

The voluntary C-market

-A success for the environment?-



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What is it:

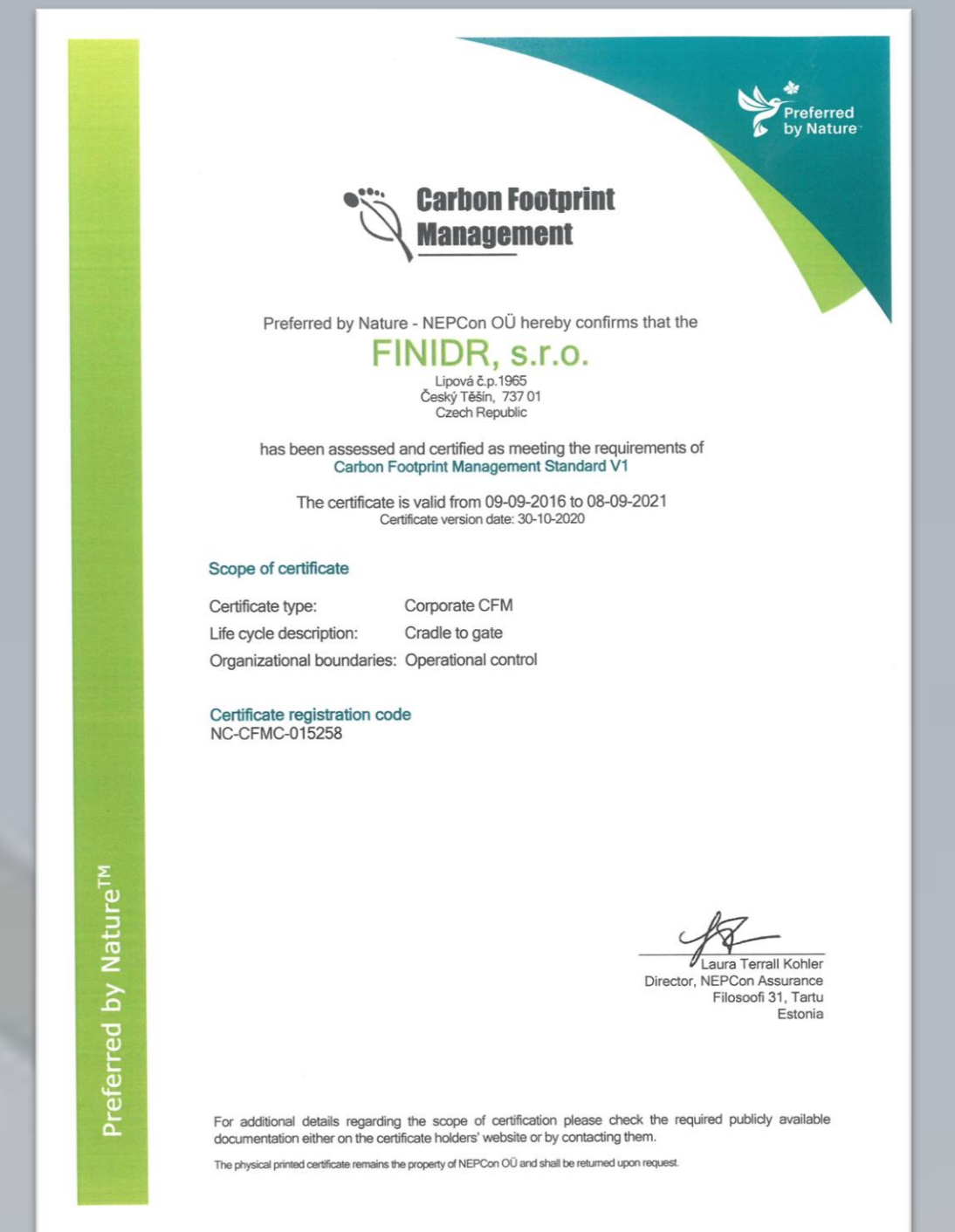
The voluntary Carbon-market is a way to compensate emissions from companies and private persons. To offset their emissions persons and organizations can contribute to climate protection projects for which they receive carbon credits.

With these carbon credits companies can, for example, claim climate neutrality.



Buying certificates contributes to projects in:

- Renewable energies
- Landuse change and reforestation
- Others



Disadvantages:

- Little education on carbon offsets
- Uniform label to identify offsets desirable
- Not sufficient to reduce global emissions as offsets are often used instead of reductions
- Only useful for unavoidable emissions
- Exceeding emission limits partly legal
- Destruction of virgin forests or increase in greenhouse gas emissions not prevented generally
- Lack of verifiability of saved emissions
- So far only a very small effect on the environment and climate

Benefits:

- Supporting climate and environmental protection projects in non-industrialized countries
- Improvement of infrastructure and development in these countries
- Opportunity to educate on emission reductions and raise awareness on more climate neutral production or consumption patterns
- Exceeding the defined amount of emission reductions
- Low costs for offsetting CO₂
- Improvement of the brand image of the company



Certificates are used to try to offset carbon emissions and reduce our overall carbon footprint



Conclusion

The voluntary C-market is a great success, but is it big enough to improve our environment?

Unfortunately, the answer so far is no.

Although there are already many suppliers and buyers of certificates, this is not yet enough to achieve a climate-promoting effect.

Nevertheless, offsetting can be an effective instrument today to compensate for emissions that cannot yet be avoided and thus contributes significantly to the efforts to achieve a greenhouse gas-neutral environment.

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