



Ministerie van VROM
Tav de Minister, Mw J. Cramer
Rijnstraat 8
2515 XP Den Haag

Datum Betreft
12.03.2009 Voluntary carbon offset Dutch government

Contactpersoon
Caroline Spencer/
Denis Slieker

Dear Mrs Cramer,

We are writing to you regarding the Ministerie van Volkshuisvesting, Ruimtelijke Ordening en Milieubeheer (VROM)'s recently released report evaluating voluntary carbon offset standards. We are writing to suggest that VROM recommend the use of the Voluntary Carbon Standard. We would also like to invite VROM to participate in a workshop, with leading Government agencies and ICROA. This workshop, scheduled for later in 2009, will focus on how the voluntary carbon market can be strengthened.

We applaud your efforts to bring clarity to the voluntary carbon market in the Netherlands with the recent report evaluating voluntary carbon offset standards. Although the report is targeted at carbon offsetting by the Dutch Government, it will have significant influence on the Dutch voluntary carbon offset market, on other Governments around the world and on the international voluntary carbon market. The growth of the international voluntary carbon market in the last few years has been significant. The market is estimated to have grown 240% from 2006 to 2007 and currently has more than 150 market participants worldwide. Discussions about which offset standards to recommend and what type of oversight is required, are currently being held by participants within the voluntary carbon market and Governments and NGOs worldwide.

ICROA is the preeminent international alliance of carbon reduction and offset providers in the voluntary carbon market. ICROA is a not-for-profit organisation, which provides leadership and a unified voice advocating for transparency and best practice in carbon management. ICROA has members in the Netherlands, Germany,

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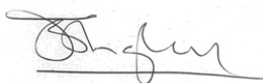


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the UK, the USA and Australia. ICROA members will all comply and report against the ICROA Code of Best Practice, which has best practice requirements for assessing carbon footprints, services for green house gas reductions consultancy and providing offset services. ICROA recognises only the most rigorous offset standards, which ensure that carbon reductions are real, measurable, permanent, unique, independently verified and additional. ICROA members are only currently permitted to use CDM/JI, the Gold Standard and the Voluntary Carbon Standard. ICROA is currently engaging with Governments, in regions where ICROA members operate, on the most appropriate methods of ensuring best practice in the voluntary carbon market. ICROA applauds the Dutch Government's foresight in recommending the use of both the Gold Standard (VERs and CERs) and CERS. ICROA advises that the Voluntary Carbon Standard also be included as a recommended offset standard. The Voluntary Carbon Standard is a premium offset standard and Voluntary Carbon Units (VCUs) meet the essential criteria of being real, measurable, additional, independently verified, permanent and unique. The VCS is providing quality assurance for the world's carbon market and has already garnered significant market share. The VCS has developed robust and innovative methodologies for forestry and land use, which are not currently included in the Gold Standard or CER programmes. Another innovative aspect of the VCS is that VCUs can be tagged with other offset standards (in particular Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance standard and the Social Carbon standard) to ensure optimum sustainability benefits are achieved.

By promoting best practice and working closely with the leading carbon reduction and offset providers, NGOs, offset standards and Governments, ICROA is playing a vital role in establishing a robust and effective market for voluntary carbon offsets. ICROA stands ready to assist the Dutch Government, wherever possible, with its review of carbon offset standards in the voluntary carbon market. ICROA is keen to ensure that only the highest quality carbon offset standards are recommended by the Dutch Government. ICROA is currently in discussions with COA (Carbon Offset Association) in Japan about organising a workshop, with Governments from regions where COA and ICROA members are active, on best practice in the voluntary carbon market. ICROA would be delighted if participants from VROM could attend this workshop.

Yours sincerely,



Jonathan Shopley
ICROA Co-Chair



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