

## **Digital Infrastructure for Carbon Markets**

2022







## • The Scale-up and Growth of Voluntary Carbon Markets

**Post-2020 markets under the Paris Agreement will be built through a bottom-up approach**, as each party to the Agreement is required to track the greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions (or removals) achieved—and has considerable leeway to determine how this will be done.



The bottom-up nature of future carbon markets comes with increased complexity and diversity of reporting and verification approaches for GHG emissions inventories and mitigation outcomes:

- Limited transparency
- Limited liquidity
- Market fragmentation and inaccessibility
- Quality variability
- Lagging methodologies



There is significant potential for digital infrastructure to underpin and streamline the functioning of post-2020 carbon markets.



*Source:* Adams, Tim. Winters, Bill. Nazareth, Annette and Mark Carney Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets Phase 1 Final Report: January 2021, TSVCM, pg. 45

#### Report by Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets (TSVCM)





#### Data and trade infrastructure is a precondition to scale a transparent and inclusive carbon market

Climate Warehouse: piloting an end-to-end digitization of the carbon market ecosystem



project preparation from document development, approval, validation to registration in applicable standards

> The World Bank's Climate Warehouse Program tests, prototypes and develops digital infrastructure for carbon markets







#### World Bank Climate Warehouse Program:

Building an End-to-End Digital Ecosystem for Carbon Markets



Pillar 1: Piloting and Developing Global Public Goods

Making digital infrastructure for carbon markets available to client countries through development, testing and prototyping of innovative digital infrastructure for carbon markets.

Work Streams:

- **Digital for Climate (D4C) Working Group**. Collaboration with EBRD, UNDP, UNFCCC, and WB for a modular and interoperable end-to-end digital ecosystem for carbon markets.
- Digital Monitoring, Reviewing and Verification (dMRV) systems. Piloting the connection between dMRV systems with national carbon registries and national MRV systems.
- National Carbon Registries. Development of opensource offand on-chain transaction registries.
- **Tokenization instruments.** Development of tokenization instruments to tokenize carbon markets.
- Climate Action Data Trust (CADT)







Pillar 2: Global Knowledge and Capacity-Building

Support countries and jurisdictions to in implementation of digital infrastructure for carbon markets needed for GHG mitigation and NDC implementation through PMI Technical Assistance

Work Streams:

- Develop <u>knowledge base on digital infrastructure</u> and facilitate information exchange through technical discussions and knowledge dissemination
- Assist countries to identify and implement best practice approaches and, where relevant, achieve compatibility in design to support the <u>development and linking of digital infrastructure for</u> <u>carbon markets</u>
- Encourage international and national cooperation, and <u>inform the</u> <u>domestic and global policy discussions on GHG mitigation</u> by sharing lessons learned and providing a platform for collective innovation on digital infrastructure products



#### World Bank Climate Warehouse Program:

Building an End-to-End Digital Ecosystem for Carbon Markets





Designing, prototyping, piloting and validating digital infrastructure for the scale up of carbon markets and finance





Climate Warehouse Digital Ecosystem

A global public metadata layer to foster greater transparency, integrity and security in the carbon markets





## Climate Action Data Trust

Climate Warehouse Digital Ecosystem

An open-shared infrastructure

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Global public good that aims to empower a new global carbon market infrastructure.

Metadata platform that aims to link, aggregate and harmonize underlying registry data to enable transparent accounting as per Article 6.



**Designed as an open shared infrastructure** with a common taxonomy of data that facilitates connection and communication between entities enabled by blockchain technology.

**Registry service providers** and **countries** share data to the platform and **public and private sector market players** can host a node and build out the service layer.



**Provide visibility into corresponding adjustment procedures and the lifecycle of carbon offsets** from issuances to retirement, which will safeguard against double counting and ease reporting requirements.







- Designed as an open shared infrastructure layer
- Common taxonomy of data facilitates communication between entities
- Registry service providers and countries share data to the Climate Action Data Trust (CADT)
- Public and private sector market players can host a node and build out the service layer





Climate Action Data Trust – Timeline of Testing Activities

#### Product development, Stakeholder participation and Governance model







- Developed operational prototype as a global public good that aims to empower a new global carbon market infrastructure through a decentralized information technology platform built on blockchain technology
- Implemented the recommendations from the governance consultations on the operational platform conducted by IETA and the Government of Singapore:
  - Conducted fundraising
  - Formation of governing bodies
  - Set up independent legal entity anchored in Singapore
  - Official launch in December 6-8, 2022



- 75 individual testers
  30 participating organizations
  11 governments
  40 weekly office hour sessions
- 58 testing sessions
- 30 kick-off and onboarding meetings

514 individual points of feedback,
which helped identify 156 development actions,
139 of which were implemented during Simulation
III and reflected in the final version of the
operational prototype at the end of the simulation.

Key lessons learned and a complete log of all participant feedback shared with the governing body of the operational CAD Trust at the end of Simulation III in August 2022 (Climate Warehouse Simulation III – Final Report)

#### Participation in CADT Simulation III (2022)



#### 22 full participants:

ACR

CAR

GCC

Verra

**Gold Standard** 

Chile	IFC	Spain
apan	WB CATS	
Peru	WB CMI	EBRD
Rwanda		UNDP
Senegal	EcoRegistry Colombia	UNFCCC
Singapore	IHS Markit	
Sweden	SK Certification Center	Climate Ledger Initiative
Switzerland	GenZero	ClimateCheck
JK		IETA
Jganda		Open Earth Foundation

8 observers:



# Feedback from participants of Simulation III

Simulation III scope	Benefits & Feedback	3 types of experts are needed
<ul> <li>Sim III pushes participants to envision an interconnected ecosystem, beyond their own standalone system</li> <li>Data added to the</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Benefits</li> <li>Increased transparency and data sharing</li> <li>Addressing double counting risks across registries</li> <li>Identifying a common data model</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Policy Setter</li> <li>Provides policies, guidelines, strategy for implementing, projections on future impacts on the inner workings of the organization</li> <li>Needs to understand how the data will be used internally and by partners in the future, what changes</li> </ul>
<ul> <li>Data added to the Climate Warehouse must be able to bridge process flows across participants</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Interaction with experts across registries</li> <li>Ability to access information outside of their own systems</li> <li>Feedback</li> </ul>	need to occur for this to happen, and what is possible due to technology advances. Registry Administrator
<ul> <li>Participants must validate the Climate Warehouse's level of data granularity, status information and units transfer methodology</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Difficulty defining minimum standards needed to link registries</li> <li>IT complexity, upgrades to existing systems, building integration</li> <li>Ability to connect regional registry systems</li> <li>Multiple groups within the same organization will need to coordinate and play a role</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Create procedures for implementing policies</li> <li>Needs to understand how workflows will change in the future, implications for their technology tools and the data that needs to be available and captured.</li> <li><b>IT Support</b></li> <li>Ensure data structure and registry functions are fit for purpose</li> <li>Needs to understand direction of policies, field definitions to figure out equivalencies for integration.</li> </ul>



# CLIMATE ACTION DATA (CAD) TRUST: Technical Architecture and Data Model

## > Infrastructure Architecture

The architecture has 2 layers – the data layer and the public blockchain layer

#### Data Layer...



- Defines a common data model and taxonomy
- Reconcile data across registries
- Identify potential double counting
- Enable auditing and reporting

#### ... on a Public Blockchain Layer



- Transparent and Immutable Data
- Auditable
- Accessible and Inclusive
- Public and Transparent
- Open source
- Peer-to-peer governance



## **Updates to the Simulation III Data Model Based on Feedback**



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There are **3 ways** to integrate data:

- User Interface
- API
- Spreadsheet import/export



# CLIMATE ACTION DATA (CAD) TRUST: Governance & Next Steps





#### **Entities involved**

- Governments
- Independent standards
- Exchanges
- Traders
- Project developers
- Private sector
- Financial institutions
- Technology providers
- NGOs
- Think tanks
- Law firms
- Multilateral development banks
- Observer: UNFCCC



#### Governance models reviewed

- Western Climate Initiative, Inc (WCI, Inc.)
- Integrity Council for Voluntary Carbon Markets (IC-VCM)
- EU-Swiss ETS link
- Joint Crediting Mechanism (JCM)
- British Standards Institution (BSI) & Enterprise Singapore (ES)



#### Focus groups conducted

- 4 on governance (46 entities)
- 2 on finance (45 entities)

+ polls and surveys for participant feedback throughout

















	INCEPTION PHASE 2022	INTERIM PERIOD 2023-2024	PERMANENT GOVERNANCE 2025 Onwards	
GOVERNANCE	<ul> <li>IETA, World Bank, and Singapore Government provide governance and support</li> <li>IETA provides Secretariat functions</li> <li>Interim Council recruitment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Interim Council in charge of strategic decisions and transition to permanent governance</li> <li>IETA provides Secretariat functions</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Permanent Council elected and Council rotation established</li> <li>Secretariat transitioned to an independent entity</li> </ul>	
PRIORITIES	<ul> <li>Establish a legal entity</li> <li>Fundraising</li> <li>IT platform handover</li> <li>Engagement with independent standards</li> <li>Public launch</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Data specification development</li> <li>Adoption by independent standards and national registries</li> <li>Marketing, user adoption</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Further adoption by registries and governments</li> <li>Build a service layer</li> <li>UNFCCC reporting interaction</li> <li>Long-term strategy</li> </ul>	
FUNDING	Grant funding	Grant funding	<ul><li>Grant funding</li><li>Move to self-sustaining finance</li></ul>	



# **Data Provider Onboarding**

	<b>Q4</b> 2022	<b>Q1/2</b> 2023	<b>Q3/Q4</b> 2023
INDEPENDENT STANDARDS	<ul><li>ECOREGISTRY</li><li>PURO EARTH</li></ul>	<ul> <li>ACR</li> <li>CAR</li> <li>VERRA</li> <li>GOLD STANDARD</li> <li>GCC</li> </ul>	SMALLER INDEPENDENT STANDARDS
NATIONAL REGISTRIES		<ul> <li>INITIAL COUNTRY REGISTRIES (SINGAPORE, SENEGAL, BHUTAN, CHILE, JAPAN, UK)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>ADDITIONAL NATIONAL REGISTRIES</li> <li>MULTILATERAL BANK REGISTRIES</li> </ul>
MARKET		<ul> <li>CHAINLINK API</li> <li>RATINGS AGENCIES</li> <li>EXCHANGES</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS</li> <li>PROJECT DEVELOPERS</li> <li>TRADERS</li> <li>TECHNOLOGY PROVIDERS</li> </ul>





### Q&A, Video & Demo









# The World Bank National Carbon Registry Offering

Enabling Decentralized Climate Markets to Share and Track Climate Data





#### Digital infrastructure is a precondition to scale a transparent and inclusive carbon market

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project preparation from document development, approval, validation to registration in applicable standards

## Registry systems enable countries to participate in the carbon markets

- Individual commitments through nationally determined contributions (NDCs). The Paris Agreement introduced a bottom-up approach for addressing climate change.
- A registry is one of several prerequisites for the implementation of a carbon pricing mechanism for the purposes of carbon accounting and compliance with UNFCCC principles. Pricing schemes aim to reduce GHG emissions with the issuance of tradeable carbon credits and is an effective tool for countries to meet market mechanism requirements under Article 6 of the Paris Agreement.
- National Carbon Registry: The carbon registry system allows countries to administer various accounts, perform internal transactions and internationally trade with other registries, amongst other capabilities.

#### Why implement a national registry system?

- Help countries meet their
   NDC requirements
- Complying with Article 6 of the Paris Agreement
- Brings diverse participants into the global carbon markets
- Supports the move away from fossil fuels and towards a green economic transition

- Carbon markets reduce costs to smooth the low-carbon transition
- Guarantees transparency through auditable transactions
- Open-source registries promote **inclusiveness**
- Registry systems ensure integrity and security of project and unit data





- The World Bank Climate Warehouse umbrella program offers a menu of digital infrastructure for carbon markets, including two open-source national carbon registries 1. Core Registry and 2. Enhanced Registry
- The registry systems aim to follow the national and international regulatory requirements as well as principles for carbon accounting:
  - UNFCCC principles: transparency, completeness, comparability, accuracy, consistency
  - Prevention of the risk of double accounting
  - Independent administration
  - Auditable accounting system
  - Compliance with applicable regulations
  - Suitability for use as evidence of ownership and transfer of ownership in respect of the recorded units
- The registries are **open-source public goods** and promote **interoperability**

#### **1. Core Registry**

The Core Registry provides **national-level registry infrastructure** enabling member countries to **issue digital carbon assets**. Users can **manually upload projects and units' data** in sync with the World Bank's CADT Metadata layer.

#### 2. Enhanced Registry

The Enhanced Registry provides infrastructure to support domestic and international crediting market transactions. It provides an integrated d-MRV system/automated entry mechanism to share projects and units' data, supporting global carbon market activity.

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## > What are the Key Characteristic of the Registry Offering?

Functionalities	Required for Article 6	Core Registry (On- chain)	Enhanced Registry (with MRV system)
Add/Remove Project	Yes	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Issue Units	Yes		$\sim$
Use/Transfer Units	Yes	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Allow for Multiple Account Holders	Yes	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Label Issued ERs (e.g., ITMO Authorization)	Yes	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Dedicated Accounts for OMGE and SOP	Yes	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$
Link to Climate Action Data Trust (CADT)	No	$\checkmark$	×
Track and Manage Workstreams	No	×	$\checkmark$
Create New Project Types and Methodologies	No	×	$\checkmark$
Link to GHG Inventory	No	X	×
Report Generation	No	×	$\checkmark$
Distributed Ledger Technology	No	$\checkmark$	×
Open-source Software	No	$\checkmark$	$\checkmark$





## Differentiating between Core Registry and Enhanced Registry

- 1. Link to Climate Action Data Trust (CADT)
- 2. Add, edit, and remove Emissions Reductions (ER) projects
- 3. Issue ERs to the projects
- 4. Add labels and approvals, with supporting documentation, to issued ERs
- 5. Retire, cancel, transfer issued ERs
- 6. Multiple accounts to allow for ER buyers to have an account in the country registry
- 7. Dedicated accounts for holding ERs as overall mitigation in global emissions (OMGE) or share of proceeds (SOP)
- 8. Track and manage unit verification process
- 9. Create new project types with underlying methodologies
- 10.Link registry to GHG inventory systems and key parameters (Grid Emission Factor,
  - Non-Renewable Biomass fraction)
- 11. Automatically generate reports on ER projects



**Enhanced Registry** 





# 2. National Core Carbon Registry



- The World Bank is developing a simplified, open-source carbon registry using distributed ledger technology (DLT) to enable PMI member countries to directly participate in global carbon markets.
- The public blockchain enables **inclusiveness**, **accountability** (decentralized governance and peer-to-peer support), **transparency** (fully auditable record of transactions) and **integrity** (fully immutable, traceable and interoperable).
- The Core Registry is currently comprised of two main applications:
  - The **Climate Action Development Trust** (CADT), which will enable market participants to record data about projects and issued units
  - The Native Tokenization Engine (NTE) enables the issuance of tradeable instruments based on CADT data
  - Additional modules will be added to expand functionality
- The Core Registry aims to provide a seamless solution for registry admins to issue digital carbon assets.

#### **Key Features**

- Information about projects and issued units is **published in a publicly viewable and auditable manner**
- **Tokenization** of issued digital climate assets
- Automated recording of retirements detected on-chain in the CADT
- **Disable detokenization** for digitally native climate assets





Warehouse





Climate Warehouse

## What are the Capabilities of the Core Registry?

#### **Functionality Overview**

- 1. Add, edit, and remove Emissions Reductions (ER) projects
- 2. Issue ERs to the projects
- 3. Add labels and approvals, with supporting documentation, to issued ERs
- 4. Retire, cancel, transfer issued ERs
- 5. Multiple accounts to allow for ER buyers to have an account in the country registry
- Dedicated accounts for holding ERs as overall mitigation in global emissions (OMGE) or share of proceeds (SOP)
- 7. Link to Climate Action Data Trust (CADT)

# Once implemented, a Registry Adminsitrator will be able to:

- Enter and update data about projects, including:
  - Project name, project ID, and all CADT-defined project metadata
  - Project location GIS files
  - Links to any project information hosted outside of the Core Registry
  - Publish all data to the CADT
- Issue carbon credits, including:
  - Entering the data about the issuance into CADT
  - Issuing tokens to the project or their designee as tradable carbon instruments
- Track retirements and their beneficiaries, including:
  - Detecting retirements of issued tokens
  - Recording retirements into CADT





Warehouse



Actor	What will I need?	Benefits
Registry Administrator or Regulator	<ul> <li>Install Registry Software package (Climate Action Data Trust node, Tokenization Engine, Climate Explorer)</li> <li>Software can be installed on local computer, data center, or a cloud-hosted environment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>No need to host registry website or manage users</li> <li>Easy implementation - minimal hardware requirements</li> <li>Registry can still manage credentialing (i.e. who can hold carbon units)</li> </ul>
Owner of Carbon Units	<ul> <li>Install Climate Wallet</li> <li>Software can be installed on local computer, data center or a cloud-hosted environment</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Instant tokenization upon issuance</li> <li>Can hold tokens from multiple standards</li> </ul>
The Public	<ul> <li>Internet access to view Climate Action Data Trust</li> <li>No software installation needed</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Complete transparency provided by Climate Action Data Trust</li> </ul>





• •	Climate Wa	llet		
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# 2. National Enhanced Carbon Registry

## What is the value proposition?

Infrastructure to support domestic and international crediting market transactions

**Integrated MRV (Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification)** and automated entry mechanism to share projects and units' data, reducing time required to generate and trade an emission reduction. This should also reduce transaction costs, directing a greater percentage of carbon revenues towards mitigation projects. In short, this is an out-of-the-box solution.

#### An open-source carbon registry

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**Provide visibility into corresponding adjustment procedures and the lifecycle of carbon offsets** from issuances to retirement, which will safeguard against double counting and ease audit requirements through the registry's transaction, reporting and reconciliation functionality.

## 3

Active participation in international carbon markets, providing the capacity to introduce additional market-based-mechanisms (MBMs). The Enhanced Registry also supports interoperability between domestic mechanisms.



Enhance transparency and trust among market participants, with the aim to reduce the risk of double counting and double claiming. The Enhanced Registry does not hold credits or directly facilitate.





## Technical Value Proposition of Enhanced Registry

All transactions through direct registry-registry communication

Parties choose with registries they wish to link to

Parties set up their own registries

Information on holding of units in registries reported internationally in biennial transparency reports

#### **Benefits**

- Reduced development costs through access to opensource registry code and resulting productization
- Ease of deployment akin to downloading new software
- Application structure will allow for customization
- Allows countries to address inconsistency with datasets, parameters, indicators and technological interfaces
- Will define minimum standard of market ready national registry system that would allow robust tracking of units and the avoidance of double counting

 Countries will bear responsibility to secure the application and the IT environment and performing software upgrades, requiring additional dedicated resources

Requirements

- Countries will need to customize the registry to align with their requirements, which may be resource-intensive
- Regulation to enforce the usage of the system by all relevant stakeholders in the country
- Buyer and seller countries are **responsible** for ensuring unit quality

## **Technical Capabilities & Functionalities of Enhanced Registry**

#### **Technical Capabilities**

The Enhanced Registry aims to provide the country users with the following capabilities:

#### **Technical Admin (TA)**

• The TA would be able to **configure the registry to increase the robustness** of transactions.

#### **Registry Admin (RA)**

- The RA would be able to carry out all required transactions required over the lifetime of a project, guaranteeing the traceability the transactions and units
- The RA would be able to view the balance of several account holders and a statement of the transactions carried out via the accounts to manage assets efficiently.
- The RA would be able to **check the accounts to certify the compliance** of the registry and its reports.

#### **Registry Functionalities**

The Enhanced Registry expands on the functionalities of the Core Registry. ER- specific functionality is highlighted.

- 1. Add, edit, and remove Emissions Reductions (ER) projects
- 2. Issue ERs to the projects
- 3. Add labels and approvals, with supporting documentation, to issued ERs
- 4. Retire, cancel, transfer issued ERs
- 5. Multiple accounts to allow for ER buyers to have an account in the country registry
- Dedicated accounts for holding ERs as overall mitigation in global emissions (OMGE) or share of proceeds (SOP)
- 7. Track and manage unit verification process (MRV)
- 8. Create new project types with underlying methodologies
- Link registry to GHG inventory systems and key parameters (Grid Emission Factor, Non-Renewable Biomass fraction)
- 10. Automatically generate reports on ER projects



For further information:

#### **Climate Warehouse**

- Website: https://www.theclimatewarehouse.org/work/climate-warehouse
- Testing Activities Video: <u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cXwTV2bAnvI</u>
- Online Library: https://olc.worldbank.org/content/climate-warehouse-learning-series

#### **Climate Action Data Trust**

- Website: <u>https://climateactiondata.org/</u>
- Launch Video: <u>https://olc.worldbank.org/content/introduction-climate-action-data-trust</u>

#### Contacts:

Gemma Torras Vives, IT Officer, Carbon Markets and Innovation, World Bank, <u>gtorrasvives@worldbank.org</u> Chandra Shekhar Sinha, Adviser, Climate Change Group, World Bank, <u>csinha@worldbank.org</u>

