbon.org of the upcoming request for registration. The project proponent submits the project description, validation report, VCS validation representation, VCS registration representation, and Terms and Conditions for SOCIALCARBON Registration Process to a VCS and SOCIALCARBON registry.

The registry forwards all relevant SOCIALCARBON documents to SOCIALCARBON for review and alerts VCS of the pending registration. VCS and SOCIALCARBON review project documentation per their respective rules and requirements and may request further clarification or corrections. Following approval from VCS and SOCIALCARBON, project registration is completed by the registry.

4 | Monitoring, Verification and Issuance

4.1   MONITORING REPORT

At the end of the monitoring period the project proponent drafts a monitoring report, using the *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Monitoring Report Template,* containing information about the implementation of the carbon, social and environmental components of the project.

The *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Monitoring Report Template* serves as the VCS monitoring report and the SOCIALCARBON report for point one and all subsequent year points.

4.2   VERIFICATION

The VVB assesses the project and its GHG emission reductions and removals against all applicable VCS and SOCIALCARBON rules and requirements.

The VVB produces a verification report, using the *VCS+SOCIALCARBON Verification Report Template*, and issues a VCS verification representation.

4.3   ISSUANCE

Once the verification is complete, the project proponent may request issuance of VCUs tagged with a SOCIALCARBON label. Prior to issuance, the project proponent must notify SOCIALCARBON via email at info@socialcarbon.org of the upcoming request for issuance. The project proponent submits the monitoring report, verification report, VCS verification representation, VCS issuance representation and the Terms and Conditions for SOCIALCARBON Issuance Process to a VCS and SOCIALCARBON registry.

The registry forwards all relevant SOCIALCARBON documents to SOCIALCARBON for review and alerts VCS of the pending issuance. VCS and SOCIALCARBON review project documentation per their respective rules and requirements and may request further clarification or corrections. Following approval from VCS and SOCIALCARBON, issuance is completed by the registry.

Project proponents may register the project and issue the VCUs simultaneously, in which case the project documents set out in Section 3.3 must be provided to the registry in addition to the documents listed directly above.

APPENDIX 1: DOCUMENT HISTORY

Version	Date	Comment
v3.0	21 May 2014	Initial version released under *VCS Version 3* and *SOCIALCARBON Standard*

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