

Carbon & forestry certifications assessment report

Through timber construction, there is a future in which forests can support cities and, in return, cities can support forests. As the global population increases, particularly in cities, the construction sector is expected to exponentially grow in order to accommodate the demand for housing and other infrastructure. Current construction techniques are a significant contributor to the global climate crisis and urgently need to be transformed. By substituting the carbon-intensive materials commonly used in construction with forest economy biomaterials, such as wood and bamboo which sequester carbon, we can create buildings with reduced carbon emissions. However, this timber construction industry is still in its nascency and there is a need to address its market gaps and leverage opportunities to accelerate its development and increase its uptake.

These interventions for the mass timber construction industry can be segmented into seven main categories of solutions that affect the value chain and enablers of the ecosystem. Through various internal and external discussions, Climate Smart Forest Economy Program (CSFEP) has categorized potential solutions as relating to i) Finance and insurance; ii) Product and process certifications; iii) Communication and awareness building; iv) Timber knowledge ecosystem; v) Forest management and timber policies; vi) Value chain linkages; and vii) Timber-based real estate. The proposed solutions can be executed as for-profit, philanthropic, or blended ventures, with the services developed as individual offerings or paired with complementary services in a single offering. Additionally, while some solutions may be set up as a free-standing entity, other solutions may be similar to services provided by existing actors in or adjacent to the CSFE sector. In the case of the latter, it may make sense to approach these existing providers as potential partners to find a suitable and effective home for needed services.

CARBON & FORESTRY CERTIFICATIONS ASSESSMENT REPORT

Carbon offset investors and buyers face a number of challenges navigating the complex voluntary carbon offset market. These challenges include:

- Determining the quality and full environmental and social benefits of purchased carbon credits
- Making comparisons between different carbon credit certification types
- Difficulty in understanding what each standard accounts for in its verification

Creating a carbon & forestry certifications assessment report would enable easier navigation of the types, quality, and criteria of existing voluntary carbon offset certification bodies. The report would aim to offer a better understanding of the differences in certification types and criteria to investors, organizations, and individuals looking to purchase carbon credits. It would also encourage the improvement of certification bodies to be more holistic in their assessments of carbon offset projects.

There are already a number of entities that provide some informational content on the carbon credit market, but more could be done to target the questions and concerns of buyers. For example, the Ecosystem Marketplace offers newsletters, breaking news, original feature articles, and annual reports on the trends of the carbon market, but does not provide direction on how buyers could best participate within it. Organizations such as Carbon Credit provide educational articles, through its Investor Education Center, the organization provides articles relevant to investors in the carbon market, with titles such as “What is Carbon Financing And How to Participate in It?”. Combining aspects of these offerings into an easy-to-understand resource that guides decision-making would benefit carbon offset uptake.

In order to meet its objectives, the report would need to:

- Support investors in better understanding the environmental and social benefits associated with their carbon offsets
- Helping carbon credit initiatives determine which standards to register their offsets on based on the certification's criteria, cost, etc.
Provide greater visibility for carbon certification bodies on how they compare among their peers

If you would like to know more, you can reach out to [Carbon Credits](#).