



SHIFT CM All Member Meeting August 8, 2025

Meeting Notes:

- **Meeting Introduction:** Sara Kuebbing welcomed everyone to the meeting and outlined the agenda, which included updates on SHIFT CM, governance framework, ICBCM partnership, fundraising, communication, and working groups.
- **Hub Developments:** Kim Myers provided updates on hub-related developments around SHIFT CM, including partnerships with key market actors, advocacy, fundraising, and internal structuring.
 - **Partnerships:** Kim highlighted the importance of partnerships with key market actors to ensure the relevance and applicability of SHIFT CM's research. She mentioned the formal collaborative agreement with ICVCM as a critical partnership. The agreement includes mutual advisory roles where both parties share knowledge and advice.
 - **Advocacy:** Kim discussed SHIFT CM advocacy efforts, including working with Nature4Climate to promote key scientific concepts and public-facing messaging, such as opinion pieces on durability and the creation of a SHIFT CM webpage. SHIFT CM is also engaging to ensure that Article 6.4 standards for credit quality are backed by robust science.
 - **Fundraising:** Kim reported that SHIFT CM has secured \$2,000,000 towards its \$5,000,000 funding goal, enabling the establishment of six working groups and other critical workstreams.
 - **Internal Structuring:** Kim explained the internal structuring efforts, including the development of a governance framework to formalize processes and policies. Kim provided an overview of the governance framework, which includes foundational principles, mandate, conflicts of interest, intellectual property, confidential information, publication approvals, and roles and responsibilities.
 - **Foundational Principles:** Kim explained that the foundational principles focus on the value of carbon markets in nature, the scope of work, solutions-oriented research, and inclusive collaboration. These principles guide the overall direction and goals of SHIFT CM.
 - **Mandate:** The mandate of SHIFT CM is to formalize a network of scientists and practitioners, identify and fund critical research, and engage with market standard setters and policymakers to incorporate best scientific practices into carbon credit markets.
 - **Conflicts of Interest:** Kim outlined the process for managing conflicts of interest, which includes disclosing any potential conflicts



and implementing mitigation procedures to ensure transparency and unbiased research.

- **Intellectual Property:** The governance framework clarifies that authors on SHIFT CM projects are considered intellectual property owners, and all products are under a Creative Commons license. Public statements on behalf of SHIFT CM require prior approval from Hub members.
- **Confidential Information:** Kim mentioned that confidentiality agreements may be required when sharing sensitive information with partners. However, unless explicitly stated, information shared in working group meetings is not considered confidential.
- **Publication Approvals:** All publications supported by SHIFT CM must adhere to the governance framework, including disclosure of contributors and a review process to ensure alignment with foundational principles and compliance with conflicts of interest requirements.
- **Roles and Responsibilities:** The framework defines roles and responsibilities within SHIFT CM, including authorship criteria, the role of the Hub, and working group leads. This ensures clarity and structure in the development and publication of research products.
- **Research Group Updates:** Each working group lead provided an update on the state of progress within their respective research scopes.
 - **Beyond Buffer Pools:** Sara Kuebbing discussed the Beyond Buffer Pools working group's focus on alternative mechanisms for addressing permanence concerns. The group aims to publish a white paper this fall, providing taxonomy and definitions of various mechanisms beyond buffer pools.
 - **Optimizing Climate Solutions:** Peter Ellis provided an update on the Optimizing Climate Solutions working group, which aims to use science to inform resource allocation for climate solutions. The group is working on a commentary and a longer-term project to develop durability curves.
 - **Leakage:** Ethan Belair discussed the Leakage working group's focus on improving leakage accounting for IFM projects and their ongoing research and advocacy efforts.
 - **Digital MRV:** Sarah Castle provided an update on the Digital MRV working group's progress on good practice guidance and assessment of dMRV accuracy and uncertainty, and their ongoing efforts to collect relevant data.
 - **Selecting Baselines Working Group:** David Shoch provided an update on the Selecting Baselines working group's work on causal inference methods (i.e. dynamic baselines), impact evaluation studies, and collaboration with Verra on various methodologies.
 - **Durability Mapping Working Group:** Susan Cook-Patton discussed the Durability working group's goal to map durability risks and their ongoing



efforts to assess current practices and develop improved risk assessment tools.

- **Human Rights and Indigenous Self-Determination:** Aaron Marr Page discussed the importance of incorporating human rights and indigenous self-determination into SHIFT CM's work and the development of a human rights due diligence framework.
- **Q&A Session:**
 - How does membership work?
 - Anyone interested in participating in SHIFT CM in any capacity is considered a member. However, there are different roles that members can play in SHIFT CM. They may choose to simply stay up-to-date on developments, co-author a report, review materials, leading a working group, etc. In the near future, we may further distinguish between membership levels.
 - Is there an application process for joining the working groups?
 - Interested participants will apply for a specific working group via the Working Group Lead. The Lead must follow the Foundational Principles around inclusion and collaboration when composing the working group.
 - Is there an indication of nominal time that members are expected to spend on SHIFT-CM?
 - No. There are no time expectations of working group members, given that participation is voluntary.
 - For those of us that also represent organizations that sometimes participate in such initiatives as institution, is there a role envisioned for institutional partners?
 - SHIFT CM members generally contribute as individuals, but may claim that they are “representing” their affiliated organizations if they’d like to.
 - Is the dMRV group focused mainly on carbon, or the full range of project monitoring needs?
 - We're trying to make recommendations across project monitoring needs as well as exploring questions around human rights, informed consent, and data justice in dMRV - though we are putting a large portion of our efforts on carbon accounting as an actionable goal for dMRV.
 - Does SHIFT-CM hubs work with all carbon pathways (ARR, REDD, IFM, ALM, etc..) or each hub choose specific path?
 - At the moment, most of our work is focused on forest-based pathways (e.g. leakage for IFM, baselines for REDD+, durability of forests), but we are looking forward to extending research coverage if and when funding becomes available.
 - Do working groups have budgets?



- Yes, working groups have limited budgets to cover things like publication fees, graphic design, and the time of the lead author(s), among other things.
- Is there a system of getting the documents reviewed or vetted by experts/practitioners who are not part of the working groups?
 - Our mandatory internal review process is designed to review SHIFT CM deliverables and ensure that they comply with the Governance Framework. That would be one form of review external to the working group. Additionally, to the extent possible, we will also pursue peer-reviewed journal publications and are in the early stages of designing a “Market Advisory Committee” to further support and strengthen SHIFT CM work products.
- Many of the tools we will develop here will be used both for voluntary and compliance markets. However, some developing countries are currently approving and developing their compliance markets (Brazil case), so how do we intend to influence these markets, given that many are creating their own methodologies and tools, applied locally?
 - SHIFT CM is open to engaging domestic standards. If high-impact opportunities arise to engage with governments in this area, we will do so. However, at the moment, our advocacy is mainly focusing on sharing our work with more global standards, such as ICVCM or PACM, since they are actively being shaped and have the potential to influence other standards/markets.

Follow-up Asks:

- **Working Group Participation:** Interested participants are welcome to reach out to the working group lead if they would like to join specific working groups. (All participants)
- **Webinar Registration:** Register for the Yale Forest Forum webinar series ["Frontiers in Forest Carbon Crediting"](#). (All participants)
- **Data Contribution for DMRV:** Provide relevant geolocated data on project boundaries, activities, and ground-based forest carbon measurements to Sarah for the DMRV working group's validation and uncertainty output. (All participants with relevant data)
- **Input on Durability Mapping Table:** Submit suggestions for columns or information to include in the durability mapping standards comparison table to Susan. (All participants)
- **Input on Durability Mapping Presentation:** Provide feedback to Susan on preferred formats or web tools for presenting durability mapping information. (All participants)



- **Natural Disturbance Mapping Collaboration:** Send information about other individuals or groups working on natural disturbance mapping to Susan to avoid duplication of efforts. (All participants)
- **Institutional Membership Consideration:** Consider and propose ideas for institutional membership structure within SHIFT CM, as current participation is individual-based. (Peter, Kim, Sara)
- **Mapping Working Group Pathway Scope:** Map each working group to its relevant NCS pathway scope and clarify this for all participants. (Kim, Peter, Sara)
- **Call for Expert Input on Article 6.4:** Kim invited individuals with technical experience in standard or methodology development to contribute to the Article 6.4 engagement efforts. She emphasized the need for collective capacity to review and craft feedback on technical documents.