# Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

## Project Requirements

First Draft, 2 January 2018

## Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Introduction</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>1.1 Version and Update Schedule</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>1.2 Scope of the SD VISta Program</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>1.3 Language</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>2 Project Design</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>2.1 Project Goals, Design and Long-term Viability</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>2.2 Stakeholder Engagement</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>2.3 Management Capacity</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>2.4 Legal Status and Rights</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>3 Benefits for People and Prosperity</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>3.1 Stakeholders at Project Start</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>3.2 Impact on Stakeholders</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>3.3 Monitoring of Impact on Stakeholders</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18</td>
<td>4 Benefits for the Planet</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>4.1 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services at Project Start</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>4.2 Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21</td>
<td>4.3 Monitoring of Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td>5 Claims and Assets</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>23</td>
<td>5.1 OPTIONAL: SD VISta Claims</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24</td>
<td>5.2 OPTIONAL: SD VISta Assets</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>25</td>
<td>5.3 Claims and Assets from Other Programs</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26</td>
<td>6 Validation and Verification Requirements for the Project</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>27</td>
<td>7 Glossary</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1 Introduction

The Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISta) is a global standard managed by VCS for projects that generate verifiable sustainable development benefits. SD VISta projects must demonstrate how they will advance the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and deliver benefits for people, their prosperity and the planet, in accordance with the United Nations' 2015 resolution Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (hereafter referred to as the 2030 Agenda).

The two principal documents of the SD VISta Program are the SD VISta Program Guide and the SD VISta Project Requirements. The SD VISta Program Guide describes the rules and requirements governing the SD VISta Program and further describes the constituent parts of the program such as the project registration process, the VCS registry system, the methodology approval process and the accreditation requirements for validation/verification bodies. The document SD VISta Project Requirements provides the requirements for developing projects as well as the requirements for validation, monitoring and verification of projects and related claims and assets. The SD VISta Program Guide¹ should be read before using the SD VISta Project Requirements.

This Section 1 sets out general information about the SD VISta Program. Sections 2-5 are requirements for project design and implementation. Section 6 sets out requirements of the validation and verification process.

1.1 Version and Update Schedule

All information about version control under the SD VISta Program is contained in the SD VISta Program Guide.

This document will be updated from time-to-time and readers shall ensure that they are using the most current version of the document. The next review and potential update of this document is scheduled for 2020. Where external documents are referenced, and such documents are updated, the most recent version of the document shall be used.

1.2 Scope of the SD VISta Program

The SD VISta Program sets out rules and requirements for the transparent and credible design, implementation and verification of sustainable development projects. It applies to any kind of project that aims to deliver sustainable development benefits. Example project types include, but are not limited to, the following: agriculture, forestry and other land use (AFOLU), ecosystem-based adaptation, energy efficiency, food security, health care, housing, cooking technologies, infrastructure, renewable energy, sustainable livelihoods, transportation, water access and women's empowerment.

Projects that demonstrate compliance with the optional requirements bracketed and designated M/VG in this document prove that their beneficiaries include at least one marginalized and/or vulnerable group.

The scope of the SD VISta Program does not include creation of credits for GHG emission reductions and removals (ERR), or cover carbon footprint assessments or carbon neutrality claims. These credits and claims may be generated by using another program, such as the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) for GHG ERRs, concurrently with SD VISta. The concurrent application of SD VISta and the VCS will be facilitated through combined templates and validation/verification procedures. VCS would also welcome opportunities to work with other programs on similar streamlining.

¹ The SD VISta Program Guide is still under development. It will be open for review during the second SD VISta public consultation period, which is planned for mid-2018.
1.3 Language

1.3.1 The operating language of the SD VISta Program is English. SD VISta Program documents may be translated into other languages to facilitate local use. However, the English versions of SD VISta Program documents, and the interpretation of same, shall take precedence over any other language translations.

1.3.2 The project description, validation report, monitoring report, verification report and all other documentation (including any and all appendices) required under the SD VISta Program shall be written in English. For projects located in countries for which English is not a widely used language among project stakeholders, the project proponent shall develop at least a summary of the project description and/or monitoring report in a relevant local or regional language. This shall be the same summary disseminated to project stakeholders (as described in Section 2.2.1).

2 Project Design

This section is for the demonstration of the project’s objectives and plans for achieving them, including stakeholder engagement and rights.

2.1 Project Goals, Design and Long-term Viability

Concept

The project has clear sustainable development objectives and is designed to meet these objectives. Opportunities and threats are identified and managed to generate and maintain project benefits within and beyond the life of the project.

Indicators

Project Overview

2.1.1 Identify and provide contact details for the project proponent(s).

2.1.2 Define the project’s sustainable development objective(s).

2.1.3 Identify at least one Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Target for which the project will demonstrate positive impact.

2.1.4 Provide one or more causal chains to map the cause-and-effect relationships resulting from the project’s activities. These chains shall describe the project’s outputs, outcomes and impacts (intended and unintended) for people, their prosperity and the planet.

2.1.4.1 Activities intended to generate the project’s predicted sustainable development benefits, including the SDG Target(s) identified in Section 2.1.3, shall be monitored (and this monitoring described in Section 3.3 and/or 4.3, as appropriate). If the project will generate an SD VISta asset, the asset creation process shall be included in the causal chain(s).

2.1.4.2 All potentially negative outputs, outcomes and impacts described in the causal chain(s) shall be monitored (and this monitoring described in Section 3.3 and/or 4.3, as appropriate) and mitigated (per Sections 3.2.2 and 3.2.3 and/or 4.2.3 and 4.2.4, as appropriate).

Note: If the causal chain(s) do not indicate any significant negative or positive impacts of project activities on stakeholders, the project is exempted from the requirements of Section 3 (Benefits for People and

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2 Throughout the SD VISta Program, unless otherwise specified, the term ‘stakeholder’ means those stakeholders in the geographic vicinity of the project who could potentially be affected by project activities. Other potentially interested stakeholders—e.g. local or international NGOs—are identified as such.
Prosperity). If causal chain(s) do not indicate any significant negative or positive impacts of project activities for natural capital and ecosystem services, the project is exempted from the requirements of Section 4 (Benefits for the Planet). The project proponent shall demonstrate that project activities have generated net positive impacts by meeting the requirements of Section 3 or Section 4 or both.

2.1.5 Provide a map specifying the project location as follows:

2.1.5.1 Project location for non-AFOLU projects shall be specified by a single geodetic coordinate. Where there are multiple project activity instances, the following applies:

a. Where it is reasonable to do so, a geodetic coordinate shall be provided for each instance and provided in a KML file; or

b. Where there are a large number project activity instances (e.g., for cookstoves or energy efficient light bulb distribution), at least one geodetic coordinate shall be provided, together with sufficient additional geographic information (with respect to the location of the instances) to enable appropriate sampling by the validation/verification body.

2.1.5.2 Project location for grouped projects shall be specified using geodetic polygons to delineate the project’s geographic area or areas and provided in a KML file.

2.1.5.3 Project location for AFOLU projects shall be specified using geodetic polygons to delineate the geographic area of each AFOLU project activity and provided in a KML file.

2.1.6 If the project’s sustainable development benefits will be experienced outside the project location (as identified in Section 2.1.5), those areas shall be specified by impact using geodetic polygons to delineate the geographic area and provided in a KML file.

2.1.7 Define the project start date and project lifetime, and, if the project will generate one or more SD VISta assets, define and justify a chosen crediting period. Define an implementation schedule, indicating key dates and milestones in the project’s development.

Stakeholder Identification

2.1.8 Explain the process of stakeholder identification and analysis used to identify all stakeholder groups that could potentially be affected by the project.

2.1.9 List the stakeholder groups identified using the process explained in 2.1.6. All project stakeholders must be part of at least one stakeholder group. [M/VG: Clearly identify at least one marginalized and/or vulnerable group from among the project’s stakeholders.]

Threat Management and Long-term Viability

2.1.10 Identify likely natural and human-induced threats to the expected sustainable development benefits during the project lifetime and outline measures needed and taken to mitigate these threats. Include shorter and longer term threats (those within the project lifetime and beyond the project lifetime, respectively), threats related to continued stakeholder willingness to participate in the project, threats related to the ability to adapt to climate change and climate variability, etc.

2.1.11 Describe the measures needed and taken to maintain and enhance the sustainable development benefits beyond the project lifetime.

2.1.12 Demonstrate that the financial mechanisms utilized by the project, including actual and projected revenues from sustainable development claims, units or other sources, provide an adequate flow of funds for project implementation to achieve the project’s sustainable development benefits.

Grouped Projects

Sections 2.1.13-2.1.15 only apply to grouped projects. Grouped projects are projects structured to facilitate the expansion of a project activity subsequent to project validation. Validation is based upon the
initial project activity instances identified in the project description. The project description sets out the
global areas within which new project activity instances may be developed and the eligibility criteria
for their inclusion. New instances meeting these pre-established criteria may then be added to the project
subsequent to project validation, as set out in the sections below.

2.1.13 Clearly define one or more geographic areas within which project activity instances may be
developed and stakeholders that may affect or be affected by the project. Identify any new land area(s)
and stakeholders that have been included in the project since the last SD VISta validation or verification.

2.1.14 Specify the eligibility criteria and process for project expansion under the grouped project.
Demonstrate that these have been met for any new land area(s) and stakeholder groups that have been
included in the project since the last SD VISta validation or verification.

These eligibility criteria shall ensure that new project activity instances:

a. Adopt the project activities specified in the project description.
b. Implement the project activities in the same manner as specified in the project description.
c. Are subject to the same scenarios at project start with respect to stakeholders and natural capital
and ecosystem services as determined for initial project instance(s).
d. Are subject to the same processes for stakeholder engagement described in Section 2.2.
e. Are subject to the same processes for respect for rights to lands, territories and resources--
   including free, prior and informed consent--described in Section 2.5.
f. Have similar monitoring elements.

2.1.15 Establish scalability limits, if applicable, and describe measures needed and taken to address any
threats to sustainable development benefits if the project expands beyond those limits.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

Concept

Project stakeholders are involved in the project on an ongoing basis through full and effective consultation
and participation, including access to information, participation in decision-making and implementation,
and free, prior and informed consent. Timely and adequate information is accessible in a language and
manner understood by each stakeholder group. Effective and timely consultations are conducted with all
relevant stakeholders and participation is ensured, as appropriate, of those who want to be involved.

Effective feedback and grievance redress procedures are established.

Best practices are adopted for worker relations and safety.

Indicators

Access to Information

2.2.1 Describe how full project documentation, including project description and monitoring reports as
they become available, has been made accessible to all stakeholders. [M/VG: Special attention should be
paid to providing access to full project documentation by those that are vulnerable and marginalized].
Describe how summary project documentation (including how to access full documentation) has been
actively disseminated to all stakeholder groups in relevant local or regional languages and how widely
publicized information meetings have been held with all stakeholder groups.

2.2.1.1 Summary documentation disseminated to stakeholders prior to validation shall include at
least the information in 2.1.

2.2.1.2 Summary documentation disseminated to stakeholders prior to verification shall at least
include information on monitoring results showing the following:
2.2.2 Explain how relevant and adequate information about potential costs, risks and benefits to all stakeholders has been provided to them in a form they understand and in a timely manner prior to any decision they may be asked to make with respect to participation in the project.

Costs, risks and benefits to all stakeholder groups should be identified using a participatory and transparent process. All assessment of costs, risks and benefits shall include those that are direct and indirect and include those related to social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects and to human rights and rights to lands territories and resources. Costs include those related to responsibilities and also opportunity costs.

2.2.3 Describe the measures taken, and communications methods used, to explain to project stakeholders the process for SD VISta validation and/or verification by an independent validation/verification body, providing them with timely information about the validation/verification body’s site visit before the site visit occurs and facilitating direct and independent communication between them or their representatives and the validation/verification body.

Consultation

2.2.4 Describe how project stakeholders, including all stakeholder groups, have influenced project design and implementation through effective consultation, particularly with a view to optimizing benefits for marginalized and/or vulnerable groups if relevant, and respecting local customs, values and institutions.

2.2.4.1 Project proponents shall document consultations and indicate if and how the project design and implementation has been revised based on such input. [M/VG: Consultations with at least one marginalized and/or vulnerable group shall be documented.]

2.2.4.2 A plan shall be developed and implemented to continue communication and consultation between the project proponents and all stakeholder groups about the project and its impacts to facilitate adaptive management throughout the life of the project. [M/VG: A communication and consultation plan for marginalized and/or vulnerable groups in particular shall be identified and implemented.]

2.2.5 Demonstrate that all consultations and participatory processes have been undertaken with stakeholders directly or through their legitimate representatives, ensuring adequate levels of information sharing with the members of the groups.

Participation in Decision-making and Implementation

2.2.6 Describe the measures needed and taken to enable effective participation, as appropriate, of all stakeholder groups that want and need to be involved in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation throughout the project lifetime, and describe how they have been implemented in a culturally appropriate and gender sensitive manner.

Anti-Discrimination

2.2.7 Describe the measures needed and taken to ensure that the project proponent and all other entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved or complicit in any form of discrimination or sexual harassment with respect to the project.
Grievance Redress Procedure

2.2.8 Demonstrate that a clear feedback and grievance redress procedure has been established to address disputes with stakeholders that may arise during project planning, implementation and evaluation with respect but not limited to, free, prior and informed consent, rights to lands, territories and resources, benefit sharing, participation, discrimination and sexual harassment.

The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall include a process for receiving, hearing, responding to and attempting to resolve grievances within a reasonable time period. The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall take into account traditional methods that stakeholders use to resolve conflicts.

The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall have three stages with reasonable time limits for each of the following stages:

a. The project proponent shall attempt to amicably resolve all grievances and provide a written response to the grievances in a manner that is culturally appropriate.

b. Any grievances that are not resolved by amicable negotiations shall be referred to mediation by a neutral third party.

c. Any grievances that are not resolved through mediation shall be referred either to a) arbitration, to the extent allowed by the laws of the relevant jurisdiction or b) competent courts in the relevant jurisdiction, without prejudice to a party’s ability to submit the grievance to a competent supranational adjudicatory body, if any.

2.2.9 The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall be publicized and accessible to all project stakeholders, including any interested stakeholder. Grievances and project responses, including any redress, shall be documented and made publicly available.

Worker Relations

2.2.10 Describe measures needed and taken to provide orientation and training for the project’s workers and relevant individual stakeholders with an objective of building locally useful skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. These capacity building efforts should target a wide range of people from among the stakeholders. Identify how training is passed on to new workers when there is staff turnover, so that local capacity will not be lost. [M/VG: Special attention shall be given to marginalized and/or vulnerable people.]

2.2.11 Demonstrate that stakeholders are given an equal opportunity to fill all work positions (including management) if the job requirements are met. Explain how workers are selected for positions. [M/VG: Describe the measures needed and taken to ensure that members of marginalized and/or vulnerable groups are given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained.]

2.2.12 Submit a list of all relevant laws and regulations covering worker’s rights in the host country. Describe measures needed and taken to inform workers about their rights. Provide assurance that the project meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering worker rights and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved. Project proponents shall demonstrate conformity with and uphold the principles and rights of work addressed in the Core Labour Conventions of the International Labour Organization (ILO)\(^3\); this may be done at least in part by demonstrating the degree to which ILO requirements are addressed in national and regional regulations.

\(^3\) The ILO Core Labour conventions are the Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29), Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87), Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98), Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100), Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105), Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111), Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138) and the Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182).
2.2.13 Comprehensively assess situations and occupations that might arise through the implementation of the project and pose a substantial risk to worker or other stakeholder safety. Describe measures needed and taken to inform workers and relevant stakeholders of risks and to explain how to minimize such risks. Where worker or stakeholder safety cannot be guaranteed, project proponents shall show how the risks are minimized using best work practices in line with stakeholders' culture and customary practices.

2.3 Management Capacity

Concept

The project has adequate human and financial resources for effective implementation.

Indicators

2.3.1 Describe the project's governance structures and roles and responsibilities of all the entities involved in project design and implementation. For grouped projects, identify any new entities involved in the project since the last SD VISta validation or verification.

2.3.2 Document key technical skills required to implement the project successfully, including stakeholder engagement, natural capital and ecosystem services assessment and management and, if appropriate, measurement and monitoring skills for the project-specific claim(s) and asset(s).

2.3.3 Document the management team’s expertise and prior experience implementing this type and scale of project. If relevant experience is lacking, the proponents shall either demonstrate how other organizations are partnered with to support the project or they have a recruitment strategy to fill the gaps.

2.3.4 Document the financial health of the implementing organization(s).

2.3.5 Provide assurance that the project proponent and any of the other entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in or are not complicit in any form of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion, and describe any measures needed and taken to be able to provide this assurance.

2.4 Legal Status and Rights

Concept

The project is based on an internationally accepted legal framework, complies with relevant statutory and customary requirements and has necessary approvals from the appropriate national, sub-national (e.g. state), local and indigenous authorities.

The project recognizes, respects and supports rights to lands, territories and resources, including the statutory and customary rights of Indigenous Peoples and others within its stakeholders. The free, prior and informed consent (as described in Section 2.4.2) of relevant property rights holders has been obtained at every stage of the project.

Project activities do not lead to involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories and do not force them to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood. Any proposed removal or relocation occurs only after obtaining free, prior and informed consent from the relevant property rights holders.

Indicators

Respect for Rights to Lands, Territories and Resources and Free, Prior and Informed Consent

2.4.1 Describe and map statutory and customary tenure/use/access/management rights to lands, territories and resources affected by project activities including individual and collective rights and including overlapping or conflicting rights. If applicable, describe measures needed and taken by the
project to help to secure statutory rights. Demonstrate that all property rights are recognized, respected and supported.

2.4.2 Demonstrate with documented consultations and agreements that:

2.4.2.1 The project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property, or government property.

2.4.2.2 The free, prior and informed consent has been obtained of those whose property rights are affected by the project through a transparent, agreed process.

Free, Prior and Informed Consent is defined as:

a. Free means no coercion, intimidation, manipulation, threat and bribery;

b. Prior means sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities and respecting the time requirements of their decision-making processes;

c. Informed means that information is provided that covers (at least) the following aspects:
   i. The nature, size, pace, reversibility and scope of any proposed project or activity;
   ii. The reason/s or purpose of the project and/or activity;
   iii. The duration of the above;
   iv. The locality of areas that will be affected;
   v. A preliminary assessment of the likely economic, social, cultural and environmental impact, including potential risks and fair and equitable benefit sharing in a context that respects the precautionary principle;
   vi. Personnel likely to be involved in the execution of the proposed project (including Indigenous Peoples, private sector staff, research institutions, government employees and others); and
   vii. Procedures that the project may entail.

d. Consent means that there is the option of withholding consent and that the parties have reasonably understood that option.

Collective rights holders shall be able to participate through their own freely chosen representatives or institutions following a transparent process for obtaining their Free, Prior and Informed Consent that they have defined.

2.4.2.3 Appropriate restitution or compensation has been allocated to any parties whose lands have been or will be affected by the project.

2.4.3 Demonstrate that project activities do not lead to involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories and do not force property rights holders to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood. If any relocation of habitation or activities important to their culture or livelihood is undertaken within the terms of an agreement, the project proponents shall demonstrate that the agreement was made with the free, prior and informed consent of those concerned and includes provisions for just and fair compensation.

2.4.4 Identify any illegal activities taking place (e.g. illegal logging) that could affect the project’s sustainable development impacts and describe measures needed and taken to mitigate or reduce these activities so that project benefits are not derived from illegal activities.

2.4.5 Identify any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over rights to lands, territories and resources and also any disputes that were resolved during the last ten years, or last twenty years where such records exist. If applicable, describe measures needed and taken to resolve conflicts or disputes. Demonstrate that no activity is undertaken by the project that could prejudice the outcome of an unresolved dispute over lands, territories and resources affected by project activities.
Legal Status

2.4.6 Submit a list of all national, sub-national and local laws and regulations in the host country that are relevant to the project activities. Provide assurance that the project is complying with these and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved.

2.4.7 Document that the project has approval from the appropriate authorities, including the established formal and/or traditional authorities customarily required by stakeholders.

2.4.8 Demonstrate by providing one or more of the following types of evidence that the project proponent(s) has the unconditional, undisputed and unencumbered ability to claim that the project will or did generate or cause the project's sustainable development benefits:

2.4.8.1 Project ownership arising or granted under statute, regulation or decree by a competent authority.

2.4.8.2 Project ownership arising under law.

2.4.8.3 Project ownership arising by virtue of a statutary, property or contractual right in the plant, equipment or process that generates sustainable development benefits (where the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).

2.4.8.4 Project ownership arising by virtue of a statutary, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or conservational or management process that generates sustainable development benefits (where the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).

2.4.8.5 An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutary, property or contractual right in the plant, equipment or process that generates sustainable development benefits which vests project ownership in the project proponent.

2.4.8.6 An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the statutary, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or conservational or management process that generates sustainable development benefits which vests project ownership in the project proponent.

2.4.8.7 Project ownership arising from the implementation or enforcement of laws, statutes or regulatory frameworks that require activities be undertaken or incentivize activities that generate sustainable development benefits.

3 Benefits for People and Prosperity

This section is for the demonstration of a project's impacts on all stakeholders. [M/VG: Stakeholders include at least one marginalized and/or vulnerable group.] If no outcomes or impacts primarily related to stakeholders have been identified in the project's causal chain(s) or by stakeholders (through ongoing communication and consultation, per Section 2.2.4.2), Section 3 does not apply.

Note: If the project has no significant negative or positive impacts on stakeholders, the project shall demonstrate that it has generated net positive impacts for natural capital and/or ecosystem services using Section 4 Benefits for the Planet.

For this section, project proponents must choose to demonstrate net benefits by using either the scenario method or the deemed estimates method (see the Guidance for this section for more information about these methods).
3.1 Stakeholders at Project Start

Concept

Original conditions of stakeholder well-being and, optionally, expected changes under the without-project scenario are described.

Indicators

3.1.1 Describe stakeholders (listed in Section 2.1.7) at the start of the project and significant changes in stakeholder groups in the past, including stakeholder well-being information and any community characteristics. Describe the social, economic and cultural diversity within and between the stakeholder groups and the interactions between stakeholder groups.

3.1.2 If using the scenario method for quantifying the impact of project activities, describe the expected changes in stakeholder well-being under the without-project scenario. Include a without-project scenario for all SDG Targets identified in Section 2.1.3 associated with people or their prosperity and any stakeholder well-being impacts that will be used as SD VIsTa claims or SD VIsTa assets (as identified in Section 5.2.1 or 5.3.2).

3.2 Impact on Stakeholders

Concept

The project generates net positive impacts on or does no harm to the well-being of any stakeholder group.

Indicators

3.2.1 Use appropriate methodologies to assess the impacts, including expected and actual, direct and indirect benefits, costs and threats, on each of the stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1.6 resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario. The assessment of the type and magnitude of impacts shall include changes in stakeholder well-being due to project activities and an evaluation of impacts by the affected groups.

3.2.1.1 This assessment shall be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions.

3.2.1.2 The evaluation of well-being changes shall at least include changes that are based on activities that comply with statutory laws or conform with customary rights.

3.2.1.3 This assessment shall include any SDG Target(s) associated with people and their prosperity identified in Section 2.1.3 and any stakeholder well-being impacts that will be used as SD VIsTa claims or assets.

3.2.2 Describe measures needed and taken to mitigate any negative impacts on stakeholder groups consistent with the precautionary principle.

3.2.3 Demonstrate that the net stakeholder well-being impacts of the project are positive for all stakeholder groups. An exception may be made if a stakeholder group is not significantly affected by, or participating in, the project, in which case, net well-being impacts must not be negative for that group.

Note: If using the scenario method, net benefit should be demonstrated by comparing the projected or present situation with stakeholders' anticipated well-being conditions under the without-project development scenario. If using the deemed estimates method, estimate the impact by multiplying the number of activities implemented by the project by deemed estimate values that represent the change per activity taken (such values will be different for different activities).
3.3 Monitoring of Impact on Stakeholders

Concept

Stakeholder impact monitoring assesses changes in stakeholder well-being resulting from project activities for all stakeholder groups.

Indicators

3.3.1 Develop and implement a monitoring plan that identifies the stakeholder groups to be monitored, the types of measurements, the sampling methods and the frequency of monitoring and reporting. Monitoring variables shall be directly linked to the project’s objectives for stakeholder groups and to expected outputs, outcomes and impacts (negative and positive) identified in the project’s causal chain related to the well-being of stakeholders (described in Section 2.1.4). Monitoring shall assess differentiated impacts, including any benefits, costs and risks, for each of the stakeholder groups and shall include an evaluation by the affected stakeholders.

The monitoring plan shall be designed to collect data sufficient to demonstrate the impact of project activities on any SDG Target(s) associated with people and their prosperity identified in Section 2.1.3 and any impacts on stakeholder well-being that will be used as SD VISta claims or assets.

3.3.2 Disseminate the monitoring plan, and any results of monitoring undertaken in accordance with the monitoring plan, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and summaries are communicated to stakeholders through appropriate means.

4 Benefits for the Planet

This section is for the demonstration of a project’s impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services. If no outcomes or impacts primarily related to natural capital or ecosystem services have been identified in the project’s causal chain(s) or by stakeholders (through ongoing communication and consultation, per Section 2.2.4.2), Section 4 does not apply.

Note: If the project has no significant negative or positive impacts on natural capital or ecosystem services, the project shall demonstrate that it has generated net positive impacts for stakeholders by using Section 3 Benefits for People and Prosperity.

For this section, project proponents must choose to demonstrate net benefits by using either the scenario method or the deemed estimates method (see the guidance for Section 3 Benefits for People and Prosperity for more information about these methods).

4.1 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services at Project Start

Concept

Original natural capital and ecosystem services to be affected by the project and, optionally, expected changes under the without-project scenario are described.

Indicators

4.1.1 Describe natural capital and ecosystem services at the start of the project in areas potentially affected by the project and possible threats to these natural capital and ecosystem services using appropriate methodologies.

4.1.2 If using the scenario method for quantifying the impact of project activities, describe how natural capital and ecosystem services conditions potentially affected by the project would be affected in the without-project scenario. Include the without-project scenario for all SDG Targets identified in Section
2.1.3 associated with the planet and any natural capital and ecosystem services impacts that will be used as SD VISta claims or assets (as identified in Section 5.2.1 or 5.3.2).

4.2 Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Concept

The project generates net positive impacts on or does no harm to natural capital and ecosystem services.

Indicators

4.2.1 Use appropriate methodologies to estimate changes in natural capital and ecosystem services, including assessment of expected and actual, positive and negative, direct and indirect impacts, resulting from project activities under the with-project scenario.

4.2.1.1 This estimate shall be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions.

4.2.1.2 This estimate shall include any SDG Target(s) associated with the planet identified in Section 2.1.3 and any natural capital and ecosystem services impacts that will be used as SD VISta claims or assets.

4.2.2 Demonstrate that the project’s net impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services in directly affected areas are positive.

Note: If using the scenario method, net benefit should be demonstrated by comparing the projected or present situation with stakeholders' anticipated well-being conditions under the without-project development scenario. If using the deemed estimates method, estimate the impact by multiplying the number of activities implemented by the project by deemed estimate values that represent the change per activity taken (such values will be different for different activities).

4.2.3 Describe measures needed and taken to mitigate negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services consistent with the precautionary principle.

4.2.4 Evaluate any unmitigated negative impacts on natural capital and ecosystem services indirectly affected by the project and compare them with benefits of the project for natural capital and ecosystem services it directly affects. Justify and demonstrate that the net effect of the project on natural capital and ecosystem services is positive.

4.2.5 If relevant, describe possible adverse effects of alien species used by the project on the region's environment, including impacts on native species and disease introduction or facilitation. Justify any use of alien species over native species.

4.2.6 If relevant, describe the possible adverse effects of, and justify the use of, fertilizers, chemical pesticides, biological control agents and other inputs used for the project.

4.2.7 If relevant, describe the process for identifying, classifying and managing all waste products and pollution resulting from project activities.

4.3 Monitoring of Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Concept

Natural capital and ecosystem services impact monitoring assesses the changes in natural capital and ecosystem services resulting from project activities directly and indirectly affected by project activities.

Indicators

4.3.1 Develop and implement a monitoring plan that identifies natural capital and ecosystem services variables to be monitored, the areas to be monitored, the sampling methods and the frequency of
monitoring and reporting. Monitoring variables shall be directly linked to the project’s natural capital and ecosystem services objectives and to expected activities, outcomes and impacts (negative and positive) identified in the project’s causal chain related to natural capital and ecosystem services (described in Section 2.1.4).

The monitoring plan shall be designed to collect data sufficient to demonstrate the impact of project activities on any SDG Target(s) associated with the planet identified in Section 2.1.3 and any natural capital and ecosystem services impacts that will be used as SD VISta claims or assets.

4.3.3 Disseminate the monitoring plan and the results of monitoring, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and summaries are communicated to stakeholders through appropriate means.

5 Claims and Assets

Projects that earn validation and verification to SD VISta may also make claims on individual elements of sustainable development and generate, register and transact related social and environmental assets.

5.1 OPTIONAL: SD VISta Claims

An SD VISta claim is a user-defined statement about a specific sustainable development benefit validated and verified by an SD VISta-accredited auditor. Such claims are noted along with the project’s SD VISta validated or verified status in the validation/verification body’s report and statement.

SD VISta claim(s) shall be verified at each verification audit.

Concept

An SD VISta claim can be established for any net positive sustainable development impact directly resulting from project design and implementation. The claim(s) and its/their justification are identified by project proponents in the project design description.

Indicators

5.1.1 Identify any distinct benefits to people and their prosperity (associated with Section 3) or the planet (associated with Section 4) intended for use as claims.

5.1.2 Justify claims by demonstrating clear attribution of the benefit described in the claim to the project’s monitored outputs, outcomes and impacts, referring to actions taken and data collected to meet the requirements of Sections 3 and 4 of this document as appropriate.

5.1.3 To make a general claim of net positive greenhouse gas mitigation impact, the project should use the [forthcoming] SD VISta Climate Module. No credit for GHG emission reductions and removals (ERR), carbon footprint assessment or carbon neutrality can be claimed as the result of using the SD VISta Climate Module. See Section 5.3 for requirements on creating GHG ERR credits using established programs such as the Verified Carbon Standard.

5.2 OPTIONAL: SD VISta Assets

An SD VISta asset is a user-defined environmental or social unit that is recorded on and, if desired, transacted through the VCS registry system. SD VISta assets may be sold and/or retired. All assets associated with SD VISta shall be generated using a methodology approved by VCS. Details on the SD VISta methodology approval process can be found in the SD VISta Program Guide. Approved methodologies are [will be] available on the VCS website.

An account of SD VISta assets shall be verified at one or more audits.
Note: Requirements for the SD VISta methodology development and approval process will be set out in the *SD VISta Program Guide*. Such methodologies will be developed by users and be approved according to a set of criteria. VCS aims to support the development of methodologies for a broad spectrum of assets, but where it makes sense will encourage the use and expansion, revision and/or consolidation of existing methodologies in order to avoid proliferation of methodologies with only minor differences, and to promote coalescence around broadly accepted asset types.

**Concept**

An SD VISta asset is generated and documented using a methodology that has been approved for use with SD VISta by VCS. The asset and justification for its creation are identified by project proponents in the project description.

**Indicators**

5.2.1 For user-defined assets with no existing methodology, set out a methodology and apply for approval according to the criteria and procedure described in the *SD VISta Program Guide*. The methodology must be approved prior to the project’s validation.

5.2.2 Provide the title and version number of the VCS-approved methodology for quantification of an SD VISta asset applied to the project.

5.2.3 Demonstrate and justify how the project activities meet each of the methodology’s applicability conditions. Address each applicability condition separately.

5.2.4 Describe and justify any methodology deviations. Include evidence to demonstrate the following:

- The deviation will not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of the benefit being quantified.
- The deviation relates only to the criteria and procedures for monitoring or measurement, and does not relate to any other part of the methodology.

5.2.5 Demonstrate how the methodology has been adhered to as relevant in project design and implementation, referring to actions taken and data collected to meet the requirements of Sections 3 and 4 of this document as appropriate.

**5.3 Claims and Assets from Other Programs**

**Concept**

The project identifies any claims or assets it has generated under programs other than SD VISta. Assets created using SD VISta cannot be double counted with those created under other programs.

**Indicators**

5.3.1 Indicate whether the project has been registered or is seeking registration under any other program related to its sustainable development benefits (e.g., the Verified Carbon Standard, the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, the W+ Standard, etc.). Where the project has been registered under another program, provide its identification number and status under that program. If no registration exists or will exist, Sections 5.3.2-5.3.4 do not apply.

5.3.2 Indicate whether the project has been rejected by, attempted certification unsuccessfully or withdrawn from any other programs. Where any of these situations has occurred, provide the relevant information, including the reason(s) for the rejection and justification of eligibility under the SD VISta Program.

5.3.3 Indicate whether the project will be or has issued credits under any other program that will use the SD VISta label.
5.3.4 Where claims and assets generated by the project under other programs cover the same or similar benefits as SD VISta claims and SD VISta assets, the relationship between such benefits shall be explained. For example, where a wind power project makes an SD VISta claim about its contribution to SDG Target 7.2 (increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix) and generates Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) under the Verified Carbon Standard, it shall explain how the SD VISta claim and the VCUs are related.

5.3.5 Specify how double counting of assets created under other programs with SD VISta claims and SD VISta assets is avoided, particularly for offsets or for assets that may be used in a compliance mechanism.

5.3.6 All assets for which an SD VISta label exists shall be designated by that label. For example, where a project generates VCUs under the Verified Carbon Standard for a period of time completely encompassed within a period for which that project has been verified to SD VISta, those VCUs must be designated by the SD VISta label.  

6 Validation and Verification Requirements for the Project

The SD VISta certification process involves two steps: validation and verification. Validation is the independent assessment of the project by a validation/verification body that determines whether the project complies with the SD VISta rules. Verification is the periodic ex-post independent assessment by a validation/verification body, conducted in accordance with the SD VISta rules, of the sustainable development outcomes and impacts that have occurred as a result of the project during the monitoring period. Validation and verification may be undertaken concurrently.

A validation audit will cover the requirements in this document related to the project’s design. A verification audit will assess those requirements related to the project’s ongoing implementation and the monitored results of project activities. Some requirements will be assessed only at validation, others only at verification. Some requirements will be assessed at both validation and verification, such as a project’s communications with stakeholders.

Note: The final version of this document will identify specifically which requirements are to be assessed at validation, verification or both.

Additional requirements with respect to validation and verification are set out in the SD VISta Program Guide and shall be adhered to.

7 Glossary

**Adaptive Management:** A systematic approach for improving resource management by learning from management outcomes

**Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU):** The sectoral scope that covers sustainable development benefits from project or program activities in the agriculture, forestry, and other land use/land use change sectors (adapted from the 2006 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, where it describes a category of activities which contribute to anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions)

**Alien Species:** A species, subspecies, or lower taxon occurring outside of its natural past or present distribution (i.e. outside the range it occupies naturally or could not occupy without direct or indirect

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4 Further information on labeling will be provided in the SD VISta Program Guide.
introduction or care by humans); includes any part, gametes or propagule of such species that might survive and subsequently reproduce (definition from the Convention on Biological Diversity and IUCN)

**Benefits for People, their Prosperity and the Planet:** Benefits for people are defined as alleviation of poverty and hunger and enhancements to dignity, equality or healthy environment resulting from project activities. Benefits for people's prosperity are defined as increases in prosperity or life fulfillment or advances in economic, social and technological progress in harmony with nature resulting from project activities. Benefits for the planet are defined as protection of the planet from degradation by maintenance or enhancement of natural resources and ecosystem services resulting from project activities.

**Causal Chain:** A conceptual diagram tracing the process by which an activity leads to positive and negative impact(s) through a series of interlinked logical and sequential stages of cause-and-effect relationships

**Crediting Period:** The time period for which the SD VISta assets generated by the project are eligible for issuance

**Customary Rights:** Patterns of long-standing community lands, territories and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ customary laws, values, customs and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to lands, territories and resources issued by the State

**Deemed Estimates Method:** A method of quantifying the change resulting from an activity or set of activities where the change is estimated directly without separately defining and estimating baseline and policy scenarios (sometimes called a “deemed savings” or “unit savings” approach)

**Ecosystem Services:** The benefits people obtain from ecosystems. Ecosystem services include provisioning services such as food, water, timber, and fiber; regulating services that affect climate, floods, disease, wastes and water quality; cultural services that provide recreational, aesthetic and spiritual benefits; and supporting services such as soil formation, photosynthesis and nutrient cycling (definition from the Millennium Ecosystem Assessment).

**Effective Consultation:** A process by which the project proponent uses socially and culturally appropriate methods to enable transparent sharing of information with stakeholders and their meaningful participation in decision making, dispute resolution and/or other subjects of consultation

**Impact:** Any result of the project activities that itself lasts beyond the project lifetime or leads to another outcome or impact of equal or longer duration. In the context of SD VISta, impacts include benefits, costs and risks, including those that are direct and indirect, those related to social, cultural, environmental and economic aspects, those related to human rights and those related to rights to lands territories and resources.

**Indigenous Peoples:** (a) tribal peoples in independent countries whose social, cultural and economic conditions distinguish them from other sections of the national community, and whose status is regulated wholly or partially by their own customs or traditions or by special laws or regulations; (b) peoples in independent countries who are regarded as indigenous on account of their descent from the populations which inhabited the country, or a geographical region to which the country belongs, at the time of conquest or colonization or the establishment of present state boundaries and who, irrespective of their legal status, retain some or all of their own social, economic, cultural and political institutions. (Definition of peoples to whom the International Labour Organization's Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169) applies.)

**Interested Stakeholder:** Any person, group of persons, or entity that has shown an interest, or is known to have an interest, in the activities of the project but that will not be materially affected by those activities (adapted from the FSC-STD-01-002 FSC Glossary of Terms)

**Local Laws:** All norms given by organisms of government whose jurisdiction is less that the national level (e.g. departmental, municipal and customary norms)
**Marginalized and/or Vulnerable Groups:** See "Marginalized People or Groups" and "Vulnerable People or Groups"

**Marginalized People or Groups:** Those people and groups unable to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life (also called socially excluded people or groups) (definition adapted from United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs)

**Native Species:** A species, subspecies, or lower taxon, occurring within its natural range (past or present) and dispersal potential (i.e. within the range it occupies naturally or could occupy without direct or indirect introduction or care by humans) (definition from IUCN)

**Natural Capital:** Earth’s systems, geological resources and ecosystem stocks, including climate and hydrological systems, mineral and energy resources, land, soil resources, timber resources, aquatic resources, biological resources other than timber and aquatic resources, water resources (surface, groundwater and soil water resources), and ecosystem assets (including, but not limited to, assets that provide regulating and cultural services) (definition adapted from The London Group)

**Project Activity:** The specific set of technologies, measures and/or outcomes that alter the conditions that exist at the start of the project and which result in sustainable development benefits

**Project Activity Instance:** A particular set of implemented technologies and/or measures that constitute the minimum unit of activity necessary to comply with the criteria and procedures applicable to the project activity under the methodology applied to the project

**Project Lifetime:** The time period over which project activities are implemented; starts on the project start date

**Project Ownership:** The legal right to control and operate the project activities

**Project Proponent:** The individual or organization that has overall control and responsibility for the project, or an individual or organization that together with others, each of which is also a project proponent, has overall control or responsibility for the project. The entity(s) that can demonstrate project ownership in respect of the project.

**Project Start Date:** The date on which activities that lead to the generation of sustainable development benefits are implemented

**Property Rights:** Statutory and customary tenure/use/access/management rights to lands, territories and resources

**Property Rights Holders:** Entities that have individual or collective property rights

**Scalability Limit:** The scale beyond which, if new project activities are added, the project may not benefits deliver benefits to people, prosperity and/or the planet, such as capacity limits, economic and managerial constraints, and thresholds for project expansion beyond which there may be negative impacts on people, prosperity or planet

**Scenario Method:** A comparison of a without-project scenario with a with-project scenario where separate without- and with-project scenarios are defined and estimated

**SD VISta Asset:** A user-defined environmental or social unit that is generated according to a validated SD VISta methodology, verified by an accredited auditor, recorded and, if desired, transacted on the VCS registry system

**SD VISta Claim:** A user-defined statement about a specific sustainable development benefit validated and verified by an accredited auditor

**SDG Indicator:** An indicator for any Sustainable Development Goal Target that is any of the following: 1) Approved as part of the global indicator framework, accessible at
Verified Carbon Standard


9 Acknowledgements

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Appendix 1. Guidance

Sections that do not have specific guidance are not included in this appendix.

2.1 Project Goals, Design and Long-term Viability

2.1.4

The causal chain(s) shall be validated not only at the initial validation but on each verification to ensure that all potential project impacts are considered and, if necessary, monitored. For guidance on developing causal chains, see the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency’s draft Sustainable Development Guidance.

2.1.6

Stakeholder identification and analysis should include an assessment of rights, interests and relevance to the project for each stakeholder group. The Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) Manual for REDD+ Projects: Part 1 – Core Guidance for Project Proponents can be used for guidance on stakeholder identification and analysis.

2.1.7

The number of appropriate stakeholder groups will depend on the size and complexity of communities affected by the project. Marginalized and vulnerable groups are not mutually exclusive; some individuals may belong to multiple groups.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.2.4

Effective consultation requires project proponents to inform and engage broadly with stakeholders using socially and culturally appropriate methods to enable meaningful influence on the subject of consultation. Consultations must be gender and inter-generationally sensitive with special attention to vulnerable and/or marginalized people and must be conducted at mutually agreed locations and through representatives who are designated by the groups themselves in accordance with their own procedures. Different approaches may be appropriate for different stakeholder groups.

Stakeholders potentially affected by the project must have an opportunity to evaluate impacts and raise concerns about potential negative impacts, express desired outcomes and provide input on the project design including the theory of change, both before the project design is finalized and during implementation. Consultations must include participatory identification of ecosystem services important for stakeholders, for example through participatory mapping. Consultations must also include an evaluation of the type and magnitude of impacts resulting from project activities (Section 3.2.1). Consultations must also include a participatory design of feedback and grievance redress procedures (Section 2.3.8).

In cases where it is unclear whether a project will be implemented or not, it is acceptable to start with preliminary consultations, provided there are plans for appropriate full consultations before the start of the project. Where conformance with the SD VISta rules is being applied to a project already under implementation, project proponents must either provide documentation of appropriate consultations during the project design phase or demonstrate how more recent consultations have been effective in evaluating stakeholder benefits and adapting project design and implementation to optimize stakeholder benefits and respect local customs.

2.2.7

Discrimination may include but is not limited to that based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or other habits.
2.3 Management Capacity

2.3.3

Transparency International’s *Keeping REDD+ Clean: A Step-by-Step Guide to Preventing Corruption* can be used as guidance for this criterion.

2.4 Legal Status and Rights

Concept

Project proponents must adhere to the United Nations’ Protect, Respect and Remedy Framework, as outlined in the document *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights*.

Article 10 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* sets out Indigenous Peoples’ right to free, prior and informed consent regarding relocation and compensation.

Customary rights are defined per the World Bank Operational Manual *OP 4.10 – Indigenous Peoples* as patterns of long-standing community lands, territories and resource usage in accordance with Indigenous Peoples’ and local communities’ customary laws, values, customs and traditions, including seasonal or cyclical use, rather than formal legal title to lands, territories and resources issued by the State.

2.4.2.1

Community property includes lands, territories and resources to which communities have collective rights (either customary or statutory). Customary collective rights include traditional ownership, occupation or other use or acquisition whether or not such ownership has been formally recorded.

2.4.2.2

For guidance on FPIC, please see the manual *Free Prior and Informed Consent: An indigenous peoples’ right and a good practice for local communities*.

It is important to note that consultation is not the same as consent. Free, prior and informed consent is the decision made by a stakeholder group following a consultation. A project proponent must receive affirmative consent from the relevant property rights holders prior to commencing with project activities.

If non-contacted peoples are located or believed to be located in the project area, their right to remain in isolation should be respected in accordance with local, national and international laws and recommendations. Unless invited to make contact, implementing entities should not engage in any activities that may impact these populations, including project activities. There should be a buffer zone between the project area and the area in which indigenous populations living in voluntary isolation reside, or are believed to reside. See the report *Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact in the Americas* for recommendations on respecting the human rights of people in that situation.

2.4.2.3

Compensation should include both the financial and non-financial costs of the loss of land (e.g., loss of culture or loss of business opportunity).

2.4.3

Article 28 of the *UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* indicates that unless otherwise agreed upon, compensation should be in the form of lands, territories or resources equivalent in quality, size and legal status to those taken. When such compensation is not available, monetary compensation is appropriate. This principle is consistent Article 16 of the International Labour Organization’s *Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169): Convention concerning Indigenous and Tribal Peoples in Independent Countries*. 
2.4.4
If the project enables previously illegal activities to become legal by means of appropriate laws and other means, benefits from these activities may be considered for the net benefit analysis in Sections 3.2 and 4.2.

2.4.5
According to Principle 25.1 of the FAO’s *Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure*, “all parties should take steps to prevent and eliminate issues of tenure of land, fisheries and forests as a cause of conflict and should ensure that aspects of tenure are addressed before, during and after conflict, including in situations of occupation where parties should act in accordance with applicable international humanitarian law”.

3 Benefits for People and Prosperity

Scenario Method
Using the scenario method, users quantify the impact of a project activity by comparing two scenarios:

- The *without-project scenario*, which represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the absence of the policy or action (or package of policies and actions) being assessed; and

- The *with-project scenario*, which represents the events or conditions most likely to occur in the presence of the policy or action (or package of policies and actions) being assessed.

Deemed Estimates Method
The deemed estimates method (sometimes called a “deemed savings” or “unit savings” approach) is a simplified variation of the scenario method. This method involves calculating the impact of a policy or action without separately defining and estimating baseline and policy scenarios and comparing the two. This method may be appropriate for certain common or homogeneous policies and actions where deemed estimate values are reliable or in cases where the scenario method is not practical.

Table 1. Examples of the scenario and deemed estimates method

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Method</th>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Process for establishing impact</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Scenario method</td>
<td>REDD+ project</td>
<td>Use a projection of deforestation over the next 20 years and compare that with projected/actual deforestation taking into account project activities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Deemed estimates method</td>
<td>Retrofit of urban apartment buildings with clean energy</td>
<td>Count number of houses/buildings/facilities with access to clean energy to be installed/resulting from the project</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more guidance on options for estimating project impacts, see the Initiative for Climate Action Transparency’s draft *Sustainable Development Guidance* (from which the above text was adapted).
3.1 Stakeholders at Project Start

3.1.1 Community characteristics may include shared language, mythology, history, culture, livelihood systems, traditional authority structures, institutions, practices, values, relationships with specific sites of historical, cultural or spiritual significance, relationships with natural resources, or the customary institutions and rules governing the use of resources and sites.

3.2 Impact on Stakeholders

3.2.1 Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment (SBIA) Manual for REDD+ Projects: Part 1 – Core Guidance for Project Proponents is recommended for guidance on appropriate methodologies.

Evaluation by the affected stakeholder groups can be undertaken through a documented opportunity for feedback from communities and their stakeholder groups as part of a participatory rural appraisal, community meetings or some other process.

3.2.2 The precautionary principle originated in the Convention on Biological Diversity. That document states "in order to protect the environment, the precautionary approach shall be widely applied by States according to their capabilities. Where there are threats of serious or irreversible damage, lack of full scientific certainty shall not be used as a reason for postponing cost-effective measures to prevent environmental degradation".

3.3 Monitoring of Impact on Stakeholders

3.3.1 Potential stakeholder variables to be monitored may include but are not limited to: income, employment generation, health, market access, schools, food security and education.

3.3.2 Guidance will be provided to support monitoring within specific stakeholder groups as dictated by the SDG Indicator. E.g., to meet the Target 2.3, Double the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, a project would need to monitor the productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers among its stakeholders.

4 Benefits for the Planet

See Guidance for Section 3.

4.1 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Planet at Project Start

4.1.1 See Guidance for Section 3.2.1.

4.2 Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

4.2.6 The process of identifying, classifying and managing all waste products resulting from project activities may include, but is not limited to, the following:
• Methods of collecting, storing, moving, treating and disposing of animal, plant, food processing, municipal and industrial wastes
• Development of products from waste materials, including biofuels
• Engineering and analysis of projected and existing waste disposal systems and pesticide containers
• Recycling pre- and post-consumer wastes
• Improved methods for mitigating environmental impacts and biosecurity risks from agricultural, forestry, municipal and industrial wastes, etc.

4.3 Monitoring of Impact on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

4.3.1

Potential variables may include but are not limited to: species abundance; population size, range, trends and diversity; habitat area, quality and diversity; landscape connectivity; and forest fragmentation.