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Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture & Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)

W+ Standard

Version 1.3

27 July 2017



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Executive Summary

The W+ Program, Standard and the six W+ Domains and criteria have been developed by WOCAN through a consultative process with stakeholders. This included women’s groups and men within community development projects in Asia and Africa, as well as subject matter specialists in gender/women’s empowerment, carbon project development and certification systems.

WOCAN’s objective is to improve the lives of women in developing economies by incentivizing investments in projects that incorporate standards of women’s empowerment into the project development cycle. Using the W+ Standard, projects generate monetized W+ Units, or W+ Labeled Units, which can be sold to compensate Project Implementers and return financial benefits to women in project communities. These “units” are either quantified benefits to women or households (e.g. number of hours saved or number of leadership roles), or labeled greenhouse gas emissions reductions units associated with a project which has also successfully met the W+ Standard’s requirements for one or more of its six domains. Sale of these units and financial returns to women in project communities will in turn enable women’s empowerment so that women can contribute to sustainable development and poverty alleviation within their households and communities.

Just as the FairTrade label has revolutionized consumer buying habits by raising awareness of the impacts of consumer’s purchases, WOCAN aims to accelerate investments in projects that support women’s empowerment. WOCAN believes that the use of the W+ Standard to measurably improve women’s empowerment will ultimately change business-as-usual in a variety of economic, environment and climate-related development projects.

To accomplish this, WOCAN has established the W+ Standard; a set of project design and implementation requirements that complement existing certification systems and standards, such as the CDM, VCS or Gold Standard. The W+ specifically includes measures to integrate and measure women’s empowerment outcomes in relation to environment and community development projects.

The W+ Standard establishes the “normative” requirements for implementing a W+ Project, described below.

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1. INTRODUCTION

In many regions of the world, women are the primary food producers and natural resource managers, as well as market actors. WOCAN (Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management) builds women’s leadership in agriculture and natural resource management through organizational and individual transformation. WOCAN’s vision is of a world where gender equality has been achieved within agriculture and natural resource management organizations, policies, programs and markets, resulting in food security and sustainable development.

Natural resource systems, international development projects and local economies benefit when women are included and empowered. An increasing number of governments, and international organizations understand the need to incorporate gender and women’s empowerment into climate change and food security policies, programs and budgets. For example, there are increasing references to gender and the need for gender equality in the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) texts¹. The decision text on the Green Climate Fund also has strong references to gender.

Working at the intersection of gender equality, women’s social and economic empowerment, food security and climate change mitigation, WOCAN has developed the W+ Standard (W+) as a means of making positive contributions to each of these important issues. The W+ Standard is envisioned to be applied to projects such as economic development, agricultural development, public health, and climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, including but not limited to carbon offset projects.

One of WOCAN’s goals is to create additional value for these projects, through the application of the W+ Standard. The objective is to return profits from the sale of W+ Units or W+ Labeled Units, to W+ Project Implementers and to the women and women’s groups associated with the project, creating a sustainable circle of community development, environmental sustainability and support for women’s economic and social empowerment.

¹ Interested readers should consult the UNFCCC’s Gender and Climate Change resources.

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WOCAN envisions clear, positive outcomes which would be measured according to indicators of success, represented by measurable activities within one or more of the six domains listed below:

- Income and Assets
- Time
- Education and Knowledge
- Leadership
- Food Security
- Health

This W+ Standard provides the normative requirements of implementation. The Program Guide document includes guidance information for project design and implementation.

2. REASONS FOR USING THE W+ STANDARD

WOCAN believes that the use of the W+ Standard to promote women’s empowerment will improve women’s lives, the lives of their families and their communities.

Project Implementers and their investors can realize additional financial returns by incorporating the W+ Standard and methods into suitable existing or new projects.

Buyers of W+ Units, or of W+ labeled carbon credits (e.g. Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) or similar) are assured that their contributions toward women’s empowerment are measurable and certain.

WOCAN’s W+ program is grounded in these ideas:

- a) WOCAN enables women as agents for change and participants in the market and encourages this role by empowering women to be effective entrepreneurs, resource managers and leaders.
- b) The W+ Standard provides a transparent, rigorous, and realistic mechanism to promote women’s empowerment, creating verifiable results when the W+ Standard is applied to new or existing projects in ways that create new, additional, measurable benefits to women in project communities.

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- c) The W+ Standard enables projects to monetize the social and economic values created for and by women, to sell W+ Units, or W+ labeled carbon credits (e.g. VCUs or similar), resulting in a compensation mechanism for Project Implementers and a direct benefit to women in project communities.
- d) Project Implementers and their investors can realize multiple beneficial impacts from the investment of their time and financial resources.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) buyers - companies who wish to enhance their brand image or meet internal targets for women’s empowerment- may find that W+ benefits, in the form of W+ Units, W+ labeled carbon credits generated from projects with verified outcomes are a sound investment.

3. WHO SHOULD USE THE W+ STANDARD

The W+ can be applied to a range of contexts. There are many possible underlying project types including but not limited to: economic development, education and literacy, public health, infrastructure, agriculture, forestry, renewable energy generation, water and sanitation and environmental protection or restoration. Potential W+ Standard implementers (Project Implementers) include:

- a) **Carbon Offset Project Implementers** – Projects can integrate the W+ Standard from the initial phases of project design, or may choose to integrate the W+ Standard into existing projects. Carbon offset Project Implementers using any of the current Standards (e.g., Gold Standard, VCS, Social Carbon or CDM) may find that increased value is created for offsets by using the W+ Standard indicators.
- b) **Community Project Implementers** – Working on their own or in collaboration with international development organizations, community-based or non-government organization (NGO) Project Implementers may consider implementing the W+ Standard to quantify the value provided to women and women’s groups and improve project sustainability.
- c) **Governments and International Development Organizations** – As more governments and institutions recognize the importance of women’s inclusion and empowerment in natural resource management policies and programs, these organizations may decide (and may encourage others) to apply the W+ Standard to the climate and community development projects they fund, to measure results and assure long term viability of project benefits to women of their beneficiary groups.

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- d) **Companies** with Corporate Social Responsibility or Sustainability portfolios are a natural impetus for the implementation of the W+ Standard to assist companies to meet their targets for women’s empowerment objectives and add value to their supply chains and brands.
- e) **Investors** who wish to make Gender Lens Investments will realize the value of the W+ metrics to assure transparency and results for investments that: increase access to capital for women entrepreneurs and businesses with women in leadership positions, promote gender equity in the workplace, increase the number of products and services that benefit women and girls by directing capital to socially responsible businesses, and that invest in private sector companies with leading gender policies that also extend across their supply chains.

4. HOW THE W+ STANDARD IS ADMINISTERED

WOCAN, a non-profit organization incorporated in the state of New York, with offices in Bangkok, Thailand and San Francisco, California, administers the W+ Standard.

The W+ Program Guide contains details including documentation requirements, community coordination and engagement best practices, expectations for specificity and completeness and processes and procedures for administration of the W+ Standard. The W+ Program Guide and related documents can be found at <http://www.wplus.org>. The point of contact for the W+ Standard is the W+ Standard Coordinator, who can be reached via the email address noted on the W+ Website: coordinator@wplus.org.

The W+ Standard, Program Guide and associated program documents will, from time-to-time, be reviewed and revised. The schedule for review and revision will be published on the WOCAN and W+ websites and promoted via newsletters, social media channels and other means. Stakeholders and interested members of the public are encouraged to send questions and comments to WOCAN at info@wplus.org at any time. Questions and comments will be collected and taken into consideration during the next subsequent review and revision process. The review process will follow the ISEAL Alliance’s requirement for two review periods, one of 60 days and one of 30 days for public comment.

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5. IMPLEMENTATION REQUIREMENTS

The following describes the requirements for Project Implementers when implementing the W+ Standard to new or existing (“underlying”) Projects.

Project Implementers implementing the W+ Standard shall use the W+ Program Guide and related program documents for guidance and reporting. These are available on the W+ program website, www.wplus.org. Additional materials may be used as supporting and complementary references as necessary.

5.1 Project Initiation

The Project Implementer shall:

- a) Prepare and submit a W+ Project Idea Note (PIN) to WOCAN using the W+ PIN template available on the W+ website, along with the associated non-refundable submittal fee. The fee amount is noted on the PIN Template Document.

The PIN shall provide information about the intended W+ Standard implementation and brief information about the new W+ Project or existing underlying project that will be applying the W+, so that WOCAN may provide initial guidance to facilitate project success.

- b) Project Implementers should include project boundaries, project rationale, preliminary analyses of stakeholders, identification of relevant W+ domains, a description of the proposed project activities and envisioned outcomes, the project start date, the proposed crediting period, compliance with the W+ double counting policy, and opportunities for additional project activities.

The PIN will be evaluated by the W+ Standard Coordinator for completeness and any comments, questions or additional information requests will be communicated to the Project Implementer.

After acceptance of the PIN, the W+ Standard Coordinator will assign the project a unique identification number and will list the project on the W+ program website

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After acceptance of the PIN, Project Implementers shall prepare and submit a W+ Project Design Document (PDD) to the W+ Standard Coordinator using the W+ PDD template available on the W+ website. The PDD is intended to assist Project Implementers in the broader analysis of project feasibility, design, and compliance with the W+ Standard.

5.2 Project Design

Project Implementers shall pursue all necessary stakeholder engagement and field assessments to submit a complete Project Design Document (PDD). PDD shall be completed following the instructions in the PDD template.

The PDD will be reviewed by the W+ Standard Coordinator for administrative completeness and by a member of the W+ Technical Experts Group (TEG) for technical completeness. Any input will be provided promptly to the Project Implementer.

The completed PDD will be a public document. Project Implementers shall not disclose proprietary or confidential information marked as such by project participants without the written consent of the provider of the information, except as required by national law.

There are no project scale limitations.

Group verifications or certifications are not currently under consideration.

5.3 Double-Counting

Project implementers shall not claim both W+ Units and W+ labeled units of the same domain from the same project activity for the same monitoring/verification period. Project implementers shall identify and claim W+ Units and W+ labeled units separately. Project implementers shall describe in the PIN and PDD documents:

- a) Their intention to generate either W+ Units, or
- b) W+ labeled units
- c) For each activity, within each W+ domain being applied, and
- d) For what monitoring/verification period.

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If there is a deviation from original unit type plans, the project implementer shall notify the W+ Standard Coordinator of any changes in plans via a letter, noticing the intended change and the associated monitoring/verification period, and the project implementer’s Monitoring and Evaluation report shall explain the change from one type of unit to another.

Project implementers shall describe in their Monitoring and Evaluation Report(s) the specific methods employed to prevent double counting, including but not limited to:

- a) Describing scopes and boundaries of W+ project activities,
- b) Describing attribution criteria for W+ activities that have multiple benefits to ensure that outcomes can be verified and are attributed to one project activity,
- c) For each monitoring/verification period.

6. W+ PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION

The W+ Project Implementer shall implement the project and during that work shall, at a minimum, conduct and/or document the following:

- a) Baseline study (existing conditions) that includes the means to distinguish and correctly attribute W+ outcomes using relevant W+ Domain method questionnaires.
- b) An evaluation of the project against the W+ Standard’s ‘Do No Harm Indicators’, including any potential anticipated mitigation measures.
- c) Identification of benefit sharing mechanism(s) (direct payments to women or women’s groups, or other benefit sharing mechanism) within the project scope (project boundary)
- d) Direct share payment to women beneficiaries shall be not less than 20 % of the price of a W+ Unit, or W+ Labeled carbon unit, from that project. Auditable, reliable, timely, and secure payment mechanisms shall be established as part of the project design process.
- e) Maintenance of all appropriate records.
- f) Implementation and measurement of existing, or new additional activities identified during the PDD, in accordance with the Four Step Process for Stakeholder Analysis.
- g) Compilation of Monitoring and Evaluation report.
- h) A signed acknowledgement regarding the appropriate use of the W+ name and logo.

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- i) Acknowledgement of the terms of licensing for the use of the W+ mark or logo, contained within the PIN and PDD templates.
- j) Document policy for managing and licensing use of mark or logo.
- k) Validation: Independent validation of a new application of a W+ Domain method. This is often done at the time of the auditor’s verification visit to the project. Validation confirms an analytical test method, showing that it is suitable for the purpose. All applied W+ domain methods must be validated by an independent external auditor. Validation shall include identification and evaluation of any deviations or exceptions from the method(s) applied to the project.
- l) Project implementers shall retain a W+ accredited verifier (e.g. ‘auditor’ or ‘assurance provider’).
- m) Verifiers shall perform independent verification of the project’s results, including; evaluation of project activities and outcomes against the W+ method being applied and the project activities and outcomes as described in the Project Design Document (PDD), an explanation and evaluation of any deviations from the method or PDD, the W+ project scoring guidelines, and submission of a Verification Report and a Certification Statement to the W+ Standard Coordinator for review and to the Project Implementer for their submittal to a registry (where units are being created and marketed). W+ units, or W+ labeled units, are issued by the W+ and are listed on a registry based on the verifier’s certification statement.

7. VERIFIER AND VERIFIER ACCREDITOR REQUIREMENTS

For W+ Certification, Project Implementers are required to have the application of the W+ Standard and associated project results independently verified by an accredited Verifier. Accredited Verifiers are identified on the W+ website.

7.1 Verifier Requirements

- a) Be accredited by an organization which has been authorized by WOCAN to train and accredit assurance providers (‘verifiers’)²
- b) Be a legal entity (e.g. operate under the auspices of an established business)
- c) Have no conflicts of interest in projects for which they are retained

² Accreditation of Verifiers is contingent upon meeting the W+ Accreditation requirements. Current requirements are published on the W+ website.

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- d) Perform their work in a timely manner, and follow the requirements noted in the Verifier’s Guide and Verification Report template
- e) Submit to the W+ Standard Coordinator, to an approved Registry, and to the Project Implementer, a Verification Report and a Certification Statement.

7.2 Verifier Accreditor Requirements

- a) Accreditors shall be approved by WOCAN based on their credentials in training verifiers, monitoring verifier performance, and supporting verifier ongoing professional development. Additionally, accreditors shall have issue expertise in areas relevant to the W+ (for example: social auditing, gender issues).
- b) Verifier Accreditors shall treat all applicants for accreditation equally.

8. W+ LICENSE AGREEMENTS

Entities engaged in W+ project development and unit transactions shall abide by license agreements. These are applicable to:

- a) Traders/Brokers
- b) Registries
- c) Implementers
- d) Buyers

Implementers submitting PIN and PDD documents must acknowledge the license agreements within those documents.

All other entities buying, selling, listing or brokering W+ units or W+ labeled carbon credits must submit a signed acknowledgement of the applicable W+ license agreement to the W+ Standard Coordinator prior to initiating buying, selling, listing or brokering W+ units or W+ labeled carbon credits.

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GLOSSARY/DEFINITIONS

Additionality – The concept that measured improvements arise from new or additional efforts, and would not have otherwise occurred.

Assurance Provider – A term used in many other sustainability and development programs. Synonymous with “Verifier”. A verifier creates and issues findings and issues a verification decision based on its findings, which is documented in a verification report and/or statement (referred to as a Certification Statement). In some cases, “Assurance Provider” may also refer to the scheme-level reviewing body.

Carbon Offsets – A carbon offset is a reduction in or removal of emissions of carbon dioxide or greenhouse gases made to compensate for or to offset an emission made elsewhere. Carbon offsets are measured in metric tons of carbon dioxide-equivalent (CO₂e) and may represent six primary types of greenhouse gases. These include: carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), perfluorocarbons (PFCs), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆). Also, Carbon Credits, Carbon Units.

Carbon Offset Projects – Also, greenhouse gas emission reduction and removal projects. A carbon offset project refers to a business initiative that receives funding because of the reduction in emissions of greenhouse gases (GHGs) that will result. To prove that the project will result in real, permanent, verifiable reductions in Greenhouse Gases, proof must be provided in the form of a project design document and activity reports validated by an approved third party.

Certification Statement – Issued by an accredited verifier, retained by a project implementer. Follows from an accepted Verification report. The certification statement is the basis for the issuance of W+ units or W+ labeled units.

Climate change mitigation – refers to the actions to limit the magnitude and/or rate of long-term climate change, for example, reduction of greenhouse gases.

CDM/Clean Development Mechanism – The Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) is one of the flexibility mechanisms defined in the Kyoto Protocol (IPCC, 2007) that provides for emissions reduction projects which generate Certified Emission Reduction units which may be traded in emissions trading schemes.

The CDM is defined in Article 12 of the Protocol, and is intended to meet two objectives: (1) to assist parties not included in Annex I in achieving sustainable development and in contributing

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to the ultimate objective of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), which is to prevent dangerous climate change; and (2) to assist parties included in Annex I in achieving compliance with their quantified emission limitation and reduction commitments (greenhouse gas (GHG) emission caps). "Annex I" parties are those countries that are listed in Annex I of the treaty, and are the industrialized countries. Non-Annex I parties are developing countries.

Conformance – Compliance with the W+ Standard.

Crediting Period – The crediting period is the duration of time selected by the Project Implementer during which the W+ project activity will be implemented and measurable benefits to women and the community will be created. The starting date and length of the first crediting period must be determined before registration, and this information must be included in the PIN. Generally, the crediting period begins after the project is registered with the W+ Coordinator via the submission of a PIN. However, there are limited exceptions for retroactive crediting periods where projects can also show additionality of up to two years.

Criteria – The activities, changes or events which are to be measured to implement a W+ project and to assess the effectiveness of a W+ project.

Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) – “Corporate Social Responsibility is a management concept whereby companies integrate social and environmental concerns in their business operations and interactions with their stakeholders. CSR is generally understood as being the way through which a company achieves a balance of economic, environmental and social imperatives.” (“Triple-Bottom-Line- Approach”), while at the same time addressing the expectations of shareholders and stakeholders. (United Nations Industrial Development Organization).

Direct Share Payments – Direct payment to women beneficiaries, as required by the W+ Standard. Direct share payments are to be established and administered by the Project Implementer and must be auditable, reliable, timely, and secure.

Do No Harm Indicators (DNHI) - These are indicators that must be assessed during the project implementation to determine possible negative impacts on women’s empowerment. “Red light” indicates W+ cannot be applied to this project. “Yellow light” indicates the mitigating of action needs to be identified and applied before W+ Standard can be applied.

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Existing Projects –Qualified projects which are already operating. This term can be used interchangeably with the term “underlying project”, which refers to any suitable existing or new project to which a W+ Standard project is applied.

Fair Trade - an organized social movement whose stated goal is to help producers in developing countries achieve better trading conditions and to promote sustainability. It is a trading partnership, based on dialogue, transparency, and respect, that seeks greater equity in international trade, as well as the payment of higher prices to exporters, as well as higher social and environmental standards.

GHG Credit – Equivalent to a Carbon Offset. A Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Credit is a unit of value ascribed to a specific reduction (or avoidance) in emissions. (Typically, one ton equivalent of CO₂). GHG Credits are used by purchasers to ‘offset’ their greenhouse gas emissions (thus ‘carbon offset’) either voluntarily or for compliance obligations.

GHG Crediting Program – A program operated by an independent organization setting out rules and requirements for the validation of GHG projects and/or programs, the verification of GHG emission reductions and/or removals and the issuance of carbon credits. Examples are: CDM, Gold Standard, VCS.

GHG Project – A climate change or greenhouse gas mitigation project.

Infrastructure Project – A project intended to provide or support communications, mobility, water, energy, or sanitation functions for a specified community.

ISEAL Alliance – The ISEAL Alliance is the global leader in defining and communicating what good practice looks like for sustainability standards. WOCAN and the W+ Standard follow ISEAL best practices.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Reporting Plan – An element of the Project Design Document describing the Project Implementer’s plan for project data and information collection that will result in sufficient information to verify the project’s outcomes.

Monitoring and Evaluation Report – The Monitoring and Evaluation Report is compiled for each W+ project and is provided to project verifiers and WOCAN when a Project Implementer is seeking verification and certification.

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New Projects – Any qualified project which is being initiated at the same time that the W+ Standard is being initiated.

Non-double Counting Analysis –The comparison of a project to parallel projects in a community, taking credit for only what the original project has done. This is to avoid double counting, to take credit for results of other similar projects.

Outcome Indicators – Categories of activity outcomes which are used to measure the effectiveness of a W+ project.

Output Indicators – Indicators that result in short term numeric data.

Project Design Document (PDD) – The PDD describes in detail the planning of a W+ project or the application of the W+ Standard to another type of project, and how the Project Implementer plans to meet the requirements of the W+ Standard.

Permanence – How long W+ project-generated changes are envisioned to be sustained.

Pilot Phase – Test or demonstration projects, to test methods and find proof of concept.

Project Implementer – Any business, organization or community, or its contracted designee, implementing and administering W+ Projects. Also called “project developer”.

Project Idea Note (PIN) – A W+ Project Implementer or implementer must submit an initial Project Idea Note which contains information about the intended W+ Standard application to a project.

Public Health Project – A project which is intended to provide health benefits for identified communities. These health benefits may include such things as: improved access to health care, improved air quality, water quality or waste management.

Qualified Project – Any project which the Project Implementer, in consultation with WOCAN, has determined will be a suitable project for the implementation of the W+ Standard.

Qualitative data – Describes data that is descriptive and not based on numbers.

Quantitative data – Defines data in numerical fashion, data that can be statistically analyzed.

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Registry – A registry is a publicly available list of projects and verified project outcomes. The W+ registry lists projects applying the W+. Projects applying the W+ may be listed in other registries as well.

Supply Chain – Systems of organizations, people, activities, information, and resources involved in moving a product or service from supplier to consumer.

Technical Experts Group (TEG) - The TEG is an independent ad hoc technical body of gender and monitoring and evaluation experts with experience in various sectors to which the W+ will be applied. The role of the TEG is to review and approve methods, review Project Design Documents (PDDs), and support the continuous improvement of the W+ Standard to respond to stakeholder needs.

The Gold Standard - The Gold Standard is an independent mechanism for creating high-quality emission reductions projects in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) Joint Implementation (JI) and Voluntary Carbon Market. It was designed to ensure that carbon credits are not only real and verifiable but that they make measurable contributions to sustainable development worldwide. Its objective is to add branding, a label to existing and new Carbon Credits generated by projects which can then be bought and traded by countries that have a binding legal commitment according to the Kyoto Protocol.

Underlying Project – A new or existing qualified project where the W+ Standard and selected domain methods are to be applied. **Validation** – The process of confirming an analytical test method, to show that it is suitable for the purpose it is used. All applied W+ domain methods must be validated by an independent external auditor. This is often done at the time of the auditor’s verification visit to the project.

Verifier - Synonymous with “Assurance Provider”. A verifier creates and issues findings and issues a verification decision based on its findings, which is documented in a verification report and/or statement (referred to earlier as a Certification Statement).

Verification – An independent assurance procedure that is used to check that a product, service, or system meets requirements and specifications and that it fulfills its intended purpose. The words “assurance”, “validation” and “verification” are sometimes preceded with “Independent” (or I V&V), indicating that the verification and validation is to be performed by a third-party with no conflicts of interest in the project, product or service.

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Verified Carbon Standard Program (VCS) – The Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program is a GHG crediting program operated by the non-profit organization VCS which establishes rules and requirements that operationalize the VCS Standard to enable the validation of GHG projects and programs, and the verification and issuance of GHG emission reductions and removals.

VCU – Verified Carbon Unit. A carbon credit created via the application of the VCS.

W+ Labeled VCU - A carbon credit created via the application of the Verified Carbon Standard which has also applied one or more domains of the W+ Standard.

W+ Program Guide - describes such things as the principles, procedures, registration, execution, and the practical application of the W+.

W+™– A certification label that endorses projects that create increased social and economic benefits for women participating in projects or in project areas.

W+ Domains – Time, Education & Knowledge, Income & Assets, Leadership, Food Security, and Health.

W+ Registry – The W+ registry is where projects and the W+ units and W+ labeled units they have generated are listed.

W+ Standard Coordinator – The staff person(s) responsible for the administration of the W+ Standard, including the administrative issuance of W+ units and W+ labeled units.

W+ Standard– Specifies the requirements of how Project Implementers are to apply the W+ Standard.

W+ Units– Monetized units of women’s empowerment improvements generated from W+ projects specific to the W+ Standard domain measures, such as W+ Time, W+ Health, etc.

WOCAN – Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (www.wocan.org). The owner of the W+ Standard. A non-profit organization.

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Revision History		
#	Date	Description
1	2015	Original
2	August 2017	Revisions and additions made to text based on input from two public comment periods, where comments were made on the W+ Standard and other program documents. Changes made include: removing language related to 'pilot phase', clarifications in terminology, consistent use of terms, reconciliations in terms used in all program documents, additional clarification regarding role of verifiers and verifier accreditation. Document set into document control format.
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ⁱ Authorized Assurance Provider /Verifier accreditors are listed on the W+ website. At this time, the Social Auditors Network (SAN) is the sole authorized Assurance Provider (Verifier) accreditor.