



Beyond the Ton: Documenting the Benefits to Communities and Ecosystems at the Heart of Carbon Projects

**RMI Carbon Markets Initiative
October 2025**



Agenda

1. Welcome and Background

- Introduce RMI Carbon Markets Initiative and the Carbon Crediting Data Framework (CCDF)

2. Announcing the Specialized Socio-Environmental Data Framework (SE CCDF)

- Learn what socio-environmental considerations are, how they impact project success and quality, and how the specialized SE CCDF toolkit can be applied to further transparency in the VCM

3. Dive Deeper into the SE CCDF Design and Structure

- Discuss how the SE CCDF is built to be comprehensive, standardized, and enable comparison across credit types

4. SE CCDF Use Cases

- Hear from two early implementers that have integrated the SE CCDF into their platforms

5. Audience Question & Answer Session

- Enter your questions into Zoom Q&A function at any point during the webinar

CMI is tackling the messy data that makes it hard to trust or scale impact in the VCM



Strengthening Carbon Credit Data

Making carbon credit data more transparent, structured, and interoperable.



Demystifying Carbon Markets

Helping buyers and other stakeholders navigate the complexity of the carbon markets.

RMI's Carbon Crediting Data Framework (CCDF) is an open-source VCM tool that helps organize project-level data

- ✓ **Structured, standardized fields that make data asks clear and ultimately allows for easier data exchange and evaluations**
- ✓ **Built to showcase all data points that help determine quality, including community and ecological benefits**
- ✓ **Today, our focus will lie on the socio-environmental aspects of the CCDF, which has recently been released in its own specialized toolkit**

CCDF Executive Report



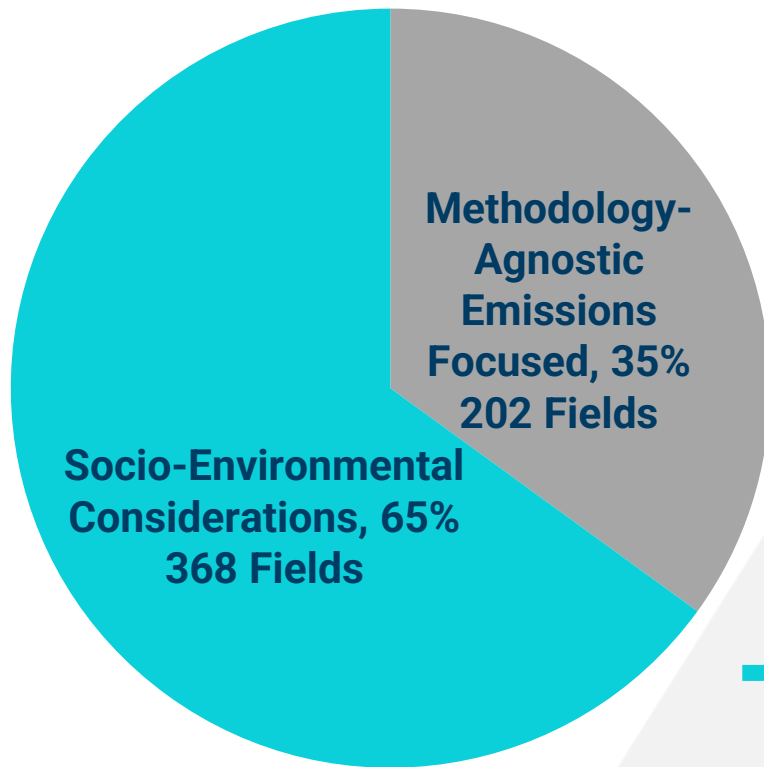
The Carbon Crediting Data Framework

A blueprint for a more interoperable carbon market

July 15, 2025

65% of the CCDF fields are related to socio-environmental (SE) considerations

The SE fields of the framework have been informed by 140+ sources



Socio-Environmental Fields Informed By

VCM thought leaders and watch dogs, major registries and standard bodies, IFIs and MDBs, UN and international humanitarian agencies, compliance market safeguards, academic journals, environmental and social safeguard specialists, social scientists and more...

SE considerations constitute a large portion of the CCDF because clearly defined SE data results in better market functionality



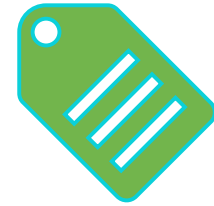
Mitigate Project Risk

Robust planning and monitoring of SE components can mitigate overall project risk, especially when considering durability



Scale the Market

29% of carbon credits buyers evaluate projects based on co-benefits and projects working towards SDGs receive an 86% price premium

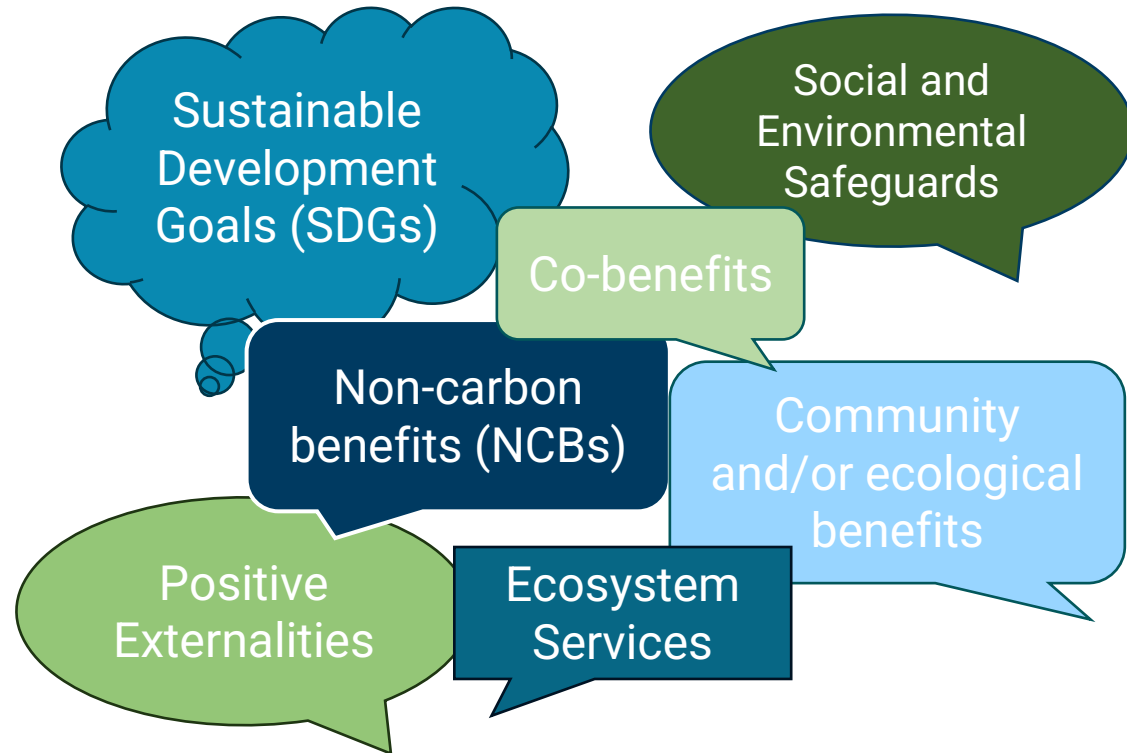


Increase Price Transparency

Common language to reference, measure, and record SE attributes of projects increases the market's ability to price available information

SE considerations are community and ecological factors of carbon credit projects that are essential to the long-term success of a project, but cannot be measured in tons of CO₂e

Common Phrases for SE considerations in the VCM include

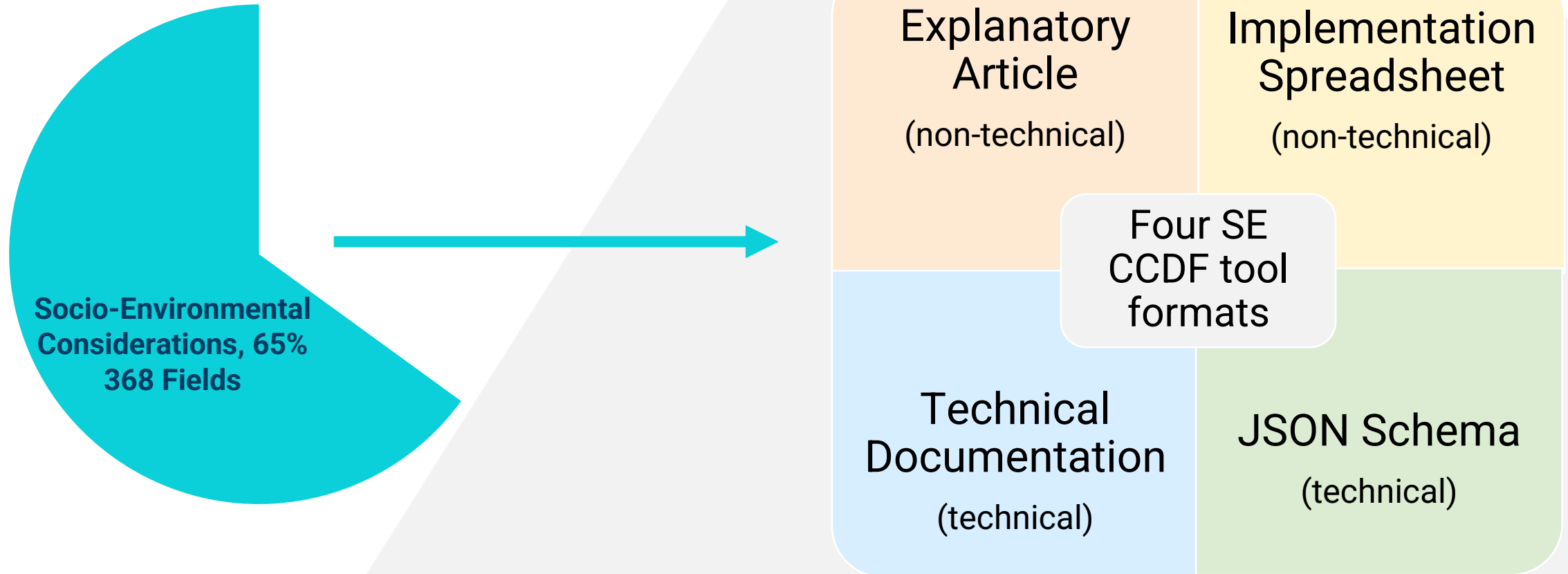


Socio-Environmental considerations include topics like



The SE fields of the CCDF are now available in a specialized toolkit, known as the *SE CCDF*

The SE CCDF is a set of four open-source tools for a diverse set of user groups

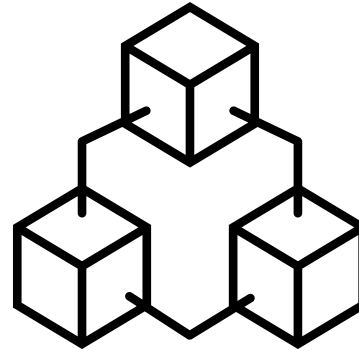


The SE CCDF is designed similarly to the parent CCDF, with an eye for specialized user groups

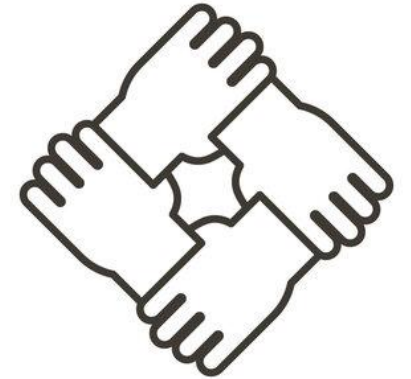
Like the parent CCDF, the SE portions of the framework are designed to be



Comprehensive, providing a detailed approach across several SE topic areas



Standardized, with outlined data formats to enable efficient exchange of information



Promotes comparability, with data fields that can be adapted to fit various projects

The SE CCDF is **comprehensive**, spanning various topic areas that contribute to the creation of co-benefits

Tier 0: Pre-Registration	Tier 1: Project Validation	Tier 2: Project Verification	Tier 3: Data-Driven Innovation and Ambition
Disclosures Organization Overview Labor Rights Carbon Rights Socio-economic Due Diligence Involuntary Displacement Stakeholder Analysis Benefits Sharing Ecological Due Diligence Air Quality Biodiversity Soil Health Water Quality and Availability	Risk Management Durability	Socio-Economic Impacts Involuntary Displacement Stakeholder Participation Workforce and Capacity Building Impacts Economic, Fiscal, and Benefits Sharing Impacts Health and Sanitation Ecological Impacts Air Quality Impacts Water Quality Impacts Water Availability Impacts Biodiversity Impacts Soil Impacts Marine and Coastal Health Noise Pollution Consequential Development Impacts	Sustainable Development Goals SDGs Supported by the Project Key Differentiators Specialized Core Benefits Certifications (for e.g., gender credits, biodiversity credits, water credits, etc.) Citizen Science Initiatives Innovations in MRV Advanced Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Strategies Climate Finance Innovation Novel Technologies

In simplicity, the data framework is a series of data asks, complete with **standardized metadata**

Field / Question <i>This is the prompt, or data ask</i>	Description <i>These informative notes describe additional info relevant to the field</i>	Answer Format <i>Yes/No/Not Applicable, Text Area, Text Input, Single Select, Multiple Select, File Upload</i>	Options <i>Standardized options which you can choose from when using a 'select' answer format</i>
Non-monetary benefits implemented by the project activity	Non-monetary payment types adapted from definitions within the UN Nagoya Protocol	Select Multiple	• Tax abatements • Sharing of research and development results • Scientific collaboration and or joint publication • Development of citizen science skills • Institutional and professional relationships • Organic material transfer (e.g.; Biochar, compost) • Language skill development • Local infrastructure improvements • Technology transfer • Other

The SE CCDF was built to *promote comparability* across project types

CCDF Fields	DAC	REDD+	Mangroves	Cookstoves
Stakeholder Engagement (What groups are the subject of targeted stakeholder outreach?)	Residents near facility; city council representatives	Indigenous communities; tribal council; forestry department	Local cooperatives; national coastal management authority	Village leadership council; women's health NGO
Grievance Mechanism (Is there a publicly available grievance reporting mechanism? How have reported grievances been resolved?)	Yes – Re-routed transport routes in response to community noise concerns	Yes – Updated buffer zone maps based on traditional land use areas	Yes – Adjusted restoration schedule to avoid planting during peak harvesting season based on fisher feedback	Yes – Adoption of female-designed harvesting and processing tools to address inclusion-related feedback
Gender Consultation (Does the project measure gender performance indicators? Are gender-sensitive consultations conducted?)	Not currently tracked; preliminary needs assessment in progress with nearby women's health center	Yes – Literature review conducted; monitoring and interviews conducted within existing women's groups	Yes – Pay equity and discrepancies monitored; input from women's fishing collectives on harvesting limits	Yes – Gender-sensitive focus groups in local dialects; findings anonymized and shared with domestic statistics service

The SE CCDF provides SE prompts, and the formats in which to answer them, in one central place

The SE CCDF toolkit works to unlock the tangled web of current SE guidance



SE safeguards in the VCM are typically:

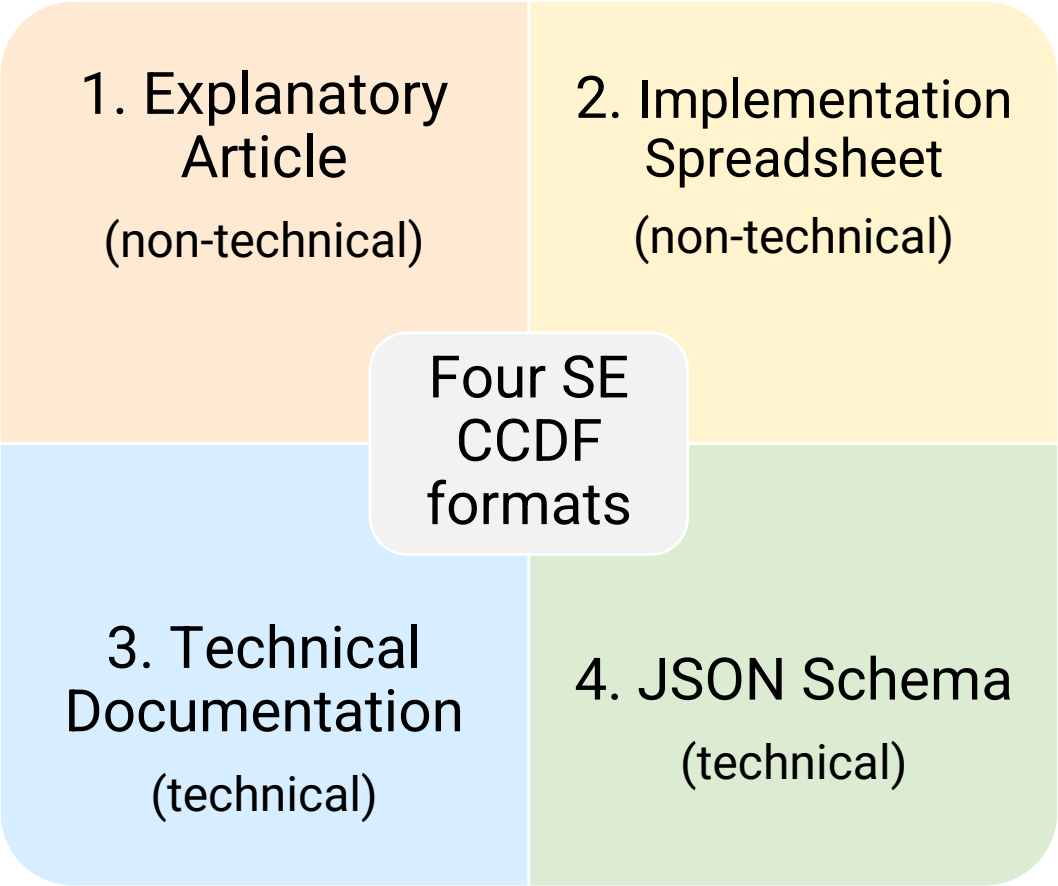
- Regarded as accessory frameworks or certifications,
- Limited to disclosures during the early stages of a project,
- Varied from one organization to the next, and
- Placed behind black boxes and kept proprietary



With the SE CCDF, SE considerations are:

- Embedded alongside emissions data especially in topics like durability,
- Depth of data asks are organized according to a project's crediting lifecycle,
- Inclusive of 140+ sources, with technical version control, and
- Open-source and publicly-available to be adapted and built upon

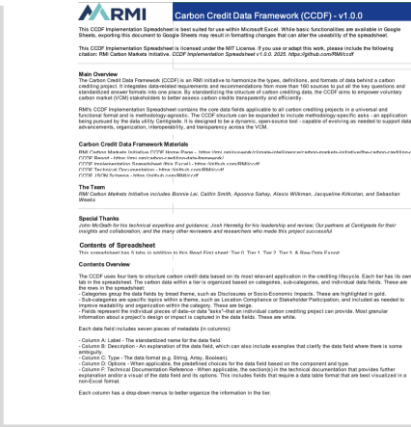
We invite you to build off the SE CCDF by exploring, engaging, and collaborating with us



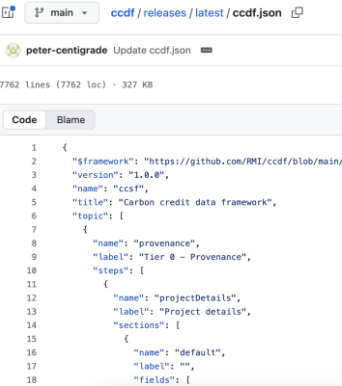
1. Big picture



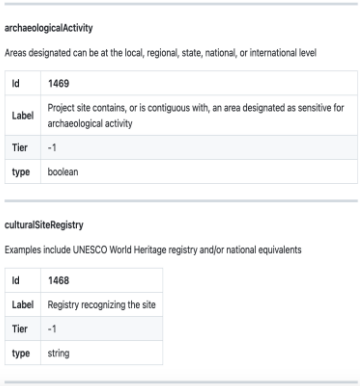
2. Ready-to-use data template



3. Field-by-field guidance



4. Machine-readable for developers



RMI x Centigrade : SE CCDF Implementation

FORM

Structured, standardized, digital



VIEW

Accessible, interactive, transparent

Species diversity

Project tracks and monitors species within the project area (flora or fauna) ⓘ

☒ Yes
☐ No

Indicate whether the project directly tracks and monitors flora or fauna species as part of the project activity

Species tracking and monitoring approach ⓘ

The Golden Restoration Initiative employs a comprehensive approach to track the ecological impacts of its forest management activities. This approach integrates traditional ecological knowledge from Indigenous communities with modern monitoring techniques to effectively track species populations and biodiversity, informing adaptive management strategies and restoration efforts.

If applicable, indicate how the project will collect data on species diversity

Species selected for tracking and monitoring ⓘ

Endangered species x Keystone species x

Number of species (flora and fauna) within project boundaries

26

Species monitoring frequency

Quarterly

Indicate how often the selected species are monitored

Species diversity data collection method(s)

Camera trap x Selectively tagged animals x

Indicate the methods used to collect data on species diversity

Stakeholder participation

Stakeholder engagement

Project demonstrates ongoing engagement with identified stakeholders throughout the project lifetime ⓘ

☒ Yes
☐ No

Project continually consults and engages specifically with identified vulnerable social groups ⓘ

Yes

Overview of the project's engagement with stakeholders ⓘ

The Stakeholder Engagement Plan for the Nature's Refuge Improved Forest Management (IFM) Project in Canada is designed to foster meaningful dialogue and collaboration with local communities, Indigenous groups, government agencies, and environmental organizations. The plan outlines a comprehensive approach to stakeholder identification, including regular public meetings, workshops, and surveys to gather input and address concerns regarding forest management practices and ecological impacts. Key engagement activities will occur throughout the project lifecycle, ensuring transparency and responsiveness to stakeholder feedback. By prioritizing open communication and active participation, Nature's Refuge aims to build trust, enhance project outcomes, and promote sustainable forest management practices that benefit both the environment and the community.

Project uses tailored communication channels to communicate relevant project news to stakeholders ⓘ

☐ Yes
☒ No

Frequency of stakeholder engagement meetings and consultations ⓘ

Monthly x

Number of project administration hours spent in stakeholder consultations and engagement ⓘ

~50

Please indicate the total number of hours the project has spent engaging with local community (outside of benefit sharing) and other relevant stakeholders where project is based

Project engages with local policy makers, community/tribal members, or other organizational groups to inform policy recommendations ⓘ

☐ Yes
☒ No

[Need help](#) ⓘ

Empowering Community Partners to Serve the Last Mile



Ecological impacts

Assessment of ecological impacts resulting from project implementation and ongoing activities

Summary Generated by Centigrade AI

- Environmental Impacts Monitored:** The project focuses on air impacts, specifically reducing indoor air pollution by 47% through the use of Dos por Tres Cookstoves. Water, biodiversity, and soil impacts are not monitored.
- Air Quality Improvements:** The project has achieved a significant reduction in PM2.5 exposure, a harmful air pollutant, which is verified by third-party studies. This improvement is linked to better health outcomes, reducing disease burden by 2,000 DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) annually.
- Verification and Monitoring:** Air quality impacts are verified by Earthhood, ensuring the credibility of the reported benefits. Monitoring includes real-time pollutant readings and household surveys, with 99% of participants noting cleaner indoor air.
- Focus on Health Benefits:** The project's primary goal is to enhance indoor air quality, directly benefiting community health by decreasing exposure to harmful pollutants.

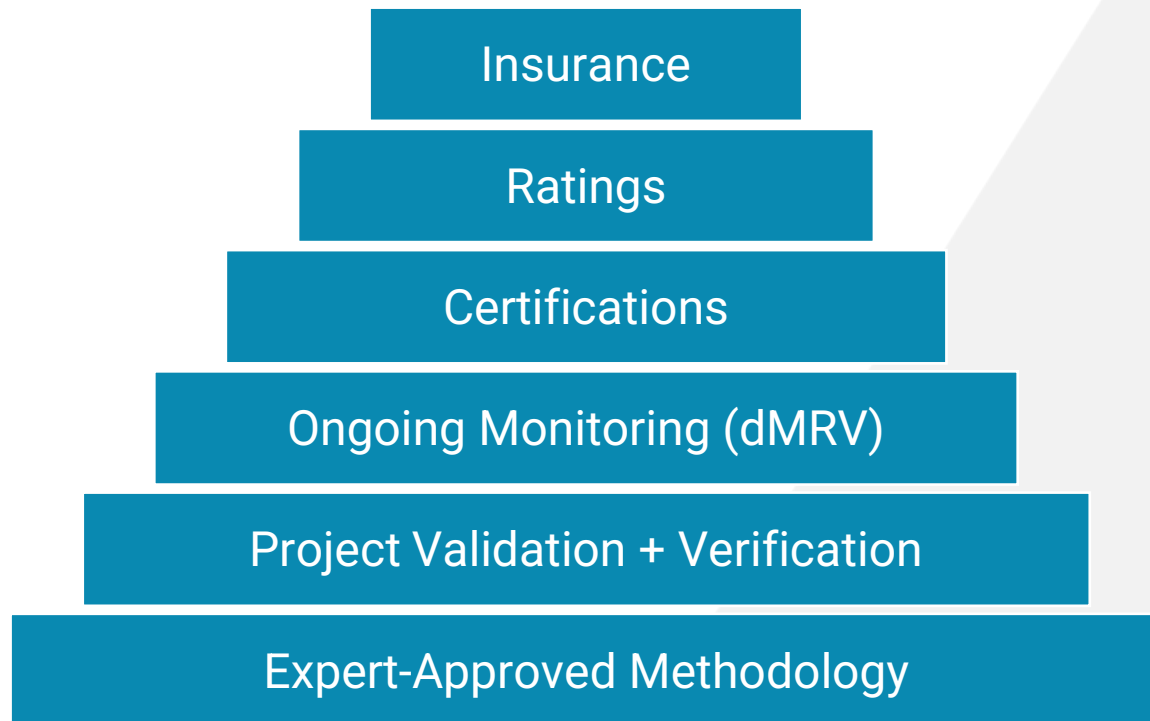
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Was this helpful?

RMI x OCP : Strengthening Social and Environmental Safeguards

The Open Carbon Protocol (OCP) is a platform for new carbon crediting methodologies and projects modeled after the peer review process.

Layers of Trust



SE CCDF used to update **safeguards + co-benefits data** required for all projects, including:

- Stakeholder engagement
- Inclusion of co-benefits (environmental + social)
- Measurement towards SDGs

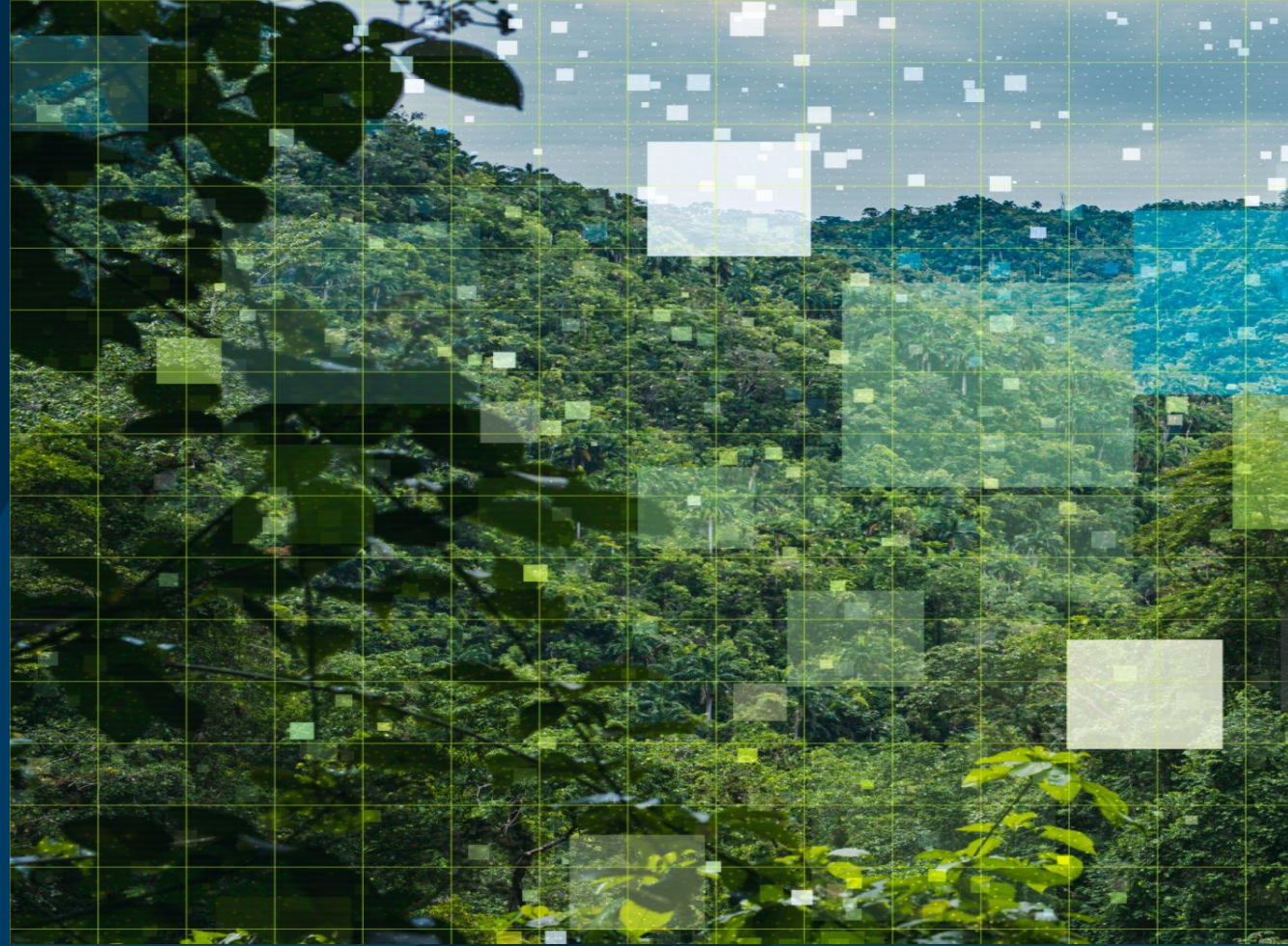
Informs MRV, certifications, ratings, insurance, methodology updates



Thank you!

We will now transition into our Q/A portion to round out this webinar!

We'd love to hear from you
at carbonmarkets@rmi.org



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