

~~VCS~~ PROJECT DESCRIPTION TEMPLATE, VCS V5.0A + CCBS V3.0

This template is for the description of projects participating in both the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Program and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (CCBS) Program. It is only to be used for projects that are not required to use the digital project description template available on the Verra Project Hub. Project proponents intending only to complete validation under the VCS Program must use the appropriate VCS Project Description Template (v5.0A or B). Project proponents intending only to complete validation under the CCBS Program must use the CCB Project Description Template, v3.0.

Note: This template version (v5.0A) is to be used for projects that apply the requirements set out in Sections 3.7, 3.18, and 3.19 of the *VCS Standard, v4.7* for this project request.¹ It applies to projects with a project start date prior to 1 ~~July~~ January 2027 that are submitting a:

- pipeline listing request,
- registration request, or
- crediting period renewal request or verification approval request that includes a baseline reassessment submitted prior to 1 January 2030.

Instructions for completing this template

FILE NAME: The following format should be used for the file name of the completed document:

[DocumentType]_[ProjectID]_[DDMMMYYYY]_vX.Y

Components of the file name include the following:

- “DocumentType” is the type of document submitted based on the status request:
 - For pipeline listing requests as *under development*: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_DRAFT
 - For pipeline listing requests as *under validation*: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_PCP
 - For registration requests: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD

¹ These are updates V5#14 (right to operate and right to reductions and removals), V5#16 (stakeholder engagement requirements), V5#17 (safeguards requirements), V5#23 (ecosystem conservation safeguards), and V5#58 (financial transparency for benefit sharing).

- For updated versions of the project description submitted during the project crediting period (e.g., for a project description deviation, methodology change, or baseline reassessment): VCS-CCBS_PD_Updated
- For crediting period renewal requests: VCS-CCBS_PD_CP# (where # indicates the crediting period number)
- “ProjectID” is the unique project ID assigned by the Verra Registry.
- “DDMMYYYY” is the date of completion of the submitted version of the document:
 - For pipeline listing requests: the date on which the document was completed and is ready for submission
 - For all other requests: the date on which the completed document was approved by the validation/verification body (VVB) and is ready for submission
- “vX.Y” is the version of the document assigned during VVB review:
 - The version number X should be incremented for major revisions (i.e., to address findings raised by Verra in a returned request).
 - The version number Y should be incremented for minor revisions (i.e., to address clarification requests or corrective action requests raised by the VVB during an audit).

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

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Complete all sections of this template using size 10.5, black, regular (non-italic) Franklin Gothic Book font.

If an entire section or subsection is not applicable, explain and justify 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 footnotes) and guidance from the final document. Tables which are not applicable to the project type may also be deleted.

ABOUT THIS TEMPLATE

Instructions for completing each section of the project description template:

- are provided under the section headings and are formatted in *gray italics*.
- relate back to the rules and requirements set out in the VCS Standard, CCBS Standard, and other VCS or CCBS pProgram documents.
- indicate what must be included to demonstrate conformance to the VCS and CCBS Pprogram rules.
- do not necessarily represent an exhaustive list of information that must be provided under each section of the template.

Where a section addresses requirements of both the VCS and CCBS programs, the information provided, including any justifications and explanations, must demonstrate conformance to the requirements of both programs. For example, the information included in Section 3.2.1.3, “Management Experience,” must cover the experience necessary to implement activities required by both programs.

Preparers must refer to the VCS [and CCBS p](#)Program documents to gain a full understanding of the VCS [and CCBS p](#)Program rules.

New versions of templates are released when there is a change to the underlying VCS [or CCBS](#) [P](#)Program rules. Preparers must ensure that they are using the most recent applicable version of a template by reviewing the list of available templates on the Verra website and the effective dates of updated template versions when they are released.

Formatting used in this template

[Light-green](#) references below the section headings identify the requirements addressed in the section. For example, the reference below identifies the corresponding requirements in Section 4.1 of the VCS Standard, v5.0 and Section 4 of the CCBS Program Rules, v3.1:

[VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Section 4](#)

[Preparers must keep these references in the final version of the document.](#)

Instructions are formatted in gray italics. Following instructions is mandatory.

Text in blue boxes like this one provide further guidance. Following guidance is optional but recommended.

¹ Notes and contextual information are provided in footnotes.

Guidance on interpreting the terms used in this template

The following terms are used to indicate the type and depth of information expected in responses.

Term	Description/Use
“Attach”	<i>Provide the specified information as supporting evidence in an appendix or as a separate document. Attachments are typically referenced in the main response but not reproduced in full within it.</i>
“Describe”	<i>Provide narrative information by stating facts or characteristics. A description generally includes an outline of what items, features, or components exist, or an overview of what was done in terms of approach, process, or systems.</i>
“Explain”	<i>Provide the reasoning or logic behind an approach or decision, making the process and thinking transparent. An explanation generally includes how and why approaches were used or decisions were made.</i>
“Fill out the table”	<i>Complete all the fields in the table. This instruction indicates that all fields must be completed unless explicitly stated otherwise. Delete all example text from the table.</i>
“Include”	<i>Ensure that the specified information, content, or element is a part of the response. This is a general instruction on content to be covered, without prescribing format or level of detail unless otherwise stated.</i>
“Justify”	<i>Demonstrate that a choice, approach, or decision is appropriate or acceptable, supported by objective information. The justification should enable an independent</i>

	auditor to assess whether a choice, approach, or decision is appropriate. A justification generally includes: • an explanation (i.e. how and why approaches were used or decisions were made) • why alternative approaches were not chosen, where relevant • supporting data, analysis, references, or comparative examples
"Select"	Choose the applicable option(s) from those provided. This term is used for yes/no responses, multiple-choice questions, and box ticking, and does not require additional narrative unless specifically requested.
"State"	Provide only the requested information. This term is used to request facts, values, characteristics, or other details in a specified format.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: [PROJECT NAME]

Preparer's Logo (optional)

Project name	<i>State the name of the project.</i>
Project ID	<i>State the Verra project ID.</i>
Crediting period start	<i>DD-MMM-YYYY</i>
Crediting period end	<i>DD-MMM-YYYY</i>
<u>CCBS benefit period start</u>	<u><i>DD-MMM-YYYY</i></u>
<u>CCBS benefit period end</u>	<u><i>DD-MMM-YYYY</i></u>
Document completion date	<i>State the date of completion of the submitted version of the document. Example: 01-JAN-2027</i>
Document version	<i>State the version number of this document. The version number should match the version number in the document file name (see "Instructions for completing this template").</i>
Request type	<i>Select the type of request for which this template is being prepared.</i> ☐ Pipeline listing (under development) ☐ Pipeline listing (under validation) ☐ <u>CCBS validation PCP</u> ☐ <u>VCS Registration/CCBS validation</u> ☐ Crediting period renewal ☐ Verification approval with revised project description for a project description deviation, including methodology change

	☐ Verification approval with revised project description for baseline reassessment ☐ Requantification with revised project description for methodology change
VCS Standard version used for validation	<i>State the version number of the VCS Standard used by the project for validation.</i> <i>Example: VCS Standard, v5.0</i>
<u>CCBS Standard version used for validation</u>	<u><i>State the version number of the CCBS Standard used by the project for validation.</i></u> <u><i>Example: CCBS Standard, v3.1</i></u>
Methodology ID and version	<i>State the methodology ID(s) and version number(s) applied by the project for this validation.</i>
Project proponent name and contact	<i>State the name of the project proponent and their email address.</i>
<u>History of CCBS status</u>	<u><i>State the issuance date(s) of earlier validation statements, dates of previous attempts at validation, and any other related information.</i></u>
<u>Gold Level criteria</u>	<u><i>Include a list of the relevant Gold Level criteria being applied.</i></u>
<u>Expected verification schedule</u>	<u><i>Where known, state the expected schedule for initial verification.</i></u>
Prepared by	<i>State the name, organization, and role of the individual that prepared this document.</i>

Document History

Fill out the table below with the document history. For each iteration of this document, state the document file name and ensure the name includes the document type, the project ID, the document completion date, and the document version number. Describe the purpose of each different file, ensuring that a reader can understand the document history and find the correct file to review.

Document file name	Description
<i>Example:</i> VCS- <u>CCBS</u> _PD_DRAFT_[ProjectID]_[DDMMMYYYY]_v1.0	<i>Example: Draft project description submitted to Verra for a pipeline listing request as under development</i>
<i>Example:</i> VCS- <u>CCBS</u> _PD_PCP_[ProjectID]_[DDMMMYYYY]_v1.0	<i>Example: Draft project description submitted to Verra for pipeline listing request as under validation</i>

Example: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_[ProjectID]_[DDMMYYYYY]_v1.0	Example: Initial version of the final project description submitted to the VVB, before submission to Verra
Example: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_[ProjectID]_[DDMMYYYYY]_v1.1	Example: Final project description submitted to Verra for the initial registration request after minor revisions to address VVB findings
Example: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_[ProjectID]_[DDMMYYYYY]_v2.0	Example: Revised version of the final project description resubmitted to Verra for a registration request following a returned request
Example: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_Updated_[ProjectID]_[DDMMYYYYY]_v1.0	Example: Updated project description submitted to Verra for a verification approval request with a project description deviation
Example: VCS-~~CCBS~~_PD_CP2_[ProjectID]_[DDMMYYYYY]_v1.0	Example: Updated project description submitted to Verra for a crediting period renewal request for the second project crediting period

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1 SUMMARY OF PROJECT BENEFITS

1.1 Standardized Benefit Metrics

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1

Fill out the table below with the project's standardized benefit metrics. For each metric, state the estimated net benefit the project aims to achieve by the end of its lifetime. Unless explicitly stated otherwise, quantify estimates relative to the without-project scenario. State in the "section reference" column the section number(s) in this document where the estimates provided below are substantiated.

State "not applicable" where the metric does not apply and "data not available" where the metric applies but there are no means of quantification.

Category	Metric	Estimated by the end of the project lifetime	Section reference
GHG emission reductions (reductions) or carbon dioxide removals (removals)	Net estimated removals in the project area		
	Net estimated reductions in the project area		
Forest ² cover	For REDD ³ projects: Estimated number of hectares of reduced forest loss in the project area		
	For ARR ⁴ projects: Estimated number of hectares of forest cover increased in the project area		
Improved land management	Number of hectares of existing production forest land in which IFM ⁵ practices are expected to occur as a result of project activities		
	Number of hectares of non-forest land in which improved land management practices are expected to occur as a result of project activities		
Training	Total number of community members who are expected to have improved skills and/or knowledge resulting from training provided as part of project activities		
	Number of female community members who are expected to have improved skills and/or knowledge resulting from training as part of project activities		

² See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of forest.

³ See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of reduced emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD).

⁴ See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of afforestation, reforestation and revegetation (ARR).

⁵ See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of improved forest management (IFM).

<u>Employment</u>	<u>Total number of expected project workers⁶, expressed as number of full-time equivalent employees⁷</u>		
	<u>Number of women expected to be project workers, expressed as number of full-time equivalent employees</u>		
<u>Livelihoods</u>	<u>Total number of people expected to have improved livelihoods⁸ or income generated as a result of project activities</u>		
	<u>Number of women expected to have improved livelihoods or income generated as a result of project activities</u>		
<u>Health</u>	<u>Total number of people for whom health services are expected to improve as a result of project activities</u>		
	<u>Number of women for whom health services are expected to improve as a result of project activities</u>		
<u>Education</u>	<u>Total number of people for whom access to, or quality of, education is expected to improve as result of project activities</u>		
	<u>Number of women and girls for whom access to, or quality of, education is expected to improve as result of project activities</u>		
<u>Water</u>	<u>Total number of people who are expected to experience increased water quality or improved access to drinking water as a result of project activities</u>		
	<u>Number of women who are expected to experience increased water quality or improved access to drinking water as a result of project activities</u>		
<u>Well-being</u>	<u>Total number of community members whose well-being⁹ is expected to improve as a result of project activities</u>		
	<u>Number of women whose well-being is expected to improve as a result of project activities</u>		
<u>Biodiversity conservation</u>	<u>Expected change in the number of hectares managed significantly better by the project for biodiversity conservation¹⁰</u>		

⁶ See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of project worker.

⁷ Full time equivalency is calculated as the total number of hours worked (by full-time, part-time, temporary and/or seasonal staff) divided by the average number of hours worked in full-time jobs within the country, region or economic territory (adapted from the UN System of National Accounts (1993) paragraphs 17.14[15.102];[17.28])

⁸ Livelihoods are the capabilities, assets (including material and social resources) and activities required for a means of living. Krantz, Lasse. (2001). *The Sustainable Livelihood Approach to Poverty Reduction*. SIDA. Livelihood benefits may include benefits reported in the employment metrics of this table.

⁹ Well-being is people's experience of the quality of their lives. Well-being benefits may include benefits reported in other metrics of this table (e.g. training, employment, livelihoods, health, education, water), and may also include other benefits such as strengthened legal rights to resources, increased food security, conservation of access to areas of cultural significance, etc.

¹⁰ Managed for biodiversity conservation in this context means areas where specific management measures are being implemented as a part of project activities with an objective of enhancing biodiversity conservation (e.g. enhancing the status of endangered species)

Expected number of globally Critically Endangered or Endangered species¹¹ benefiting from reduced threats as a result of project activities¹²

1.2 Unique Project Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1

Fill out the table below to briefly describe two to five expected benefits of the project not captured by the standardized benefit metrics in Section 1.1 that relate to key project outcomes or positive impacts set out in the project's theory of change (Section 2.13.4). State in the "section reference" column the section number(s) in this document where the estimates provided below are substantiated.

Progress toward achieving each benefit listed here will be included in project monitoring reports.

<u>Outcome or positive impact estimated by the end of project lifetime</u>	<u>Section reference</u>
<u>1)</u>	
<u>2)</u>	
<u>3)</u>	
<u>4)</u>	
<u>5)</u>	

¹¹ Per IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species

¹² In the absence of direct population or occupancy measures, measurement of reduced threats may be used as evidence of benefit

12 PROJECT DETAILS

12.1 Summary Description of the Project

2.1.1 VCS

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.2, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, and 3.13

Briefly describe the project to enable an understanding of the nature of the project and its implementation, including the following (no more than one page):

- A summary description of the technologies/measures to be implemented by the project (e.g., plants, equipment, processes, or management or conservation measures)
- The location of the project
- An explanation of how the project is expected to generate GHG emission reductions (reductions) or carbon dioxide removals (removals)
- A brief description of the scenario existing prior to project implementation
- An estimate of annual average and total reductions and removals

2.1.2 CCBS

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.2

Briefly describe the project's climate, community, and biodiversity objectives to enable an understanding of the nature of the project and its implementation (no more than one page).

12.2 Audit History

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Section 4

Fill out the table with the full audit history of the project, including details of the forthcoming audit for this project description. Include details of any past audits for projects undergoing crediting period renewal or that were previously registered with another GHG program. Add rows as needed for each previous audit.

Audit type	Date of opening meeting	Program	Validation/ verification body name	Monitoring period start	Monitoring period end	Number of years
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<u>Choose an item.</u>	DD-MMM-YYYY	Choose an item. If other GHG program, state the program name here.	State the name of the VVB.	If applicable, state the start date of the monitoring period that was verified. DD-MMM-YYYY	If applicable, state the end date of the monitoring period that was verified. DD-MMM-YYYY	If applicable, state the number of years of reductions and removals that were verified during this audit. Example: 2.5 years

1.32.3 Sectoral Scope and Project Classification

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.2, Appendix 1; VCS Program Guide, v5.0, Section 2.4

Fill out the table below. Refer to the VCS Sectoral Scopes and Project Classification Guidance to see the full list of sectoral scopes, project categories, and project activity types, and guidance on determining the correct classification.

Sectoral scope	Select all of the sectoral scopes of the applied methodology. Where more than one sectoral scope applies, copy and paste the dropdown list below as needed. Choose an item.
Project category	Select all of the project categories that best apply to the project or that are specified by the applied methodology. Where more than one project category applies, copy and paste the dropdown list below as needed. Choose an item.
Project activity type	Select all of the project activity types that best apply to the project or that are specified by the applied methodology. Where more than one project activity type applies, copy and paste the dropdown list below as needed. Choose an item.

1.42.4 Project Eligibility

1.4.12.4.1 Deadlines for VCS Participation

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.8 and 4.1

Fill out the table below to demonstrate that the project meets the key deadlines for participation in the VCS Program.

Pipeline listing deadline	DD-MMM-YYYY If this requirement is not applicable, state "N/A."
----------------------------------	--

Pipeline listing request date	DD-MMM-YYYY
Date of listing as under validation	DD-MMM-YYYY
Registration request deadline	DD-MMM-YYYY

Guidance on terms used in this section

- Pipeline listing deadline: This date is one year from the initial crediting period start date. The deadline applies only to projects with pipeline listing requests submitted on or after 1 ~~July~~ ~~January~~ 2027.
- Pipeline listing request date: This is the date that the initial pipeline listing request was submitted to Verra (as *under development* or *under validation*).
- Date of listing as *under validation*: This is the date that the project was listed on the Verra Registry as *under validation*. The project must be listed on the Verra Registry as *under validation* before the opening meeting with the VVB.
- Registration request deadline: This date is a set number of years from the initial crediting period start date and is set out in the VCS Standard for each project type.

1.4.22.4.2 AFOLU Project Eligibility

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19

For AFOLU projects, describe and justify how the project is eligible to participate in the VCS Program.

- For all AFOLU projects, explain how the project activities do not drain or degrade the hydrological functions of ecosystems.
- For ARR, ALM, WRC, or ACoGS project activities that convert ecosystems in degraded landscapes, attach evidence that the ecosystem was degraded before the project start date.
 - Where ecosystem degradation occurred 10 years or more prior to the project start date, no further evidence is needed.
 - Where ecosystem degradation occurred within 10 years of the project start date, attach evidence that the ecosystem was not degraded due to the project activity, or evidence that the dominant land cover was an invasive species that is threatening ecosystem health.
- For ARR or WRC activities that restore degraded ecosystems, attach evidence that the project activity restores a native ecosystem type represented in the same ecoregion as the project, shown using remote sensing, aerial imagery, modeling, or other relevant literature.

2.4.3 CCBS Eligibility

CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Sections 4.2.4 and 4.6.4

Explain how the project is eligible to participate in the CCBS Program. For projects seeking validation approval, include a confirmation that:

- the project underwent public comment prior to the opening meeting with the validation/verification body, and
- the validation report and validation statement will be submitted within one year of the initiation of the public comment period.

1.4.32.4.4 Eligibility of Projects Registered with Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

For projects seeking to register with the VCS Program that are registered or were previously registered with another GHG program, fill out the table and select the appropriate responses to the questions below:

Milestone	Dates
Initial crediting period start date ¹³	DD-MMM-YYYY
Date of registration request in the other GHG program	DD-MMM-YYYY
Date of project inactivity ¹⁴ in the other GHG program	DD-MMM-YYYY

Was registration requested with the other GHG program within the required number of years¹⁵ from the initial crediting period start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is VCS Program registration being requested within 10 years of the initial crediting period start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is VCS Program registration being requested within two years of the date of project inactivity in the other GHG program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Was the other GHG program notified of the intent to register the project with the VCS Program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

¹³ The initial crediting period start date is defined based on the VCS Program Definitions, regardless of when the project started crediting with the other GHG program.

¹⁴ The date of project inactivity in the other GHG program is the end date of the last monitoring period for which reductions or removals were sought under the other GHG program. See the definition of date of project inactivity in the VCS Program Definitions.

¹⁵ Five years for AFOLU projects, two years for E&I and GCS projects. Certain exceptions apply and are set out in the VCS Standard, v5.0, Table 7.

If answering yes, explain how the other GHG program was notified of the intent to register the project with the VCS Program. Attach evidence in an appendix or separate document.

If answering no to any of the above, the project is not eligible to register with the VCS Program.

1.4.42.4.5 Capacity Limit Eligibility

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.5

Is the project applying a methodology with a capacity limit?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the rest of this section.

If answering no, delete the rest of this section and move onto the next section.

Is the project area within one kilometer of another project's project area?¹⁶

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how it was determined whether the project area was within one kilometer of another project's project area.

If answering no or N/A, delete the rest of this section and move onto the next section.

If answering yes, select the appropriate responses to the questions below (note that "the other project" is the project whose project area is within one kilometer of this project's area).

Does the project have the same project proponent as the other project?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how it was determined whether the other project has the same project proponent.

Is the project implementing the same project activity as the other project?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how it was determined whether the other project is implementing the same project activity.

¹⁶ This does not apply to mobile project activities under Sectoral Scope 7: Transport.

Is the project start date within two years of the other project's project start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how it was determined whether the project start date is within two years of the other project's project start date.

Does the capacity of the project and the other project summed together exceed the capacity limit of the applied methodology?

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how it was determined whether the combined capacity of the projects exceeds the capacity limit of the applied methodology.

If answering yes to all questions above, the project is considered a fragment of another project and is not eligible to register with the VCS Program.

1.52.5 Project Proponent

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.4; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.1

Fill out the table, copying and pasting it as needed for each project proponent.

Organization name	
Contact person	
Title	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	<i>The email address domain must match that of the organization.</i>

1.62.6 Other Entities Involved in the Project

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.1; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.1

Fill out the table, copying and pasting it as needed for each entity other than the project proponent that is involved in project development. This includes implementation partners.

Organization name	
-------------------	--

Role in the project	
Contact person	
Title	
Address	
Telephone	
Email	The email address domain must match that of the organization.
Description of involvement	Describe how the entity is involved with respect to implementation, management, and monitoring of the project.

1.72.7 Ownership

2.7.1 VCS

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.7

Justify how project ownership has been established and explain how the evidence of project ownership conforms to the VCS Program rules. Attach the evidence in this section, in an appendix, or as a separate document.

2.7.2 CCBS

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.8

Where additional information is necessary to establish ownership for the CCBS Program, justify how ownership is established in conformance to the CCBS Program Rules.

1.82.8 Project Start Date and Initial Crediting Period Start Date

1.812.8.1 Project Start Date

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.7; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.9; CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Section 3.3.1

Project start date	DD-MMM-YYYY
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Describe the significant action that determines the project start date and explain how it conforms to the definition in the VCS Program Definitions and any other criteria set out in the applied methodology. Include confirmation that:

- the project start date is based on the earliest of the first significant actions, for projects with multiple project activities.

- the project start date is not based on pilot testing in the project area. If it is based on such pilot testing, explain how the project start date conforms to the requirements set out in the VCS Standard related to such activities.
- the project start date is not based on stakeholder engagement activities that are required to occur before the project start date.

1.8.22.8.2 Initial Crediting Period Start Date

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.8

Initial crediting period start date DD-MMM-YYYY

Explain how this date meets the definition of initial crediting period start date in the VCS Program Definitions and any other criteria set out in the applied methodology. For projects with multiple project activities, include confirmation that the initial crediting period start date is based on implementation of the earliest project activity.

1.9.2.9 Project Crediting Period and Benefits Assessment Period

2.9.1 Project Crediting Period

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.8; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.9

Fill out the table below for this project crediting period and the total crediting period duration:

Crediting period length	☐ Five years ☐ 20–100 years (specify below) Where a 20–100-year crediting period length is selected: - state the crediting period length (e.g., 30 years). - explain how the selected length conforms to the VCS Standard (for ARR or IFM projects with harvesting) or applied methodology (for REDD projects).
Start date of this crediting period	DD-MMM-YYYY
End date of this crediting period	DD-MMM-YYYY
Crediting period number	Example: 3 (if renewed twice previously)
Maximum total project crediting period duration	Example: 15 years

2.9.2 Benefits Assessment Period

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.9

State the period over which changes in climate change adaptive capacity and resilience, biodiversity, and community well-being resulting from project activities are monitored.

Explain any difference between the benefits assessment period and the project crediting period.

1.102.10 Project Scale

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.9

Select the estimated annual net reductions and removals of the project during this crediting period:

☐ ≤300 000 tCO₂e/year (project)

☐ >300 000 tCO₂e/year (large project)

Fill out the table to state the estimated net reductions and removals for each calendar year (i.e., vintage period) of the crediting period. For grouped projects, these estimates should be based on initial project activity instances only:

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated net reductions and removals (tCO ₂ e)
DD-MMM-YYYY	31-DEC-YYYY	
01-JAN-YYYY	31-DEC-YYYY	
01-JAN-YYYY	DD-MMM-YYYY	
...		
Total estimated net reductions and removals in this crediting period		
Total number of years in this crediting period		
Average annual net reductions and removals in this crediting period		

1.112.11 Project Design

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.5

Select whether the project has been designed as:

☐ Single instance of a single project activity

☐ Multiple instances of a single project activity

☐ Multiple instances of multiple project activities

☐ Grouped project

☐ Expanding CCS project

Fill out the table below. Add rows as needed for projects implementing multiple project activities with different types of instances.

Project activity instance	Explanation
State what is considered to be a project activity instance in the project. Examples: A cookstove, a waste treatment facility, a farm plot, a wind turbine	Explain how the project's designation of an instance conforms to the definition of a project activity instance as set out in the VCS Program Definitions.

1.11.12.11.1 Grouped Project Design

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.5; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G1.13–G1.15

2.11.1.1 VCS

This section only applies to grouped projects. For non-grouped projects, explain that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions and tables, and move to the next section.

For grouped projects, fill out the table below to list all project eligibility areas, adding rows as needed.

Each eligibility area should have a unique ID. For projects previously registered with the VCS Program that have not yet assigned IDs to their existing eligibility areas, assign them here and include in the "Summary of characteristics" column any previous name or identifying information of such eligibility areas.

Eligibility area ID	Summary of characteristics
[Project ID]_EA[Eligibility Area ID] For example: 9001_EA1	Describe the eligibility area's characteristics, including: - physical boundary of eligibility area. - project activities carried out in eligibility area and the methodology(ies) applied. - the initial project activity instances taking place in the eligibility area.
Add rows as needed	

2.11.1.2 CCBS

For grouped projects, describe potential eligibility areas, project activity instances (i.e., project areas), and communities that may be included in the project at a future verification.

2.11.1.3 VCS Eligibility Criteria

For each eligibility area, fill out the table below with a list of all criteria for adding project activity instances (instances) within the eligibility area. For each eligibility criteria type, one or more eligibility criteria should be specified. Copy and paste the table as needed for each eligibility area.

Eligibility area ID	State the eligibility area ID
Eligibility criteria type	Eligibility criteria
Uniquely identifiable	State the criteria for ensuring that each instance is uniquely identifiable. Example: - Each distributed cookstove has the project's logo, a unique numeric code, and geodetic coordinates logged in a secure database. - Each farm has a unique ID and is precisely delineated in an updated geolocation file at each verification event.
Baseline scenario	State the criteria for ensuring that each instance shares the baseline scenario established for the initial instances in Section 4.1.44.1.44.1.43.4. Example: - Each cookstove is distributed to households that use either three-stone fires or traditional charcoal stoves. - Each new instance is within the same ecoregion and policy environment, and on lands with the same land tenure as the initial instances.
Additionality	State the criteria for ensuring that each instance shares the same conditions as the initial instances in terms of the additionality demonstrated for the initial instances in Section 4.1.54.1.54.1.53.5. Example: - All cookstoves are distributed free of cost. - All farms added are smallholder farms facing knowledge barriers, where farmers have not received training to implement no-till, crop rotation, or drip irrigation systems.
Technology or measure	State the criteria for ensuring that each instance shares the same technologies or measures. Example:

	- All distributed cookstoves are portable, with a minimum efficiency of 40%. - Only native species are planted, at no more than 1100 trees per hectare.
Methodology applicability conditions	State the criteria for ensuring that each instance meets all the applicability conditions of the applied methodology. Example: - The cookstoves are distributed to households and communities. - The land cover of the farm is cropland.

2.11.1.4 CCBS Eligibility Criteria

State the criteria for ensuring that each project activity instance is subject to the same:

- community and biodiversity without-project scenarios as determined for the project.
- processes for stakeholder engagement described in the CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3, and respect for rights to lands, territories and resources including free, prior, and informed consent described in the CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.
- monitoring elements (e.g., methods).

2.11.1.5 CCBS Scalability Limit

State the established scalability limits. Include, as appropriate, economic and managerial constraints, and thresholds for project expansion beyond which there may be negative impacts on communities or biodiversity (e.g., expansion exceeds management or monitoring capacity; expansion into areas with different biodiversity, social, or land-use conditions than those previously assessed). Where scalability limits do not apply, explain why.

2.12.12 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation and Most Likely Without-Project Land Use Scenario

2.12.1 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.12; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.3

For GCS and E&I projects, fill out the following table:

Conditions prior to project initiation	<u>Describe the conditions existing in the project area prior to initiation of the project.</u>
List of facilities, systems, and equipment	<u>Include a list of the facilities, systems, and equipment in operation under the existing scenario prior to project initiation. Describe the types and levels of services provided by the existing facilities, systems, or equipment and explain how they are equivalent to what will be provided by the project.</u>

For AFOLU projects, fill out the following table:

Ecosystem type	Describe the ecosystem type(s) existing in the project area prior to project initiation.
Current and historical land use	Describe the current and historical land use of the project area.
Current and historical environmental conditions of the project area	Describe the climate, hydrology, topography, soils, vegetation, and other relevant historic conditions of the project area.

2.12.2 Without-Project Land Use Scenarios

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.1

Describe the range of potential land use scenarios and the associated drivers of land use changes likely to occur within the project zone in the absence of the project.

2.12.3 Most-Likely Scenario Justification

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.1

Justify the most likely of the without-project land use scenarios through a credible and well-documented analysis. Where a published methodology or model is used to assess land use change and the drivers of land use change, include the full reference, and explain any variations from the published methodology.

Attach evidence in an appendix or separate document. Acceptable evidence includes, but is not limited to, poverty assessments, farming knowledge assessments, or remote sensing analysis.

2.12.4 Community and Biodiversity Additionality

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.2

Justify how community and biodiversity project benefits would not occur in the absence of the project. Explain how project activities would not have been implemented under the without-project scenario due to significant financial, technological, institutional or capacity barriers, where applicable.

Explain how existing laws, regulations, and governance arrangements, or lack of laws and arrangements, would likely affect land use in the absence of the project. Where project activities are required by law, explain how pertinent laws are not being enforced.

2.12.5 Benefits to be Used as Offsets

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.2

Fill out the table to describe any distinct community and biodiversity benefits intended to be used as offsets and explain how additionality is established for each benefit intended for this purpose. Add rows as necessary.

Do not include any information on climate benefits.

Classification	Benefit	Additionality
Select the appropriate classification Select	Describe the benefit intended to be used as offset.	Explain how additionality is established for this benefit.

1.13.2.13 Description of the Project Activityies and Expected Benefits

1.13.12.13.1 Description of Project Activity

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.1 and 3.5

Describe the project activity(ies) and the technology or measures to be employed to implement each project activity. Explain how the project activity(ies) will achieve the estimated reductions or removals.

~~For AFOLU projects, include a list of each measure to be employed to implement the project activity, including any conservation, management, or planting activities.~~

~~For GCS and E&I projects, include a list of all technologies, systems, or equipment to be employed for the project activity, by filling out one table below for each technology, system, or type of equipment:~~

Technology, system, or equipment	State the name of the manufacturing or production technology, system, or equipment being used, modified, or installed.
Age and average lifetime	State the age and average lifetime of the equipment, based on manufacturer specifications and industry standards.
Technical specifications	State the existing and forecasted installed capacities, load factors, and efficiencies.
Type and level of service provided	State the types and levels of services (in terms of mass or energy flows) provided by the technology, measure, or equipment and their relation, if any, to other manufacturing or production equipment and systems outside the project boundary.

1.13.22.13.2 Implementation Schedule

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.2 and 3.7; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.9

Fill out the table below to describe the schedule of milestones or actions planned in project development and implementation, such as preparatory meetings, start and end dates for each project activity, and monitoring dates. Add rows as needed for each milestone or action.

Date	Milestone or action	Description
DD-MMM-YYYY	Example: Purchase and transport of seedlings	Example: Seedlings are to be purchased from the distributor and transported to the project area.
DD-MMM-YYYY	Example: Cookstoves distributed to Village A	Example: Cookstoves are to be distributed to eligible households in Village A.

2.13.3 Social Parameters

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.3

Briefly describe the basic social parameters of the project. These may include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Main settlements (towns, villages, or household clusters where communities reside).
- Land use and economic activities (e.g., farming and pastoral practices or culture, areas of use for collection, fishing or hunting, managed and conservation lands).
- Relevant historical conditions.
- Socio-cultural information (e.g. ethnicity, gender, age, household income, land ownership, education, health statistics, migration patterns).

2.13.4 Theory of Change

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.8

Briefly describe the expected outputs, outcomes, and impacts of all project activities, using a theory of change to explain how they will achieve the project's predicted climate, community, and biodiversity benefits. Include information on any conservation, management, or planting activities, as well as how the various organizations, communities, and other entities are involved.

Appendix 3: Project Activities and Theory of Change TableAppendix 3: Project Activities and Theory of Change Table may be used to present the theory of change. Delete the appendix if it is not used. Alternative formats, such as a results chain, may be used to illustrate the theory of change.¹⁷

2.13.5 Risks to the Project's Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.10

¹⁷ For examples, see: Richards, M. and Panfil, S.N. (2011). *Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) Manual for REDD+ Projects: Part 1 – Core Guidance for Project Proponents*. Climate, Community & Biodiversity Alliance. Forest Trends, Fauna & Flora International, and Rainforest Alliance. Washington, DC. pp. 34–42.

Fill out the table below to:

- state the identified natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community, and biodiversity benefits during the project lifetime.
- describe the potential negative impact of each risk.
- describe the mitigation measures designed to address each risk.

<u>Identified risk</u>	<u>Potential negative impact of risk on climate, community or biodiversity benefits</u>	<u>Measures designed to mitigate the risk</u>

2.13.6 Permanence of Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.11

Fill out the table to describe the measures to be implemented to maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime.

<u>Climate</u>	
<u>Community</u>	
<u>Biodiversity</u>	

2.13.7 Financial Sustainability

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.12

Justify how financial mechanisms adopted provide an adequate projected or actual flow of funds for project implementation and to achieve the project's climate, community, and biodiversity benefits. Attach evidence in an appendix or separate document of projected or actual revenues from reductions or removals or other sources.

2.14 Project Location and Project Zone Map

2.14.1 Project Location

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.10

Fill out the table below to state the project location, copying and pasting the table as needed for additional countries.

Country	<u>State the country.</u>
----------------	---------------------------

Region/state/province	State all applicable regions, states, and provinces.
District (if applicable)	State all applicable districts.
Community/ municipality/city	State all applicable communities, municipalities, and cities.

Include one or more maps that display the following:

- ~~• For E&I and GCS projects: the geodetic coordinates of all project activity instances~~
- ~~• For AFOLU projects:~~
- ~~P~~olygons that specify the project area
- ~~A~~ll other geographic areas required by the applied methodology (e.g., buffer zones, control sites, leakage belts, reference regions)
- For grouped projects: the eligibility area(s)

Include any further information on project location required by the applied methodology or other applicable VCS Program rules (e.g., ~~GCSWRC~~-specific requirements).

~~For AFOLU projects, s~~State whether the project is located within a jurisdiction covered by a jurisdictional REDD+ program.

Attach a geolocation file separately that includes all the spatial information listed below and is prepared in accordance with the Geolocation File Requirements.

2.14.2 Project Zone Map

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G1.4–G1.7, G1.13, CM1.2, and B1.2

Attach a map of the CCBS project zone including:

- Boundaries of the project zone, defined as the area encompassing the project area(s) in which project activities that directly affect land and associated resources, including activities such as those related to provision of alternate livelihoods and community development, are implemented.
- Location of communities (identified in Section 3.1.1), including IPs, LCs, customary rights holders, and stakeholders (VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18.1(6)).
- Boundaries of the project area(s), defined as the area(s) where project activities aim to generate net climate benefits.
- Any spatially identifiable high conservation value (HCV) areas (identified in Sections 5.1.2 and 6.1.2).
- Areas where positive and negative offsite climate impacts are predicted.
- Areas where other stakeholders will be positively and negatively impacted (Sections 3.2.2 and 3.3).

- Areas where positive and negative offsite biodiversity impacts are predicted (Section 6.36-38.3).

1.152.15 Compliance with Laws and Other Regulatory Frameworks

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.1; VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.1; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G3.11 and G5.6

Fill out the table with all local, regional, and national laws and other regulatory frameworks that the project is subject to or that are relevant to the project. Explain how the project complies with such laws and regulatory frameworks. Add rows to the table as needed.

Name of law or regulatory framework	Explanation of compliance
State the name of the law or regulatory framework.	Explain how the project complies with the law or regulatory framework. Include a link to where the law or regulatory framework can be reviewed. Attach any evidence of compliance in an appendix.

Select the appropriate response to the questions below.

Is any principal, beneficial owner, or key associated person or entity involved in the project:

- a) A politically exposed person (defined as a person who holds, or has recently held, a prominent public function or position, or any relative of such person)

☐ Yes ☐ No

- b) Designated on international sanctions or watch lists

☐ Yes ☐ No

- c) Owned 50% or more by a sanctioned person or entity

☐ Yes ☐ No

- d) Significantly controlled, whether financially, structurally, or operationally by a sanctioned person or entity

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes to any of the above, explain how the project remains in conformance to Section 3.1.4 of the VCS Standard, v4.7.

~~1.16.1.1~~ **2.16** Double Counting and Participation with Other GHG Programs~~1.16.1.2~~ **2.16.1** No Double Issuance2.16.1.1 VCSVCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Is the project receiving or seeking credit with another GHG program for reductions and removals from the project activity(ies)?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the tables below with details of the reductions and removals claimed under the other GHG program:

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Volume	Serial number(s)	Other relevant identification information
DD-MMM-YYYY	DD-MMM-YYYY			
Add rows as needed				

Name and contact information of program administrator	State the name and contact information of the program administrator.
Details of participation	Describe the project's participation in the program.
Evidence of no double counting	Describe the evidence provided here and explain how it meets the requirements for such evidence set out in the VCS Standard. Attach evidence of no double counting in an appendix or as a separate document.

2.16.1.2 CCBSCCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.9

Is the project receiving or seeking any other form of community, social, or biodiversity unit, label, or credit?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, attach evidence of no double issuance as required by the CCBS Standard. Include all relevant information about the community, social, or biodiversity credit.

1.16.22.16.2 Registration with Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Has the project ever been registered with any other GHG program?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the table below:

Name of other GHG program	
Project ID	State the registration number or project ID of the project with the other GHG program.
Date of project inactivity ¹⁸	DD-MMM-YYYY
Evidence that the project is considered inactive in the other GHG program	Explain how the project is considered inactive in the other GHG program (e.g., a withdrawn, inactive, or de-registered status, or other status or communication that indicates the project is no longer active). Attach evidence in an appendix or as a separate document.

1.16.32.16.3 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Has the project been rejected by any other GHG program?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the table below:

Name of other GHG program	
Date of rejection	DD-MMM-YYYY
Reason for rejection	
Any other relevant information	

1.172.17 Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

1.17.12.17.1 No Double Claiming with Emissions Trading Programs or Binding Emission Limits

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22

¹⁸ This is the end date of the last monitoring period for which reductions or removals were sought under the other GHG program. See the definition of date of project inactivity in the VCS Program Definitions.

Are project reductions and removals or project activities also included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit?¹⁹

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the table below:

Name and contact information of program or limit administrator	
Details of participation	<i>Describe the project's participation in the program or limit.</i>
Project activities included	<i>Describe the project activities that are included in the program or limit.</i>
Reductions and removals included	<i>Include the scope, quantity, and any other relevant identification information for the reductions or removals that are included in the program or limit.</i>
Vintage period(s)	<i>State the start and end dates of the vintage period(s) of the reductions and removals included in the program or limit.</i>
Evidence of no double counting	<i>Describe the evidence provided to show no double counting and explain how it meets the requirements for such evidence set out in the VCS Standard. Attach evidence in an appendix or as a separate document.</i>

1.17.22.17.2 No Double Claiming with Other Forms of Environmental Credit

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22

Has the project activity sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from any other GHG-related environmental credit system?²⁰

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the table below:

Name and contact information of credit system administrator	
Details of participation	<i>Describe the project's participation in the GHG-related environmental credit system.</i>

¹⁹ See the VCS Program Definitions for definitions of emissions trading program and binding emission limit.

²⁰ See the VCS Program Definitions for the definition of GHG-related environmental credit system.

Vintage period(s)	State the start and end dates of the vintage period(s) of the GHG-related environmental credits related to the project or project activity.
Project activity scope	Describe the scope of the project activities that are included in the GHG-related environmental credit system.
Other information	Include all other relevant identification information for GHG-related environmental credits related to the project or project activity.
Evidence of no double counting	Describe the evidence and explain how it meets the requirements for such evidence set out in the VCS Standard. Attach evidence in an appendix or as a separate document.

1.17.32.17.3 Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22

Do the project activities affect the emissions footprint of any products (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how the selected response was determined.

If answering yes, select the appropriate response to the following question:

Are any project proponents or authorized representatives a buyer or seller of the products (goods or services) that are part of a supply chain?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Justification

Justify the selection and describe how the selected response was determined.

If answering yes, select the appropriate response to the following question:

Has the project proponent or authorized representative posted a public statement on their website stating, "Carbon credits may be issued through Verified Carbon Standard Project [project ID] for the greenhouse gas emission reductions or carbon dioxide removals associated with [project proponent or authorized representative organization name(s)] [name of product(s)] whose emissions footprint is changed by the project activities."

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes to all:

Attach evidence of the public statement in an appendix or as a separate document.

1.182.18 Sustainable Development Contributions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.16

Fill out the table below to describe the expected sustainable development (SD) contributions of the project activities or any additional activities implemented by the project proponent. Add one table for each SD contribution, copying and pasting the table as needed.

Guidance on SD contributions

Where a single activity contributes to multiple SDGs, the project proponent should choose only the most relevant contribution (i.e., report only one SD contribution for each activity). For example, a project proponent installing a water filtration system may choose to state the activity as a contribution to SDG 6: clean water and sanitation or SDG 3: good health and well-being, but not both.

For guidance on completing this section of the template, see the most recent version of the VCS Guidance: Right to Operate, Sustainable Development, Stakeholder Engagement, and Safeguards, v5.0.

SD contribution number	State the ID number of this SD contribution (e.g., 1)
SDG target	State the SDG name, target number, and text for this contribution, matching the exact name in the official list of indicators. ²¹
SD contribution indicator type and name	Select the type of indicator being used to quantify contributions: ☐ Official SDG indicator ☐ Project-specific indicator²² State the name of the indicator. For official SDG indicators, match the exact number and name in the official list of indicators.^{21,22,10}
Indicator metadata	Briefly describe the indicator metadata.²³ Include all information listed in the bullets below. Disaggregation is optional. • Calculation (including frequency) • Unit • Data sources (for the baseline and contributions) • Baseline (number and year) • Expected contributions (numbers and years)

²¹ See the "Global Indicator Framework for the Sustainable Development Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/indicators-list/>

²² Where no official SDG indicator is suitable for the project

²³ SDG indicator metadata are available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/metadata/>

Planned activities and expected contributions	Briefly describe the planned activities and how they are expected to contribute to sustainable development, measured by the selected indicator.
Relevant national SDG objectives	Briefly describe any relevant national SDG objectives related to this activity. Include the national SDG objectives and source.

1.19.2.19 Additional Information

1.19.12.19.1 Leakage Management

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.5 and 3.14

If applicable, describe the leakage management plan and implementation of leakage risk mitigation measures.

1.19.22.19.2 Sensitive Information

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.5; CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Sections 3.5.13 and 3.5.14

Will any information in this project description be excluded from the public version as commercially sensitive or program sensitive information?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Will any information in this project description be excluded from the public version as commercially sensitive or program sensitive information?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes, fill out Appendix 1: Sensitive Information with information about what should be excluded from the public version of the project description. Further instructions are provided in Appendix 1.

1.19.32.19.3 Further Information

Include any additional relevant legislative, technical, economic, sectoral, social, environmental, geographic, site-specific, and/or temporal information that may have a bearing on the eligibility of the project, the reductions or removals, or quantification of the project's reductions or removals.

23 SAFEGUARDS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

2.13.1 Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

2.1.13.1.1 Stakeholder Identification

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G1.5, G1.6, G1.13, and CM1.1

Fill out the table below to describe the stakeholder identification process. Where the rows do not apply, explain why in the righthand column.

Stakeholder identification	Describe the process(es) used to identify stakeholders likely impacted by the project. ~~List the stakeholders identified.~~
Stakeholder descriptions	~~Include a list of all communities, community groups, and other stakeholders. Describe each stakeholder's relevance to project activities.~~ ~~For grouped projects, identify communities that may join the project.~~ ~~Appendix 4: Stakeholder Description Table~~ ~~Appendix 4: Stakeholder Description Table~~ ~~Appendix 4: Stakeholder Description Table may be used to present this list. Delete the appendix if it is not used.~~
Legal or customary tenure/access rights	Describe any legal or customary tenure or access rights to territories and resources, including collective and conflicting rights, held by stakeholders, Indigenous People (IPs), local communities (LCs), and customary rights holders.
Stakeholder diversity and changes over time	Describe the social, economic, and cultural diversity within stakeholder groups, the differences and interactions between the stakeholder groups, and any changes in the make-up of each group over time.
Expected changes in well-being	~~Describe the expected changes in well-being and other stakeholder characteristics relative to the baseline scenario, including changes to ecosystem services identified as important to stakeholders.~~
Location of stakeholders	~~Describe the location of stakeholders, IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders, and areas outside the project area that are predicted to be impacted by the project.~~
Location of resources	Describe the location of territories and resources which stakeholders own or to which they have customary access.

3.1.2 Stakeholder Access to Information

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G3.1–G3.3, GL2.7, CL4.2, CM4.3, and B4.3

Fill out the table below to describe stakeholder access to information.

<u>Stakeholder access to project documents</u>	<u>Describe how full project documentation, including project description and monitoring reports, as they become available through the project lifetime, has been and will be made accessible to communities and other stakeholders.</u>
<u>Dissemination of summary project documentation</u>	<u>Describe how summary project documentation, including information required for Sections G1.1–9 of the CCBS Standard, v3.1, and the climate, community, and biodiversity monitoring plans documented in Sections 4.3.24.3.26.2, 5.45.47.4.1, and 6.46.48.4.1, has been actively disseminated to communities and made publicly available online.</u> <u>Describe how summary information, at a minimum, on monitoring results will be actively disseminated and communicated to communities.</u>
<u>Informational meetings with stakeholders</u>	<u>Describe informational meetings with communities and local stakeholders, and how they will be or were publicized.</u>
<u>Community costs, risks, and benefits</u>	<u>Explain how relevant and adequate information on the potential costs, risks, and benefits of project participation will be provided to communities in a form they understand and in a timely manner before any decisions regarding participation in the project are made.</u> <u>Describe the participatory and transparent process used to identify and communicate the potential costs, risks, and benefits.</u>
<u>Information to stakeholders on validation and future verification process</u>	<u>Describe how communities and other stakeholders are informed of the process for validation and verification. Include measures taken and communication methods used.</u>
<u>Site visit information and opportunities to communicate with auditor</u>	<u>Describe how communities and other stakeholders will be informed of the auditor's site visit in a timely manner before the site visit occurs, and how direct and independent communication between communities and other stakeholders or their representatives and the auditor will be facilitated.</u>

2.1.23.1.3 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G3.4 and G3.5

Fill out the table below to describe the process for and outcomes of the stakeholder consultation conducted prior to project initiation.

Date of stakeholder consultation	DD-MMM-YYYY
Stakeholder engagement process before implementation of project activities	Describe the process to engage stakeholders in a culturally appropriate manner (e.g., dates of announcements or meetings, language, and gender sensitivity). Describe the process or methods used to document the outcomes.
Consultation outcome before implementation of project activities	Include a summary of discussion on: - consent to project design and implementation. ~~risks, costs, and benefits of the project.~~ - all relevant laws and regulations covering workers' rights in the host country. ~~free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).~~ ~~the VCS validation and verification process.~~
Ongoing communication	~~Describe the mechanisms for ongoing communication (e.g., how stakeholders are kept updated, including dates of announcements, meetings, what language was used, and how communication was gender sensitive) with stakeholders and how the mechanisms were established.~~
Stakeholder input received before implementation of project activities	Describe how due account was taken of all input received during the consultation that occurred before implementation of project activities. Include details on any updates to the project design or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate.

Influence in Project Design and Implementation

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G3.4–G3.7, and GL2.3

Ongoing communication, continued consultation, and adaptive management (VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18.5)	<u>Describe the plan established to continue communication and consultation between the project proponent, communities, and other stakeholders about the project (e.g., how stakeholders are kept updated, including dates of announcements and meetings, what language was used, and how communication was gender-sensitive). Explain how the plan was established.</u> <u>Explain the adaptive management processes the project will use to consider stakeholder input.</u>
Stakeholder consultation channels	<u>Explain how all consultations and participatory processes have been undertaken directly with communities and other stakeholders, or through their legitimate representatives.</u> <u>Justify how adequate levels of information sharing have occurred.</u>

<u>Stakeholder participation in decision-making and implementation</u>	<u>Describe the measures designed to enable effective participation, as appropriate, of all communities. Explain the culture- and gender-sensitivity of implementation of such measures.</u>
<u>Anti-discrimination</u>	<u>Describe the measures designed to ensure that all entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in, or complicit in, any form of discrimination (e.g., discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or other habits).</u> <u>Explain the measures implemented to prevent sexual harassment resulting from project activities, and justify the actions taken to address any incidents of sexual harassment that have occurred.</u>

2.1.33.1.4 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G5.2 and G5.3

Fill out the table below to describe the outcome of the FPIC process as part of stakeholder consultation.

Obtaining consent	Describe how consent to implement project activities was obtained from those concerned, including IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders, and explain how a transparent agreement was reached. Describe any ongoing or unresolved conflicts and justify how the project does not exacerbate nor influence the outcomes of unresolved conflicts.
Outcome of FPIC process	Describe the outcome of the FPIC process, the transparent agreement, and the information disclosed prior to establishing a transparent agreement with those concerned, including IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders. Justify how the project has not encroached on land, relocated people without consent, nor forced physical or economic displacement.

Approvals

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.7

Explain the process for obtaining approval from appropriate authorities, including established formal or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities.

2.1.43.1.5 Grievance Redress Procedure

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3.8

Fill out the table below to describe the grievance redress procedures developed to resolve any conflicts which may arise between the project proponent and stakeholders.

Development process	Describe the process used to develop the grievance redress procedure including processes for receiving, hearing, responding to, and attempting to resolve grievances within a reasonable time frame, taking into account culturally appropriate conflict resolution methods.
Grievance redress procedure	Describe the grievance redress procedures developed with stakeholders <u>and explain how they conform to the applicable VCS and CCBS program requirements regarding the procedure's content, stages, and public availability.</u>

Accessibility of the Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3.8

Explain how the grievance redress procedure conforms to the applicable CCBS Program requirements on accessibility.

Describe how the feedback and grievance redress procedure is publicized and accessible, and how grievances and project responses are documented and made publicly available.

2.1.53.1.6 Public Comments

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.18; CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Sections 4.3.9, 4.3.12, and 4.6.4-4.6.6

Fill out the table below to list any public comments submitted during the public comment period and any comments received after the public comment period. Justify how due account was taken of all comments received. Include details on when each comment was received. Explain whether any updates were made to the project design or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate. If the completed table exceeds five pages, it may be attached as an appendix instead and briefly referenced here.

Comment received	Actions taken
Include a summary of comment received.	Include a summary of actions taken and any project design updates or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate.

2.23.2 Environmental, Social and Governance Safeguards~~Risks to Stakeholders and the Environment~~

3.2.1 Management Capacity

3.2.1.1 Project Governance Structures

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.1

Describe the project's governance structures, and roles and responsibilities of all entities involved in project design and implementation.

For grouped projects, identify any new entities included in the project since the last CCBS validation or verification.

3.2.1.2 Technical Skills

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.2

State the key technical skills required to implement the project successfully, including expertise in community engagement, biodiversity assessment, carbon measurement, and monitoring.

2.2.1.13.2.1.3 Management Experience

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.2

Describe the management team's expertise and experience in implementing similar project activities and engaging communities. Where relevant expertise and experience is lacking, explain how the project proponent has partnered with other organizations to support the project or has a recruitment strategy to fill the identified gaps.

2.2.1.23.2.1.4 Financial Health of Implementing Organization(s)

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.3

Explain the financial health of the implementing organization(s) to ensure adequate financial support over the project lifetime.

3.2.1.5 Avoidance of Corruption and Other Unethical Behavior

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.3

Explain that the project proponent and any other entities involved in the project design and implementation are not involved in, or complicit in, any form of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion. Describe any measures to be implemented to avoid such actions.

2.2.23.2.2 Risk Assessment

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G3.2, CM2.1, CM2.2, and GL2.3

Fill out the table below to describe the risk assessment and outcome of potential risks to stakeholders and the environment. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state "No risk identified" in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risk category	Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken
Stakeholders' well-being			
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)

2.33.3 Respect for Human Rights and Equity

2.3.13.3.1 Labor and Work

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections, G3.9–G3.12

Risk Assessment

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize the risks to rights related to labor and work. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state “No risk identified” in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risk category	Risks identified ²⁴	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken
Discrimination			
Sexual harassment			
Equal pay for equal work			
Gender equity in labor and work			

²⁴ The identified risks and commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) for forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking must be inclusive of staff and contracted workers employed by third parties.

Forced labor			
Child labor			
Human trafficking			
Occupational safety			

Protection of Workers and Their Rights

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize the measures to be implemented to protect workers and their rights. Where these measures are already included as mitigation measures in the risk assessment table above, state the relevant risk category field.

<u>Worker training</u>	<i>Describe measures to be implemented to provide orientation and training for project workers and a wide range of people from the communities, with the objective of building useful local skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. Describe how local capacity is not lost through staff turnover.</i>
<u>Community employment opportunities</u>	<i>Justify how all people from the communities will be given an equal opportunity to fill all work positions (including management) if the job requirements are met. Explain how equal opportunities have been or will be provided in the context of gender equity and equal pay for labor and work. Explain how workers are selected for positions. Where relevant, describe the measures to be implemented to ensure community members, including women and vulnerable people or marginalized people, are given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained.</i>
<u>Relevant laws and regulations related to worker's rights</u>	<i>Include a list of all relevant laws and regulations covering workers' rights in the host country and explain how the project meets or exceeds each. Describe measures to be implemented to inform workers about their rights.</i>

3.3.2 Human Rights

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2

Risk Assessment

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to recognizing, respecting, and promoting the protection of the rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders in line with applicable international human rights law, the United Nations Declaration

on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state “No risk identified” in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken

Respect for Human Rights

Justify how the project recognizes, respects, and promotes the protection of human rights, including the 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.

2.3.23.3.3 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

VCS Standard, v4.7, Sections 3.18 and 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G5.2, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2

Risk Assessment

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to recognizing, respecting, and promoting the protection of the rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders and risks to preserving and protecting cultural heritage as part of project activities. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state “No risk identified” in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation(s) or preventive measure taken

Preservation and Protection of Cultural Heritage

Explain how the project preserves and protects cultural heritage.

2.3.33.3.4 Property Rights

VCS Standard, v4.7, Sections 3.7 and 3.18–3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G5.1–G5.3, G5.5, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2

Risk Assessment

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to protecting and preserving the property rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders, and to protecting legal or customary tenure or access rights to territories, property, and resources, including collective and/or conflicting rights, held by stakeholders. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state “No risk identified” in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken

Recognition of Property Rights

Fill out the table below to explain how all property rights are recognized. Where these measures are already included as mitigation measures in the risk assessment table above, state the relevant risk category field.

<u>Statutory and customary property rights</u>	<u>Describe and map tenure, use, access, and management rights to lands, territories, and resources in the project zone.</u>
<u>Respect for property rights</u>	<u>Justify how all property rights are recognized, respected, and supported. Include in the response how:</u> <u>the project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property, or government property.</u> <u>appropriate restitution or compensation has been allocated to any parties whose lands have been or will be affected by the project.</u> <u>Where applicable, describe measures needed, designed, and implemented by the project to help to secure statutory rights.</u>

Protection of property rights	<u>Justify how consultations and agreements demonstrate that the project recognizes, respects, and promotes the protection of property rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders. Include how 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.</u> <u>Where any relocation of habitation or activities is undertaken within the terms of an agreement, explain how the agreement was made with the free, prior, and informed consent of those concerned and includes provisions for just and fair compensation.</u>
Ongoing disputes	<u>Describe any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over rights to lands, territories, and resources, and any disputes that were resolved during the last twenty years where such records exist, or at least during the last ten years.</u> <u>Explain how no activity is undertaken by the project that could prejudice the outcome of an unresolved dispute relevant to the project. Where applicable, describe measures to be implemented to resolve conflicts or disputes.</u>

2.3.43.3.5 Benefit Sharing

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.6

If the project impacts property rights as described in Section 002-3.4 above, fill out the table below to describe the project's benefit sharing agreement.

For projects seeking to be validated to Gold Level for exceptional community benefits, this section is required.

Process used to design the benefit-sharing agreement	Describe the process used to develop the benefit-sharing agreement with the affected stakeholder groups.
Summary of the benefit-sharing agreement	Describe the benefit-sharing agreement. If affected stakeholder groups wish to keep elements of the agreement private, attach the full arrangement as a commercially sensitive document. The project proponent must justify that the community wishes to keep this information private.

Approval and dissemination of benefit-sharing agreement

Explain how the benefit-sharing agreement was agreed upon by the affected stakeholder groups and justify how it was shared in a culturally appropriate manner. Explain how the agreement is readily accessible should stakeholders wish to review it.

3.3.6 Illegal Activity Identification

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.4

Describe any illegal activities that could affect project impacts. Describe the measures to be implemented to reduce these activities and prevent project benefits from being derived from illegal activities.

Describe the measures to be implemented to prevent the use of victims of human trafficking and the use of forced labor or child labor in project activities.

Justify how the measures are appropriate and how they will be monitored.

2.43.4 Ecosystem Health

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B1.1, B2.1, and B2.3

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems, soil degradation and soil erosion, and water consumption and stress. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state "No risk identified" in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risk category	Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken
Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems			
Soil degradation and soil erosion			

Water consumption and stress

2.4.13.4.1 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered Species

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B1.1, B2.1, and B2.3

Is the project located in or adjacent to habitats for rare, threatened, or endangered species?

☐ Yes

☐ No

If answering yes, fill out the table below to list such species and habitats and explain how the project will not adversely impact these areas.

Species and habitat	Include a list of all rare, threatened, or endangered species and the habitat(s) that the project is located in or adjacent to. Explain how the project will not adversely impact habitats and areas needed for habitat connectivity for rare, threatened, or endangered species.
Areas needed for habitat connectivity	Explain how the project will not adversely impact areas needed for habitat connectivity.

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered species, and for areas for habitat connectivity. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state "No risk identified" in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risk category	Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken
Habitats for rare, threatened, and endangered species			

Areas for habitat
connectivity

2.4.23.4.2 Introduction of Species

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B2.5 and B2.6

Fill out the table below to demonstrate that no invasive species will be used as part of project activities. Include a classification for each species as native or non-native, and state if the species is a monoculture. If the species is non-native, explain possible adverse effects of its use and describe how the project will mitigate such risks. For projects with no planting or species introduction, state that this table is not applicable, explain why, and delete the table.

Species introduced	Classification	Justification for use	Adverse effects and mitigation

If invasive species exist in the project area, fill out the table below to list such species and describe the commensurate mitigation measure(s) in place to prevent the spread or continued existence of invasive species.

Existing invasive species	Mitigation measures to prevent the spread or continued existence of invasive species

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to invasive species. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state "No risk identified" in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risks identified	<u>Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity</u>	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken

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2.4.33.4.3 Ecosystem Conversion

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.19

Fill out the table below to identify and summarize any risks related to ecosystem conversion. Describe the commensurate mitigation or preventive measure(s) in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Where no risk is identified, state "No risk identified" in the first column and justify this response in the second column. Add rows as needed.

Risks identified	Potential negative impact of risk on stakeholders, ecosystem health, and biodiversity	Mitigation or preventive measure(s) taken

4 CLIMATE

2.54.1 Application of Methodology

2.5.14.1.1 Methodology Details

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.1

Fill out the following table, adding rows as needed for each methodology, module, and tool applied.

Type	Methodology, module, or tool ID number	Version	Name
Choose an item.	Example: VM0042	Example: v2.2	Example: Improved Agricultural Land Management
...	...		...

2.5.24.1.2 Applicability and Eligibility of Methodology

2.5.2.14.1.2.1 Eligibility of Methodology

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.1, 3.1, and 3.5

Methodology eligibility	Are all applied methodologies listed on the Verra website?
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	<i>If answering no, the methodology is not eligible to be applied.</i>
	Will all applied methodologies, modules, and tools be active under the VCS Program on the date the project request is submitted to Verra? ²⁵
	☐ Yes ☐ No
	<i>If answering no, the methodology, module, or tool is not eligible to be applied.</i>

²⁵ The version of the methodology applied must be active at the time of submitting the project registration request. See the VCS Methodologies webpage for a list of all active methodologies and any dates of inactivation, where relevant.

Geographic eligibility	If no geographic applicability conditions are specified in the applied methodology, explain whether the project meets the default eligibility set out in the VCS Standard, Table 1.
Capacity limit eligibility	Is the project applying a methodology with a capacity limit? ☐ Yes ☐ No If answering yes, state the capacity limit specified in the applied methodology and explain how the project does not exceed the capacity limit.

2.5.2.24.1.2.2 Applicability of Methodology

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.1

Justify how the project activity(s) meets each of the applicability conditions of the methodology(s), modules, and tools applied, including any geographic applicability conditions, where relevant. Address each applicability condition separately, adding rows as needed. Copy and paste the table for each methodology, module, and tool applied.

Methodology, module, or tool ID: [State methodology ID (e.g.,: VM0042)]	
Applicability condition	Justification of conformance
State the first applicability condition for the methodology, module, or tool	Justify how the project conforms to this applicability condition.
...	...

2.5.34.1.3 Project Boundary

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.11

~~For E&I and GCS projects, include a diagram of the project boundary which includes the equipment, systems, and flows of mass and energy. Include all GHG emission sources identified in the project boundary.~~

~~For AFOLU projects, fill out the table below to describe any carbon pools considered in the project boundary. List all carbon pools that are deemed de minimis and state that they are de minimis in the explanation column.~~

Carbon pool	Included?	Explanation
Aboveground woody biomass		
Aboveground non-woody biomass		

Belowground woody biomass		
Belowground non-woody biomass		
Dead wood		
Litter		
Soil organic carbon (SOC)		
Wood products		

~~For all projects, fill~~ out the table below to describe the project boundary and relevant GHG sources and sinks for the project and baseline scenarios (including leakage where relevant). List all carbon sinks and GHG sources that are deemed de minimis and state that they are de minimis in the explanation column. Add rows as needed.

Source/Sink	Type	Gas	Included?	Explanation
Baseline	Source/Sink 1	Source or Sink	CO ₂	
			CH ₄	
			N ₂ O	
			Other	
	Source/Sink 2	Source or Sink	CO ₂	
			CH ₄	
			N ₂ O	
			Other	
Project	Source/Sink 1	Source or Sink	CO ₂	
			CH ₄	
			N ₂ O	
			Other	
	Source/Sink 2	Source or Sink	CO ₂	
			CH ₄	
			N ₂ O	
			Other	
Leakage	Source 1	Source	CO ₂	
			CH ₄	
			N ₂ O	
			Other	

	Source 2	Source	CO ₂		
			CH ₄		
			N ₂ O		
			Other		

2.5.3.14.1.3.1 De Minimis GHG Sources and Carbon Pools

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

This section only applies if any of the applied methodologies allow certain GHG sources or carbon pools/sinks to be deemed de minimis. For all other projects, explain that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions and tables, and move to the next section.

If completing this section, fill out the table below, copying and pasting the table if more than one de minimis threshold is specified in the applied methodologies.

De minimis threshold	State the de minimis threshold specified in the applied methodology(ies). If no threshold is specified, use 5%.
Threshold applicability	If applicable, state the methodology, project activity, or sources to which the threshold applies. Example: Emissions for fuel transport distance under VM0044

Fill out the table below to specify the period across which de minimis results and reductions and removals generated will be compared. If no period is specified in the methodology, use the project crediting period (~~for GCS and E&I projects~~) or the baseline validity period (where it is shorter than the project crediting period for AFOLU projects).

Period type	Date from	Date to	Reductions and removals generated
Choose an item.	DD-MMM-YYYY	DD-MMM-YYYY	State the ex-ante estimated reductions and removals expected to be generated across the same period.

For each GHG source and carbon pool or sink deemed de minimis, fill out one table below to quantify the estimated increase in emissions or decrease in carbon stocks, copying and pasting the table as needed. Where the applied methodology states that certain carbon pools or GHG sources may be excluded without further analysis, such pools and sources do not need to be quantified below.

GHG source/ carbon pool	State the name of the GHG source/carbon pool or sink.
Quantification	Describe the procedures and equations used to estimate the ex-ante increase in GHG emissions or decrease in carbon stocks from this GHG source or carbon pool across the period specified above in accordance with the applied methodology.

	Include references to all tools, methodologies, and/or data sources used to estimate the de minimis emissions and determine whether the source or pool may be excluded. Include all relevant equations and provide sufficient information to allow the reader to reproduce the results. Include all de minimis calculations in the separate GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheet.
Result	State the result (in tCO ₂ e).

Fill out the box below to justify the project's conformance to the applicable de minimis thresholds.

De minimis justification

Justify how the project conforms to the de minimis threshold by including a demonstration that the sum of all relative contributions from the de minimis GHG sources and carbon pools across the specific period is less than or equal to the applicable de minimis threshold by comparing it to the reductions and removals generated across the same period.

For projects with more than one applicable de minimis threshold, include a demonstration of conformance to each threshold.

2.5.44.1.4 Baseline Scenario

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.12

State which method has been used to determine the baseline scenario. Describe and justify the baseline scenario in accordance with the procedure set out in the applied methodology and any relevant tools.

If multiple steps or sub-steps are involved, state the name of the step or sub-step as referenced within the baseline scenario procedure in the methodology or tool. For each step:

- describe how the step or sub-step of the procedure was applied, including a demonstration of each step. Justify key assumptions, rationale, and methodological choices.
- describe the outcome of the application of the step or sub-step.

Include all relevant references.

Guidance on formatting this section

The following formatting should be used to include all information required:

Heading Title: Name of Step

Subheading: Application

Example text: Explanation and demonstration of how the step of the procedure was applied.

Subheading: Outcome

Example text: Outcome of the application of the applied step

2.5.4.14.1.4.1 Baseline Reassessment

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.2

For projects undergoing baseline reassessment during the crediting period or at crediting period renewal, fill out the following table:

Steps taken to reassess validity of baseline scenario	Describe the steps taken to reassess the validity of the original baseline scenario,²⁶ including a demonstration of each step. Include all relevant references. Describe how the impact of any new national or sectoral policy and changes in conditions relevant to the project activity were evaluated.
Validity of the baseline scenario	Is the baseline scenario still valid? ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ N/A – project exempt from reassessing the validity of the baseline scenario If answering yes, the baseline emissions section (Section <u>4.2.14.2.14.2.14.1</u>) must include quantification of the new baseline emissions for the new baseline validity period in accordance with the applied methodology. If answering no, the baseline scenario section (Section <u>4.1.44.1.44.1.43.4</u>) must describe the new baseline scenario and the baseline emissions section (Section <u>4.2.14.2.14.2.14.1</u>) must include quantification of the new baseline emissions as described above.

2.5.54.1.5 Additionality

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.13

2.5.5.14.1.5.1 Regulatory Surplus

Are the project activities mandated by any law or regulatory framework?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering no (or if such laws or regulatory frameworks explicitly allow or incorporate the use of carbon credits), the project meets the regulatory surplus requirement. Skip the remaining questions and continue to the list of laws and regulatory frameworks reviewed, below.

If answering yes, select the appropriate response to the following question:

²⁶ Unless exempt from doing so as specified in the applied methodology

Is the project located in a high-income²⁷ country?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes, the project does not meet the regulatory surplus requirement and is not eligible to participate in the VCS Program.

If answering no, select the appropriate response to the following question:

Are any laws and regulatory frameworks that mandate implementation of the project activities systematically enforced?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes, the project does not meet the regulatory surplus requirement and is not eligible to participate in the VCS Program.

If answering no, the project meets the regulatory surplus requirement. Continue to the list of laws and regulatory frameworks reviewed, below.

List of laws and regulatory frameworks reviewed

Fill out the table below to list the laws and regulatory frameworks related to implementation of the project activity that were reviewed for the regulatory surplus demonstration. Add rows as needed.

Name of law or regulatory framework	Explanation of how it applies to the project
<i>Include the name of the law or regulatory framework</i>	<i>Explain whether and how implementation of the project activity is mandated by this law or regulatory framework.</i> <i>Where the law or regulatory framework explicitly allows or incorporates the use of carbon credits, explain how it is applicable to the project and therefore does not need to be considered in the demonstration of regulatory surplus.</i> <i>For project activities located in high-middle-, low-middle-, and low-income countries, justify that the law or regulatory framework is not systematically enforced, evidenced by authoritative and up-to-date information relevant to the project activities.</i> <i>Include a link to or information on where the law or regulatory framework can be reviewed.</i>
<i>Add rows as needed</i>	

²⁷ As classified by the World Bank; available at: <https://datahelpdesk.worldbank.org/knowledgebase/articles/906519-world-bank-country-and-lending-groups>

2.5.5.24.1.5.2 Additionality Methods**Method applied**

State which additionality method(s) have been used to demonstrate additionality (i.e., barrier, investment, positive list, performance benchmark)

Describe and justify the additionality analysis for the project, including a demonstration of the methods used in accordance with the applied methodologies and tools.

If multiple steps or sub-steps are involved, state the name of the step or sub-step as referenced within the applied methodology or tool. For each step:

- describe how the step or sub-step was applied, including a demonstration of each step. Justify key assumptions, rationale, and methodological choices.
 - If barrier analysis or equivalent is used, include the most relevant barriers and justify their credibility.
 - If a performance method is applied, justify that performance can be achieved to a level at least equivalent to the performance benchmark metric.
 - If an activity method is applied, justify that the project conforms to the positive list's applicability conditions and criteria.
- describe the outcome of application of the step or sub-step.

Include sufficient information (including all relevant data and parameters) to enable a reader to reproduce the additionality analysis and obtain the same results.

Include all relevant references.

Guidance on formatting this section

The following formatting should be used to include all information required:

Heading Title: Name of Step

Subheading: Application

Example text: Explanation and demonstration of how the step of the procedure was applied.

Subheading: Outcome

Example text: Outcome of application of the applied step

2.5.64.1.6 Methodology DeviationsVCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.19

Fill out the table below to describe and justify any methodology deviations applied in this crediting period or baseline validity period. Copy and paste the table as needed for each deviation.

Reference number

Include a reference number for the deviation (e.g., MD1).

Title of deviation

Include a short title of the deviation.

Methodology, module, or tool details	State the name of the applied methodology, module, or tool, the version number, and the section numbers that the project is deviating from.
Description of deviation	Describe the deviation applied.
Justification for the deviation	Explain why the deviation was applied and justify why it was necessary.
Conformance to VCS Program rules	Explain how the deviation conforms to the VCS Program rules, including how the deviation: - will not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals, or how it results in increased accuracy. - relates only to the criteria and procedures for monitoring or measurement and does not relate to any other part of the methodology.

2.6.4.2 Quantification of Estimated Reductions and Removals

2.6.14.2.1 Baseline Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Describe the procedures used to quantify baseline emissions and/or carbon stock changes²⁸ and explain how they conform to the applied methodology. Justify all relevant methodological choices (e.g., quantification approach chosen where options are provided).

Include all relevant equations, clearly labeled based on order of appearance in Section 4.24.24 (e.g., as Equation 1, Equation 2). Include a list of all data and parameters used in the equations, ensuring the name and description are consistent with those given for the data/parameter in Appendix 2.

Example:

$$AAA_t = BBB_t \times CCC \times DDD \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

Where:

AAA_t = Total baseline emissions from source in year t (tCO₂e)

BBB_t = Monitored data/parameter in year t (g)

CCC = Emission factor (t CH₄/g)

DDD = GWP value for CH₄ (tCO₂e/t CH₄)

²⁸ Baseline emissions may be negative where carbon stock increases (sinks) exceed baseline emissions.

State the reductions and removals separately if the applied methodology provides procedures and equations to do so. For grouped projects, baseline emissions must be based on the initial project activity instances only.

Include sufficient information to allow a reader to reproduce the calculations (e.g., list of values applied or additional data in numbered tables or figures).

The procedure and equations should be arranged by each emission source or by how the methodology is configured.

Include all calculations in the GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheet.²⁹

2.6.24.2.2 Project Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Describe the procedures used to quantify project emissions and/or carbon stock changes³⁰ and explain how they conform to the applied methodology. Justify all relevant methodological choices (e.g., quantification approach chosen where options are provided).

Include all relevant equations here, clearly labeled based on order of appearance in Section 4.24.24.24 (e.g., as Equation 1, Equation 2). Include a list of all data and parameters used in the equations, ensuring the name and description are consistent with those given for the data/parameter in Appendix 2.

Example:

$$\Delta AAA_t = (\Delta BBB_t \times \Delta CCC_t) \times 44/12 \quad \text{Equation 2}$$

Where:

ΔAAA_t = Total estimated carbon stock change in year t (t C)

ΔBBB_t = Change in carbon stock in aboveground biomass in project scenario in year t (t C)

ΔCCC_t = Change in carbon stock in belowground biomass in project scenario in year t (t C)

44/12 = Ratio of molecular weight of carbon dioxide to carbon (unitless)

State the reductions and removals separately if the applied methodology provides procedures and equations to do so. For grouped projects, project emissions must be based on the initial project activity instances only.

Include sufficient information to allow a reader to reproduce the calculations (e.g., list of values applied or additional data in numbered tables or figures).

²⁹ A separate emission reduction and removal calculation spreadsheet must be submitted with the project description, in accordance with the Registration and Issuance Process.

³⁰ Project emissions may be negative where carbon stock increases (sinks) exceed project emissions.

The procedure and equations should be arranged by each emission source or by how the methodology is configured.

Include all calculations in the GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheet.

2.6.34.2.3 Leakage Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Describe the procedures used to quantify leakage emissions and explain how they conform to the applied methodology. Justify all relevant methodological choices (e.g., quantification approach chosen where options are provided).

Include all relevant equations here, clearly labeled based on order of appearance in Section 4.24.24.24 (e.g., as Equation 1, Equation 2). Include a list of all data and parameters used in the equations, ensuring the name and description are consistent with those given for the data/parameter in Appendix 2.

Example:

$$AAA_t = BBB_t \times CCC_t \times DDD \times 44/12 \quad \text{Equation 3}$$

Where:

AAA_t	=	Leakage from project activity in year t (tCO ₂ e)
BBB_t	=	Monitored data/parameter in year t (tonnes)
CCC_t	=	Carbon content or emission factor (t C per unit of activity in tonnes)
DDD	=	Fraction of carbon relevant in monitored data/parameter (unitless)
$44/12$	=	Ratio of molecular weight of carbon dioxide to carbon (unitless)

State the reductions and removals separately if the applied methodology provides procedures and equations to do so. For grouped projects, leakage emissions must be based on the initial project activity instances only.

Include sufficient information to allow a reader to reproduce the calculations (e.g., list of values applied or additional data in numbered tables or figures).

The procedure and equations should be arranged by each emission source or by how the methodology is configured.

Include all calculations in the GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheet.

2.6.44.2.4 Other Relevant Quantification

2.6.4.14.2.4.1 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.4 and 3.2

This section applies only to projects required to assess non-permanence risk. For all other projects, explain that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions and tables, and move to the next section.

If completing this section, fill out the table below, adding rows as needed. If more than one non-permanence risk rating applies, state all results and what they apply to (e.g., if there is a separate non-permanence risk rating for each country or methodology applied, or where the project area is divided into sub-areas with similar risks).

Non-permanence risk rating(s) (%) ³¹	Applicability
Example: 20%	Examples: • This non-permanence risk rating applies to reductions and removals generated under VM0042. • This non-permanence risk rating applies to reductions and removals generated in Brazil.

Attach a copy of the non-permanence risk report(s) as a separate document.

Select the appropriate response to the question below:

Has the project been approved to participate in Verra's durability pilot?

☐ Yes ☐ No

If answering yes, describe the alternative approach to non-permanence risk and justify how it meets the criteria set out in the requirements for piloting.

³¹ The non-permanence risk rating is derived using the digital AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool or GCS Non-Permanence Risk Tool as applicable, available on the Verra Project Hub.

2.6.4.24.2.4.2 Buffer Pool Allocation Calculation

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.4, 3.2, and 3.14

If the applied methodology(ies) provide procedures and equations to separate estimates into reductions versus removals, fill out the table below to provide the estimated buffer pool allocation for the entire project crediting period. Add rows as needed if the project spans more than one country or applies more than one methodology.

Country	Methodology	Net baseline carbon stock change (tCO ₂ e)	Net project carbon stock change (tCO ₂ e)	Risk rating (%)	Buffer pool allocation (reductions)	Buffer pool allocation (removals)	Total buffer pool allocation
Example: USA	Example: VM0010	Example: 10 000	Example: 20 000	Example: 15%	Example: 1500	Example: 3000	Example: 4500

If the applied methodology does not separate reductions versus removals, fill out the table below to provide the estimated buffer pool allocation for the entire project crediting period. Add rows as needed if the project spans more than one country or applies more than one methodology.

Country	Methodology	Net carbon stock change (tCO ₂ e)	Risk rating (%)	Total buffer pool allocation
Example: USA	Example: VM0010	Example: 30 000	Example: 15%	Example: 4500

Guidance on buffer pool allocation

Buffer pool allocation is calculated by applying the project's risk rating (as a percentage) to the net change in the project's carbon stocks, before any leakage deductions (or in accordance with the applied methodology when specified). The net change in carbon stocks includes only those reductions and removals generated through carbon sinks and does not include changes in non-CO₂ emissions or fossil fuel-derived CO₂ emissions.

The buffer pool allocation is estimated separately for reductions and removals generated through carbon sinks. For example, if a project is estimated to achieve 20 000 tCO₂e removals and 10 000 tCO₂e reductions and has a risk rating of 15%, the buffer contribution attributable to removals would be 3000 tCO₂e (i.e., 20 000 × 0.15) and to reductions would be 1 500 tCO₂e (i.e., 10 000 × 0.15).

2.6.4.34.2.4.3 Long-Term Average**VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.2**

This section only applies to ARR and IFM projects with harvesting. For all other projects, explain that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions and tables, and move to the next section.

For ARR and IFM projects with harvesting, fill out the table below:

Long-term average (LTA) (tCO ₂ e) ³²	
Has the LTA been updated based on monitored data, where relevant?	☐ Yes ☐ No If answering no, justify the selection.
Include the expected total GHG benefit to date (tCO ₂ e)	
Is the number of GHG credits issued below the LTA?	☐ Yes ☐ No If answering no, justify the selection.

2.6.54.2.5 Estimated GHG Emission Reductions and Carbon Dioxide Removals2.6.5.14.2.5.1 Quantification of Estimated Reductions and Removals**VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14**

Describe the procedures used to quantify estimated reductions and removals. Justify all relevant methodological choices (e.g., quantification approach chosen where options are provided).

Include all relevant equations here, clearly labeled based on order of appearance in Section 4.24.24.24 (e.g., as Equation 1, Equation 2). Include a list of all data and parameters used in the equations, ensuring the name and description are consistent with those given for the data/parameter in Appendix 2. For data and parameters monitored, include the estimated data/parameter values set out in Appendix 2.

Example:

$$AAA_t = BBB_t - CCC_t - DDD_t \quad \text{Equation 4}$$

Where:

AAA_t = Net GHG emission reductions over monitoring interval t

BBB_t = Total baseline emissions over monitoring interval t

CCC_t = Total project emissions over monitoring interval t

DDD_t = Total leakage emissions over monitoring interval t

³² The LTA is derived using VCS tool *Calculating the Long-Term Average of Forest Carbon Stocks*.

State the reductions and removals separately if the applied methodology provides procedures and equations to do so. For grouped projects, the estimated reductions and removals must be based on the initial project activity instances only.

Include sufficient information to allow a reader to reproduce the calculations (e.g., list of values applied or additional data in numbered tables or figures).

Include all calculations in the GHG emission reduction and carbon dioxide removal calculation spreadsheet.

2.6.5.24.2.5.2 Summary of Estimated Reductions and Removals

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Fill out the tables below by vintage period (noting that vintage periods do not span across calendar years), adding or removing rows as needed.³³

For each vintage period, separate estimates for reductions versus removals if the applied methodology provides procedures and equations to do so.

- If the methodology mitigation outcome type is reductions only, state “0” in the estimated net removals column and vice versa. Do not delete the column.
- If the methodology results in both reduction and removals outcomes but does not provide procedures or equations to quantify them separately, state “N/A” in the estimated net reductions and estimated net removals columns. Fill out only the total estimated reductions and removals column. Do not delete the other columns.

For projects that are not required to assess non-permanence risk:

Fill out the table below for this project crediting period:

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated net reductions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated net removals (tCO ₂ e)	Total estimated net reductions and removals (tCO ₂ e)
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 15-MAR-2025	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2025	Example: 50 000	Example: 30 000	Example: 2500	Example: 17 500	Example: 0	Example: 17 500
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2026	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2026	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 35 000	Example: 0	Example: 35 000
DD-MMM-YYYY Example:	DD-MMM-YYYY Example:	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 35 000	Example: 0	Example: 35 000

³³ Baseline or project emission subtotals may be negative where sinks exceed emissions.

01-JAN-2027	31-DEC-2027						
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2028	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2028	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 35 000	Example: 0	Example: 35 000
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2029	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2029	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 35 000	Example: 0	Example: 35 000
DD-MMM-YYY Example: 01-JAN-2030	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 14-MAR-2030	Example: 50 000	Example: 30 000	Example: 2500	Example: 17 500	Example: 0	Example: 17 500
Total		Example: 500 000	Example: 300 000	Example: 25 000	Example: 175 000	Example: 0	Example: 175 000

For projects that are required to assess non-permanence risk:

Fill out the table below for this project crediting period. Fill out the buffer allocation column based on the table in Section [4.2.4.24.2.4.1.1](#), noting that estimates must be broken down by vintage period in the table below. If the project is participating in the Verra durability pilot, the buffer pool allocation column does not need to be filled for years in which the project uses an alternative approach (i.e., insurance or a fund-based approach).

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Total buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated net reductions minus buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)	Estimated net removals minus buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)	Total estimated net reductions and removals minus buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 15-MAR-2025	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2025	Example: 50 000	Example: 30 000	Example: 2500	Example: 1000	Example: 8250	Example: 8250	Example: 16 500
DD-MMM-YYYY	DD-MMM-YYYY	Example:	Example:	Example:	Example:	Example:	Example:	Example:

Example: 01-JAN-2026	Example: 31-DEC-2026	100 000	60 000	5000	2000	16 500	16 500	33 000
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2027	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2027	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 2000	Example: 16 500	Example: 16 500	Example: 33 000
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2028	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2028	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 2000	Example: 16 500	Example: 16 500	Example: 33 000
DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 01-JAN-2029	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 31-DEC-2029	Example: 100 000	Example: 60 000	Example: 5000	Example: 2000	Example: 16 500	Example: 16 500	Example: 33 000
DD-MMM-YYY Example: 01-JAN-2030	DD-MMM-YYYY Example: 14-MAR-2030	Example: 50 000	Example: 30 000	Example: 2500	Example: 1000	Example: 8250	Example: 8250	Example: 16 500
Total		Example: 500 000	Example: 300 000	Example: 25 000	Example: 10 000	Example: 82 500	Example: 82 500	Example: 165 000

2.7.4.3 Monitoring

2.7.4.3.1 Data and Parameters

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.15

Include a cross reference here to Appendix 2 – Data and Parameters. Appendix 2 must include a full list of all data and parameters that are determined or available at validation and remain fixed throughout the project crediting period, and those that are monitored during the project crediting period.

2.7.24.3.2 Monitoring Plan

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.15; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CL4.1

Fill out all sections below to describe the monitoring plan. Where a section is not applicable, explain why. Do not delete the section and do not only state “N/A.”

2.7.2.14.3.2.1 GHG Data Collection and Management System

Describe the methods, process, and schedule to be used for obtaining, recording, storing, compiling, analyzing, and reporting on monitored data and parameters.

Line diagrams used to display the GHG data collection and management system may be included here.

2.7.2.24.3.2.2 Procedures for Calibration

Describe the procedures and frequency to be used for calibration of monitoring equipment, where relevant.

2.7.2.34.3.2.3 Monitoring Personnel

Describe the organizational structure, responsibilities, and competencies of the personnel that will carry out monitoring activities.

2.7.2.44.3.2.4 Procedures for Internal Auditing and QA/QC

Describe the procedures to be used for internal auditing and quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC).

2.7.2.54.3.2.5 Procedures for Handling Non-Conformances

Describe the procedures to be used for handling non-conformances to the validated monitoring plan.

2.7.2.64.3.2.6 Sampling Approaches

Describe sampling approaches to be used, including target precision levels, sample sizes, sample site locations, stratification, frequency of measurement, and QA/QC procedures.

4.4 Optional Criterion: Climate Change Adaptation Benefits

This section applies only to projects seeking to be validated to Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits. For all other projects, state that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions and subheadings below, and move to the next section.

4.4.1 Regional Climate Change Scenarios

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.1

Explain likely regional or sub-national climate change and climate variability scenarios and impacts and describe potential changes in the local land use scenario due to these climate change scenarios in the absence of the project.

4.4.2 Climate Change Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.2

Explain how current or anticipated climate changes are having or are likely to have an impact on the following in the project zone and surrounding regions:

- Community well-being
- Biodiversity conservation status

4.4.3 Measures to be Implemented for Adaptation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.3

Based on the causal model or theory of change described in Section 2.13.4, describe measures to be implemented to assist communities and biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

5 COMMUNITY

5.1 Without-Project Community Scenario

5.1.1 Descriptions of Communities at Project Start

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.1

Fill out the table below to describe each community at the start of the project and any significant community changes in the past. Copy and paste the table as needed. Where the information in any of the fields has been covered in any section related to stakeholder engagement, state that this is the case and refer the reader to the corresponding section.

**Well-being
information**

Describe people's experience of the quality of their lives (e.g., environmental, social, economic, psychological, spiritual, and medical dimensions).

Community characteristics	<u>Describe shared language, mythology, history, culture, livelihood systems, traditional authority structures, institutions, practices, values, relationships with specific sites of historical, cultural or spiritual significance, relationships with natural resources, or the customary institutions and rules governing the use of resources and sites.</u>
Diversity within the community	<u>Describe the social, economic and cultural diversity, including at least wealth, gender, age, and ethnicity.</u>

5.1.2 High Conservation Values

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.2

Fill out the table below for each of the following High Conservation Values (HCVs) related to community well-being in the project zone:

- Areas that provide critical ecosystem services.
- Areas that are fundamental for the livelihoods of communities.
- Areas that are critical for the traditional cultural identity of communities.

Copy and paste the table as needed.

High Conservation Value	<u>State the HCV (e.g., name the hydrological service, food source, or culturally significant area).</u>
Qualifying attribute	<u>Justify the qualifying attribute's significance for community well-being.</u>
Focal area	<u>Describe the area(s) that need to be managed to maintain or enhance this HCV.</u>

5.1.3 Without-Project Scenario: Community

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.3

Describe the expected changes in the well-being conditions and other characteristics of communities and community groups under the without-project land use scenario.

5.2 Net Positive Community Impacts

5.2.1 Expected Community Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM2.1

Fill out one table for each community group to describe the anticipated positive or negative impacts resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario in the project zone and over the project lifetime. Include all relevant references. Copy and paste the table as needed.

Community group	<u>State the group.</u>
------------------------	-------------------------

<u>Impact(s)</u>	<u>Describe the impact.</u>
<u>Type of benefit, cost, or risk</u>	<u>State whether each impact is predicted or actual, direct, or indirect, and whether it is a benefit, a cost, or a risk.</u>
<u>Change in well-being (VCS Standard v4.7, Section 3.18.1(5))</u>	<u>Describe the type and magnitude of each impact.</u>
<u>Assumptions, rationale, and methodological choices</u>	<u>Justify key assumptions, rationale, and methodological choices.</u>
<u>Participatory impact evaluation</u>	<u>Explain how the affected groups have participated in the evaluation of impacts.</u>

5.2.2 Negative Community Impact Mitigation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM2.2

Fill out one table below for each negative impact on community well-being to describe the impact and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk.

<u>Negative impact on community well-being</u>	<u>Describe the estimated negative impact on community well-being as specifically as possible.</u>
<u>Measures designed</u>	<u>Justify how the measures designed to mitigate the negative impact on community well-being are appropriate.</u>
<u>Consistency with the precautionary principle</u>	<u>Explain how the measures designed are consistent with the precautionary principle.</u>

Maintenance or enhancement of the HCVs

Fill out one table below for each HCV to describe the measures designed for its maintenance or enhancement.

<u>HCV</u>	<u>State the HCV related to community well-being.</u>
<u>Measures designed</u>	<u>Justify how the measures designed to maintain or enhance the HCV are appropriate.</u>
<u>Consistency with the precautionary principle</u>	<u>Explain how the measures designed are consistent with the precautionary principle.</u>

5.2.3 Net Positive Community Well-Being

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections CM2.3 and GL1.4

Justify how 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. For projects seeking Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits, explain how the project activities will assist communities to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

5.2.4 High Conservation Values Protected

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM2.4

Fill out the table to justify how none of the HCVs related to community well-being will be negatively affected by the project. Add rows as needed.

<u>HCV related to community well-being</u>	<u>Protection measures</u>
<u>State the HCV related to community well-being</u>	<u>Justify how the HCV will not be negatively affected by the project.</u>

5.3 Other Stakeholder Impacts

5.3.1 Positive Impacts on Other Stakeholders

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM3.3

Explain any potential positive impacts that the project activities are likely to have on the well-being of other stakeholders.

5.3.2 Net Impacts on Other Stakeholders

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM3.3

Explain how the project activities are not anticipated to result in net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholders, considering the positive impacts explained in Section 5.3.1 and the negative impacts described in Section 3.2 of this template.

5.4 Community Monitoring Plan

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections CM4.1, CM4.2, GL1.4, GL2.2, GL2.3, and GL2.5

Attach a monitoring plan that identifies communities, community groups, and other stakeholders to be monitored, variables to be monitored, types of measurements and sampling methods, and the frequency of monitoring and reporting for each type and method.

Where the project intends to meet Gold Level for:

- climate change adaptation benefits, include in the community monitoring plan how the project will provide significant support to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

- exceptional community benefits, include in the community monitoring plan the requirements in Section GL2 of the CCBS Standard, v3.1.

5.5 Optional Criterion: Exceptional Community Benefits

This section applies only to projects seeking to be validated to Gold Level for exceptional community benefits. For all other projects, state that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions, and move to the next section.

5.5.1 Exceptional Community Criteria

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.1

Explain how the project zone conforms to one of the following exceptional community criteria:

- that the smallholders, community members, or communities either own or have:
 - management rights, statutory or customary, individually or collectively, to land in the project area.
 - rights to claim that their activities will or did generate or cause the project's climate, community and biodiversity benefits.
- that the project zone is in a low human development country, or in an administrative area of a medium or high human development country in which at least 50% of the households within the communities are below the national poverty line.

5.5.2 Short-Term and Long-Term Community Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.2

Justify how the project will generate short-term and long-term net positive well-being benefits for smallholders or community members.

5.5.3 Marginalized or Vulnerable Community Groups

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.4

Fill out one table below to identify each of the marginalized or vulnerable community groups that the project is engaging with and how the communities will gain net positive benefits. Copy and paste the table as needed.

<u>Community group</u>	<u>State the name of the community group.</u>
<u>Net positive impacts</u>	<u>Justify how the project activities are anticipated to generate net positive impacts on the well-being of all identified marginalized people or vulnerable people within the community groups.</u>
<u>Benefit access</u>	<u>Explain how any barriers or risks that might prevent benefits going to marginalized people or vulnerable people within the community have been identified and addressed.</u>

Negative impacts

Explain how marginalized people or vulnerable people within the community will be identified, particularly those whose well-being may be negatively affected by the project.

Justify that the measures that will be implemented to avoid, or where unavoidable, mitigate any negative impacts on these groups are appropriate.

5.5.4 Net Impacts on Women

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.5

Justify how the project will generate net positive impacts on the well-being of women and that women participate in or influence decision making.

5.5.5 Governance and Implementation Structures

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.8

Describe the project's governance and implementation structures, and any relevant self-governance or other structures used for aggregation of smallholders or community members and justify how they enable full and effective participation of smallholders or community members in project decision-making and implementation.

5.5.6 Smallholders or Community Members Capacity Development

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.9

Explain how the project will develop the capacity of smallholders or community members, and relevant local organizations or institutions, to participate effectively and actively in project design, implementation, and management.

6 BIODIVERSITY**6.1 Without-Project Biodiversity Scenario****6.1.1 Existing Conditions**

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.1

Describe the biodiversity within the project zone at the start of the project and threats to that biodiversity. Justify key assumptions and rationale. Include all references.

6.1.2 High Conservation Values

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.2

Fill out one table below for each identified HCVs related to biodiversity in the project zone. Copy and paste the table as needed. HCVs may be categorized based on the following attributes:

- Globally, regionally, or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values, protected areas, threatened species, endemic species and/or areas that support significant concentrations of a species during any time in their lifecycle.
- Globally, regionally, or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.
- Threatened or rare ecosystems.

<u>High conservation value</u>	<u>State the HCV, from the list above.</u>
<u>Qualifying attribute</u>	<u>Explain the qualifying attribute (e.g., if there are significant species concentrations or viable populations in natural patterns of distribution, and abundance or threatened or rare ecosystems).</u>
<u>Focal area</u>	<u>Describe the area(s) that need to be managed to maintain or enhance this HCV.</u>

6.1.3 Without-project Scenario: Biodiversity

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.3

Describe how the without-project land use scenario would affect biodiversity conditions in the project zone.

6.2 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts

6.2.1 Expected Biodiversity Changes

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.1

Fill out one table below for each estimated change in biodiversity to describe the anticipated change resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario in the project zone and over the project lifetime. Explain key assumptions, rationale, and methodological choices. Include all relevant references. Copy and paste the table as needed.

<u>Estimated change in biodiversity</u>	<u>Describe the estimated change in biodiversity as specifically as possible.</u>
<u>Factors contributing to change</u>	<u>Explain the factors contributing to the change.</u>
<u>Methods used</u>	<u>Justify the methods used to estimate or document it.</u>

6.2.2 Negative Biodiversity Impact Mitigation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.3

Fill out one table below for each negative impact on biodiversity to describe the impact and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk.

<u>Negative impact and biodiversity affected</u>	<u>Describe the estimated negative impact in biodiversity as specifically as possible.</u>
<u>Measures designed</u>	<u>Justify how the measures designed to mitigate the negative impact on biodiversity are appropriate.</u>
<u>Consistency with the precautionary principle</u>	<u>Explain how the measures designed are consistent with the precautionary principle.</u>

Maintenance or enhancement of the HCVs

Fill out one table below for each HCV to describe the measures designed for its maintenance or enhancement.

<u>HCV</u>	<u>State the HCV related to biodiversity.</u>
<u>Measures designed</u>	<u>Justify how the measures designed to maintain or enhance the HCV are appropriate.</u>
<u>Consistency with the precautionary principle</u>	<u>Explain how the measures designed are consistent with the precautionary principle.</u>

6.2.3 Net Positive Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B2.2 and GL1.4

Justify how 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. Where the project intends to meet Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits, include how the project activities will assist biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

6.2.4 High Conservation Values Protected

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.4

Fill out the table to justify how HCVs related to biodiversity will not be negatively affected by the project. Add rows as needed.

<u>HCV related to biodiversity</u>	<u>Protection measures</u>
<u>State the HCV related to biodiversity</u>	<u>Justify how the HCV will not be negatively affected by the project.</u>

6.2.5 GMO Exclusion

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.7

Justify the measures to be implemented to ensure that genetically modified organisms (GMOs) will not be used to generate reductions or removals.

6.2.6 Inputs Used in the Project

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.8

Fill out one table below to describe each fertilizer, chemical pesticide, biological control agent, and other inputs intended to be used in the project. Copy and paste the table as needed.

<u>Name</u>	<u>Identify input.</u>
<u>Justification of use</u>	<u>Justify the input's use.</u>
<u>Potential adverse effect</u>	<u>Describe the possible adverse effects on the region's environment and communities.</u>

6.2.7 Waste Products

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.9

Describe the process for identifying, classifying, and managing all waste products resulting from project activities.

6.3 Offsite Biodiversity Impacts

6.3.1 Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts and Mitigation Measures

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B3.1 and B3.2

Fill out the table below to describe any potential negative impacts on biodiversity outside of the project zone resulting from project activities. Add rows as needed.

<u>Negative offsite impact</u>	<u>Mitigation measure(s)</u>
<u>State the potential negative impact on biodiversity</u>	<u>Justify how the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk are appropriate.</u>

6.3.2 Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B3.3

Explain the evaluation of potential unmitigated negative impacts on biodiversity outside the project zone and compare them with the project's potential biodiversity benefits within the project zone. Justify that the net effect of the project on biodiversity will be positive.

6.4 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B4.1, B4.2, GL1.4, and GL3.4

Attach a monitoring plan that identifies biodiversity variables to be monitored, the sampling methods, and the frequency of monitoring and reporting.

Where the project intends to meet Gold Level for:

- climate change adaptation benefits, include in the biodiversity monitoring plan how the project will provide significant support to assist biodiversity in adapting to the impacts of climate change.
- exceptional biodiversity benefits, include in the biodiversity monitoring plan the requirements in Section GL3 of the CCBS Standard, v3.1.

6.5 Optional Criterion: Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits

This section applies only to projects seeking to be validated to Gold Level for exceptional community benefits. For all other projects, state that this section is not applicable, delete the instructions, and move to the next section.

6.5.1 High Biodiversity Conservation Priority Status

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL3.1

Justify how the project zone meets the high biodiversity conservation priority status.

6.5.2 Trigger Species Population Trends

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections GL3.2 and GL3.3

Fill out one table below for each trigger species to describe population trends and the expected effects of project activities on the species, based on the causal model (Section 2.13.32.13.32.14.3) and risks identified (Section 3.4). Include all relevant references. Copy and paste the table as needed.

<u>Trigger species</u>	<u>State the identified trigger species.</u>
<u>Population trend at start of project</u>	<u>Describe the population trend of the trigger species in the project zone at the start of the project. Where possible, estimate population size.</u>
<u>Without-project scenario</u>	<u>Justify the most likely changes in the population status of the trigger species under the without-project land use scenario.</u>
<u>Expected changes under the with-project scenario</u>	<u>Justify the measures to be implemented to maintain or enhance the population status of the trigger species in the project zone and to reduce threats to the species. Where possible, estimate the population size expected at the end of the project.</u>

APPENDIX 1: SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Fill out the table below with any commercially sensitive information and program sensitive information included in this project description that will be excluded in the public version submitted by the project proponent. Ensure this appendix is removed from the public version of the document.

Briefly describe the items to which such information pertains. Confirm that the information is not otherwise publicly available and explain how the information meets all VCS Program rules on what may be considered commercially sensitive or program sensitive information (i.e., it is not related to the following: determination of the baseline scenario, demonstration of additionality, estimation and monitoring of reductions and removals (including operational and capital expenditures), calculation of the non-permanence risk score, and reasons for rejection from another GHG program).

Section number	Information to be excluded	Description and explanation
		Describe what this information pertains to (e.g., trade secrets, internal policy decisions) and explain what it is about. Explain why it is being excluded and how it meets all criteria to be designated as commercially sensitive or program sensitive information.

APPENDIX 2: DATA AND PARAMETERS

A2.1 Data/Parameters Available at Validation

Fill out the data/parameter information table below for each data/parameter determined or available at validation that remains fixed throughout the project crediting period. Copy and paste the tables as necessary. The data/parameters should be listed in alphabetical order.

The values provided in this section are used to quantify the estimated reductions and removals for the project crediting period in Section 4.24.24.

Data and parameters to be monitored during the project crediting period are included in Section A2.2 (Data and Parameters Monitored) below.

Data/parameter name	State the name of the data/parameter. Example: $NCV_{FF,i}$
Data unit	State the unit of measure
Description	Briefly describe the data/parameter. Example: Net calorific value of fossil fuel i used in the baseline scenario
Equation number	State the number of the equation set out in Section <u>4.24.24</u> where this data/parameter is used. Example: Equation 1
Source of data	Include the source(s) of data.
Value applied	State the value applied.
Justification of value applied	Justify the value applied. If using values based on a data source, justify the choice of data source, providing references where relevant. If using values based on measurement: - describe the measurement methods and procedures applied (e.g., what standards or protocols have been followed). - describe the type of equipment used to monitor the data/parameter. - state the responsible person/entity that undertook the measurement.

	- state the date of the measurement. - state the measurement results. - describe the QA/QC procedures that were applied.
Purpose of data	Choose an item.
Comments	Provide any additional comments.

A2.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

Fill out the data/parameter information table below for each data/parameter monitored during the project crediting period. Copy and paste the tables as necessary.

The data/parameters should be listed in alphabetical order.

The values provided are used to quantify the reductions and removals for the project crediting period.

Data/Parameter	State the data/parameter.
Data unit	State the unit of measure.
Description	Briefly describe the data/parameter.
Equation number#	State the number of the equation set out in Section 4.24.24 where this data/parameter is used Example: Equation 1
Source of data	Include the source(s) of data.
Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied	Specify the measurement methods and procedures, any standards or protocols to be followed, and the person/entity responsible for the measurement. Include any relevant information regarding the accuracy of the measurements (e.g., accuracy associated with meter equipment or laboratory tests).
Frequency of monitoring/recording	State measurement and recording frequency.
Value applied	State an estimated value for the data/parameter.

Monitoring equipment	<i>Include equipment used to monitor the data/parameter including type, accuracy class, and serial number of equipment, as appropriate.</i>
QA/QC procedures to be applied	<i>Describe the QA/QC procedures to be applied, including calibration procedures where relevant.</i>
Purpose of data	<i>Choose an item.</i>
Calculation method	<i>Where relevant, include the calculation method, including any equations, used to establish the data/parameter.</i>
Comments	<i>Include any additional comments.</i>

APPENDIX 3: PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND THEORY OF CHANGE TABLE

This appendix provides one example of how the theory of change referenced in Section 2.13.4 may be presented. Modify the table according to the needs for the project, if necessary, or delete this appendix if it is not used.

Activity description	Expected climate, community, and/or biodiversity			Relevance to project's objectives
	Outputs (short term)	Outcomes (medium term)	Impacts (long term)	

APPENDIX 4: STAKEHOLDER DESCRIPTION TABLE

This appendix provides an optional format to list stakeholders identified in Section 3.1.1 above. Modify the table according to the needs for the project, if necessary, or delete this appendix if it is not used.

Stakeholder	Rights, interest, and overall relevance to the project
<i>Identify communities and any community groups within them, any cross-cutting community groups, and list other stakeholders.</i>	

APPENDIX X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>

Appendix type	<i>State the type of information provided in this appendix (e.g., evidence, supporting information).</i>
Related section numbers	<i>State the section numbers of this project description to which the information in this appendix relates.</i>

Appendices are used for supporting information. Delete this appendix (title and instructions) where it is not required.