



Standards for a
Sustainable Future

Blue Carbon Methodologies

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Standards for a
Sustainable Future



**Verified Carbon
Standard**



**Jurisdictional
& Nested REDD+**



**California Offset
Project Registry**



**Climate, Community
& Biodiversity Standards**



**Sustainable Development
Verified Impact Standard**

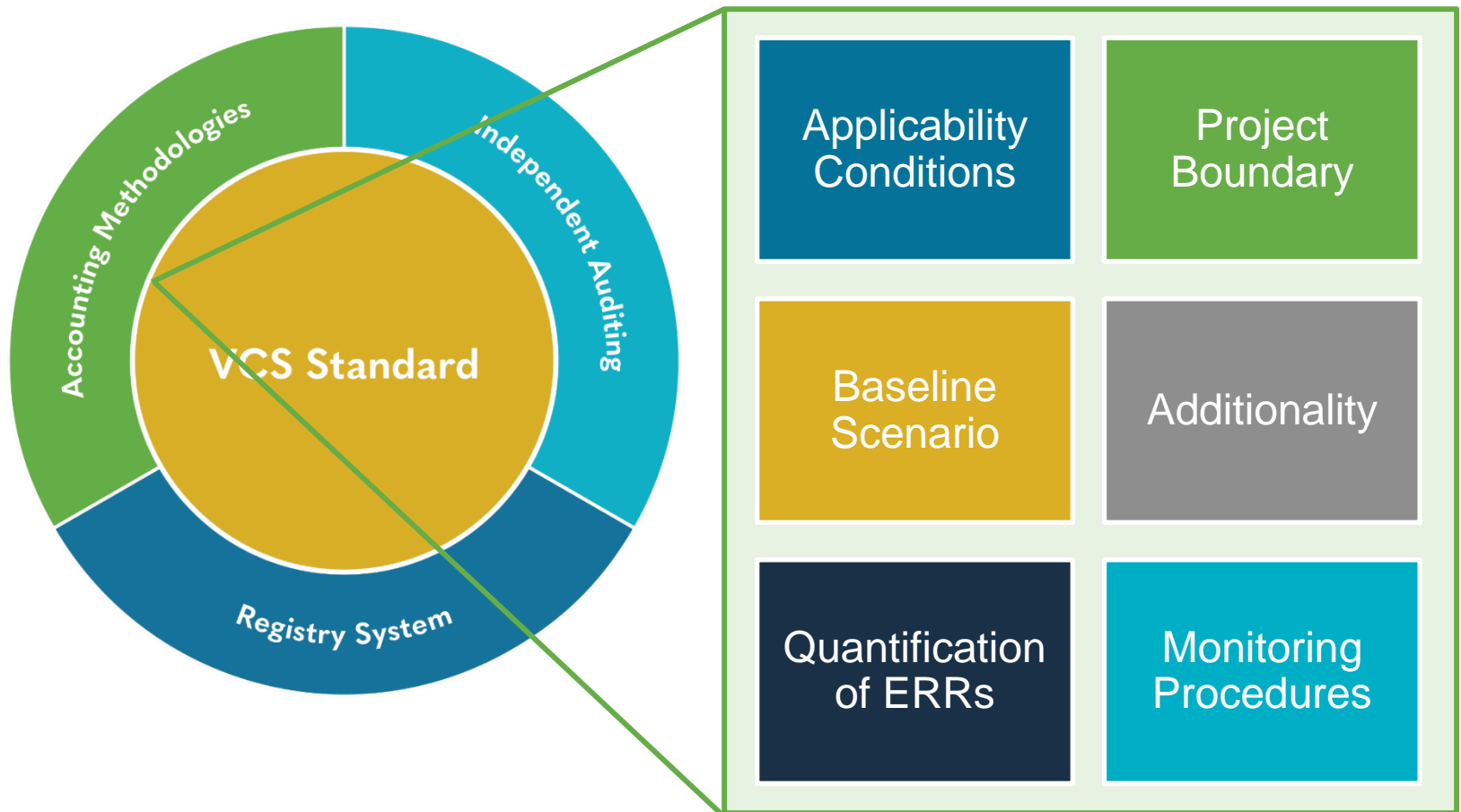
ICAT | INITIATIVE FOR
Climate Action
Transparency



LANDSCALE



VCS Methodologies



VCS Blue Carbon Methodologies

Restoration Only

- [Methodology for Coastal Wetland Creation \(VM0024\)](#)
- [Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration \(VM0033\)](#)

Conservation & Restoration

- [REDD+ Methodology Framework \(VM0007\)](#)

Coastal Wetland Creation (VM0024)

- [Methodology for Coastal Wetland Creation \(VM0024\)](#)
- Project activities must:
 - Create new coastal wetlands through substrate and/or vegetation establishment
 - Be conducted in tidal or estuarine systems, and on wetlands that are degraded and open water in the baseline scenario
- US-only
- Positive list for additionality

Tidal Wetland Restoration (VM0033)

- Methodology for Tidal Wetland and Seagrass Restoration (VM0033)
- Project activities:
 - Creating, restoring and/or managing hydrological conditions
 - Altering sediment supply
 - Changing salinity characteristics
 - Improving water quality
 - Introducing native plant communities
 - Improving management practices
- Globally applicable
- Positive list for additionality

Tidal Wetland Conservation (VM0007)

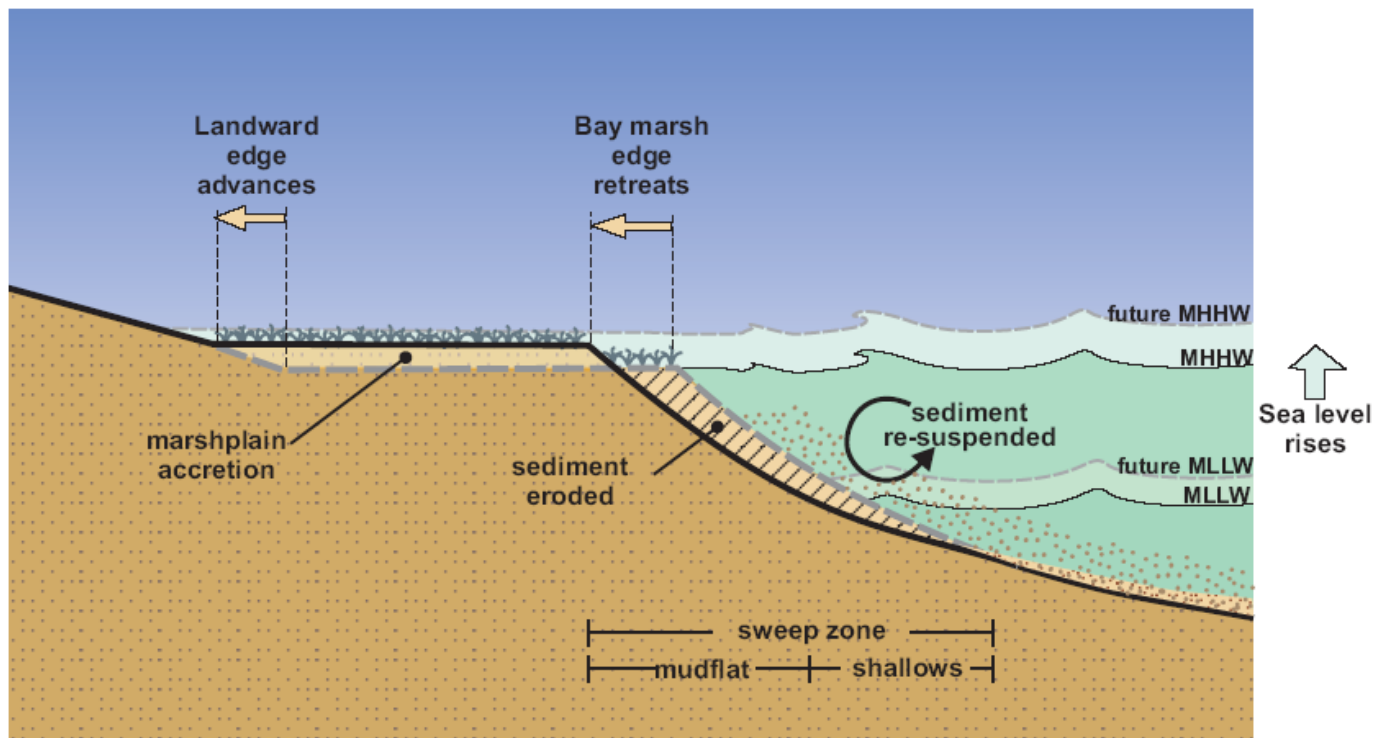
- REDD+ Methodology Framework (VM0007)
- Activities include:
 - Restoration (based off of VM0033)
 - Conservation (adapted from REDD+ methodologies)
 - Avoided unplanned wetland degradation
 - Avoided planned wetland degradation
- Globally applicable
- Positive list for additionality (for activities on wetlands)

Monitoring Requirements

- Specific requirements set out in the applied methodology
 - Above and belowground biomass carbon stock changes
 - Soil carbon stock
 - Emissions from fossil fuel use, biomass burning, dredging, etc.
 - Allochthonous carbon estimation
 - Area of wetland degradation (conservation projects)
 - Estimation of non-permanence risk (incl. sea level rise)

Sea Level Rise

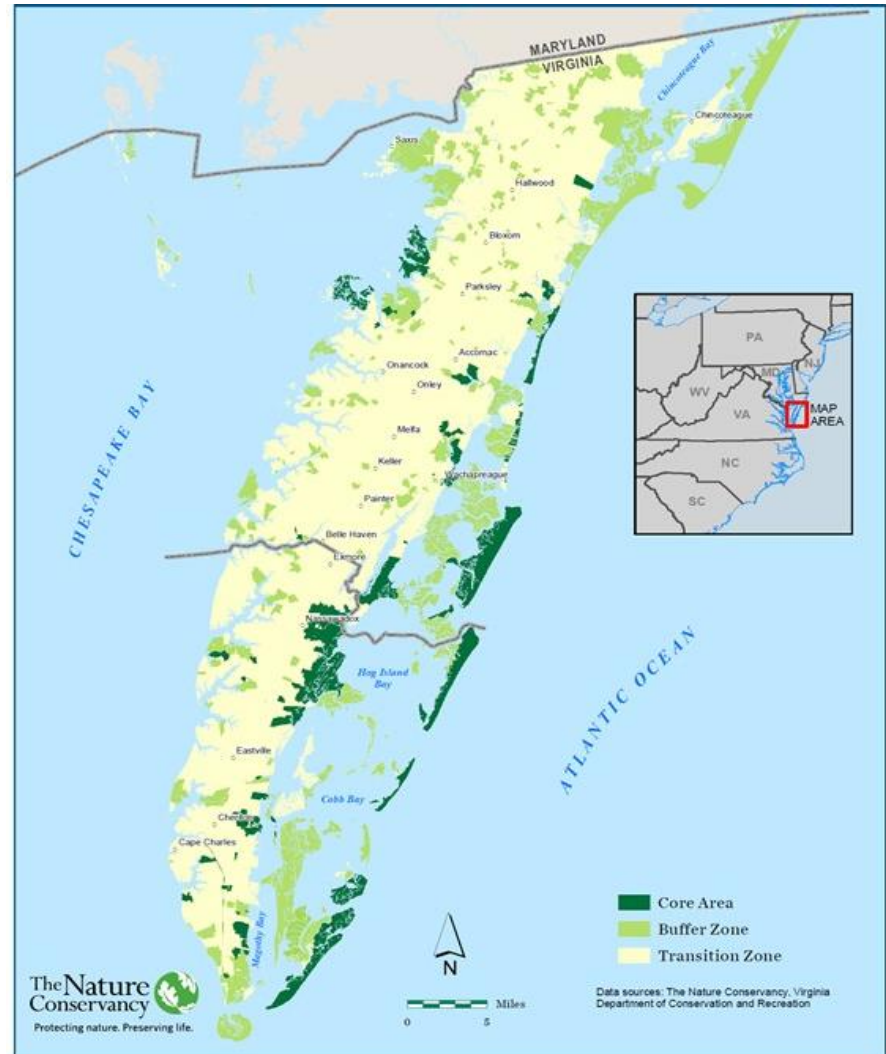
- All coastal wetland projects must take expected sea level rise into consideration
 - Expected impact on carbon stocks
 - Wetland migration due to sea level rise



Virginia Seagrass Project



- Under development
- Eelgrass restoration
- Eastern shore of Virginia
- Using VM0033



Verra's Blue Carbon Working Group

- [Verra Blue Carbon Working Group \(2020\)](#)
- **Objectives:**
 - Explore key barriers and opportunities for tidal wetland conservation and restoration activities
 - Identify recommendations for how standards (and methodologies and tools) could better support tidal wetland activities
- **Opportunities:**
 - High demand for blue carbon credits and “removals” credits
 - Associated non-carbon benefits (e.g., coastal resilience)
- **Barriers:**
 - Technical complexity of wetlands and methodologies (e.g., allochthonous carbon, planning for sea level rise)
 - Data availability

Additional Certifications

- Additional certifications can be used to certify environmental and social safeguards
- Allows for a “label” to be added VCUs



**Climate, Community
& Biodiversity Standards**

- Certify benefits to climate, local communities and the environment



**Sustainable Development
Verified Impact Standard**

- Certify project contributions to the SDGs
- Coastal resilience asset (under development by The Nature Conservancy)

Thank you!

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