

VCM+ Fellows Program Overview

About the VCM+ Fellows Program

The VCM+ Coalition is launching the VCM+ Fellows Program—a new initiative designed to spotlight and support leaders advancing the next generation of high-integrity carbon markets.

The future of the verified carbon market depends on diverse, global leadership and insight from across the ecosystem. The VCM+ Fellows Program is designed to amplify this full range of voices—ensuring that the experts doing the work have the platform, tools, and peer network needed to help shape the market at a pivotal moment. Building a more unified and high-integrity market requires a more representative conversation; this program is a deliberate investment in expanding who informs and leads that conversation.

Selected VCM+ Fellows will represent the Coalition in key partnerships, dialogues, and global convenings, contribute thought leadership and help facilitate priority topics across the VCM+ Action Agenda, and participate in peer-led discussions that accelerate shared learning across the market.

The inaugural cohort will bring together 10–20 fellows from across the verified carbon market ecosystem—including scientists, practitioners, community leaders, legal and policy experts, financiers, educators, and communicators.

The fellowship will begin in June 2026 and run for one year.

Who we are looking for

We are seeking a diverse group of fellows whose work aligns with the VCM+ Guiding Principles and advances the priorities outlined in the VCM+ Action Agenda.

The Fellows Program is grounded in the shared set of principles that guide how the Coalition approaches market reform and scale:

VCM+ Guiding Principles:

- Science and Integrity Come First
- Equity is Non-Negotiable
- Build Trust Through Transparency
- Reform Systems, Not Symptoms
- Collaborate to Scale
- Act with Urgency and Purpose

Fellows will contribute to advancing these principles through their work across one or more of the **VCM+ Action Agenda pillars**:

High-Integrity Science: Experts advancing scientific research, methodology development, MRV, digital tools (e.g., remote sensing, AI, IoT), and data systems that strengthen environmental integrity.

Robust Oversight: Leaders shaping the legal, financial, policy, and governance foundations of carbon markets—including crediting rules, market infrastructure, social and environmental safeguard requirements, risk profiles, and oversight systems.

Trusted Communications: Practitioners and communicators strengthening how carbon markets are understood and represented—including public narratives, education, transparency, and addressing misinformation.

Targeted Finance: Financiers and project developers designing and deploying capital solutions—including project finance, offtake structures, blended finance, and funding models that support scalable, equitable market participation.

Scaled Demand: Experts driving credible and sustained demand—including corporate use of credits, procurement strategies, legal protections, portfolio approaches, and alignment with international frameworks such as Article 6 and CORSIA.

What the VCM+ Fellows Program offers

- **Global Platform:** Opportunities to advance the work and shape the strategy of the VCM+ Coalition and showcase expertise with a coalition of 100+ partners working across the carbon market.
- **Peer Learning and Exchange:** Fellow-led discussions and engagement with a diverse cohort of leaders.
- **Strategic Amplification:** Support to bring your perspectives to global audiences, including: publications, speaking opportunities, working group and expert panel participation, online and media thought leadership, and more.
- **Communications Support:** Media training and best practices for engaging across public and media forums.
- **Tools to Scale Your Work:** Access to tools, resources, and training—including AI-enabled approaches—to support impact at scale.

What VCM+ Fellows contribute

Fellows play a central role in advancing the VCM+ Action Agenda and helping shape the strategic direction of the VCM+ Coalition, participating in their individual capacity. Over the course of the fellowship year, each fellow will:

- **Advance priority areas of the VCM+ Action Agenda**, contributing expertise and insights to support progress across key pillars
- **Support strategic decision-making within the Coalition**, providing input to help shape priorities, initiatives, and overall direction

- **Lead one Coalition-wide session** in their area of expertise, facilitating discussion, surfacing insights, and advancing shared learning across fellows and Coalition members (this can be either in person at a VCM+ organized event or online)
- **Publish one op-ed**, with support from communications partners, to elevate key perspectives in global discourse
- **Develop two to three blog posts** aligned with VCM+ priorities and emerging market needs
- **Amplify key messages and insights**, sharing targeted content through their own online platforms (approximately 2–3 times per month)

How VCM+ Fellows will be selected

VCM+ Fellows are selected from organizations and individuals actively advancing the priorities of the VCM+ Action Agenda. The program is designed to bring together leaders whose work is contributing to high-integrity carbon markets and who can help accelerate progress across the Coalition's five pillars.

To ensure the cohort reflects a broad and representative set of voices, **Fellows will be identified through a combination of proactive outreach and an open application process.** The open call specifically seeks to identify experts and leaders from the Global South and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs), whose perspectives and lived experience are critical to shaping the future of carbon markets.

Final selection will be based on:

- **Demonstrated experience and impact** aligned with the VCM+ guiding principles
- **Strength of expertise** within one or more of the five VCM+ pillars
- **Commitment to collaboration**, knowledge-sharing, and active participation in the fellowship
- **Contribution to a diverse and representative cohort**, including diversity across geographies, experiences, and perspectives

Open Call for Applications: Global South and IPLC Leaders for the VCM+ Fellows Program

The VCM+ Coalition is launching an open call to identify **experts, leaders, practitioners, and traditional knowledge holders from the Global South and Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs)** to join the inaugural cohort of VCM+ Fellows.

The VCM+ Coalition recognizes that carbon market discourse remains fragmented and uneven. Global conversations are often concentrated among a limited set of voices, while the impacts of these decisions are experienced across regions and communities worldwide. As markets evolve toward greater scale and integrity, it is essential that perspectives and voices from the Global South and IPLCs are not only included—but proactively positioned to lead.

This open call is designed to ensure diversity across geographies, experiences, and perspectives within the inaugural cohort. It aims to identify a broad and representative set of leaders whose expertise, lived experience, and on-the-ground insights are critical to shaping current and future high-integrity carbon markets.

Fellowship support

To ensure equitable participation, along with all the benefits outlined in the program overview, each **selected fellows from this initial open-call will receive a \$15,000 stipend** to support time, travel, and engagement throughout the fellowship (international travel is not an expectation of this fellowship and participation can be done virtually).

How to apply

Application Form: IPLC and Global South leaders, experts, and practitioners can apply for the fellowship using [this form](#).

Evaluation Criteria: Open call applications will be evaluated holistically across a set of criteria intended to identify fellows who will both strengthen and benefit from participation in the program. At a high level, reviewers will consider:

- **Alignment** with the VCM+ guiding principles, shared vision, and the priorities of the Action Agenda.
- **Expertise** in carbon markets or closely adjacent fields, with relevance to one or more of the five VCM+ pillars.
- **Communications strength** — clarity, credibility, and reach across existing channels, with the ability to effectively communicate in English.
- **Contribution** to diverse perspectives, including geographic, sectoral, and experiential diversity that enriches the cohort and the broader carbon market conversation.

Key Dates:

- **Applications close:** May 22, 2026 | **Notification of selected candidates:** June 1, 2026