

# Our carbon principles: a high-integrity *climate* benefit methodology

Manulife Investment Management has implemented a set of carbon principles that guide our acquisition screening for existing carbon projects, the development of new carbon projects, and all ongoing project considerations.

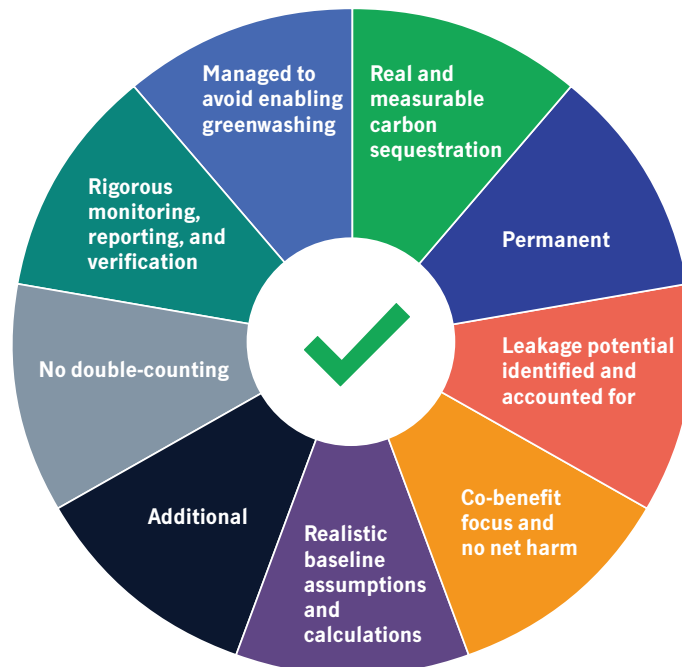
These standards align with the Core Carbon Principles established by the Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market<sup>1</sup> and encompass key elements such as additionality, permanence, leakage, and accurate monitoring, reporting, and verification, among others. To ensure adherence to these principles, our carbon standards working group will recommend proceeding with a new opportunity only if the project complies with these standards.

<sup>1</sup> The Integrity Council for the Voluntary Carbon Market (IC-VCM) is a governance body evolving from the Taskforce on Scaling Voluntary Carbon Markets.

Carbon credits are required to be:

- **Real**—Genuinely reduce carbon emissions and contribute to global climate change imperatives
- **Based on realistic and credible baselines**—Baselines defined as levels of emissions normally occurring in a business-as-usual context
- **Monitored, reported, and verified**—Using recognized and certified intermediaries, platforms, and protocols run by public or private organizations for verification, issuance, and credit trading
- **Permanent**—Carbon is sequestered for the long term so the global climate truly benefits
- **Additional**—Additive carbon sequestration above and beyond the status quo that wouldn't otherwise have occurred in the absence of carbon finance
- **Able to minimize, and account for, any leakage**—Calculate and minimize emissions that may transfer to adjacent or nearby locations that aren't participating in the carbon project
- **Only counted once**—Unambiguous attribution of the credit
- **Focused on co-benefits and doing no net harm**—Minimize negative externalities that may result from carbon project activities and focus on additional social and ecological benefits such as improving biodiversity
- **Managed to avoid enabling greenwashing for carbon offset buyers and carbon inset transfer recipients**—Where possible, rigorously screen potential credit buyers, intermediaries, and recipients for tangible commitments to and progress toward climate action

We seek to set the bar for high-quality carbon credits



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