



As of July 21, 2025, ERS has rebranded to Equitable Earth.

All references to “ERS” refer to the standard body now operating under the Equitable Earth name.





Publication Date:
14/11/2023

Methodology:
M001

Version:
V1.0

Contact:
Ecosystem Restoration Standard
25 Rue de Frémicourt
75015 Paris, FRANCE
info@ers.org

TEMPLATE

Project Design Document

SUMMARY

This document summarises all key elements of a Project, allowing ERS and the general public to have a complete understanding of its needs, actions, and expected results. The PDD and its appendix documentation are the only retained source of truth for Project certification.

Upon publication, both the Developer and the ERS Certification acknowledge the veracity of its content.



Table of *Contents*

Table of Contents	1
Project Design Document	5
PROJECT SUMMARY	5
THE DEVELOPER	6
Developer presentation	6
Developer Due Diligence Conclusion	6
THE PROJECT	6
Project Area	6
External Boundaries and Location	6
Rationale for choice	7
Environmental context	7
Social context	7
FPIC Legislation	7
Main drivers of disruption/destruction	7
Pictures	7
Reference Ecosystem	8
External Boundaries and Location	8
Rationale for choice	8
CARBON	9
Methodology	9
Baseline assessment	9
Equations and carbon estimation	9
Additionality	9
Environmental Surplus	9
Regulatory Surplus	10
Barrier Analysis	11
Common Practice	13
Permanence	13
Buffer Pool Contribution	13



Overall Reversal Risk Evaluation	13
Leakage – Activity Shifting	14
Was activity shifting identified?	14
Activity description	14
Is activity shifting resulting in leakage?	14
Justification	14
Probationary documentation	14
Displaced activity area	14
Hosting area	15
Leakage calculation	15
Double Counting	15
Double issuance (proof of verification)	15
Double issuance (proof of rejections if applicable)	15
Double claiming (if applicable)	15
ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY	16
Intervention Zone Baseline Assessment	16
Zonation	16
Recovery Wheel	16
Summary of findings of the Community Consultation on Ecological Recovery	16
Restoration Plan	16
Restoration Plan Summary of objectives	16
Restoration Plan Summary of Interventions	16
Technologies or Practices applied for Restoration	16
Cultural and Natural Heritage (if IPLCs were identified)	17
LIVELIHOOD	18
Livelihood Baseline	18
Key Findings	18
Key and Direct Stakeholders – Stakeholder mapping	18
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	18
Stakeholder engagement and participation	19
Social Additionality Plan	19



Summary of Social Additionality Plan	19
Summary of Social Additionality Interventions	19
Summary of Benefit Sharing Mechanism	19
RISK MANAGEMENT	20
Risk Evaluation	20
Delivery Risk evaluation:	20
ERS Requirement Risk Evaluation:	20
Risk Treatment	20
Surveillance Plan	20
Mitigation Activities	20
SAFEGUARDS	22
Declaration	22
Treatment	22
Mitigation Activities	22
SDG CONTRIBUTION	23
MRV SCHEDULE	24
RESTORATION UNIT CONVERSION SCHEDULE	25
Appendix 1	26
Developer Due Diligence Report	26
Appendix 2	27
Additionality Sheet	27
Appendix 3	28
Risk Assessment Matrix	28
Appendix 4	29
Leakage Mitigation Declaration	29
Appendix 5	30
Leakage Mitigation Probationary Documentation	30
Appendix 6	31
Ecological Recovery Assessment	31
Appendix 7	32
Restoration Plan	32
Appendix 8	33
Livelihood Matrix	33



Appendix 9	34
Community Consultation Reports	34
Appendix 10	35
Social Additionality Plan	35
Appendix 11	36
Safeguards Declaration	36
Appendix 12	37
SDG Contribution	37
Appendix 13	38
GHG Quantification	38
Appendix 14	39
Land Right Agreement	39
Appendix 15	40
Carbon Right Agreement	40
Appendix 16	41
Government/Art.6 Agreement	41
Appendix 17	42
Public Comment Report	42



Project Design *Document*

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project name	
Project ID	
Project registry link	
Location and coordinates (country, state, city) (geographic coordinates)	
Project Developer	
Project Area (ha)	
Ecosystem type	According to IUCN classification
Project Justification and Overall Objectives (100 words max)	
Government authorisation (if applicable)	
IPLCs identified	☐ Yes ☐ No
Land tenure	
Carbon rights	
Project's Carbon contribution (tradable tons)	
Project duration (start and end dates)	
SDG contribution	



Total budget	
Date of Document Publication	
VVB	
Validation or Verification date	
Responsible ERS Certification Agent	

THE DEVELOPER

Developer presentation

Name, type of organisation, location of incorporation, number of years operating, main geographic areas of operations, main field of expertise.
Quantity, location and type of project(s) operated previously, and resulting carbon credits (if any).
Team composition (professions, implication in the project).
Any other relevant information to communicate who the Developer is and their capacity to run the Project.

Developer Due Diligence Conclusion

** Refer to Appendix 1 - Due Diligence Report, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Developer Due Diligence.*

TO BE FILLED BY ERS

THE PROJECT

Project Area

External Boundaries and Location

Map-image indicating the Project's boundaries.
Add geographic coordinates.



- Project Area shapefile can be accessed at the URL.

Rationale for choice

Extended justification of the selection and relevance to restore the Project area and ecosystem.

Environmental context

Host country and restoration-zone specific environmental legislation, environmental, economic relevance, and environmental political scenario.

Social context

Host country and restoration-zone specific social context and legislations that might impact the Project.

FPIC Legislation

- ☐ FPIC does not apply to the Project (no IPLCs identified).
- ☐ FPIC applies to the Project.
 - ☐ Jurisdiction-specific legislation or agreement applies.
 - ☐ Jurisdiction has no applicable FPIC legislation or agreement.

Citation of all applicable legislation and/or agreement and how the Project complies with them.

Main drivers of disruption/destruction

Description of all identified drivers for disruption/destruction in the Project area.

Pictures

Pictures that help the PDD reader understand the Project Area and context.



Reference Ecosystem

External Boundaries and Location

Map-image indicating the Reference Site's boundaries.
Add geographic coordinates.

- Reference Ecosystem shapefile can be accessed at URL.

Rationale for choice

Extended justification of the selection, description of site access, tenure, and conservation state.



CARBON

Methodology

** Refer to Appendix 13 – GHG Quantification, in the Appendix section, for the detailed GHG Quantification Methodology and calculation.*

Baseline assessment

- Project area

ERS to add land cover satellite imagery separating woody and non-woody mask and woody AGB.

- Reference site

ERS to add land cover satellite imagery showing woody AGB.

Equations and carbon estimation

ERS to add the equations leading to the final carbon sequestration potential estimation.

Additionality

** Refer to Appendix 2 – Additionality Sheet, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Additionality.*

Environmental Surplus

	Evidence proving that ecological restoration and consequent carbon removal would not occur to this level without the Project
Land cover change over the last ten	Description of the Project's area deforestation drivers, what anthropogenic activities in the last ten years led to the current land



years	cover, and, most importantly, explain how these changes were not done purposefully to obtain benefits from the VCM. This section can include: -Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources. -Data from national and international statistics. -Written documentation of expert judgments from relevant government/non-government bodies, educational institutions, and professional associations.
Land cover natural recovery	Demonstration that the biophysical properties of the land¹ could not allow the ecosystem to regenerate on its own, to the project's level, and thus interventions are necessary. Enter achievements and justifications.

Regulatory Surplus

	Evidence proving that the Project area is not under a legal obligation to be restored.
Applicable Legislation and Regulations	Description of applicable laws, regulations, and environmental management norms in the jurisdiction. ERS encourages the inclusion of written descriptions of expert judgments.
Is the Project area subject to an "Obligation to restore"? If YES, explain how this obligation is	☐ Yes ☐ No Content should include: - Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources. - Data from national and international statistics. - Written documentation of expert judgments.

¹ Limited productivity land types include drylands, lands of low productivity/degraded soils and of contaminated soils. See [UNFCCC methodologies](#) (pp.6-7) for more information.



not enforced.	! Please note that for high-income countries, 'non-enforcement' can't be used as a justification.
---------------	---

Barrier Analysis

Identified barriers preventing the desired project activities and demonstrated how they can be overcome through carbon finance.

	Financial Barriers Lack of funding, high upfront costs, or difficulty accessing finance can stall or prevent a Project from getting started.
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

	Technical Barriers Challenges related to technology, methodology, expertise, site-specific conditions, and other technical aspects of the project. It can involve anything from a lack of necessary equipment to difficulties in measuring carbon sequestration.
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence	



of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

Cultural and Social Barriers

Challenges in the collective movement of local communities towards establishing, maintaining and monitoring restoration projects due to, for example, lack of information, threats to the safety of community members, existing social structures and norms.

Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

Regulatory and Institutional Barriers

Limitations within the regulatory framework and its relevant institution include limited staff capacity, lack of necessary skills, local regulations, complex permitting processes, ineffective bureaucratic processes or challenges in meeting specific compliance standards.

Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence	



of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

Common Practice

Comparison field of the Additionality Sheet.

Permanence

Buffer Pool Contribution

Total Restoration Units the Project will contribute to the Buffer Pool.

Overall Reversal Risk Evaluation

Report only identified risks.

* Refer to Appendix 3 - Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment.

	Likelihood	Severity	Treatment: Surveillance and Mitigation Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				



Leakage – Activity Shifting

** Refer to Appendix 4 – Leakage Mitigation Declaration, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Leakage Declaration.*

Was activity shifting identified?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Activity description

Description of the activity that will be displaced/shifted, including its nature, annual production in USD, and size in ha.

Is activity shifting resulting in leakage?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Justification

Explanation of why the activity is not shifting because of the Project and/or does not result in leakage.

Probationary documentation

Only if shifting is not identified and/or does not result in leakage.
List of documents proving the activity is not shifted and/or not displaced because of the Project.

Displaced activity area

Map-image indicating the current boundaries of the displaced activity's area.
Add geographic coordinates.



Hosting area

Map-image indicating the boundaries of the area that will host the displaced activity.
Add geographic coordinates.

Leakage calculation

TO BE FILLED BY ERS

Double Counting

Double issuance (proof of verification)

TO BE FILLED BY ERS
List of all consulted registries.

Double issuance (proof of rejections if applicable)

Double claiming (if applicable)



ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY

Intervention Zone Baseline Assessment

** Refer to [Appendix 6](#) - Ecological Recovery Assessment, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Baseline Assessment.*

Zonation

Map-image indicating the boundaries of the area that will host the displaced activity.
Add geographic coordinates.

Recovery Wheel

Image of the Intervention Zone Recovery Wheel.

Summary of findings of the Community Consultation on Ecological Recovery

Summary of findings as in the Ecological Recovery Assessment.

Restoration Plan

** Refer to [Appendix 7](#) - Restoration Plan, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Restoration Plan.*

Restoration Plan Summary of objectives

Summary of objectives as in the Restoration Plan.

Restoration Plan Summary of Interventions

Summary of interventions as in the Restoration Plan.

Technologies or Practices applied for Restoration

Leading technologies and/or practices used to restore the site.



Cultural and Natural Heritage (if IPLCs were identified)

How the restoration plan integrate or follow IPLCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of the cultural and natural heritage of the site



LIVELIHOOD

Livelihood Baseline

Key Findings

* Refer to Appendix 8 - Livelihood Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Livelihood Baseline.

Description of the Stakeholder's livelihood state at the beginning of the Project.
Must include a description for all dimensions in Livelihoods, Cultural Heritage & Governance, and Employment & Fair Wages.

Key and Direct Stakeholders – Stakeholder mapping

* Refer to Appendix 8 - Livelihood Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Stakeholder mapping.

Organisation or Group(s) Name	Relevance to the Project	Representative	Recognised as Local Community or Indigenous People (Y/N)	Right holder (Y/N)
Enter the Organisation or group of Stakeholders' names, if applicable.	Enter their relevance to the Project (live in/near the area, hold the carbon credit rights, etc.)	Enter the Stakeholder representative(s) and their contact details.		

Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)

* Refer to Appendix 9 - Community Consultation Reports, in the Appendix section, for the detailed application of the FPIC process.



Describe how FPIC was followed (format of the meeting, location, date, attendees), any requirements for the consent to be granted, and add proof of the meeting in Appendix 9 – Community Consultation Reports, in the Appendix section, for the detailed FPIC application.

Stakeholder engagement and participation

Description of how Stakeholders were involved in the Project's ideation, in the conception of the Social Additionality and Restoration plans,

Social Additionality Plan

** Refer to Appendix 10 – Social Additionality Plan, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Social Additionality Plan.*

Summary of Social Additionality Plan

Insert the summary as it is in the Social Additionality Plan.

Summary of Social Additionality Interventions

Insert the summary as it is in the Social Additionality Plan.

Summary of Benefit Sharing Mechanism

Insert the summary of the benefit-sharing mechanism described in the Social Additionality Plan. The summary must include how arrangements are appropriate to the context and comply with applicable laws and regulations, how the FPIC process was respected, ensuring co-creation was done in a form, manner, and language understandable to communities, and list the impacted Stakeholders.

Arrangement	Concerned stakeholders	Dispersal schedule
e.g.: Direct payment	e.g., Indigenous village 1	e.g., 2nd month of Project



RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk Evaluation

Delivery Risk evaluation:

Score

ERS Requirement Risk Evaluation:

Score

Risk Treatment

Surveillance Plan

Report only identified risks.

** Refer to the Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment*

	Likelihood	Severity	Surveillance Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				

Mitigation Activities

Report only identified risks.

** Refer to the Appendix 3 – Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment*



	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				



SAFEGUARDS

Declaration

** Refer to Appendix 11 - Safeguards Declaration, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Safeguards.*

I, (name of the developer), in the condition of the main Developer of the Project (name of the Project), hereby declare all information provided above to be true. I understand that any false statement will incur in the annulment of my ERS certification procedure.

Done on xx/xx/xxxx, at (name of the city)

Treatment

Mitigation Activities

Report only non-compliant Safeguards.

** Refer to Appendix 11 - Safeguards Declaration, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Safeguards.*

Category	Negative Impact Description	Proposed Mitigation	Monitoring indicators and frequency
E.1 ▾			
E.1 ▾			



SDG CONTRIBUTION

* Refer to Appendix 12 - SDG Contribution, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Safeguards.

Contribution claim	SDG	Projected contribution	UN SDG 2030 Target (<u>reference</u>)	SDG Indicator



MRV SCHEDULE



RESTORATION UNIT CONVERSION SCHEDULE



Appendix 1

Developer Due Diligence Report



Appendix 2

Additionality Sheet



Appendix 3

Risk Assessment Matrix



Appendix 4

Leakage Mitigation Declaration



Appendix 5

Leakage Mitigation Probationary Documentation



Appendix 6

Ecological Recovery Assessment



Appendix 7

Restoration Plan



Appendix 8

Livelihood Matrix



Appendix 9

Community Consultation Reports



Appendix 10

Social Additionality Plan



Appendix 11

Safeguards Declaration



Appendix 12

SDG Contribution



Appendix 13

GHG Quantification



Appendix 14

Land Right Agreement



Appendix 15

Carbon Right Agreement



Appendix 16

Government/Art.6 Agreement



Appendix 17

Public Comment Report