



## **VCS Program Update**

8 September 2010

### **Update to the VCS 2007.1: Tool for Non-Permanence Risk Analysis and Buffer Determination**

#### **Background**

The VCS *Tool for AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Analysis and Buffer Determination* sets out the requirements for assessing risk and determining the appropriate buffer withholding. It includes two methods for determining risk, including the Likelihood x Significance method set out in Appendix A which assesses quantitative and qualitative risks. It is necessary to provide an update regarding the use of the Likelihood x Significance Methodology to ensure consistent application of the risk tool and consistent determination of risks. It is also necessary to issue further guidance for determining the risk of fire for ARR and REDD projects to ensure that the risk of fire is assessed consistently for ARR and REDD projects by project proponents and validation/verification bodies.

Note – The VCS Association is undertaking a full review and revision of the *Tool for AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Analysis and Buffer Determination*, which will be issued for public consultation in mid-September 2010, with the release of the final tool expected at the beginning of 2011 with the release of all other VCS Program 2011 documents. The objective of this interim revision is to ensure that the risk factors cover all potential project scenarios and that the method for determining the appropriate risk class and buffer withholding percentage can be consistently applied by project proponents and assessed by validation/verification bodies.

#### **VCS Program Update**

The VCS Association hereby updates the *Tool for AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Analysis and Buffer Determination* (the “risk tool”) to remove the Likelihood x Significance Methodology for Assessing AFOLU Project Risk. Such methodology for assessing project risk may no longer be used.

To determine the risk of fire in ARR or REDD projects, the following shall apply.

- 1) For ARR projects, in addition to the risk factors set out in Table 2 of the risk tool, the risk of fire shall be assessed using the fire risk table below.
- 2) For REDD projects, in addition to the risk factors set out in Table 8 of the risk tool, the risk of fire shall be assessed by following the fire risk table below.

## Fire Risk Factors Applicable to ARR and REDD Projects:

<b>Risk of Fire</b>	<b>ARR</b>	<b>REDD</b>
Low to medium fire return interval (>50 years) with best-practice fire prevention measures.	Very Low	Low
Low to medium fire return interval (>50 years) without fire prevention measures.	Low	Medium
High fire return interval (<50 years) with best-practice fire prevention measures such as fuel removal, fire breaks, fire towers and fire fighting equipment.	Low	Low
High fire return interval (<50 years) with adequate fire prevention measures in place	Medium	Medium
High fire return interval (<50 years) with no significant fire prevention measures in place	High	High

All other requirements in the *Tool for AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Analysis and Buffer Determination* and the 13 April 2010 program update shall be followed.

Such clarifications set out in this program update are effective from 8 September 2010.