

IHS Markit Carbon Meta-Registry Q&A

Q. What does the IHS Markit Global Carbon Meta-Registry do?

The Meta-Registry seamlessly connects disparate carbon markets and registry systems around the world, providing efficiency and transparency, and fostering maximum market participation. Individual registries connect to it electronically to transmit information regarding projects, activities, issuances, cancellations, ITMO transfers and retirements to the Meta-Registry.

Via an Enterprise DLT network, the Meta-Registry then effectively creates carbon ledgers for each country and each program that is participating in the network.

Q. Why do Carbon Markets need a Meta-Registry?

The Paris Agreement is fostering a bottom-up approach that has driven a variety of actions at the national and state/provincial levels. Article 6 will permit countries to collaborate on achieving their mitigation strategies, enabling efficiency gains and lowered costs of abatement. As programs share information and connect, accounting issues will pose a critical challenge that could expose markets to error or fraud and undermine trust, efficiency, and scalability. A Meta-Registry is needed that provides clear, effective accounting and seamless connectivity amongst markets and their participants.

Q. How does it mitigate double counting and double claiming of carbon credits?

The Meta-Registry mitigates double counting and double claiming via connectivity and transparency between markets and countries.

First, project overlap alerts highlight to programs and countries when a project may have been registered in more than one program.

Second, the Meta-Registry can track units across jurisdictions and programs as they progress through their lifecycle.

Finally, the Meta-Registry maintains unit information on one distributed ledger and flags when a unit transaction may require making a corresponding adjustment. As a result, the accounting of units becomes greatly simplified and much more transparent to all countries.

The Meta-Registry is also designed to accommodate new accounting rules as they become agreed internationally. For example, when units are assigned authorization for export outside of a country, these rules can be programmatically applied to the Meta-Registry's smart contracts.

Q. Can the public check double and validate the credit?

In the initial phase of the Meta-Registry, all participants will be carbon market programs and jurisdictions. Each program or jurisdiction will be able to decide whether they would like their information to be publicly visible at a later date.

Q. How does the Meta-Registry ensure the projects deliver the expected benefits?

The Meta-Registry supports individual programs by creating greater transparency and efficiency. Individual standards and programs will continue to define their project eligibility requirements and confirm delivery of stated environmental benefits.

Q. How many companies/governments are participating in the Meta-Registry, what percent of the global carbon market does that represent?

The IHS Markit Meta-Registry is expected to launch in early 2021 with initial member programs including Global Carbon Council, Gold Standard, UK Woodland Carbon Code, UK Peatland Code and Verra. These programs were responsible for 77% of credit issuances in the voluntary carbon markets in 2020. Additional participants will be added over the course of the year.

Q. When will the Meta-Registry be launched?

The Meta-Registry will be launched in the first quarter of 2021.

Q. Who are the members of the Advisory Board and who else might join?

Carbon Meta-Registry Advisory Board has been formed with leading experts from the public and private sectors. The Advisory Board will ensure the Meta-Registry delivers on its objectives and meets the wider industry needs. The Advisory Board at launch includes representatives from:

- Programs/Standards: Global Carbon Council, Gold Standard, REDD.plus, UK Woodland Carbon Code and Verra
- NGOs/Industry associations: Conservation International, Environmental Defense Fund and the International Emissions Trading Association (IETA)
- Private sector: Bank of America, Bluesource, CBL Markets, Chevron, Goldman Sachs, Hartree Partners, Microsoft and Temasek

Q. What does an Advisory Board member do?

Advisory Board members will provide advice, expertise, or resources, in support of the development of the Meta-Registry and related services. Advisory Board members recognize that broad public and industry support of the Meta-Registry will best ensure the advancement of the public purposes, so the Advisory Board will also generate public and industry awareness and interest in the Meta-Registry.