*CCB & VCS Validation Report Template*

*This template is for the validation of CCB & VCS projects. Validation/verification bodies auditing projects that aim to achieve verification only to one of the two standards must use the verification report template specific to that standard (i.e., the* CCB Verification Report Template *or the* VCS Verification Report Template*).*

*Instructions for completing the validation report:*

*TITLE PAGE: All items in the boxes on this title page must be completed using Arial 10pt, black, regular (non-italic) font. All boxes must appear in the final document. Reports may also feature the title and preparers’ name, logo and contact information more prominently on the title page, using Arial 24pt font for title and Arial 11pt, black font for all other information.*

*VALIDATION REPORT: Instructions for completing the joint CCB & VCS validation report template can be found under each section heading in grey or blue italicized text. Grey text represents guidance for the general, climate, community and biodiversity components of the project description that must follow CCB and VCS Program rules and requirements.* The blue text represents guidance for the carbon component of the project description that must follow VCS project-level requirements and the applied VCS methodology. *Green text at the end of section headings is reference to specific sections of CCB Program documents from which the template heading corresponds and must not be removed from the document; unless otherwise noted, the references correspond to sections of the* Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards*. References that begin with ‘Rules’ correspond to sections of the* CCB Program Rules*.*

*This template must be completed in accordance with both standards, and the preparer will need to refer to the relevant CCB and VCS Program documents and the methodology in order to complete the template. It is also expected that relevant guidance, as it relates to the project and methodology, is followed. Note that the instructions in this template are intended to serve as a guide and do not necessarily represent an exhaustive list of the information the preparer must provide under each section of the template.*

*All sections must be completed using Arial 10pt, black, regular (non-italic) font, unless deviations are merited. Where a section is not applicable, same must be stated under the section (the section must not be deleted from the final document).*

*All instructions, including this introductory text, must be deleted from the final document.*

VALIDATION Report TITLE

Logo (optional)

Document Prepared By (individual or entity)

Contact Information (optional)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project Title** | *Name of project* |
| **Version** | *Version number of validation report* |
| **Project Location** | Country, sub-national jurisdiction(s) |
| **Report ID** | *Identification number of this document* |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Report Title** | *Title of validation report* |
| **Client** | *Client for whom the report was prepared* |
| **Pages** | *Number of pages of this report* |
| **Date of Issue** | *DD-Month-YYYY report issued* |
| **Prepared By** | *Validation/verification body that prepared report* |
| **Contact** | *Physical address, telephone, email, website* |
| **Approved By** | *Individual at the validation/verification body who approved the validation report* |
| **Work Carried Out By** | *Individuals who conducted the validation* |

|  |
| --- |
| **Summary:** |
| *Provide a brief summary of the following:*   * *A brief description of the validation and the project.* * *The purpose and scope of validation.* * *The method and criteria used for validation.* * *The number of findings raised during validation.* * *Any uncertainties associated with the validation.* * *Summary of the validation conclusion.* |

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# Introduction

## Objective

Explain the purpose of the validation.

## Scope and Criteria

*Describe the scope and criteria of the validation.*

## Summary Description of the Project

Provide a summary description of the project, including project activities (no more than one page).

# Validation Process

## Audit Team Composition (*Rules* 4.3.1)

Demonstrate that the team conducting the audit includes expertise in the following areas:

* Proficiency in a relevant local or regional language for the project location.
* Relevant agriculture, forestry and/or other land use experience in the project country or region.
* Relevant social and cultural expertise.
* Relevant ecological and biodiversity expertise.

## Method and Criteria

Describe the method and criteria, including the sampling plan, used for undertaking the validation. Where sampling plans are used as a part of the validation, include a description of the sampling approach, important assumptions and justification of the chosen approach.

## Document Review

Describe how the validation was performed as an audit where the project description and any supporting documents were reviewed, crosschecked, and compared with identified and stated requirements.

## Interviews

Describe the interview process and identify personnel, including their roles, relevance to the audit, and date who were interviewed and/or provided information additional to that provided in the project description and any supporting documents.

## Site Inspections

Describe the method and objectives for on-site inspections performed. Include in the description details of all project activity locations visited, the physical and organizational aspects of the project inspected and the dates when such site inspections took place.

## Public Comments (*Rules* 4.6)

Summarize any public comments submitted during the public comment period. Assess whether the project proponent has taken due account of all and any comments, and provide an overall conclusion regarding public comments.

Describe how each comment was addressed by the project proponent through revisions to the project design or project monitoring report or other document efforts, and provide an assessment of the extent to which the project proponent’s responses are appropriate.

## Resolution of Findings

Describe the process for the resolution of findings (corrective actions, non-conformities or other findings) raised by the validation team during validation.

State the total number of corrective action requests, non-conformity requests, and other findings raised during the validation.

Provide a summary of each finding, including the issue raised, the response(s) provided by the project proponent, and the final conclusion and any resulting changes to project documents. Unless this fits on one page, put all findings in an appendix.

### Forward Action Requests

Provide details of any forward action requests raised during the validation, for the benefit of subsequent project audits.

# Validation Findings

## Summary of Project Benefits

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the Summary of Project Benefits. Verify that the section is completed appropriately (i.e., estimated benefits are included and benefits that will not be monitored and/or are not applicable are labelled accordingly).Verify that all achievements reported are substantiated with information provided in the body of the document.

## General

### Summary Description of the Project (G1.2)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the following:

* Technologies/measures to be implemented by the project and eligibility of the project.
* Project proponent and other entities involved in the project.
* Project start date.
* Project scale and estimated GHG emission reductions or removals.
* Project location.
* The scenario existing prior to the implementation of the project.
* The project’s climate, community and biodiversity objectives.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the description in the project description is accurate, complete, and provides an understanding of the nature of the project.

### Physical Parameters (G1.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the summary description of basic physical parameters of the project. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit for each parameter included in the summary.

### Social Parameters (G1.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the summary description of basic social parameters of the project. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit for each parameter included in the summary.

### Project Zone Map (G1.4-7, G1.13, CM1.2, B1.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the accuracy of the project zone map. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Stakeholder Identification (G1.5)

Describe the steps taken to validate the process of stakeholder identification and analysis used to identify communities. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Stakeholder Descriptions (G1.6, G1.13)

Describe the steps taken to assess that all communities, community groups and other stakeholders that are included in the project, or may be included in a grouped project, were correctly identified in the project description.

### Sectoral Scope and Project Type

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the sectoral scope(s), project type, technologies and measures implemented and eligibility of the project.

### Project Activities and Theory of Change (G1.8)

Describe the steps taken to validate the causal relationships or theory of change that link the project activities to the project’s predicted climate, community and biodiversity benefits.

Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding whether the theory of change in the project description is accurate, complete, and provides an understanding of the nature of the project and how it will achieve its climate, community, and biodiversity objectives.

### Sustainable Development

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s sustainable development contributions.

### Implementation Schedule (G1.9)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding *key dates and milestones in the project’s development and implementation.*

### Benefits Assessment and Crediting Period (G1.9)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project crediting period, assessment periods for climate change adaptive capacity and resilience, biodiversity and community well-being resulting from project activities, including any differences between them.

### Risks to the Project (G1.10)

Describe the steps taken to assess the accuracy of the likely natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community, and biodiversity benefits during the project lifetime identified by the project. Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the measures included in the project description to mitigate these risks.

### Benefit Permanence (G1.11)

Identify, discuss, and justify the measures needed and included in the project description to maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime. Describe the steps taken to validate the measures.

### Financial Sustainability (G1.12)

Identify, discuss, and justify the financial mechanisms adopted to provide an adequate actual and projected flow of funds for project implementation and to achieve the project’s climate, community and biodiversity benefits. Identify whether evidence of actual and/or projected revenues from GHG emissions reductions and/or removals and/or other sources is provided.

### Grouped Projects

The following section is only required for grouped projects. If not applicable, indicate so and delete instruction and headings for section 3.2.14 below this text.

### Eligibility Criteria for Grouped Projects (G1.14)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the eligibility criteria and process for expansion of grouped projects and whether the eligibility criteria meet the requirements of G1.14 and all relevant requirements of section 3.4.9 of the VCS Standard.

### Scalability Limits for the Grouped Projects (G1.15)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the scalability limits established and whether the scalability limits meet the requirements of G1.15 of the CCB Standards and section 3.4.8 of the VCS Standard, including, as appropriate, capacity limits, economic and managerial constraints, and thresholds for project expansion.

**3) Risk Mitigation Approach for Grouped Projects (G1.15)**

If scalability limits are applicable, identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the measures needed and designed to address any risks to climate, community and biodiversity benefits if the project expands beyond the identified limits.

### Land-Use Scenarios without the Project (G2.1)

Identify, discuss, and justify the range of potential land-use scenarios and the associated drivers of land use changes most likely to occur within the project zone in the absence of the project.

### Most-Likely Scenario Justification (G2.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate the most-likely land use scenario. Include details of documentation assessed, including poverty assessments, farming knowledge assessments, or remote sensing analysis.

Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding whether the most-likely land-use scenario is justified.

### Community and Biodiversity Additionality (G2.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the project’s justification for the additionality of the project benefits. Include information with respect to how the following has been assessed in regards to the justification:

* Existing laws, regulations, and governance arrangements, or lack of laws and arrangements that would likely affect land use in the absence of the project.
* Significant financial, technological, institutional or capacity barriers under the without-project scenario that would have inhibited project activities.
* Any distinct climate, community and biodiversity benefits intended to be used as an offset and specify how additionality is established for each benefit intended for this purpose.

Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the justification for the additionality of the project activities.

### Stakeholder Access to Project Documents (G3.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate the project’s stakeholder engagement plans and practices to fulfil the requirements of G3.1. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project has made project documentation accessible to communities and other stakeholders.

### Community Costs, Risks and Benefits (G3.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the project proponent’s plan/practices to explain the project’s potential costs, risks and benefits to communities. Provide and justify a conclusion on the relevancy and adequacy of the information provided as well as the communities’ ability to understand the information provided and the timeliness of such information. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Information to Stakeholders on Validation and Verification Process (G3.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the measures taken and communication methods used to inform communities and other stakeholders of the process for CCB validation and verification. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Site Visit Information and Opportunities to Communicate with Auditor (G3.3)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how communities and other stakeholders were informed of the auditor’s site visit in a timely manner before the site visit occurred, and how direct and independent communication between communities and other stakeholders or their representatives and the auditor were facilitated.

### Stakeholder Consultations (G3.4)

Describe the steps taken to validate the project’s method(s) for conducting effective consultation to fulfil the requirements of G3.4. Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the project’s method(s) for conducting effective stakeholder consultations.

### Stakeholder Consultation Channels (G3.5)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the stakeholder consultation channels used by the project proponent to fulfil G3.5, considering especially the project proponent’s justification that adequate levels of information sharing occurred.

### Stakeholder Participation in Decision-Making and Implementation (G3.6)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions on the measures needed (and taken, if appropriate) by the project proponent to enable effective participation in culturally appropriate and gender sensitive manner with all communities and describe the steps taken to validate them. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Anti-Discrimination Assurance (G3.7)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the measures needed and designed to ensure that all entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in, or complicit in, any form of discrimination or sexual harassment.

### Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (G3.8)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s feedback and grievance redress procedure. Describe the steps taken to validate that procedure meets the requirements of G3.8 and identify any other relevant resources needed. Provide an overall conclusion regarding the feedback and grievance redress procedure.

### Worker Training (G3.9)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the measures needed and designed to provide orientation and training for those employed through project activities and relevant people from the communities. Describe the steps taken to validate the orientation and training meet the requirements of G3.9 and include any other relevant resources needed.

### Community Employment Opportunities (G3.10)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the project provides equal employment to people from the community and describe the steps taken to validate the project’s practices. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Relevant Laws and Regulations Related to Worker’s Rights (G3.11)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s adherence to all relevant laws and regulations covering worker’s rights and the measures needed and designed to inform workers about their rights.

### Occupational Safety Assessment (G3.12)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s occupational safety assessment and the measures needed and designed to minimize risk.

### Project Governance Structures (G4.1)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s governance structures, and roles and responsibilities of all entities involved in project design and implementation.

### Required Technical Skills (G4.2)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the key technical skills required to implement the project successfully, including community engagement, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills.

### Management Team Experience (G4.2)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the management team’s expertise and prior experience implementing land management and carbon projects at the scale of this project. Include details of documentation assessed and/or observations made.

### Project Management Partnerships/Team Development (G4.2)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the how other organizations support the project through partnerships or include a recruitment strategy by which the management team plans to fill any gaps.

### Financial Health of Implementing Organization(s) (G4.3)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the financial health of the implementing organization(s) to ensure adequate financial support over the project lifetime.

### Avoidance of Corruption and Other Unethical Behavior (G4.3)

Describe the steps to validate the assurances provided that the project proponent and any of the other entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in or are not complicit in any form of corruption. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made on the site visit. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project is involved or complicit in any form of corruption.

### Commercially Sensitive Information (*Rules* 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the exclusion of any commercially sensitive information.

### Statutory and Customary Property Rights (G5.1)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions on the map of tenure, use, access and management rights to lands, territories and resources in the project zone and describe the steps taken to validate it. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Recognition of Property Rights (G5.1)

Validate that all property rights are recognized, respected, and supported, and describe the steps taken, documentation assessed, and observations made to do so. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether all property rights are recognized, respected and supported.

### Free, Prior and Informed Consent (G5.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate that:

* The project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property, or government property.
* The process by which free, prior, and informed consent will be or has been obtained of those whose property rights will be or are affected by the project.
* Appropriate restitution or compensation has been allocated to any parties whose lands have been or will be affected by the project.

Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project is respecting the property rights of the communities.

### Property Rights Protection (G5.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate that that project activities do not lead to involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories, and do not force rights holders to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate that the relocation of habitation or activities have been undertaken within the terms of an agreement, and the agreement was made with the free, prior, and informed consent of those concerned and includes provisions for just and fair compensation.

### Illegal Activity Identification (G5.4)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding any illegal activities that could affect the project’s impacts and the measures needed and designed to reduce these activities so that project benefits are not derived from illegal activities.

### Ongoing Disputes (G5.5)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over rights to lands, territories and resources and also any disputes that were resolved during the last twenty years where such records exist, or at least during the last ten years.

Describe the steps taken to validate that no activity is undertaken by the project that could prejudice the outcome of an unresolved dispute relevant to the project.

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding measures needed and designed to resolve conflicts or disputes.

### National and Local Laws (G5.6)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding all national and local laws and regulations in the host country that are relevant to the project activities. Describe the steps taken to validate that the project is complying with these and, where relevant, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the project demonstrates compliance. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made.

### Approvals (G5.7)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s approval from appropriate authorities, including established formal and/or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities.

### Project Ownership (G5.8)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding evidence of project ownership in accordance with VCS specifications on project ownership.

### Management of Double Counting Risk (G5.9)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusion regarding the project’s desire to or participation in any form of social or environmental credit generation/trading program or mechanism.

### Emissions Trading Programs and Other Binding Limits

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s participation in any emission trading or other binding limit program or mechanism.

### Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s desire to or receiving of another form of GHG-related environmental credit, including renewable energy certificates.

### Participation under Other GHG Programs

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s desire to or registration in any other GHG program.

### Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s rejection from any other GHG programs.

### Double Counting (G5.9)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how double counting is avoided, particularly for credits sold as offsets sold on the voluntary market and generated in a country participating in a compliance mechanism.

## Climate

### Title and Reference

Provide the title and reference of the applied methodology and any tools. Note that the methodology and tools, and the specific versions of them applied by the project, must be valid at the time of validation.

### Applicability

For each of the applied methodology’s applicability conditions, describe the steps taken to assess compliance of the project with the applicability condition. Provide a conclusion with respect to each applicability condition.

Similarly, where the applied methodology provides the project with a number of tools or modules to choose from, describe the steps taken to assess that the appropriate tool or module has been selected. Provide a conclusion with respect to each selected tool or module.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the applicability of the methodology, and any tools or modules selected by the project proponent.

### Project Boundary

Identify the project boundary and describe the steps taken to validate it. Include details of documentation assessed (e.g., commissioning reports) and observations made during the site inspection.

For each GHG source, sink and reservoir, describe the steps taken to assess that it has been selected correctly in accordance with the applied methodology. Describe the steps taken to assess whether any relevant sources, sinks and reservoirs have not been selected.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the project boundary and selected sources, sinks and reservoirs are justified for the project.

### Baseline Scenario

Identify the baseline scenario determined for the project and describe the steps taken to validate it, including (as applicable) whether:

* Assumptions and data used in the identification of the baseline scenario are justified appropriately, supported by evidence and can be deemed reasonable.
* Documentary evidence used in determining the baseline scenario is relevant, and correctly quoted and interpreted in the project description.
* Relevant national and/or sectoral policies and circumstances have been considered and are listed in the project description.
* The procedures for identifying the baseline scenario have been correctly followed and the identified scenario reasonably represents what would have occurred in the absence of the project.

Provide details (including sources of information) of any steps taken to cross-check data used in identification of the baseline scenario.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether the identified baseline scenario is justified.

### Additionality

Identify the method used by the applied methodology to demonstrate additionality. Describe in detail the steps taken to validate that the procedure for additionality (set out in the methodology or referenced tool) has been followed correctly and precisely.

For project methods, include at minimum information with respect to how the following have been assessed (as applicable):

* Adherence to regulatory surplus requirements.
* The appropriateness of data and parameters used in financial calculations and sensitivity analyses, including those taken from feasibility study reports.
* The suitability of the benchmark used for investment analysis.
* The credibility of each barrier identified in the barrier analysis.
* The appropriateness of the geographical region used in the common practice analysis.
* Information regarding similar projects identified in the common practice analysis, including essential distinctions between similar projects and the proposed project.
* The reasonableness of assumptions made in the demonstration of additionality.

For standardized methods, include at minimum information with respect to how the following have been assessed (as applicable):

* Adherence to regulatory surplus requirements.
* For performance methods, the appropriateness of the performance benchmark selected and the ability of the project to achieve the level of the benchmark.
* Adherence to all other criteria and procedures set out in the standardized method.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether additionality is justified for the project.

### Methodology Deviations

Identify any methodology deviations applied to the project and describe the steps taken to validate each deviation. Include information with respect to how the following has been assessed:

* Whether the deviation meets with the criteria and specifications for permitted methodology deviations.
* Whether the deviation negatively impacts the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals (except where they result in increased accuracy).

Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether any methodology deviations applied to the project are valid.

### Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Identify the quantification methods for GHG emission reductions and removals generated by the project. Describe the steps taken to validate the quantification methods, including all data and parameters used in the equations, and any references to any other data sources used. Include in the description, information with respect to how the following has been assessed:

* Quantification of baseline emissions.
* Quantification of project emissions.
* Quantification of leakage.
* Summary of net GHG emission reductions or removals.
* Uncertainties associated with the calculation of emissions.
* Documentation used as the basis for assumptions and sources of data.

Provide an assessment of the following with respect to the project description:

* All relevant assumptions and data are listed in the project description, including their references and sources.
* All data and parameter values used in the project description are considered reasonable in the context of the project.
* All estimates of the baseline emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the project description.

### Monitoring Plan

Identify the parameters to be monitored and describe the steps taken to validate the suitability and eligibility of monitoring equipment and procedures.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the adherence of the monitoring plan to the requirements of the applied methodology and any referenced tools.

### Dissemination of Monitoring Plan and Results (CL4.2)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the monitoring plan, and any results of monitoring undertaken in accordance with the monitoring plan, will be disseminated and made publicly available on the internet, and communicated to the communities and other stakeholders. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

Describe the steps taken to assess the non-permanence risk rating determined by the project proponent. For each risk factor, provide the following information:

* An assessment of all rationale, assumptions and justifications used to support the risk score.
* An assessment of any documentation and data provided to support the risk score.
* A conclusion regarding the appropriateness of the risk score.
* Provide a concluding statement regarding the determined value of the overall risk rating.

Provide an overall concluding statement regarding whether the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and net GHG emission reductions and removals.

### Optional Gold Level: Regional Climate Change Scenarios (GL1.1)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding likely regional or sub-national climate change and climate variability scenarios and impacts identified.

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding potential changes in the local land use scenario due to these climate change scenarios in the absence of the project.

### Optional Gold Level: Climate Change Impacts (GL1.2)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how current or anticipated climate changes are having or are likely to have an impact on community well-being and the biodiversity conservation status in the project zone and surrounding regions.

### Optional Gold Level: Measures Needed and Designed for Adaptation (GL1.3)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the measures needed and designed to assist communities and biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change. Provide and justify a conclusion with respect to whether the measures described are based on the causal model described in response to G1.8.

## Community

### Descriptions of Communities at Project Start (CM1.1)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the descriptions of the communities at the start of the project and any significant community changes in the past. Include information with respect to how the following has been assessed:

* Well-being information.
* Community characteristics.
* Diversity within the community.

### Interactions between Communities and Community Groups (CM1.1)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding interactions at the start of the project between the communities and community groups described in Section 4.1.2 of the project description.

### High Conservation Values (CM1.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the community well-being HCVs identified in the project description. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made. Include information with respect to how the qualifying attributes for HCVs related to community well-being have been assessed.

### Without-Project Scenario: Community (CM1.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the expected changes in the well-being conditions and other characteristics of communities and community groups under the without-project land use scenario. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made. Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the expected changes to the community well-being in the without-project scenario.

### Expected Community Impacts (CM2.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate the expected community impacts, including the key assumptions, rationale and methodological choices used to anticipate impacts on each community group resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario. Include information with respect to how affected groups participated in estimating the impacts. Provide an overall conclusion regarding the expected impacts for each community identified in the project description.

### Negative Community Impact Mitigation (CM2.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the measures needed and designed to mitigate any negative well-being impacts on community groups and for maintenance or enhancement of HCV attributes related to community well-being. Include information with respect to how such measures are consistent with the precautionary principle. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project will mitigate negative impacts to communities.

### Net Positive Community Well-Being (CM2.3, GL1.4)

Describe the steps taken to validate that the anticipated net well-being impacts of the project are predicted to be positive for all identified community groups compared with their anticipated well-being conditions under the without-project land use scenario. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made if applicable. Provide an overall conclusion regarding the net community well-being identified in the project description.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits, describe the steps taken to validate the project activities will assist communities to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change. Provide an overall conclusion regarding the project activities’ ability to assist communities to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

### High Conservation Values Protected (CM2.4)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the protection of HCVs related to community well-being.

### Impacts on Other Stakeholders (CM3.1)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding any potential positive and negative impacts that the project activities are likely to cause on the well-being of other stakeholders.

### Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Other Stakeholders (CM3.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the measures needed and included in the project description to mitigate the negative well-being impacts on other stakeholders.

### Net Impacts on Other Stakeholders (CM3.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate that the project does not produce net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholders. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made on the site visit, if applicable.

### Community Monitoring Plan (CM4.1, CM4.2, GL1.4, GL2.2, GL2.3, GL2.5)

Describe the steps taken to validate the community monitoring plan used to track the project’s objectives, and whether it meets the requirements of CM4.1 and CM4.2.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits (GL1), describe the steps taken to validate the community monitoring plan also includes indicators for adaptation benefits for communities.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for exceptional community benefits (GL2), describe the steps taken to validate the community monitoring plan also includes the following:

* Indicators of well-being impacts and risks for smallholder/community members.
* Indicators of impacts on women.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the community monitoring plan.

### Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CM4.3)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the monitoring plan, and any results of monitoring undertaken in accordance with the monitoring plan, have been and will be disseminated and made publicly available on the internet, and communicated to the communities and other stakeholders. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Optional Gold Level: Exceptional Community Criteria (GL2.1)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s qualification for the Exceptional Community Benefits Gold Level.

### Optional Gold Level: Short-term and Long-term Community Benefits (GL2.2)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the short-term and long-term net positive well-being benefits for smallholders/community members generated by the project activities. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made, if applicable.

### Optional Gold Level: Community Participation Risks (GL2.3)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the participatory process used to identify risks for the smallholders/community members to participate in the project and measures taken to manage the identified risks.

### Optional Gold Level: Marginalized and/or Vulnerable Community Groups (GL2.4)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate how the marginalized and/or vulnerable community groups that the project is engaging will gain net positive benefits. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made. Include information with respect to how the following has been assessed for each community group:

* Net positive impacts.
* Benefit access.
* Negative impacts.

Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the impacts that will be realized by the marginalized and/or vulnerable community groups.

### Optional Gold Level: Net Impacts on Women (GL2.5)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the net positive impacts on the well-being of women and that women participate in or influence decision making.

### Optional Gold Level: Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (GL2.6)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate that the project’s benefit sharing mechanism(s) meet the requirements of GL2.6. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made. Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the benefit sharing mechanism.

### Optional Gold Level: Benefits, Costs, and Risks Communication (GL2.7)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the evidence provided by the project to demonstrate that the smallholders and/or community members understood the information communicated about predicted and actual benefits, costs and risks. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Optional Gold Level: Governance and Implementation Structures (GL2.8)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s governance and implementation structures, and any relevant self-governance or other structures used for aggregation of smallholders/community members. Describe the steps taken to validate that the project’s governance and implementation structures enable full and effective participation of smallholders/community members in project decision-making and implementation.

### Optional Gold Level: Smallholders/Community Members Capacity Development (GL2.9)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the project plans to develop the capacity of smallholders and/or community members, and relevant local organizations or institutions, to participate effectively and actively in project design, implementation and management.

## Biodiversity

### Existing Conditions (B1.1)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the biodiversity within the project zone at the start of the project and threats to that biodiversity. Include information with respect to how the key assumptions, rationale and methodological choices used by the project were assessed. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### High Conservation Values (B1.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity HCVs identified in the project description. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit. Include information with respect to how the qualifying attributes for biodiversity-related HCVs have been assessed.

### Without-project Scenario: Biodiversity (B1.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate how the without-project land use scenario would affect biodiversity conditions in the project zone. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made. Provide an overall conclusion regarding the expected changes to biodiversity conditions in the without-project scenario.

### Expected Biodiversity Changes (B2.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate the key assumptions, rationale and methodological choices used to anticipate changes in biodiversity resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario. Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the expected impacts for each biodiversity element identified in the project description.

### Mitigation Measures (B2.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the measures needed and designed to mitigate negative impacts on biodiversity and any measures needed and designed for maintenance or enhancement of the HCV attributes. Include information with respect to how such measures are consistent with the precautionary principle.

### Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts (B2.2, GL1.4)

Describe the steps taken to validate that the project’s anticipated net impacts on biodiversity in the project zone will be positive compared with conditions under the without-project land use scenario. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made on the site visit if applicable. Provide an overall conclusion as to whether the project produces net positive biodiversity impacts.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits, describe the steps taken to validate the project activities will assist the biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change. Provide an overall conclusion as to whether the project activities will assist the biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

### High Conservation Values Protected (B2.4)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions that the project did not negatively affect any biodiversity-related HCVs.

### Species Used (B2.5)

Describe the steps taken to validate the species used by the project and that no known invasive species will be introduced into any area affected by the project and that the population of any invasive species will not increase as a result of the project. Include details of documentation and observations made during the site visit.

### Impacts of Non-native Species (B2.6)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the use of any non-native species in the project zone.

### GMO Exclusion (B2.7)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the guarantee that no GMOs are used to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals.

### Inputs Justification (B2.8)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the use of any fertilizers, chemical pesticides, biological control agents and other inputs used for the project. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit, if applicable.

### Waste Products (B2.9)

Describe the steps taken to validate the process for identifying, classifying and managing all waste products resulting from project activities. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit, if applicable.

### Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts (B3.1) and Mitigation Measures (B3.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the potential negative impacts on biodiversity outside of the project zone resulting from project activities and the measures designed to mitigate negative impact. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit if applicable.

### Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits (B3.3)

Describe the steps taken to validate the justification used to demonstrate that the net effect of the project on biodiversity is positive, when considering potential unmitigated negative impacts outside the project zone. Include details of documentation assessed and observations make during the site visit, if applicable.

### Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (B4.1, B4.2, GL1.4, GL3.4)

Describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity monitoring plan used to track the project’s objectives and that it meets the requirements of B4.1 and B4.2.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits (GL1), describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity monitoring plan also includes indicators for adaptation benefits for biodiversity.

If the project intends to meet the Gold Level for exceptional biodiversity benefits (GL3), describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity monitoring plan also includes indicators of the population trend of each trigger species and/or the threats to such species.

Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding the biodiversity monitoring plan.

### Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (B4.3)

Identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding how the monitoring plan, and any results of monitoring undertaken in accordance with the monitoring plan, will be disseminated and made publicly available on the internet, and communicated to the communities and other stakeholders. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

### Optional Gold Level: High Biodiversity Conservation Priority Status (GL3.1)

If applicable, identify, discuss and justify conclusions regarding the project’s qualification for the Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits Gold Level.

### Optional Gold Level: Trigger Species Population Trends (GL3.2, GL3.3)

If applicable, describe the steps taken to validate the projected trends in trigger species populations and that the projections meet the requirements of GL3.2 and GL3.3. Include details of the documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

# Validation Conclusion

Clearly state whether the project complies with the validation criteria for projects set out in CCB Version 3 and VCS Version 3, including any qualifications or limitations. Conclude whether the project is likely to achieve estimated GHG emission reduction or removals, and the project’s stated climate change adaptive capacity and resilience, community, and biodiversity benefits.

# Appendix X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>

Use appendices for supporting information. Delete this appendix (title and instructions) where no appendix is required.