SD VISta Nature Framework
Validation/Verification Body (VVB) Requirements

December 18, 2024

This document defines the requirements applicable to VVBs' audit teams assessing projects under Verra's Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) *Nature Framework, v1.0*.

_____

Per the *SD VISta Program Guide, v1.0*, VVBs are accredited to assess a project's design and implementation for compliance with the SD VISta rules and criteria and verify the quantification of SD VISta assets. To obtain Verra approval, SD VISta VVBs must meet the criteria set forth in sections 5.1.1 to 5.1.5 of the *Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0*.

In addition to meeting those criteria, VVBs seeking to assess projects under the *Nature Framework* must also demonstrate that their audit teams demonstrate the following:

- Possession of a bachelor's degree or higher in specific disciplines
  - For all audit team members conducting in-field auditing of *Nature Framework* technical elements: conservation biology, ecology, or ecosystem-focused environmental science
  - For all audit team members auditing safeguards, risk assessments, sustainable development outcomes, and causal chains: social sciences with justified relevance to sustainability and/or sustainable development
- Auditing experience
  - Lead auditors must have a minimum of eight completed audits for Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use (AFOLU) project activities addressing ecosystem conservation and/or restoration.
  - Audit team members must have a minimum of five completed audits for AFOLU project activities addressing ecosystem conservation and/or restoration.
- Professional experience
  - All audit team members must have at least three years of full-time professional experience in roles addressing ecosystem conservation and/or restoration and/or sustainable development.
- Sufficient competencies for validation/verification of the following:
  - Ecosystem conservation and restoration activities and outcomes

o   Sustainable development (SD) objectives and outcomes (i.e., risk-based systems analysis or applied life cycle thinking for evaluating relationships and causal links among the social, economic, cultural, and environmental factors promoting and producing SD impacts)

VVBs will also be required to attend a technical training webinar on *Nature Framework* rules and requirements.

To apply to become an approved VVB with the SD VISta *Nature Framework*, organizations must complete a Validation/Verification Body Application Form for the SD VISta Program and a Validation/Verification Body Supplementary Application Form: SD VISta *Nature Framework*. Both applications must be electronically signed and submitted with the required supporting evidence to auditing@verra.org.