



# De-risking forest carbon investments

## Why it matters

As the voluntary carbon market matures, quality and integrity have become decisive factors for buyers and investors. Projects that lack robust community engagement or social safeguards face growing scrutiny, delays in credit issuance, reputational risks and financial losses. These pressures are intensifying as integrity benchmarks and corporate climate disclosure requirements evolve faster than many organizations can keep up.

At the same time, companies are demanding higher-quality carbon credits grounded in methodologies approved by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market and other leading initiatives. They are seeking projects that deliver durable climate outcomes while generating measurable social and environmental benefits. Strong governance, trusted community partnerships and credible safeguards are now the foundations of successful carbon investments.

# Long-term risks if safeguards are weak

Underinvesting in social safeguards can lead to:

- 1 Loss of consent from Indigenous Peoples and local communities, undermining the project and long-term viability
- 2 Delays in project implementation and credit issuance, resulting in budget overruns, financial loss and missed market opportunities
- 3 Reputational damage driven by public scrutiny or negative validation and verification findings, weakening brand value and investor confidence
- 4 Strained investor and buyer relationships if projects fail to deliver intended impacts, limiting access to partners that prioritize high-integrity portfolios

## How RECOFTC helps

RECOFTC de-risks forest and land-use carbon projects by embedding strong social safeguards and meaningful community engagement from the start. With nearly 40 years of experience designing people-centred solutions across Asia's forested landscapes, we help project developers build high-integrity initiatives that earn and retain the trust of communities, buyers and investors.

We combine trusted relationships with communities, governments and the private sector, international standards and deep local knowledge to help you:

- Generate high-integrity carbon credits that remain credible and accepted over time by navigating community engagement and safeguard requirements effectively
- Reduce the likelihood of disputes that disrupt timelines or threaten viability by involving Indigenous Peoples and local communities in project design and implementation
- Lower overall project and portfolio risk by aligning stakeholder engagement and social safeguards with evolving integrity frameworks, including the Science Based Targets initiative, the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market, and the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity initiative, protecting both your reputation and the long-term performance of your investments

## How we work with you

We partner with companies and project developers across the carbon project lifecycle, from origination and design through implementation, monitoring and learning. Depending on your needs, we can lead long-term stakeholder engagement, advise your teams or strengthen local partner capacities in areas such as:



Stakeholder mapping and identification to ensure all relevant rights-holders and stakeholders are recognized and engaged from the outset



Free, Prior, and Informed Consent processes that enable Indigenous Peoples and local communities to make informed decisions about proposed activities, with clear measures that integrate gender equality and social inclusion



Transparent, equitable and practical benefit-sharing mechanisms that build trust and long-term cooperation



Participatory land-use planning to ensure that project activities are consistent with local land-use, rights and national frameworks

# Why partner with RECOFTC

RECOFTC is an international non-profit organization working towards a future where resilient communities with respected rights thrive in forest landscapes that they manage sustainably and equitably.

With forest communities, governments, businesses and civil society across the Asia-Pacific region, we strengthen capacities, rights and governance so that local communities can maintain and benefit equitably from sustainable forest landscapes.

Our long-term in-country presence in Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam gives companies access to established relationships and on-the-ground insight. This translates into lower social and political risk, smoother implementation in complex landscapes and a stronger foundation for stable, responsible, climate-resilient investments. For your company, it also builds greater confidence among investors and buyers in the integrity of your credits and in your broader commitments to people and forests.

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