



# **Standards Endorsement Procedure Overview**

Version 2.0  
March 2023

## 1. ELIGIBILITY

The Standards Endorsement Procedure is open to any VCM Standard who demonstrates compliance with the Standards Endorsement Review Criteria. Categories tested in the third-party assessment include independence, governance, registry, validation/verification, carbon crediting principles, environmental/ social impacts, stakeholder considerations, and scale.

## 2. APPLICATION PROCESS

1. **Application.** A Standard can apply for endorsement at any time. Prior to applying, the Standard should review the Standards Endorsement Review Criteria and Standards Endorsement Programme Guide and determine whether all criteria are met. From here, the Standard completes the Standards Endorsement Application Form and submits via email to the Programme Coordinator, Franco D'Aprile ([daprile@ieta.org](mailto:daprile@ieta.org)). IETA encourages Standards to communicate their intent to submit ahead of time so we can notify the third-party Assessor and ensure their availability.
2. **Completeness check.** The Secretariat will review the application form for completeness. At this stage, the Standard will be invoiced the 10,000 CHF fee for the third-party assessment.
3. **Conflict of Interest check.** IETA, the Standard, and the Assessor will identify, evaluate, and mitigate any potential conflicts of interest prior to the start of the assessment.
4. **Third-party assessment.** The assessment begins with a kick-off meeting followed by the Assessor reviewing the documentation. Findings and requests for additional information will be sent to the Standard. Once the Standard supplies all requested information, the Assessor will make its recommendation.
5. **Consistency and quality check.** An ad hoc Technical Working Group may be convened at the discretion of the Secretariat to review the assessment and in the case of any material concerns.
6. **Review and approval.** The Accreditation Committee will make the final decision as to whether the Standard is awarded Endorsement and is included in the Code. Members of the committee are responsible for ensuring that the process was followed, any conflicts of interest were addressed appropriately, and there are no outstanding material concerns from any parties.