~~VCS~~ VALIDATION REPORT TEMPLATE, VCS V5.0B + CCBS V3.0

This template is for the validation 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 have not submitted a digital project description via the Verra Project Hub. Validation/verification bodies assessing projects intending only to complete validation under the VCS Program must use the appropriate *VCS Validation Report Template* (v5.0A or B). Validation/verification bodies assessing projects intending only to complete validation under the CCBS Program must use the *CCB Validation Report Template, v3.0.*

Note: This template version (v5.0B) is to be used to validate projects that apply the requirements set out in Sections 3.6, 3.17, and 3.18 of the *VCS Standard, v5.0* for this project request.[1] It applies to projects:

- with a project start date on or after 1 July ~~January~~ 2027 submitting any project request,
- with a project start date prior to 1 July ~~January~~ 2027 submitting a crediting period renewal request submitted on or after 1 January 2030.

Instructions for completing this template

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

- VCS-CCBS_-ValR_[ProjectID]_[DDMMMYYYY]_vX

Components of the file name include the following:

- "ProjectID" is the unique project ID assigned by the Verra Registry.
- "DDMMMYYYY" is the date of completion of the submitted version of the document
    - For initial submissions, the date of completion of the audit
    - For subsequent submissions, the date on which the revised version of the document was completed

[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 conversion safeguards), and V5#58 (financial transparency for benefit sharing).

- "vX" is the version of the document assigned by the validation/verification body (VVB).
    - The version number X should be incremented for any revisions made to the completed version of the document (i.e., to address findings in a project review report raised by Verra).

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.

Where 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 validation report 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 ~~P~~program documents.
- indicate what must be included to demonstrate conformance to the VCS and CCBS ~~P~~program 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 reflect the requirements of both programs. For example, the information included in the "Management Experience" row in Section 3.3.8 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~~P~~rogram rules.

New versions of templates are released when there is a change to the underlying VCS and CCBS p~~P~~rogram 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"	*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.*
"Describe"	*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.*
"Explain"	*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.*
"Fill out the table"	*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.*
"Include"	*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.*
"Justify"	*Demonstrate that a choice, approach, or decision is appropriate or acceptable, supported by objective information. The justification should enable an independent 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.*

VALIDATION REPORT: [PROJECT NAME]

Preparer's Logo (optional)

Report ID	*State the VVB's identification number of this validation report.*
Project name	*State the name of project.*
Project ID	*State the Verra project ID.*
Crediting period start	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Crediting period end	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
CCBS benefit period start	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
CCBS benefit period end	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Document completion date	*State the date of completion of the submitted version of the document. Example: 01-JAN-2027*
Document version	*State the version number of this report. The version number should match the version number in the document file name (see "Instructions for completing this template").*
VCS Standard version used for validation	*State the version number of the* VCS Standard *used by the project for this validation.* *Example:* VCS Standard, v5.0
CCBS Standard version used for validation	*State the version number of the* CCBS Standard *used by the project for this validation.* *Example:* CCBS Standard, v3.1
Methodology ID and version	*State the methodology ID(s) and version number(s) applied by the project for this validation.*

Client name and contact	*State the name of the client for whom this report was prepared and their primary contact information (including email address).*
Validation/verification body name and contact	*State the name of the VVB that prepared this report and their primary contact information (including email address).*
Approved by	*State the name of the individual at the VVB who approved this report.*
Team lead	*State the full name of the team lead of the site visit. If the team lead also had other roles, add such roles in brackets.* *Example: John Doe (technical expert)*
Team member(s) and technical reviewer(s)	*State the full name(s) of members of the site visit and their roles, and the full name(s) of the VVB's technical reviewer(s) for this audit.* *Example:* *John Doe (auditor)* *Jane Doe (technical expert)* *John Smith (technical reviewer)*

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.

File name	Description
Example: *VCS-CCBS ValR_[Project ID]_ [DDMMMYYYY]_v1*	*Example: Final validation report submitted for registration to Verra*
Example: *VCS-CCBS ValR_[Project ID]_ [DDMMMYYYY]_v2*	*Example: Revised validation report resubmitted for registration to Verra following a returned request*

Audit Summary

Summary:
Include a brief summary of the following: • *The purpose and scope of validation* • *The method and criteria used for validation* • *The number of corrective action requests (CARs), clarification requests (CLs), and Forward Action Requests (FARs) raised during validation* • *Any uncertainties associated with the validation* • *Summary of the validation conclusion*

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2

Explain the purpose of the validation.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2

Describe the scope and criteria of the validation.

1.3 Reasonableness of Assumptions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2

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

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2

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

2 VALIDATION PROCESS

2.1 Audit Team Composition

CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, Section 4.3.1

Describe the overall composition of the team conducting the audit and explain how the competencies of the team members and technical reviewers included in Appendix 3 cover expertise in the following areas:

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

2.1 Method and Criteria

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.3.1

Describe the method and criteria, including the evidence-gathering plan, used for undertaking the validation. Describe the evidence-gathering approach and important assumptions and justify the chosen approach.

2.1.1 Validation Schedule

Fill out the table below to describe the validation schedule. Add as many rows as needed for each key milestone and corresponding dates.

Milestone	Date
Contract signed	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Strategic analysis and risk assessment completed	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Audit plan delivered to project proponent	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Notice of Validation/Verification Services (NOVS) Form submitted	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Opening meeting (of site visit)	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Closing meeting (of site visit)	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
First CAR, CL, or FAR issued	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
All CARs, CLs, and FARs closed	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
First draft report issued to project proponent	*DD-MMM-YYYY*

2.2 Document Review

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.3.1

Fill out the table below to describe how the document review or desk review was performed as part of the audit:[2]

[2] The information in this table should be documented and maintained as set out in ISO 14064-3 (2019), Section 5.4.4.

Review start date	Review completion date	Number of days worked	Description of review	Audit team member(s)
DD-MMM-YYYY	*DD-MMM-YYYY*	*State the number of days that all team members worked on this review.*	*Examples: Pre-review of project description documents, review of remote satellite imagery*	*State the names of the team members and their roles.*

Fill out the table below to list the documents that were reviewed, cross-checked, and compared with identified and stated requirements during the audit (including the project description and any supporting documents).

Add rows as needed for each document. Further information may be provided in an appendix.

Ref number	Title, author(s), version, date	Electronic filename	Date provided to VVB

2.3 Interviews

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.3.1

Fill out the tables below to describe the interview process:

Description of interview process: project proponent
Describe the process for determining the interview format and conducting interviews with the project proponent.

Description of interview process: stakeholder groups

Describe the process for selecting interviewees (including details on sampling), determining the interview format, and conducting interviews with stakeholder groups, including customary rights holders and Indigenous Peoples where applicable.

Description of interview process: other groups
Describe the process for selecting interviewees (including details on sampling), determining the interview format, and conducting interviews with other groups (e.g., government officials, independent experts).

Fill out the table below to identify the people who were interviewed or provided information additional to that provided in the project description and any supporting documents. Interviewee information may be anonymized where requested, according to the applicable ISO standards (see the definition of "stakeholder private and confidential information" in the VCS Program Definitions, v5.0 *as further guidance for where this would be appropriate). Add rows as needed for each interviewee or group of interviewees.*

Interviewee details	Interview details	Interview topics
State the names or anonymized identifiers of the people who were interviewed. *State the interviewees' role in or relation to the project.* *Example:* *Names: Interviewees #1–#10* *Role: Farmers in project area*	*State:* • *the location and format of the interview (including whether it was remote or on-site).* • *the date of the interview.* • *the names and roles of the interviewer(s).* *Example: On-site in Village A, conducted DD-MMM-YYYY in group setting, by Auditor Name, lead auditor*	*Describe the information discussed with the interviewee(s).* *Example: Topics included start date of implementation of activities and stakeholder engagement activities conducted by the project proponent*

2.4 Site Visits

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.3.1

Fill out the tables below to describe the site visit(s) performed during the audit. Fill out one table for each site visit, copying and pasting the table as needed.

Site visit start date	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Site visit end date	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Site visit format	Did the site visit include a visit to facilities and/or project areas? ☐ Yes ☐ No *If no, select the appropriate answer to the following question:* Did Verra provide a site visit exemption? ☐ Yes ☐ No
Methods and objectives	*Describe the method and objectives for the site visit, including a description of the physical and organizational aspects of the project that were assessed.*
Location(s) of site visit	*Include a list of all facilities and/or project areas visited, including what kind of areas were visited (e.g., farms, plots, project activity instances, communities), their locations, and the dates each site/facility was visited.*
Team members	*Include the full names and roles of all audit team members present at the facility or project area.*

2.5 Resolution of Corrective Action Requests, Clarification Requests, and Forward Action Requests

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.3.1

Process for resolution of CARs, CLs, and FARs
Describe the process for the resolution of corrective action requests (CARs), clarification requests (CLs), and forward action requests (FARs)[3] that were raised by the VVB during the validation and resolved by the project proponent prior to the VVB issuing the statement of opinion.

[3] A forward action request (FAR) is a finding issued by the VVB during the validation or verification of a project that identifies an issue which does not affect the outcome of the current validation or verification but must be resolved by the project proponent prior to the next verification and assessed by a VVB during that verification.

Fill out the tables below to include a high-level summary of the CARs, CLs, and FARs raised during the audit. Add rows to each table as needed.

Include the full list of all CARs, CLs, and FARs in Appendix 2: List of CARs, CLs, and FARs Raised During Audit.

Total CARs raised	*State the total number of CARs raised during the validation.*
Total CLs raised	*State the total number of CLs raised during the validation.*
Total FARs raised	*State the total number of FARs raised during the validation.*
Total CARs, CLs, and FARs raised	*State the total number of CARs, CLs, and FARs raised during the validation.*

Reference number	Type	Related VCS Program rules
Include a reference number for the CAR, CL, or FAR.	*Select the type.* Choose an item.	*State the VCS Program rules to which the item relates.*
Add rows as needed.		

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Summary of Project Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the standardized benefit metrics and unique project benefits sections of the project description. Include in the conclusion whether: • *both sections are completed appropriately (i.e., estimated benefits are included and benefits that will not be monitored or are not applicable are labelled accordingly).* • *all estimated benefits are substantiated with information provided in the body of the project description.*

~~3.1~~3.2 Project Details

~~3.1.1~~3.2.1 Summary Description of Project

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.2, 3.5, 3.9, 3.10, 3.12, 3.13, and 4.1; *CCBS Standard, v.3.1*, Section G1.2; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2

Assessment conclusion

VCS

State the VVB's conclusion on whether the summary description of the project activity is accurate, complete, and provides the reader with an understanding of the nature of the project.

CCBS

State the VVB's conclusion on whether the climate, community, and biodiversity objectives are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

~~3.1.2~~3.2.2 Audit History

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 4.1; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 4.2.2

Justification and assessment conclusion

~~Justify that~~Explain how the VVB of this audit meets the VVB rotation requirements.

State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project's audit history table in the project description is accurate and complete.

~~3.1.3~~3.2.3 Sectoral Scope and Project Classification

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

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's selected sectoral scopes, project categories, and project activity types. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether all sectoral scopes specified in the applied methodology(ies) were selected.*
- *whether all project categories that apply to the project (including AFOLU project categories specified by the applied methodology) were selected, and whether all selected project categories are appropriate.*
- *whether all project activity types that apply to the project were selected, and whether all selected project activity types are appropriate.*

~~3.1.4~~3.2.4 Project Eligibility

~~3.1.4.1~~3.2.4.1 Deadlines for VCS Participation

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.8 and 4.1

Assessment conclusion

Select the appropriate responses to the following questions. Explain responses where further details are relevant.

Did the project proponent request to list on the Verra Registry (as under development or under validation) within one year of the initial crediting period start date?[4]

☐ Yes ☐ No

Was the project listed as *under validation* on the Verra Registry before the date of the opening meeting with the VVB?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Has the project proponent made or are they likely to make their initial registration request within the timelines set out in the *VCS Standard*?

☐ Yes ☐ No

State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project conforms to the deadline requirements for participation in the VCS Program.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to assess the project's conformance to the participation deadline requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

[4] This requirement only applies to projects that requested listing on the Verra Registry after 1 July ~~January~~ 2027. For projects that requested listing prior to 1 July ~~January~~ 2027, see the *VCS Standard, 4.7* for the applicable listing deadlines.

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.4.2~~3.2.4.2 AFOLU Project Eligibility

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.2 and 3.18

Assessment conclusion

*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the AFOLU project is eligible to participate in the VCS Program. Include in the conclusion: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.2.1, 3.18.8, and 3.18.9)*

- *whether the information provided is accurate, complete, and relevant.*
- *for ALM, ARR, or WRC projects where ecosystem conversion is permitted, whether:*
  - *demonstration of ecosystem degradation is appropriate and in accordance with Section 3.18.9 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0.
  - *the conditions in the* VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.18.8(2) *are met, where the state of high ecosystem degradation has occurred within the 10 years prior to the project start date.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.2.1, 3.18.8, and 3.18.9, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.4.3 CCBS Eligibility

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project is eligible to participate in the CCBS Program. Include in the conclusion: • *whether the project activity falls under VCS Sectoral Scope 14 or 15.* • *for projects seeking validation approval, whether:* o *the project underwent public comment prior to the opening meeting with the validation/verification body, and* o *the validation report and validation statement will be submitted to Verra within one year of the initiation of the public comment period.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the CCBS Program eligibility requirements, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.*

Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.4.3~~3.2.4.4 Eligibility of Projects Registered with Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Assessment conclusion

Select the appropriate responses to the following questions. Explain responses where further details are relevant.

Did the project proponent request registration with the other GHG program within the required number of years from the initial crediting period start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the project proponent requesting registration with the VCS Program within 10 years of the initial crediting period start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Is the project proponent requesting registration with the VCS Program within two years of the date of inactivity in the other GHG program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Was sufficient notification provided to the other GHG program of the intent to register the project with the VCS Program?

☐ Yes ☐ No

State the VVB's overall conclusion on the project's eligibility to participate in the VCS Program where it has been previously registered with another GHG program.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the eligibility requirements for projects previously registered with other GHG programs, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.4.4~~3.2.4.5 Capacity Limit Eligibility

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.5

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project is considered a fragment of another project. Include in the conclusion whether the project's responses and justification of each selection are appropriate.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the capacity limit requirements, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.5~~3.2.5 Right to Operate and Right to Reductions and Removals

VCS Standard, v4.7, Section 3.7; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G5.8

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.

~~3.1.5.1~~3.2.5.1 Demonstration of the Right to Operate and Right to Reductions and Removals

Assessment conclusion

VCS

*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules for the right to operate and right to reductions and removals. Include in the conclusion whether: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.6.1–3.6.2)*

- *the sources and evidence listed are appropriate, adequately justified for the project's activities, scale, location, and context, and substantiated by the analysis of laws, regulations, and legal instruments.*
- *the analysis and conclusion of the project's likelihood of affecting land or resource rights is appropriate and adequately justified.*

CCBS

Where additional information is needed to establish ownership for the CCBS Program, state the VVB's conclusion on the project's demonstration of project ownership. Include in the conclusion whether the evidence of project ownership conforms to all CCBS Program rules.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.6.1–3.6.2, and the* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G5.8, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.5.2~~3.2.5.2 Land or Resource Rights Analysis

Assessment conclusion

*Where a land or resource rights analysis is necessary for the project, state the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules for the land or resource rights analysis. Include in the conclusion whether: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.6.3–3.6.7)*

- *the team (internal or external) collectively has appropriate knowledge and experience for the project context, including any partnerships established with other organizations to support the project*
- *the land tenure categorization is appropriate and adequately justified.*
- *the process and outcome to identify customary rights are appropriate and adequately justified.*
- *where customary rights are identified, the project proponent has included and attached the project implementation agreement resulting from the free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) process as evidence to demonstrate the right to operate and the right to reductions and removals.*
- *the process and outcome to identify overlapping claims to land or resource rights, competing claims to land or resource rights, and violent conflicts are appropriate and adequately justified for the project's activities, scale, location, and context. Where competing claims to land or resource rights were identified, also include in the VVB's conclusion whether:*

- *the project proponent has provided an appropriate and adequately justified decision as to whether additional measures are necessary to establish the right to operate and the right to reductions and removals, and*
- *any agreements with rights holders with competing claims to land or resource rights are included as part of the evidence in Section 1.7.1 of the project description.*

Assessment process

Where a land or resource rights analysis is necessary for the project, describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.6.3–3.6.6, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.6~~3.2.6 Project Start Date and Initial Crediting Period Start Date

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.7 and 3.8; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G1.9; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Section 3.3.1

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to project start date and initial crediting period start date requirements. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the selected dates conform to the respective definitions in the VCS Program Definitions and any criteria set out in the applied methodology.*

- *whether the selected dates conform to all other VCS Program requirements pertaining to project start date and initial crediting period start date.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the project start date and initial crediting period start date requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.7~~3.2.7 Project Crediting Period and Benefits Assessment Period

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

Assessment conclusion

Project Crediting Period

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to crediting period length requirements. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the selected crediting period length is appropriate to the project type.*
- *where a 20–100-year crediting period length is selected, whether the crediting period length conforms to the* VCS Standard *(for ARR and IFM projects with harvesting) or any applied methodology requirements (for REDD projects).*

- *whether the information related to the project crediting period (i.e., start and end dates, number of this crediting period, and maximum total project crediting period duration) is accurate and complete.*

Benefits Assessment Period

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to benefits assessment period requirements. Include in the conclusion whether the justification for any difference between the benefits assessment period and the project crediting period is appropriate to the project.

~~3.1.8~~3.2.8 Project Scale

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.9

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the summary table of estimated net reductions and removals for each vintage period in the project crediting period. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the estimated net reductions and removals for each vintage (calendar) year are accurate and complete and match the estimated net totals reported in the quantification section of the project description.*
- *a summary of the project's likelihood to achieve the estimated net reductions and removals. The VVB's conclusion and assessment process on this must be elaborated further in Section 7: Validation Opinion.*

~~3.1.9~~3.2.9 Project Design

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

Assessment conclusion

VCS

State the VVB's conclusion on the project design. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the selection for how the project has been designed is accurate.*
- *whether the project's designation of an instance is appropriate and conforms to the definition of project activity instance in the VCS Program Definitions.*
- *for grouped projects, whether the list of eligibility areas is complete and whether the descriptions of the project eligibility area characteristics are accurate.*
- *for each eligibility area, whether all eligibility criteria conform to the VCS Program rules.*

CCBS

For grouped projects, state the VVB's conclusion on the conformance of the project design to the CCBS Program rules. Include in the conclusion whether:

- *the description of potential eligibility areas, project activity instances (i.e., project areas), and communities that may be included in the project at a future verification are reasonable.*
- *the eligibility criteria conform to the CCBS Program rules.*
- *the scalability limits conform to the CCBS Program rules.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the project design requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.10~~3.2.10 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation and Most Likely Without-Project Land Use Scenario

3.2.10.1 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation and Without-Project Land-Use Scenarios

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.12; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Sections G1.3, G2.1 and G2.2

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the description of the conditions prior to project initiation. Include in the conclusion:

~~*for GCS and E&I projects,*~~

~~*whether the list of facilities, systems, and equipment in place under the existing scenario is accurate and complete.*~~

~~*whether the description of the types and levels of services provided under the existing scenario is accurate and complete.*~~

- ~~*for AFOLU projects,*~~ *whether the descriptions of the ecosystem type, current and historical land use, and environmental conditions of the project area are accurate and complete.*
- *whether the range of potential land-use scenarios and associated drivers of land use change most likely to occur are appropriate.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's description of the conditions prior to project initiation and without-project land use scenarios, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.10.2 Most Likely Scenario Justification

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project's most likely without-project land use scenario is appropriate.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's most likely without-project land use scenario, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.10.3 Community and Biodiversity Additionality and Benefits to be Used as Offsets

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G2.2

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on:
• *the additionality of the community and biodiversity project benefits, including whether the following information was assessed regarding the justification:*
  ○ *Existing laws, regulations, and governance arrangements, or lack of laws and arrangements that would likely affect land use in the absence of the project.*
  ○ *Significant financial, technological, institutional, or capacity barriers under the without-project scenario that would have inhibited project activities.*
• *any distinct climate, community, and biodiversity benefits intended to be used as offsets, including whether additionality was established for each benefit intended for this purpose.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's community and biodiversity additionality, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.11~~3.2.11 ~~Description of the~~ Project Activities~~y~~ and Expected Benefits

3.2.11.1 Description of the Project Activity and Implementation Schedule

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.2, 3.1, 3.5, and 3.7; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G1.9

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the description of the project activity. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the description of the project activity, including the list of all technologies, systems, equipment, and measures employed, is accurate, complete, relevant, and transparent.*
- *whether the implementation schedule of the project activity(es) is accurate, complete, relevant, and transparent.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's description of the project activity and implementation schedule, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.11.2 Social Parameters

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.3

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the description of social parameters of the project is accurate, complete, and relevant.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's description of the social parameters, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.	
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.11.3 Theory of Change

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.8

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the causal relationships or theory of change that link the project activities to the project's predicted climate, community, and biodiversity benefits, including whether the theory of change in the project description is accurate, complete, and provides an understanding of the nature of the project and how it will achieve its climate, community, and biodiversity objectives.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's description of the theory of change, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.11.4 Risks to the Project's Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.10

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the accuracy of the likely natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community, and biodiversity benefits during the project lifetime identified by the project. Include whether the measures included in the project description to mitigate these risks are appropriate.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's description of the risks to the expected climate, community, and biodiversity benefits, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.11.5 Permanence of Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G1.3 and G1.8

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the measures to maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime are appropriate.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the benefit permanence, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.11.6 Financial Sustainability

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G1.3 and G.1.8

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the financial mechanisms adopted to provide an adequate projected or actual flow of funds for project implementation and to achieve the project's climate, community, and biodiversity benefits are appropriate. State whether evidence of actual or projected revenues from reductions, removals, or other sources was provided.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's financial sustainability, including the following: - *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* - *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* - *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.2.12 Project Location and Project Zone Map

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.10; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Sections G1.4–G1.7, G1.13, CM1.2 and B1.2

Assessment conclusion

Project location

State the VVB's conclusion on the description of the project location. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the description of the project location is complete and accurate, and whether it conforms to any project type-specific project location requirements (e.g., for ~~GCS~~WCS projects).*
- *whether the project description contains maps with all the required information.*
- *whether the project has attached a separate geolocation file that has been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the* Geolocation File Requirements.
- *for AFOLU projects, an assessment of whether any project areas or geographic areas (e.g., leakage belts, buffer zones) overlap with the project areas of another AFOLU project.*

Project zone map

State the VVB's conclusion on the accuracy of the CCBS project zone map. Include in the conclusion whether the project zone map includes all of the following:

- *Boundaries of the project zone.*
- *Location of communities identified, including IPs, LCs, customary rights holders, and stakeholders.*
- *Boundaries of the project area(s).*
- *Any spatially identifiable high conservation value (HCV) areas.*
- *Areas where positive and negative offsite climate impacts are predicted.*

- *Areas where other stakeholders will be impacted.*
- *Areas where offsite biodiversity impacts are predicted.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the project location requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.12~~3.2.13 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

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's compliance with laws and other regulatory frameworks. Include in the conclusion:

- *for each law, statute, and regulatory framework listed in the project description, whether the law is relevant or applies to the project and whether the project complies with it.*
- *a list of any other laws that the VVB assessed that are relevant or apply to the project, and whether the project complies with them.*

- *where the project proponent has indicated that any principal, beneficial owner, or key associated person or entity involved in the project falls into any of the specified risk categories, whether the project remains in conformance to the regulatory compliance requirements in the* VCS Standard.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's compliance with laws and other regulatory frameworks, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.13~~3.2.14 Double Counting and Participation with other GHG Programs

~~3.1.13.1~~3.2.14.1 No Double Issuance

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G5.9

Assessment conclusion
VCS *State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to VCS Program rules on double issuance. Include in the conclusion:* • *whether the project is receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals from a project activity under another GHG program.* • *whether any information provided (e.g., name and contact information of program administrator, details of participation, reductions and removals claimed under the other program, and evidence of no double counting) is accurate and complete.*

CCBS

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to CCBS Program rules on double issuance. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the project is receiving or seeking any other form of community, social, or biodiversity unit, label, or credit.*
- *whether any information provided (e.g., name and contact information of program administrator, details of participation, social or environmental credits generated under the other program, and evidence of no double issuance) is accurate and complete.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to VCS Program rules on no double issuance, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.13.~~23.2.14.2 Registration with Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to VCS Program rules on registration with other GHG programs. Include in the conclusion: • *whether any information provided (e.g., name of the other GHG program, project ID) is accurate and complete.* • *whether the date of project inactivity is accurate and whether the project is considered inactive in the other GHG program.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on registration with other GHG programs, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.13.3~~3.2.14.3 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.21

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project has been rejected by any other GHG programs. Include in the conclusion whether any information provided (e.g., name of the other GHG program, date of rejection, and reason for rejection) is accurate and complete.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate whether the project has been rejected by any other GHG programs, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.14~~3.2.15 Double Claiming, Other Forms of Credit, and Scope 3 Emissions

~~3.1.14.1~~3.2.15.1 No Double Claiming with Emissions Trading Programs or Binding Emission Limits

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project is included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit. Include in the conclusion whether any information provided (e.g., name and contact information of administrator, details of participation, project activities included, reductions and removals included, vintage periods, and evidence of no double counting) is accurate and complete.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate whether the project is included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.14.2~~3.2.15.2 No Double Claiming with Other Forms of Environmental Credit

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G5.9

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project has received or is planning to receive credit with another GHG-related environmental credit system. Include in the conclusion whether any information provided (e.g., name and contact information of administrator, details of participation, project activities included, and evidence of no double counting) is accurate and complete.

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate whether the project has received or is planning to receive credit with another GHG-related environmental credit system, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item.

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.	*Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.14.3~~3.2.15.3 Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.22

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules related to supply chain (Scope 3) emissions. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the project activities affect the emissions footprint of any products that are part of a supply chain.*
- *whether the project proponent(s) or authorized representative are a buyer or seller of a product whose emissions footprint is changed by the project activities, and if so, whether the project proponent(s) or authorized representative have posted a public statement on their website.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules related to supply chain (Scope 3) emissions, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*

Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.15~~3.2.16 Sustainable Development Contributions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.16

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on sustainable development contributions. Include in the conclusion: • *whether the planned actions and expected contributions are reasonable for the project's activities, scale, and context.* • *whether the indicators are measurable and attributable to the project.* • *the appropriateness of the indicators to measure the identified contributions.* *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

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on sustainable development contributions, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.16~~3.2.17 Additional Information

~~3.1.16.1~~3.2.17.1 Leakage Management

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.5 and 3.14

Assessment conclusion
Describe the VVB's assessment process and state the VVB's conclusion on whether the leakage management plan or implementation of leakage and risk mitigation measures are appropriate.

~~3.1.16.2~~3.2.17.2 Sensitive Information

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.4 and 3.17; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Sections 3.5.13 and 3.5.14

Assessment conclusion
Describe the VVB's assessment process and state the VVB's conclusion on whether all commercially sensitive, program sensitive, and stakeholder private and confidential information the project proponent has indicated should be excluded from the public versions of project documents is in conformance to the VCS Program rules on what may be designated as commercially sensitive, program sensitive, or stakeholder private and confidential information. Provide further details in Appendix 1: Sensitive Information~~Appendix 1: Sensitive Information~~.

~~3.1.16.3~~3.2.17.3 Further Information

Assessment conclusion
Describe the VVB's assessment process and state the VVB's conclusion on any additional relevant information provided in the corresponding section of the project description that may have a bearing on the eligibility of the project, the reductions or removals, or quantification of the project's reductions or removals.

~~3.2~~3.3 Stakeholder Engagement and Safeguards

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.

~~3.2.1~~3.3.1 Stakeholder Identification

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Sections G1.5, G1.6, G1.13, and CM1.1

Assessment conclusion

VCS and CCBS

*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules for stakeholder identification, grouping, classification, and engagement plan as documented in the project's stakeholder engagement plan, and use of the plan to determine each stakeholder group's level of engagement and to plan engagement activities accordingly. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.1, 3.17.2, and 3.17.4)*

Include in the conclusion whether:

- *the methods and processes used for identifying stakeholders are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, location, and context, including inclusivity, local and cultural appropriateness, and gender sensitivity.*
- *the identification of women, marginalized people, and vulnerable people is appropriate and adequately explained for the project's activities, scale, location, and context.*
- *the identification of customary rights holders and IPs, where applicable, is appropriate for the project's activities, scale, location, and context, and aligned with the analysis of applicable laws, regulations, and legal instruments in Section 1.7 of the project description and, where applicable, the land or resource rights analysis.*
- *the determination of stakeholder groups appropriately considers stakeholders who derive similar income, livelihood, well-being, or cultural values from the project, or who might be similarly impacted by the project, and whose values differ from those of other groups.*
- *the assignment of identified stakeholders to at least one stakeholder group and identification of stakeholder groups' characteristics are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, location, and context, and enable adequate identification of barriers to engagement and the level of information that must be provided to stakeholders according to Section 3.17.5 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0.
- *the determination of stakeholder classification is appropriate for the project's activities, scale, location, and context.*
- *the activities planned to engage with stakeholders are appropriate for each stakeholder group's characteristics and required level of engagement, considering the project's activities, scale, location, and context.*

CCBS

*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the CCBS Program rules for stakeholder identification, including stakeholder descriptions and stakeholder diversity and changes over time, as documented in the project's stakeholder engagement plan and project description. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G1.5, G1.6, G1.13, and CM1.1)*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.1, 3.17.2, and 3.17.4, and the* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G1.5–G1.6, G1.13, and CM1.1, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.3.1.1 Stakeholder Access to Information

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

In the table below, describe the VVB's conclusion and assessment process on the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program requirements.

Stakeholder access to project documents	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project proponent has made project documentation accessible to communities and other stakeholders.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Dissemination of summary project documentation	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project proponent has disseminated summary project documentation. Include in the conclusion whether the climate, community, and biodiversity*

	monitoring plans have been actively disseminated to communities and made publicly available online. *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Informational meetings with stakeholders	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project proponent held informational meetings with stakeholders in a timely manner before any decisions were made.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Community costs, risks, and benefits	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether relevant and adequate information on the potential costs, risks, and benefits of project participation was:* • *provided to communities in a form they understand:* • *provided in a timely manner before any decisions regarding participation in the project were made; and* • *sufficient to enable communities to make informed decisions regarding participation in the project.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Information to stakeholders on	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the measures taken and communication methods used to inform communities and other*

validation and future verification process	*stakeholders of the process for validation and verification are adequate.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Site visit information and opportunities to communicate with auditor	*State the VVB's conclusion on whether:* • *communities and other stakeholders were informed of the auditor's site visit in a timely manner before the site visit occurred.* • *direct and independent communication between communities and other stakeholders or their representatives and the auditor were adequately facilitated.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*

~~3.2.2~~3.3.2 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Standard, v3.1,* Sections G3.4–G3.7, and GL2.3

Assessment conclusion
*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS and CCBS ~~P~~program rules on consulting and communicating with stakeholders according to the stakeholder engagement plan. Include in the conclusion whether: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.3, 3.17.4, 3.17.5, and 3.17.10*; CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G3.4–7, GL2.3*)* • *consultation activities occurred prior to the project start date.* • *adequate measures are in place to ensure stakeholders are free from pressure, intimidation, manipulation, and coercion, and to prevent and prohibit retaliation, threats, or harassment to any stakeholders.*

- *information required in Section 3.17.5 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0 *was shared in simple, understandable terms in the local language or in a language stakeholders understand, and in a timely manner.*
- *in-person meetings occurred in community-approved locations.*
- *stakeholders and their autonomy were respected.*
- *women, marginalized people, and vulnerable people were able to participate meaningfully and their input was documented and addressed.*
- *stakeholder input influenced project design, according to the required level of engagement for the respective groups.*
- *stakeholders were provided with the project's grievance redress mechanism and Verra's Grievance Redress Process at the earliest interactions with the project.*

CCBS

For property rights holders without customary rights, state, as relevant, the VVB's conclusion on whether a transparent and agreed upon process for free, prior, and informed consent was reached, in accordance with Section G5.2 of the CCBS Standard, v3.1.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0*, Sections 3.17.3, 3.17.4, 3.17.5, and 3.17.10, and the* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G3.4–G3.7, and GL2.3, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.3~~3.3.3 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent and Benefit-Sharing Mechanism for Customary Rights Holders and IPs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Standard, v3.1,* Sections G5.2, G5.3, and GL2.6

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS and CCBS p~~P~~rogram rules on obtaining and maintaining free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC) from customary rights holders and IPs. Include in the conclusion whether: (CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections G5.2 and G5.3)

- *consent was obtained prior to the project start date.*
- *any FPIC processes:*
  - *were free from pressure, intimidation, manipulation, and coercion by the project proponent, state actors, and third parties. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.4(1))*
  - *respected and followed the customary decision-making institutions and protocols of the identified groups, including culturally appropriate and gender-sensitive considerations to the extent feasible, and defined a scope or threshold for consent according to such institutions and protocols. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.4(2) and (6))*
  - *included the timely provision of information required in Section 3.17.5 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0 *in simple, understandable terms in the local language or a language and format understandable to customary rights holders and IPs where they do not speak the local language, to enable informed decision-making. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.4(3)–(5), and 3.17.11)*
  - *are documented, including the outcome (i.e., granted, conditioned, or withheld consent), in a project implementation agreement that conforms to Section 3.17.17 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0.
- *the representatives who provided consent had the legitimate authority to do so on behalf of their respective groups.* (VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.17(5))*

Approvals

State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project has approval from appropriate authorities, including established formal or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities. (CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G5.7)

Benefit-sharing mechanism

For projects seeking to be validated to the Gold Level for exceptional community benefits or where customary rights holders or IPs are present, this section is required.

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS and CCBS program rules on benefit-sharing mechanisms, Include in the conclusion whether:

- *any benefit-sharing mechanisms with customary rights holders or IPs meet the following conditions: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.12 and 3.17.14; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.6)*

- *Jointly designed by the project proponent and the benefit-sharing mechanism participants before the project start date*
- *Appropriate to the local context and shared using culturally appropriate methods*
- *Consistent with applicable national laws and regulations*
- *Accessible, in a written or other format as appropriate, to all benefit-sharing mechanism participants during initial design and implementation of the mechanism*
- *Account for potential changes in benefits*
- *Establish a schedule for reporting mechanism implementation to participants*
- *Do not include the benefits described in Section 3.17.15 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0.

- *adequate financial information was made available to benefit-sharing mechanism participants. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.13)*
- *provision of in-kind benefits that involve infrastructure unrelated to project activities includes a co-designed plan for the continued provision of such benefits for a specified duration.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.4–3.17.5, and 3.17.11–3.17.19, and the* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G5.2–G5.3, and GL2.6, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.4~~3.3.4 Benefit-Sharing Mechanism for Rights Holders Other Than Customary Rights Holders and IPs

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section GL2.6

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on designing and implementing a benefit-sharing mechanism where the project affects land or resource rights held by parties other than customary rights holders or IPs. For projects seeking to be validated to the Gold Level for exceptional community benefits or where such rights holders are present, this section is required. Include in the conclusion whether:

- *any benefit-sharing mechanisms meet the following conditions: (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.12 and 3.17.14; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.6)*
  - *Jointly designed by the project proponent and benefit-sharing mechanism participants before the project start date*
  - *Appropriate to the local context and shared using culturally appropriate methods*
  - *Consistent with applicable national laws and regulations*
  - *Accessible, in a written or other format as appropriate, to all benefit-sharing mechanism participants during initial design and implementation of the mechanism*
  - *Account for potential changes in benefits*
  - *Establish a schedule for reporting on mechanism implementation to participants*
  - *Does not consider as benefits the implemented project activities, except where additional benefits result from the outcomes of project activities and those benefits are entirely for benefit-sharing mechanism participants; infrastructure necessary to implement the project; measures designed to mitigate safeguards-related risks; or project workers' salaries described in Section 3.17.15 of the* VCS Standard, v5.0.
- *adequate financial information was made available to benefit-sharing mechanism participants. (*VCS Standard, v5.0*, Section 3.17.13)*
- *provision of in-kind benefits that involve infrastructure unrelated to project activities includes a co-designed plan for the continued provision of such benefits for a specified duration. (*VCS Standard, v5.0*, Sections 3.17.16)*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.12–3.17.16, and the CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.6, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.4.1~~3.3.4.1 Stakeholder Input Tracker

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Program Rules, v3.1*, Sections 4.3.9, 4.3.12, and 4.6.4–4.6.6

Assessment conclusion

VCS

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on maintaining a stakeholder input tracker to record input received from stakeholder engagement and FPIC processes. Include in the conclusion whether:

- *the stakeholder input tracker enables the categorization and labeling required in Section 3.17.6(1)–(2) of the* VCS Standard, v5.0, *according to the project context, including whether measures are in place for the designation of input as private or confidential information.*
- *the project proponent has documented how stakeholder input influenced project design.*
- *the project design was adapted, as appropriate, to address the input and concerns of stakeholders.*

CCBS

*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the CCBS Program rules on project comments, including whether the stakeholder input tracker includes all the comments received during the public comment period. (*CCBS Program Rules, v3.1, *Sections 4.3.9, 4.3.12, 4.6.4–4.3.6)*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.6, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.5~~3.3.5 Grievance Redress Mechanism

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Section G3.8

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS and CCBS p~~P~~rogram rules on establishing and implementing a grievance redress mechanism. Include in the conclusion whether:

- *the grievance redress mechanism was made publicly available to stakeholders at their earliest interactions with the project. (VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.17.4(10); CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3.8)*
- *the process for submitting project grievances is simple and accessible to stakeholders, particularly stakeholder groups classified as customary rights holders and IPs or directly affected stakeholders. (VCS Standard, v5.0,* Sections 3.17.4(3), (5), and (7), and 3.17.23(1)*; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3.8)*
- *the grievance redress mechanism is:*
  - *proportionate to the project's activities, scale, and potential impacts.*
  - *culturally appropriate, gender-sensitive, accessible, and documented in relevant local languages, and facilitates the free expression of women, marginalized people, and*

*vulnerable people. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.4(7), 3.17.22(1), and 3.17.23(1) and (2)(b))*

- *channels for submitting project grievances are safe and include provisions to ensure confidentiality of information, including where the complainant chooses to remain anonymous. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.23(2)(d))*
- *defined timelines for investigating and resolving project grievances are reasonable and transparent. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.23(2)(d))*
- *the system and management process for receiving and tracking the progress of project grievances enables appeals to be submitted and the prevention of, and establishment of clear measures for the prohibition of, retaliation, intimidation, or harassment. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.23(2)(e)–(f))*
- *the process includes a clear escalation pathway through three stages. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Section 3.17.23(3)*; CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G3.8*)*
- *any project grievances received were documented, acknowledged, and addressed within the specified timelines. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.22 and 3.17.23)*
- *the response and stage of resolution of project grievances were appropriate to the nature of the project grievance, according to the established procedures. (*VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.22 and 3.17.23)*

CCBS

*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the CCBS Program rules on establishing and implementing a grievance redress mechanism. Include in the conclusion whether the grievance redress mechanism takes into account traditional methods that communities and other stakeholders use to resolve conflicts. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G3.8)*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.17.22–3.17.23 and* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G3.8, including the following:*

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item.

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.	*Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.6~~3.3.6 Ecosystem Restoration

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.18

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules on ecosystem restoration. Include in the conclusion whether the information provided is accurate, complete, and relevant, including the demonstration that a project activity improves ecosystem integrity according to Section 3.18.11 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*.*

Assessment process
Where an ARR or WRC project includes (or claims to include) ecosystem restoration, describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 3.18.10 and 3.18.11*, including the following:* • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

3.3.7 Community Employment Opportunities

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G3.10

Assessment conclusion
*State the VVB's conclusion on whether the project provides equal employment opportunities to people from the community. Where relevant, state the VVB's conclusion on whether the measures to be implemented to ensure community members, including women and vulnerable people or marginalized people a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained are appropriate. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G3.10)*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G3.10, including the following:* • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.7~~3.3.8 Management ~~Expertise~~Capacity

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.18; *CCBS Standard, v3.1,* Sections G4.1–G4.3

Item	Assessment conclusion and assessment process
Project governance structures	*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the CCBS Program rules for governance structures, including whether they can support effective project implementation. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G4.1)*

	Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following: • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Technical skills	*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the CCBS Program rules on key technical skills required to implement the project successfully, including whether such skills cover expertise in community engagement, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills, and whether they are appropriate. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G4.2)* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Management experience	*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS and CCBS ~~P~~program rules for the management team's experience and expertise. Include in the conclusion how the expertise or experience demonstrated for the management team is adequate for the project, including partnerships with other organizations to support the project. (*VCS Standard, v5.0*, Section 3.18.27; CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section G4.2)* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Financial health of implementing organization(s)	*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the relevant CCBS Program rules, including whether the financial health of the implementing organizations can support effective project implementation. (*CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Section G4.3)* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*

- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*

3.3.9 Environmental, Social, and Governance Risk Assessment

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.18; *CCBS Standard, v3.1*, Sections G3.7–G3.12, G4.3, G5.1–G5.5, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, CM3.2, B1.1, B2.1, B2.3, B2.5, B2.6, B2.8, B2.9, GL2.3, and GL 2.5

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules for the ESG risk assessment in each of the sections below. Include in the conclusion, for each safeguards category, whether the determination of category applicability is technically sound and proportionate to the project's activities, scale, and potential negative impacts.

Where the category is applicable, include in the conclusion whether:

- *the responses are consistent with the conditions prior to project initiation, description of the project activity, and any other narrative information included in the project description.*
- *there is evidence that risks were identified through meaningful stakeholder engagement, incorporating local perspectives.*
- *the proposed mitigation measures address the safeguards requirements and are sufficient in magnitude to proactively address potential negative impacts and reasonably enable the likelihood or severity of the risk to be lowered such that harm to stakeholders and the environment is minimized.*

Risk Assessment

Did the risk assessment occur before the project start date?

☐ Yes ☐ No

Environmental Risks and Mitigation

E1. Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Management of Living Natural Resources

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.4–3.18.7 of the VCS Standard, v5.0 *and Sections B1.1, B2.1, and B2.3 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

E2. Resource Efficiency and Pollution Prevention

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.12 of the VCS Standard, v5.0 *and Sections B2.8 and B2.9 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

Social Risks and Mitigation Categories

S1. Human Rights

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.13–3.18.16 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, and Sections CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

S2. Land or Resource Rights

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.17 *of the* VCS Standard, v5.0*, and* Sections G5.1–G53, G5.5, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2 *of the CCBS Standard, v3.1, following the general instructions above.*

S3. Customary Rights, Indigenous Peoples, and Cultural Heritage

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.18 *of the* VCS Standard, v5.0*, and* Sections G5.2, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, and CM3.2 *of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

S4. Gender Equality

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.19 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, and Section GL2.5 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

S5. Labor Rights and Safe Employment Conditions

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.20–3.18.25 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, and Sections G3.9–G3.12 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

S6. Armed Personnel

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.26 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, following the general instructions above.*

Governance Risks and Mitigation Categories

G1. Illegal Activities

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.28–3.18.29 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, and Section G5.4 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

G2. Anti-corruption

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1, 3.18.28, 3.18.30–3.18.32 of the VCS Standard, v5.0*, and Section G4.3 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1*, following the general instructions above.*

G3. Anti-money Laundering

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1, 3.18.28, and 3.18.33–3.18.37 of the VCS Standard, v5.0, *following the general instructions above.*

G4. Emergency Preparedness and Response

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to Sections 3.18.1 and 3.18.38 *of the* VCS Standard, v5.0, *following the general instructions above.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the VCS Standard, v5.0, *Sections 3.18.1, 3.18.4–3.18.7, 3.18.12–3.18.26, and 3.18.28–3.18.38, and to the* CCBS Standard, v3.1, *Sections G3.7–G3.12, G4.3, G5.1–G5.5, CM2.1, CM2.2, CM3.1, CM3.2, B1.1, B2.1, B2.3, B2.5, B2.6, B2.8, B2.9, GL2.3, and GL2.5, including the following:* • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

4 CLIMATE

~~3.1~~4.1 Application of Methodology

~~3.1.1~~4.1.1 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.

Where the applied methodology provides the project with a number of modules or tools to choose from, describe the steps taken to assess whether the appropriate module or tool has been selected. State a conclusion with respect to selection of each module or tool.

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

~~3.1.2~~4.1.2 Applicability and Eligibility of Methodology

~~3.1.2.1~~4.1.2.1 Eligibility of Methodology

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

State the VVB's conclusion on the eligibility of the applied methodology. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether all applied methodologies are listed on the Verra website.*
- *whether all applied methodologies, modules, and tools will be active under the VCS Program at the date of the project request submission.*
- *whether the project meets the default geographic eligibility conditions set out in Table 1 of the* VCS Standard, *if no geographic eligibility conditions are set out in the applied methodologies.*
- *where the project is applying a methodology with a capacity limit, whether the project exceeds the capacity limit.*

~~3.1.2.2~~4.1.2.2 Applicability of Methodology

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.1

Fill out the table below for each applicability condition of the applied methodology(ies). Add rows as needed.

Methodology ID	Applicability condition	Assessment process	Assessment conclusion
Example: VM0007	*First applicability condition of the methodology, module, or tool*	*Describe the steps taken to assess conformance of the project to the applicability condition, including the following:* • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence assessed*	*State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to the applicability condition.*
…	…	…	

~~3.1.3~~4.1.3 Project Boundary

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.11

~~For AFOLU projects, f~~Fill out the table below to state the VVB's conclusion on any carbon pools considered in the project boundary and whether they are appropriate and in accordance with the applied methodology.

Carbon pool	Included?	Conclusion
Aboveground woody biomass		
Aboveground non-woody biomass		
Belowground woody biomass		
Belowground non-woody biomass		
Dead wood		
Litter		
Soil organic carbon (SOC)		
Wood products		

F~~or all projects, f~~ill out the table below to state the VVB's conclusion on each GHG source and sink. Include in the conclusion whether all the sources and sinks have been appropriately included in or excluded from the project boundary in accordance with the applied methodology(ies).

Source/Sink		Type	Gas	Included?	Conclusion
Baseline	Source/Sink 1	*Source or Sink*	CO_2		
			CH_4		
			N_2O		
			Other		
	Source/Sink 2	*Source or Sink*	CO_2		
			CH_4		

Source/Sink		Type	Gas	Included?	Conclusion
			N_2O		
			Other		
Project	Source/Sink 1	*Source or Sink*	CO_2		
			CH_4		
			N_2O		
			Other		
	Source/Sink 2	*Source or Sink*	CO_2		
			CH_4		
			N_2O		
			Other		
Leakage	Source 1	Source	CO_2		
			CH_4		
			N_2O		
			Other		
	Source 2	Source	CO_2		
			CH_4		
			N_2O		
			Other		

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion regarding whether the project boundary and selected sources, sinks, and carbon pools are justified for the project.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project boundary, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.3.1~~4.1.3.1 De Minimis GHG Sources and Carbon Pools

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's conformance to de minimis requirements. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the GHG sources and carbon pools or sinks deemed de minimis and excluded from the project boundary are appropriate to the project and in accordance with the applied methodology.*
- *whether quantification of the ex-ante increases in GHG emissions or decreases in carbon stocks for each GHG source and carbon pool or sink is complete, accurate, and in accordance with the applied methodology, and an assessment of the outcome of the quantification for each GHG source and carbon pool or sink.*
- *whether the cumulative sum of relative contributions from the GHG sources and carbon pools or sinks is lower than the applicable de minimis threshold(s) across the specified period.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the de minimis requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.4~~4.1.4 Baseline Scenario

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.12

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on the project's baseline scenario. Include in the conclusion:

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

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's baseline scenario, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities. Include details (including sources of information) of steps taken to cross-check data used in identification of the baseline scenario.*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.4.1~~4.1.4.1 Baseline Reassessment

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.2

Assessment conclusion

For projects undergoing crediting period renewal, provide an overall conclusion on the project's baseline assessment. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the project is applying the most recent applicable version of the VCS Program rules.*
- *whether the project is using active versions of applied methodologies, modules, and tools.*
- *whether the project has an updated demonstration of regulatory surplus.*
- *whether the steps taken to reassess the validity of the original baseline scenario were appropriate, including whether the project:*
  - *included an assessment of the impact of new relevant national and/or sectoral policies on the validity of the baseline scenario.*
  - *followed all project-specific requirements in the* VCS Standard *(e.g., for WRC projects) and applied methodology(ies).*
- *whether the project's conclusion on the validity of the original baseline assessment is accurate (including the quality and completeness of evidence, data, and assumptions provided).*

Assessment process

For projects undergoing crediting period renewal, describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's baseline reassessment, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.5~~4.1.5 Additionality

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.13

~~3.1.5.1~~4.1.5.1 Regulatory Surplus

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on the project's demonstration of regulatory surplus. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether all laws or regulatory frameworks reviewed by the project proponent for the demonstration of regulatory surplus are appropriate and whether their assessment is correct.*
- *where the project is not located in a high-income country, whether any laws or regulatory frameworks are not systematically enforced and whether the evidence to support systematic non-enforcement is valid.*
- *where the project proponent excludes from the demonstration of regulatory surplus any laws or regulatory frameworks that allow or incorporate the use of carbon credits, that the exclusion is justified.*

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the regulatory surplus requirements, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.5.2~~4.1.5.2 Additionality Methods

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on the project's demonstration of additionality. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the selected method to demonstrate additionality is appropriate.*
- *whether the project proponent adhered to all procedures and requirements in the applied methodology, tool, or procedure correctly and precisely.*
- *the appropriateness and accuracy/conservativeness of all relevant data, parameters, references, and sources used for assessing additionality.*

For project methods, include at least information with respect to the following:

- *For benchmark analysis, the suitability of the benchmark used and that the project activity would not meet the required financial benchmark without carbon credit revenues*
- *Where the project proponent demonstrates that carbon credit revenues decisively increase economic performance of the mitigation activity and raise the financial indicator to or above the required financial benchmark, an assessment of the suitability of the carbon credit price*

- *For investment comparison analysis, that the project activity would not be the most economically attractive scenario in the absence of carbon credit revenues*
- *For barrier analysis, the credibility of each barrier*
- *The appropriateness of the geographical region used in the common practice analysis*
- *Information regarding similar projects identified in the common practice analysis, including essential distinctions between similar projects and the proposed project*

For standardized methods, include at least information with respect to the following:

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

Provide details (including sources of information) of steps taken to cross-check data used in the additionality demonstration.

Assessment process

Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's demonstration of additionality, including the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.1.6~~4.1.6 Methodology Deviations

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.19

Assessment conclusion
For each methodology deviation applied to the project, state the VVB's overall conclusion regarding whether the deviations are valid and conform to the VCS Program rules. Include in the conclusion: • *whether the deviation meets with the criteria and specifications for permitted methodology deviations.* • *whether the deviation negatively impacts the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals (except where it results in increased accuracy).* • *whether the deviation relates only to the criteria and procedures for monitoring or measurement and does not relate to any other part of the methodology.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate any methodology deviations, including the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2~~4.2 Quantification of Estimated Reductions and Removals

~~3.2.1~~4.2.1 Quantification of Baseline Emissions, Project Emissions, and Leakage Emissions

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.14

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall concluding statement regarding whether the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, and leakage. Include in the conclusion: • *whether all relevant assumptions and data are listed in the project description, including their references and sources.* • *whether all estimates of emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the project description.*

Assessment process
Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's quantification procedures and equations and references to any data sources used. Describe at least how the following have been assessed: • *Quantification of baseline emissions* • *Quantification of project emissions* • *Quantification of leakage emissions* • *Uncertainties associated with the calculation of emissions* • *Documentation used as the basis for assumptions and sources of data* *Include the following:* • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~3.2.2~~4.2.2 Other Relevant Quantification

~~3.2.2.1~~4.2.2.1 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

VCS Standard, v5.0, Sections 2.4 and 3.2

For projects that are required to assess non-permanence risk, describe the steps taken to assess the non-permanence risk rating.

For each risk rating, state the VVB's conclusion on the following information:

- *The rationale, assumptions and justifications used to support the risk score*
- *The quality of documentation and data provided to support the risk score*
- *The appropriateness of the risk score*

Include a conclusion regarding the determined value of the overall risk rating.

Select the appropriate response to the following:

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

☐Yes ☐No

If yes, state the VVB's conclusion on the validity of the evidence provided for the alternative approach.

~~3.2.2.2~~4.2.2.2 Buffer Pool Allocation Calculation

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

State the VVB's conclusion on the project's estimated buffer pool allocation.

Describe the steps taken to assess the project's estimated buffer pool allocation for the project crediting period, including how the allocation was determined separately for reductions and removals, if applicable.

~~3.2.2.3~~4.2.2.3 Long-Term Average

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.2

For ARR and IFM projects with harvesting, state the VVB's conclusion on the long-term average conformance. Include in the conclusion:

- *whether the long-term average has been updated based on monitored data, where applicable.*
- *whether the long-term average has been reached.*

Describe the steps taken to assess the project's conformance to the VCS Program rules related to the long-term average.

~~3.3~~4.3 Monitoring

~~3.3.1~~4.3.1 Data and Parameters Used

VCS Standard, v5.0, Section 3.15

Fill out the table below for each data/parameter used, copying and pasting the table as needed.

Data/Parameter	*State the name of the data/parameter used.*
Data unit	*State the unit of measure.*
Assessment process	*Describe the steps taken to validate the appropriateness of the data/parameter.*
Assessment conclusion	*State the VVB's conclusion on the data/parameter, including* • *whether all the data/parameters chosen are reasonable in the context of the project and are in conformance to the VCS Program rules and applied methodology(ies).* • *whether the information provided in Appendix 2 of the project description is complete and accurate.*

~~3.3.2~~4.3.2 Monitoring Plan

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion regarding the adherence of the monitoring plan to the requirements of the applied methodology and any referenced tools. Include in the conclusion whether the implemented monitoring system is suitable (i.e., process and schedule for obtaining, recording, compiling and analyzing the monitored data and parameters).

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the monitoring plan, including the suitability and eligibility of the monitoring equipment and procedures (e.g., process and schedule for obtaining, recording, compiling, and analyzing the monitored data and parameters). Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3~~2.2~~.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

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 move to the next section.

4.4.1 Regional Climate Change Scenarios

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion regarding whether the likely regional or sub-national climate change and climate variability scenarios and impacts identified are appropriate.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the likely regional or sub-national climate change and climate variability scenarios and impacts identified. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item.

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.	*Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

4.4.2 Climate Change Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.2

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion regarding whether the current or anticipated climate changes that are having or are likely to have an impact on community well-being and/or the biodiversity conservation status in the project zone and surrounding regions are appropriate.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the climate changes that are having or are likely to have an impact on community well-being and/or the biodiversity conservation. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

4.4.3 Measures to be Implemented for Adaptation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL1.3

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion regarding whether the measures to assist communities and/or biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change are appropriate for the project.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the measures to assist communities and/or biodiversity to adapt to climate change). Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5 COMMUNITY

5.1 Without-Project Community Scenario

5.1.1 Descriptions of Communities at Project Start

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the reported well-being information, community characteristics, and diversity within the community are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the reported well-being information, community characteristics, and diversity within the community. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.1.2 High Conservation Values

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.2

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the community well-being HCVs identified by the project and their qualifying attributes and focal areas are relevant and appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the community well-being HCVs identified by the project. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.1.3 Without-Project Scenario: Community

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM1.3

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the expected changes in the well-being conditions and other characteristics of communities and community groups under the without-project land use scenario identified and reported are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the expected changes in community well-being under the without-project land use scenario. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*

Add rows as needed.	

5.2 Net Positive Community Impacts

5.2.1 Expected Community Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM2.1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the anticipated community well-being impacts resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario in the project zone and over the project lifetime identified and reported are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the anticipated community well-being impacts resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.2.2 Negative Community Impact Mitigation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM2.2

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the described risks of negative impacts on community well-being and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context, and consistent with the precautionary principle.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the potential negative impacts on community well-being and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.2.3 Net Positive Community Well-Being

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the anticipated net well-being impacts of the project predicted to be positive for all identified community groups compared with their anticipated well-being conditions under the without-project land use scenario are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process

Describe the steps taken to validate that the anticipated net impacts for community well-being are expected to be positive. Include the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.2.4 High Conservation Values Protected

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections CM2.2 and CM2.4

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the explanations of how none of the community well-being HCVs identified will be negatively affected by the project are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate how community well-being HCVs identified are expected to be affected by the project. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.3 Other Stakeholder Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section CM3.3

Item	Assessment conclusion and assessment process
Positive impacts on other stakeholders	*State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the positive impacts that the project activities are likely to have on the well-being of other stakeholders are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*
Net impacts on other stakeholders	*State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project activities are anticipated to result in net positive impacts on the well-being of other stakeholders, considering the positive impacts explained above.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed*

5.4 Community Monitoring Plan

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the community monitoring plan conforms to the CCBS Program rules. *For projects intending to meet Gold Level for:* • *climate change adaptation benefits, state the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the community monitoring plan appropriately covers how the project will provide significant support to assist communities in adapting to the impacts of climate change.* • *exceptional community benefits, state the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the community monitoring plan conforms to the requirements in Section GL2 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the community monitoring plan. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project zone conforms to one of the following exceptional community criteria: • *that the smallholders, community members, or communities either own or have:* o *management rights, statutory or customary, individually or collectively, to land in the project area.* o *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.*

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the conformance to the CCBS Program rules on exceptional community criteria in the project zone. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.5.2 Short-Term and Long-Term Community Benefits

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.2

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project will generate short-term and long-term net positive well-being benefits for smallholders or community members in conformance to Gold Level requirements.

Assessment process

Describe the steps taken to validate the short-term and long-term net positive well-being benefits for smallholders or community members. Include the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.5.3 Marginalized or Vulnerable Community Groups

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.4

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether each marginalized or vulnerable community group engaged by the project will gain net positive benefits.

Assessment process

Describe the steps taken to validate the net positive benefits for marginalized or vulnerable community groups. Include the following:

- *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*
- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.5.4 Net Impacts on Women

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.5

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the explanation of how the project will generate net positive impacts on the well-being of women and the measures in place to enable women to participate in or influence decision-making are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the net positive impacts on women. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item.

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.	*Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.5.5 Governance and Implementation Structures

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.8

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project's governance and implementation structures, and any relevant self-governance or other structures used for aggregation of smallholders or community members, are appropriate to enable the full and effective participation of those groups in project decision-making and implementation.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate that the project's governance and implementation structures enable effective participation of smallholders or community members. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

5.5.6 Smallholders or Community Members Capacity Development

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section GL2.9

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the measures in place to develop the capacity of smallholders or community members, and relevant local organizations or institutions, are appropriate to enable their effective and active participation in project design, implementation, and management.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the development of capacity of smallholders or community members, and relevant local organizations or institutions. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6 BIODIVERSITY

6.1 Without-Project Biodiversity Scenario

6.1.1 Existing Conditions

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.1

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the reported biodiversity information within the project zone at the start of the project, including any key assumptions and threats, is appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the reported biodiversity information within the project zone. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.1.2 High Conservation Values

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.2

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the biodiversity-related HCVs identified by the project within the project zone and their qualifying attributes and focal areas are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity-related HCVs identified by the project within the project zone and their qualifying attributes. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities*

- *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*
- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.1.3 Without-project Scenario: Biodiversity

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B1.3

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the expected changes to biodiversity conditions under the without-project land use scenario identified and reported are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the expected changes to biodiversity conditions under the without-project land use scenario. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item.

Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.	*Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts

6.2.1 Expected Biodiversity Changes

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.1

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the anticipated positive and negative biodiversity-related impacts resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario in the project zone and over the project lifetime identified and reported are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the anticipated biodiversity-related impacts resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.2 Negative Biodiversity Impact Mitigation

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.3

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the described risks of negative impacts on biodiversity and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context, and consistent with the precautionary principle.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the potential negative impacts on biodiversity and the measures commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.3 Net Positive Impacts

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the anticipated net biodiversity impacts of the project predicted to be positive compared with the conditions under the without-project land use scenario identified and reported are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

For projects seeking Gold Level for climate change adaptation benefits, state the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project activities will assist biodiversity to adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the anticipated net biodiversity impacts of the project, predicted to be positive. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.4 High Conservation Values Protected

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B2.3 and B2.4

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project's claim that no biodiversity-related HCVs were negatively affected are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate how the biodiversity-related HCVs identified are expected to be affected by the project. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

- *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.5 Species Used

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B2.5 and B2.6

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on the conformance to the CCBS Program requirements on species used. Include in the conclusion whether: • *the identified species to be used by the project are justified.* • *the classification of species is correct.* • *the justification for the usage of any non-native species is appropriate.* • *the mitigation measures planned for the use of non-native species are appropriate.* • *the project does not introduce any known invasive species into any area affected by the project.*

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate conformance to the CCBS Program rules regarding the project's use of non-native and invasive species. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process

Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.6 GMO Exclusion

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.7

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project conforms to the GMO exclusion requirement.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate that the project conforms to the GMO exclusion requirement. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*

Add rows as needed.	

6.2.7 Inputs Used in the Project

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.8

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the justification for the use of fertilizers, chemical pesticides, biological control agents, and other inputs intended to be used for the project is appropriate and reasonable considering the potential adverse effects.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the justification for the use of fertilizers, chemical pesticides, biological control agents, and other inputs. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.2.8 Waste Products

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Section B2.9

Assessment conclusion

State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the description of the process for identifying, classifying, and managing all waste products resulting from project activities is appropriate and reasonable to minimize the project's impacts on biodiversity.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the description of the process for identifying, classifying, and managing all waste products resulting from project activities. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section* 2.3.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

6.3 Offsite Biodiversity Impacts

CCBS Standard, v3.1, Sections B3.1–B3.3

Item	Assessment conclusion and assessment process
Negative offsite biodiversity impacts and mitigation measures	*State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the potential negative impacts on offsite biodiversity and the commensurate mitigation measures in place to prevent or mitigate each risk are appropriate for the project's activities, scale, and context.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • *A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB*

	• A list of any evidence gathered and assessed
Net offsite biodiversity benefits	*State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project activities are anticipated to result in net positive impacts on offsite biodiversity, considering the positive impacts explained above.* *Describe the process and steps taken to validate the project's conformance to the applicable requirements, including the following:* • A description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities • The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB • A list of any evidence gathered and assessed

6.4 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the biodiversity monitoring plan conforms to the CCBS Program rules. *For projects intending to meet Gold Level for:* • *climate change adaptation benefits, state the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the biodiversity monitoring plan appropriately covers how the project will provide significant support to assist biodiversity in adapting to the impacts of climate change.* • *exceptional biodiversity benefits, state the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the biodiversity monitoring plan conforms to the requirements in Section GL3 of the* CCBS Standard, v3.1.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the biodiversity monitoring plan. Include the following: • An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities • The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB • A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.*

Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether the project zone conforms to the high biodiversity conservation priority status requirement.

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the high biodiversity conservation criteria for the project zone. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*

Add rows as needed.	

6.5.2 Trigger Species Population Trends

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

Assessment conclusion
State the VVB's overall conclusion on whether: • *the expected population trends of trigger species are appropriate, and* • *the measures in place to maintain or enhance the population status of the trigger species in the project zone and to reduce threats to the species, are appropriate and conform to Gold Level requirements.*

Assessment process
Describe the steps taken to validate the population trends of trigger species, and the measures to enhance their status in the project zone. Include the following: • *An overall description of the VVB's evidence-gathering activities* • *The reference numbers of any CARs, CLs, and FARs raised by the VVB* • *A list of any evidence gathered and assessed, using the table format below:*

Evidence description and type	Assessment process
Select the type of evidence from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed. Choose an item. *Describe the evidence and include any relevant document reference numbers set out in Section 2.3.*	*Select the type of evidence-gathering technique from the dropdown list below, copying and pasting the list as needed.* Choose an item. *Describe the techniques employed and process used to assess the evidence.*
Add rows as needed.	

~~4~~7 VALIDATION OPINION

~~4.1~~7.1 Validation Conclusion Summary

Fill out the table below:

Date of the opinion	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Project name	*State the name of the project.*
GHG statement	*State the GHG statement subject to validation, including the date and period covered.* *Clearly state that the GHG statement is the responsibility of the project proponent.*
Objectives, scope, and criteria	*Include a summary of the objectives, scope, and criteria that were used to compile and assess the GHG statement.*
Non-permanence risk assessment version	*For projects subject to non-permanence risk analysis requirements~~AFOLU and GCS projects~~, state the version number of the non-permanence risk tool or market leakage evaluation documentation upon which the opinion is based.*
Data and information supporting the GHG statement	*Describe whether the data and information supporting the GHG statement assertion were hypothetical, projected, or historical in nature.*

~~4.2~~7.2 State the VVB's conclusion on the GHG statement and whether the project conforms to the validation criteria for projects set out in VCS Version 5, CCBS Version 3.1, the VCS and CCBS p~~P~~rogram rules, including any qualifications or modifications. Conclude whether the project is likely to achieve the estimated GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals described in Section 7.2~~4.2~~: Conclusion on Estimated Reductions and Removals

For all projects, fill out the table below:

Crediting period start	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Crediting period end	*DD-MMM-YYYY*

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

For projects that are not required to assess non-permanence risk, fill out the table below. Where the project reports removals and reductions separately, these must also be validated separately.

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated net reductions (tCO_2e)	Esti rem (tC
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *15-MAR-2025*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2025*					
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2026*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2026*					
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2027*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *14-MAR-2027*					
...						
Total						

For projects required to assess non-permanence risk, fill out the table below for the project crediting period. Where the project reports removals and reductions separately, these must also be validated separately.

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)	Estimated net reductions minus buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)	Est ren min poo allo (tC
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example: 15-MAR-2025*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example: 31-DEC-2025*						

DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2026*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2026*						
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2027*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *14-MAR-2027*						
…							
Total							

. The validation statement must be presented in the negative.

Adverse, disclaimed, modified, or qualified opinions must include a description of the reason(s) for the opinion, placed before the VVB's conclusion.

State the reasonableness of assumptions, limitations, and methods that support a claim about the outcome of future activities, explaining that actual results may vary since the estimates are based on assumptions that are subject to change.

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

Example of a validation opinion (based on ISO 14064-3:2019, Annex D.2)

The data examined during the validation were projected in nature.

Based on our examination of the evidence, nothing comes to our attention which causes us to believe that these assumptions do not provide a reasonable basis for the forecast. Further, in our opinion, the forecast is properly prepared on the basis of the assumptions and in accordance with VCS Program documents.

Actual results are likely to be different from the forecast since anticipated events frequently do not occur as expected and the variation may be material.

The upstream GHG emissions, removals, and storage in ABC's GHG statement were not addressed by our validation.

~~4.3~~7.3 Conclusion on Estimated Reductions and Removals

For all projects, fill out the table below:

Crediting period start	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Crediting period end	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Validated estimated GHG emission reductions and carbon dioxide removals for the project crediting period	

For projects that are not required to assess non-permanence risk, fill out the table below. Where the project reports removals and reductions separately, these must also be validated separately.

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated net reductions (tCO_2e)	Estimated net removals (tCO_2e)	Total estimated net reductions and removals (tCO_2e)
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *15-MAR-2025*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2025*						
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2026*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2026*						
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:*						

01-JAN-2027	*14-MAR-2027*						
…							
Total							

For projects required to assess non-permanence risk, fill out the table below for the project crediting period.[5] *Where the project reports removals and reductions separately, these must also be validated separately.*

Vintage period start	Vintage period end	Estimated baseline emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated project emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated leakage emissions (tCO_2e)	Estimated buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)	Estimated net reductions minus buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)	Estimated net removals minus buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)	Total estimated net reductions and removals minus buffer pool allocation (tCO_2e)
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example: 15-MAR-2025*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example: 31-DEC-2025*							
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:* *01-JAN-2026*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:* *31-DEC-2026*							
DD-MMM-YYYY *Example:*	*DD-MMM-YYYY* *Example:*							

[5] Where a project is participating in the Verra durability pilot, the buffer pool allocation column does not need to be filled in for years in which the project uses an alternative approach (i.e., insurance or a fund-based approach).

01-JAN-2027	*14-MAR-2027*							
...								
Total								

APPENDIX 1: SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Fill out the table below to assess any commercially sensitive information, program sensitive information, or stakeholder private and confidential information included in the project description to be excluded in the public version of the project description. Ensure this appendix is removed from the public version of the validation report.

Section number	Information to be excluded	Assessment process and conclusion
		State the VVB's conclusion on commercially sensitive information, program sensitive information, or stakeholder private and confidential information. Include in the conclusion whether the information meets the VCS Program definitions of commercially sensitive information, program sensitive information, or stakeholder private and confidential information and is not otherwise publicly available. *Describe the steps taken to assess the information provided in Appendix 1 of the project description.*

APPENDIX 2: LIST OF CARS, CLS, AND FARS RAISED DURING AUDIT

Fill out one table below for each CAR, CL, and FAR raised during the audit prior to issuance of the statement of opinion. Use one table for each CAR, CL, or FAR, copying and pasting additional tables as needed. Do not include findings issued in project review reports by Verra.

Finding ID	*State the reference number of the finding.*
Date raised	*DD-MMM-YYYY*
Raised by	*Name of auditor and role*
Type of finding	*Select the type of finding.* *Choose an item.*
Document reference	*State the VCS Program document and specific section of the VCS Program document that the CAR, CL, or FAR is raised against.*
Summary of finding	*Describe the issue raised, including an explanation of how it was determined and why it was raised.*
Assessment and conclusion	*Describe each round of response by the project proponent and assessment by the VVB, including the following information:* • *Date of project proponent response* • *Response provided by the project proponent* • *Documentation provided by the project proponent, including name, version, and date of the documents* • *VVB assessment conclusion and assessment process* • *Finding status (e.g., open/closed)* • *Finding status date*

APPENDIX 3: COMPETENCE OF TEAM MEMBERS AND TECHNICAL REVIEWERS

Fill out the table below to include details of qualifications and competencies of each team member and technical reviewer. Copy and paste additional tables as needed. Refer to the competency requirements in ISO 14066 for further guidance.

Name of team member or technical reviewer	*State the name of the team member or technical reviewer.*
Role of team member or technical reviewer	*State the role of the team member or technical reviewer.*
Summary of qualifications and technical competencies	*Describe the qualifications and technical competencies of the team member or technical reviewer.*

APPENDIX X: <TITLE OF APPENDIX>

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