CCB & VCS Validation Report Template

This template is for the validation of projects under both the CCB Program and VCS Program. Validation/verification bodies auditing projects that intend to complete validation only under one of the two programs must use the validation report template specific to that program (i.e., the *CCB Validation Report Template, v3.0* or the *VCS Validation Report Template, v4.4*).

Instructions for completing the validation report

**FILE NAME:** Use the following format for the file name of the completed document:

* CCB VCS ValR Project ID DDMMMYYYY

The ‘DDMMMYYYY’ should match the original date of issue as reported on the title page. If revised documents are submitted, add ‘\_round#\_track’ or ‘\_round#\_clean’ to indicate the review round (1-3) and if it is the clean or track changes version of the document, and update the date to the most recent date of issue.

**FILE TYPE:** Submit the document as a non-editable PDF.

**TITLE PAGE FORMATTING:** This document may feature the validation report title and the preparer’s logo using size 24, regular (non-italic) Century Gothic font. Fill in and complete each row of the table using size 10.5, black, regular (non-italic) Arial or Franklin Gothic Book font.

**GENERAL FORMATTING:** Complete all sections using size 10.5, black, regular (non-italic) Arial or Franklin Gothic Book font.

**GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS:** Specific instructions for completing each section of the joint CCB & VCS Validation Report Template can be found under each section heading in grey italicized text. Green text at the end of section headings is reference to the corresponding sections of the *VCS Standard, v4.7* and the *Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1*, unless otherwise noted. These section reference headings must not be removed from the final version of the document.

This template must be completed in accordance with both programs, and the preparer will need to refer to the relevant CCB Program and VCS Program documents and the applied methodology to complete the template.

Note: 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.

Where a section is not applicable, explain why the section is not applicable (i.e. do not delete the section from the final document and do not only write “not applicable”). Delete all instructions, including this introductory text, from the final document.

Validation Report Title

Logo (optional)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Report ID | Identification number of this document |
| Project title | Name of project |
| Project ID | Verra Project ID |
| Crediting period | DD-Month-YYYY to DD-Month-YYYY |
| Project lifetime | Indicate the time period over which project activities are to be implemented  DD Month YYYY – DD Month YYYY; X-year lifetime |
| (CCB) GHG accounting period | Indicate the time period over which changes in GHG emission reductions and/or removals resulting from project activities are to be monitored  DD Month YYYY – DD Month YYYY; X-year total period |
| Original date of issue | DD-Month-YYYY (the date the audit was completed) |
| Most recent date of issue | DD-Month-YYYY (the date on which the document was most recently submitted) |
| Version | Version number of this document |
| VCS Standard version | Version number of the VCS Standard used by the project |
| CCB Standards version | Version number of the CCB Standards used by the project |
| Project location | Country, sub-national jurisdiction(s) |
| Client | Client for whom this report was prepared |
| Prepared by | Validation/verification body that prepared this report |
| Approved by | Individual at the validation/verification body who approved this validation report |
| Work carried out by | Individuals who conducted this validation |

|  |
| --- |
| Summary: |
| Provide a brief summary of the following:   * A 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 |

Contents

Update the page numbers of the table of contents below upon completion of the validation report.

[1 Introduction 5](#_Toc159493391)

[1.1 Objective (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2) 5](#_Toc159493392)

[1.2 Scope and Criteria (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2) 5](#_Toc159493393)

[1.3 Reasonableness of Assumptions (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2) 5](#_Toc159493394)

[1.4 Summary Description of the Project (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2) 5](#_Toc159493395)

[2 Validation Process 5](#_Toc159493396)

[2.1 Audit Team Composition (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 5](#_Toc159493397)

[2.2 Method and Criteria (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 5](#_Toc159493398)

[2.3 Document Review (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 6](#_Toc159493399)

[2.4 Interviews (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 6](#_Toc159493400)

[2.5 Site Visits (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 6](#_Toc159493401)

[2.6 Public Comments (VCS, 3.18; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.6) 6](#_Toc159493402)

[2.7 Resolution of Findings (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1) 6](#_Toc159493403)

[3 Validation Findings 7](#_Toc159493404)

[3.1 General 7](#_Toc159493405)

[3.2 Climate 20](#_Toc159493406)

[3.3 Community 24](#_Toc159493407)

[3.4 Biodiversity 28](#_Toc159493408)

[4 Validation Opinion 32](#_Toc159493409)

[4.1 Validation Summary 32](#_Toc159493410)

[4.2 Validation Conclusion 32](#_Toc159493411)

[Appendix 1: Commercially Sensitive Information 34](#_Toc159493412)

[Appendix 2: Project Risks Table 35](#_Toc159493413)

[Appendix X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX> 37](#_Toc159493414)

# Introduction

## Objective (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2)

Explain the purpose of the validation.

## Scope and Criteria (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2)

*Describe the scope and criteria of the validation.*

## Reasonableness of Assumptions (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2)

Indicate the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods that support a statement about the outcome of future activities.

## Summary Description of the Project (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.2)

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

# Validation Process

## Audit Team Composition (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program 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 (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1)

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

Describe the validation schedule, including key milestones (e.g., kick-off meeting, desk review, site visit) and corresponding dates.

## Document Review (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1)

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

## Interviews (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1)

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

## Site Visits (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1)

Describe the method and objectives for site visit(s) performed. Include in the description details of all facilities and/or project areas visited, the physical and organizational aspects of the project assessed and the dates when such site visits took place.

## Public Comments (VCS, 3.18; CCB Program Rules*,* 4.6)

Summarize any public comments submitted during the public comment period and any comments received after the public comment period. Assess whether the project proponent has taken due account of any comments and provide a conclusion on the assessment regarding public comments.

Include the project proponent’s response to each comment, describe any resultant changes to the project design and provide an explanation of how the project proponent’s responses are appropriate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Comments received | Actions taken by the project proponent | Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion |
| Summary of comment received | Provide a summary of actions taken and any project design updates or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate. |  |
| … | …. |  |

## Resolution of Findings (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules*,* 4.3.1)

Describe the process for the resolution of findings (corrective actions, clarifications, forward action requests, or other findings) raised by the validation/verification body during the validation and, where applicable, outstanding forward action requests from previous validations or verifications.

State the total number of corrective action requests, clarification requests, forward action 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 conclusions and any resulting changes to project documents. Unless this fits on one page, put all findings in an appendix.

### Forward Action Requests (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.3)

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

# Validation Findings

## General

### Project Details

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

Then, in the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities for each item, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) the conclusion of the assessment of the project’s conformance with the relevant program requirements. Some additional but not comprehensive guidance is provided.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Item | Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion |
| Audit history (VCS, 4.1) |  |
| Sectoral scope (VCS, 3.2) | 14: Agriculture, forestry, and other land use |
| AFOLU project category (VCS, Appendix 1) |  |
| Project activity type (VCS, 3.2) |  |
| General eligibility of the project to participate in the VCS Program and CCB Program (VCS, 3.1, 3.2, 3.6, 3.8, 3.18, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.2.4, 4.6.4) | The response should include:   * Whether the selected AFOLU project categories are appropriate and all related category requirements are met. * Whether the project meets requirements related to pipeline listing deadline, the opening meeting with the VVB, and the validation deadline, and whether the project is submitting the validation report and validation statement within one year of the initiation of the public comment period. * Whether the applied methodology is eligible under the VCS Program. * Whether there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that native ecosystems have not been converted, cleared, drained, or degraded to generate GHG credits in Section 3.4.4 below. * For ARR, ALM, WRC, or AcoGS project areas, whether there is sufficient evidence to demonstrate that clearing or conversion did not take place within 10 years of the project start date in Section 3.4.4 below. * Whether the project is located within a jurisdiction covered by a jurisdictional REDD+ program * Any other relevant eligibility information. |
| Transfer project eligibility, if applicable (VCS, Appendix 2, 3.23) | The response should include:   * Whether the criteria in Appendix 2 and Section 3.23 (Double Counting and Participation under Other GHG Programs) of the VCS Standard have been met. |
| Project design (VCS 3.6; CCB G1.14) | The response should include:   * The steps taken to validate the eligibility criteria and process for expansion of grouped projects and whether the eligibility criteria meet the requirements of the relevant program requirements, if applicable. |
| Climate, community, and biodiversity objectives (CCB G1.2) | Describe and assess the project’s climate, community, and biodiversity objectives |
| Project ownership (VCS, 3.2, 3.7; CCB, G5.8) |  |
| Project start date (VCS, 3.8) |  |
| Project scale (VCS, 3.10) |  |
| Technologies and measures implemented by the project activity or activities (VCS, 2.1; CCB, G1.2, G1.8) |  |
| Double counting and participation under other GHG programs (VCS, 3.23; CCB, G5.9) | The response should include:   * Where a project is receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals from a project activity under another GHG program, identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding evidence of no double issuance in conformance with the VCS Standard, and how double counting is avoided in conformance with the CCB Standards, particularly for credits sold as offsets sold on the voluntary market and generated in a country participating in a compliance mechanism. * Whether the project has provided all information required on whether it is registered and active under any other GHG programs or other social/environmental credit generation or trading program or mechanism. * Whether the project has provided all information required on whether it has been rejected by another GHG program. |
| No double claiming with emissions trading programs or binding emission limits (VCS, 3.24.3-3.24.4) | The response should include:   * Where project reductions and removals or project activities are also included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit, assess the evidence of no double claiming against VCS Standard requirements. |
| No double claiming with other forms of environmental credit VCS, 3.24.5-3.24.6) | The response should include:   * Where the project activity has sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from another GHG-related environmental credit system, assess the evidence of no double claiming against VCS Standard requirements. |
| Supply chain (Scope 3) emissions double claiming (VCS, 3.24.7) | The response should include:   * Whether the project proponent(s) or authorized representative is a buyer or seller of a product whose emissions footprint is changed by the project activities. * If so, whether the project proponent(s) or authorized representative has posted a public statement on their website in accordance with the VCS Program requirements. |
| Sustainable development contributions (VCS, 3.17) |  |
| Additional information relevant to the project (VCS, 3.11, 3.15) | The response should include:   * An assessment of the appropriateness of the leakage management plan or implementation of leakage and risk mitigation measures, where applicable. * An assessment of any additional relevant information that may have a bearing on the eligibility of the project, the reductions or removals, or the quantification of the project’s reductions or removals. |

### Benefits Assessment and Project Crediting Period (VCS, 3.9; CCB, 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.

### Physical Parameters (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 and Project Location (VCS, 3.11; CCB, G1.4-7, G1.13, CM1.2, B1.2)

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

### Project Activities and Theory of Change (CCB, 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.

### Implementation Schedule (CCB, G1.9)

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

### Benefit Permanence

#### Risks to the Project (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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.

### Management Capacity

#### Project Governance Structures (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19, CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 and Team Development (VCS, 3.19; CCB, G4.2)

If applicable, identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding 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) (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.5.2 – 3.5.4; CCB Program Rules 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

If applicable, identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding whether the exclusion of any commercially sensitive information conforms with the relevant Program requirements on what may be excluded. Provide further details in Appendix 1 (See Appendix 1: Commercially Sensitive Information).

### Stakeholder Engagement & Safeguards

#### Stakeholder Identification (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G1.5)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding whether the process(es) used to identify stakeholders likely impacted by the project conforms with the relevant Program requirements.

#### Stakeholder Descriptions (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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.

#### Stakeholder Access to Project Documents (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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 proponent has made project documentation accessible to communities and other stakeholders.

#### Dissemination of Summary Project Documents (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G3.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate whether and how summary project documentation has been actively disseminated to communities, and how summary information on monitoring results will be actively disseminated to communities. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project proponent has disseminated summary project documentation.

#### Informational Meetings with Stakeholders (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G3.1)

Describe the steps taken to assess the informational meetings held by the project proponent with communities and local stakeholders, and how those were publicized. Provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project proponent held informational meetings with stakeholders in line with the VCS and CCB program rules.

#### Risks from the Project and No-Net Harm (VCS, 3.18, 3.19)

Describe the steps taken to assess the accuracy of the likely natural and human-induced risks resulting from project activities during the project lifetime identified by the project. Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the commensurate measures included in the project description to prevent or mitigate these risks. The Project Risks Table in Appendix 2 (see Appendix 2: Project Risks Table) must be used.

#### Community Costs, Risks and Benefits (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.18.6, 3.19; CCB, 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 validation and verification. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

#### Site Visit Information and Opportunities to Communicate with Auditor (VCS, 3.18.6; 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 (VCS, 3.18; CCB, G3.4)

Describe the steps taken to validate the project’s method(s) for conducting effective stakeholder consultation. Provide and justify an overall conclusion regarding whether the project’s method(s) for conducting effective stakeholder consultations is in conformance with all relevant program requirements using the table below. Repeat the table as necessary if multiple groups were consulted.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Date of stakeholder consultation | DD-Month-YYYY |
| Stakeholder engagement process |  |
| Consultation outcome |  |
| Stakeholder input |  |

Summarize any public comments submitted during the public comment period and any comments received after the public comment period. Assess whether the project proponent has taken due account of any comments and provide a conclusion on the assessment regarding public comments.

Include the project proponent’s response to each comment, describe any resultant changes to the project design and provide an explanation of how the project proponent’s responses are appropriate.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Comments received | Actions taken by the project proponent | Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion |
| Summary of comment received | Provide a summary of actions taken and any project design updates or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate. |  |
| … | …. |  |

#### Continued Consultation and Adaptive Management (VCS, 3.18; CCB, G3.4)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the project proponent’s plan to continue communication and consultation with communities and other stakeholders. Describe the steps taken to assess the information provided by the project proponent.

#### Stakeholder Consultation Channels (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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. Discuss conclusions regarding the project’s demonstration that no sexual harassment has or will occur as a result of the project activities.

#### Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (VCS, 3.18.4; CCB, G3.8)

In the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities for each item, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) the conclusion of the assessment on the appropriateness of the project’s procedure and the accessibility of the procedure as conforming with the requirements.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Development process |  |
| Grievance redress procedure |  |
| Accessibility |  |

#### Worker Training (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 relevant requirements and include any other relevant resources needed.

#### Community Employment Opportunities (VCS, 3.19.13; CCB, G3.10)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding how the project provides equal employment to people from the community and how equal opportunities have been or will be provided in the context of gender equity and equal pay for labor and work. Describe the steps taken to validate the project’s practices. Include details of documentation assessed and observations made during the site visit.

#### Occupational Safety Assessment (VCS, 3.19; CCB, G3.12)

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

### Additionality & Without-Project Scenario

#### Conditions Prior to Project Initiation and Land-Use Scenarios without the Project (VCS, 3.13; CCB, G2.1)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding conditions prior to project initiation.

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 (CCB, G2.1)

Describe the steps taken to validate the most-likely of the without-project 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 of the without-project land-use scenario is justified.

#### Community and Biodiversity Additionality (CCB, 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 regard 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.

### Legal Status and Property Rights

#### National and Local Laws (VCS, 3.1, 3.6-7, 3.14, 3.18-19; CCB, 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.

#### Relevant Laws and Regulations Related to Worker’s Rights (VCS, 3.18.2; CCB, 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.

#### Human Rights (VCS, 3.19)

In the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of how the project respects and promotes the project of rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders in line with applicable international human rights law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Human rights |  |

#### Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage (VCS, 3.18, 3.19)

In the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of how the project preserves and protects cultural heritage as part of project activities.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Preservation and protection of cultural heritage |  |

#### Statutory and Customary Property Rights (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.7, 3.18-3.19; CCB, G5.1)

In the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of property rights of Ips, LCs, and customary rights holders identified by the project proponent, and the respect of such rights.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Rights to territories and resources |  |
| Respect for property rights |  |

#### Free, Prior and Informed Consent (VCS, 3.18; CCB, G5.1-G5.5)

Using the table below 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.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Process for obtaining consent |  |
| Outcome of FPIC process |  |

#### Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (VCS, 3.18, 3.19;)

Where the project has implemented a benefit sharing mechanism, use the table below to describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of the process used to design the plan, the summary of the plan, and the demonstration of approval and dissemination.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Process used to design the benefit sharing plan |  |
| Summary of the benefit sharing plan |  |
| Approval and dissemination of benefit sharing plan |  |

#### Property Rights Protection (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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. Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding the project’s demonstration that it does not and will not use victims of human trafficking, forced labor, and child labor.

#### Ongoing Disputes (VCS, 3.18-3.19; CCB, 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.

#### Approvals (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.2, 3.7, 3.10; CCB, G5.8)

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

## Climate

### Title and Reference of Methodology (VCS, 3.1)

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 (VCS, 3.1)

For each of the applied methodology’s applicability conditions, describe the steps taken to assess conformance 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.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Methodology ID** | **Applicability condition** | **Assessment and conclusion** |
| Example: VM0007 | First applicability condition for given methodology, tool, or module |  |
| ... | ... | ... |

### Project Boundary (VCS, 3.12)

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 in the table below 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.

| Source | | Gas | Included? | Assessment and conclusion |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Baseline | Source 1 | CO2 |  |  |
| CH4 |  |  |
| N2O |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
| Source 2 | CO2 |  |  |
| CH4 |  |  |
| N2O |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
| Project | Source 1 | CO2 |  |  |
| CH4 |  |  |
| N2O |  |  |
| Other |  |  |
| Source 2 | CO2 |  |  |
| CH4 |  |  |
| N2O |  |  |
| Other |  |  |

### Baseline Scenario (VCS, 3.13)

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 (VCS, 3.14)

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. If the project is in a non-Annex 1 country and is claiming regulatory additionality due to non-enforcement of a law, confirm that the evidence provided supports this claim.
* 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. If the project is in a non-Annex 1 country and is claiming regulatory additionality due to non-enforcement of a law, confirm that the evidence provided supports this claim.
* 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 details (including sources of information) of steps taken to cross-check data used in additionality demonstration. Provide an overall conclusion regarding whether additionality is justified for the project.

### Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals (VCS, 2.5, 3.2, 3.6, 3.15, 4.1, 4.3)

Identify the quantification methods that will be used for GHG emission reductions and removals generated by the project during the project crediting period. 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 emissions.
* Summary of net GHG emission reductions or carbon dioxide 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 and are in conformance with the VCS Program rules.
* All estimates of the baseline emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the project description.

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 reductions and removals.

### Methodology Deviations (VCS, 3.20)

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 the 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.

### Monitoring Plan (VCS, 3.16, 3.20)

Identify the parameters to be monitored and describe the steps taken to validate the suitability and eligibility of the monitoring equipment and procedures (i.e., Process and schedule for obtaining, recording, compiling, and analyzing the monitored data and parameters).

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 (VCS, 3.18; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.15)

Where relevant, 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 the quality of any documentation and data provided to support the risk score.
* A conclusion regarding the appropriateness of the risk score.

*Provide a conclusion regarding the determined value of the overall risk rating.*

### Optional Gold Level: Regional Climate Change Scenarios (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, CM1.1)

Identify, discuss, and justify conclusions regarding interactions at the start of the project between the communities and community groups.

### High Conservation Values (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB CM2.2)

Describe the steps taken to validate the measures needed and designed to mitigate any negative well-being impacts on community groups, such as pollutants (air, noise, discharges to water, generation of waste, release of hazardous materials and chemical pesticides and fertilizers), and the safety of women, girls, children, and other marginalized 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 how 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 (CCB, CM2.4)

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

### Impacts on Other Stakeholders (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, CM3.1)

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

### Mitigation of Negative Impacts on Other Stakeholders (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCBM CM3.2)

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

### Net Impacts on Other Stakeholders (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, 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 (CCB, 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, and also include 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, GL2.6)

Where measures taken to validate the project’s benefit sharing mechanisms are already described in Section 3.1.12.8 above, indicate so here and leave the rest of the section blank.

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 (VCS, 3.18; CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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.

Where the project is located in or adjacent to habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species, describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of the project’s mitigation measures implemented to prevent negative impacts on rare, threatened, or endangered species. If the project is not located in or adjacent to a habitat of such species, provide the assessment method used and overall conclusion in the table. Add rows as needed.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Species and habitat | Evaluation of whether the project will adversely impact habitats and areas needed for habitat connectivity for rare, threatened, or endangered species. |
| Areas needed for habitat connectivity | Evaluation of whether the project will adversely impact any areas needed for habitat connectivity. |
| … | … |

### High Conservation Values (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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.

Describe the steps taken to evaluate the evidence provided by the project proponent to demonstrate no land was cleared or drained of existing natural ecosystems for ARR, ALM, WRC, or ACoGS projects, unless such clearing took place at least 10 years prior, or the dominant land cover was invasive.

### Mitigation Measures (VCS, 3.19; 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 (CCB, 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 biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change. Provide an overall conclusion as to whether the project activities will assist biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

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

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

### Species Used (VCS 3.19; CCB B2.5, B2.6)

Describe the steps taken to validate (i) the species used by the project, (ii) that no known invasive species will be introduced into any area affected by the project, and (iii) the justification that the usage of any non-native species is appropriate. Include details of documentation and observations made during the site visit. For projects with no planting or species introduction, this table may be indicated as N/A.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Species introduced** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### Invasive Species (VCS, 3.19; CCB, B2.5)

In the table below, describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of the species in the project area, and the commensurate mitigation measure(s) in place to prevent the spread or continued existence of the invasive species.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Existing invasive species** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
|  |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

### GMO Exclusion (CCB, B2.7)

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

### Inputs Justification (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 (CCB, B3.1) and Mitigation Measures (CCB, 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 (VCS, 3.19; CCB, 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 made during the site visit, if applicable.

### Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 (CCB, 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 Opinion

## Validation Summary

Clearly state that the GHG statement is the responsibility of the project proponent, and clearly state whether the project conforms with the validation criteria for projects set out in CCB Version 3 and VCS Version 4 and include any qualifications or modifications. Adverse, disclaimed, modified, or qualified opinions must include a description of the reason(s) for the opinion, placed before the validation/verification body’s conclusion.

International Accreditation Forum accreditation body approved validation/verification body opinions must include a declaration that the validation and/or verification of the GHG statement was conducted in accordance with ISO 14064-3. The applicable ISO version must be included (e.g., ISO 14064-3; 2019).

## Validation Conclusion

Describe whether the data and information supporting the GHG statement assertion were hypothetical, projected and/or historical in nature. State the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods that support a claim about the outcome of future activities, explaining that actual results may vary since the estimates are based on assumptions that are subject to change. Conclude whether the project is likely to achieve the estimated GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals described below, and the project’s stated climate change adaptive capacity and resilience, community, and biodiversity benefits. Where the project reports removals and reductions separately, these must also be validated separately.

**Crediting period:** From [DD-Month-YYYY] to [DD-Month-YYYY]

**Validated estimated GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals for the project crediting period:**

i) Provide a conclusion on the following information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The non-permanence risk rating (%) |  |
| If applicable, the long-term average, whether it has been properly updated, and if it has been reached. |  |

ii) Complete the table below for the project crediting period:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Vintage period | Estimated baseline emissions (tCO2e) | Estimated project emissions (tCO2e) | Estimated leakage emissions (tCO2e) | Estimated buffer pool allocation (tCO2e) | Estimated reductions VCUs (tCO2e) | Estimated removals VCUs (tCO2e) | Estimated total VCU issuance (tCO2e) |
| DD-MMM-YYYY to 31-Dec-YYYY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 01-Jan-YYYY to 31-Dec-YYYY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| 01-Jan-YYYY to DD-MMM-YYYY |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ... |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Total |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

# Appendix 1: Commercially Sensitive Information

Use the table below to describe the commercially sensitive information included in the project description to be excluded in the public version.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Section** | **Information** | **Justification** | **Assessment method and conclusion** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

# Appendix 2: Project Risks Table

Use this appendix to describe i) the evidence gathering activities, ii) the evidence checked, and iii) provide a conclusion on the assessment of project’s risk assessment and commensurate mitigation measures, including where no risk has been identified by the project proponent. Where no risk has been identified by the project proponent, provide a conclusion on the assessment confirming no risk has been identified.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Item** | **Identified risk(s)** | **Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion** |
| Natural and human induced risks to stakeholders’ wellbeing |  |  |
| Risks to stakeholder participation |  |  |
| Working conditions |  |  |
| Safety of women and girls |  |  |
| Safety of minority and marginalized groups including children |  |  |
| Pollutants (air, noise, discharges to water, generation of waste, and release of hazardous materials and chemical pesticides and fertilizers) |  |  |
| Discrimination |  |  |
| Sexual harassment |  |  |
| Equal pay for equal work |  |  |
| Gender equity in labor and work |  |  |
| Forced labor[[1]](#footnote-2) |  |  |
| Child labor |  |  |
| Human trafficking |  |  |
| Recognition of, respect of, and promotion of the rights to IPs, LCs and customary rights holders |  |  |
| Preserving and protecting cultural heritage |  |  |
| Protecting and preserving property rights, customary rights, or protecting legal or customary tenure/access rights to territories, property, and resources, including collective and/or conflicting rights |  |  |
| Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems |  |  |
| Soil degradation and soil erosion |  |  |
| Water consumption and stress |  |  |
| Habitats (including areas needed for habitat connectivity) for rare, threatened, and endangered species |  |  |
| Areas needed for habitat connectivity |  |  |
| Invasive species |  |  |
| Ecosystem conversion |  |  |
| [Additional risk identified] |  |  |
| …… |  |  |

# Appendix X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>

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

1. The identified risks and commensurate mitigation or preventative measure(s) for forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking, must be inclusive of staff and contracted workers employed by third parties. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)