

VERIFICATION REPORT

REDD+ PROJECT FOR CARIBBEAN GUATEMALA: THE CONSERVATION COAST



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Summary

AENOR has carried out the sixth verification of the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast under the VCS and CCB Programs. The project is a grouped REDD+ project implemented in the Department of Izabal, Guatemala. The project aims to alleviate pressures on the forests through supporting governance capacity (including individual property titling, land-use planning and conservation zone demarcation), the generation of alternative economic activities and income sources, and capacity building in administration and management. These project activities, beyond protecting local forests and biodiversity, contribute to social and economic development in one of the poorest areas of Guatemala. At the moment of verification, the project was 59,439 ha.

The project start date is 1 April 2012 and will be operational until 31 March 2042. The estimated net GHG emissions reduction at validation for the 30-year project span was 24,445,681 tCO₂e, at an average of 814,856 tCO₂e/yr. The emissions reduction for the current monitoring period (01 January 2022 – 31 December 2022) is 766,279 tCO₂e. This is a grouped project, 13 new instances have been included since the last verification event. This is the sixth verification event, corresponding to the monitoring period from 1 January 2022 to 31 December 2022. The project has received exemption from VERRA to use the outdated VCS4.4 CCB3.0 template on April 19th 2024 and the NPRR v4 on 14th March 2024.

The purpose of the verification was to determine the conformance of the project with respect to the VCS Version 4 and CCB Third Edition and the validated PD, and the assessment of the ex-post monitored anthropogenic GHG emissions reductions and/or removals that have occurred as a result of the project's activities. The scope of the verification was to assess the conformance of the validated project, once implemented, with the VCS and CCB requirements and requirements in the validated PD. The process was performed through a combination of desk review, interviews with relevant personnel and local stakeholders, and an on-site inspection.

At all times, the project was assessed for conformance to the criteria described in Section 1.2 of this report (more information about the criteria in Section 2.2). As discussed in Section 2.6, findings were issued to ensure that the project was in full conformance with all requirements.

During the verification, 2 CARs and 9 CLs were issued for VCS and CCB. All these issues were appropriately closed by means of corrections, clear explanations, and other supporting documents. No new methodology or PD deviations were requested in this monitoring period, and one minor change to PD was approved.

Once all issues detected were appropriately resolved, AENOR carried out this final verification report and deems with a reasonable level of assurance that the project complies with all of the verification criteria. The assessment team has no restrictions or uncertainties with respect to the compliance of the project with the verification criteria, hence, the audit team concludes that the cumulative net GHG

emissions reductions or removals of 766,279 tCO₂e over the monitoring period have been quantified in accordance with VCS rules. A buffer discount rate of 10% was applied, resulting in 76,628 tCO₂e assigned to the buffer, which means 689,651 VCUs to be issued. AENOR confirms that the project has achieved the Biodiversity Gold distinction for the verified monitoring period in accordance with the Third Edition CCB Standards.

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1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

The objective of the verification audit was to conduct an independent assessment of the project to determine:

- The extent to which methods and procedures, including monitoring procedures, have been implemented in accordance with the validated project description, including the monitoring plan.
- The extent to which GHG emission reductions and removals reported in the monitoring report is materially accurate.
- The accuracy of the processes and activities carried out under the CCB standards which have also been implemented under the monitoring plan.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the verification included the review of the GHG project and implementation; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHGs; time periods covered, The climate, community, and biodiversity benefits, including gold distinctions (Biodiversity). The project follows the framework of Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) through Avoided Unplanned Deforestation & Degradation (AUDD). The geographic verification scope is defined by the project boundary, the carbon reservoir types, management activities, inventory program, and contract periods.

The monitoring period for this verification is from 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022

The scope of this audit included a verification of the projects calculated reductions and removals with the Verified Carbon Standard requirements. In addition, the audit assessed the project with respect to the validated baseline scenarios presented in the PD and the fulfilment of the climate, community and biodiversity criteria against the CCB Standard.

- Standard criteria: Criteria from the following documents were used to assess this project:
- VCS Program Guide (v4.3, 17 January 2023)
- VCS Standard (v4.4, 17 January 2023)
- VCS Program Definitions (v4.4, 29 August 2023)
- AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (v4, 19 September 2019)
- VCS Methodology VM0015 - Methodology for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (v1.1, 3 December 2012)
- Validated PD and previous monitoring reports (VCS and CCB)
- CCB Program Rules, v3.1 (21 June 2017)
- CCB Standards (Third Edition, v3.1, June 2017)
- CCB Program Definitions; v3.0 (21 June 2017)

Unless otherwise indicated, the assessment was performed against the most recent version of the relevant VCS and CCB guidance documents.

1.3 Level of Assurance

The assessment was conducted to provide a reasonable level of assurance of conformance against the defined audit criteria and materiality thresholds within the audit scope. Based on the audit findings, a positive evaluation statement reasonably assures that the project GHG assertion is materially correct and is a fair representation of the GHG data and information.

The threshold for materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations relative to the total reported GHG emission reductions/removals was one percent (1%), as established for large projects by the VCS Standard.

All the revisions of the verification report before being submitted to the client were subjected to an independent internal technical review to confirm that all verification activities had been completed according to the pertinent AENOR instructions required. The technical review was performed by a technical reviewer(s) qualified in accordance with AENOR's qualification scheme for CDM/VCS validation and verification.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The project is a grouped REDD+ project implemented in the Department of Izabal, Guatemala. It aims to alleviate pressures on the forests through the support of governance capacity (including individual property titling, land-use planning and conservation zone demarcation), the generation of alternative economic activities and income sources, and through capacity building in administration and management. These project activities, beyond protecting local forests and biodiversity, contribute to social and economic development in one of the poorest areas of Guatemala. The Project Objectives are:

- Climate Objectives
 - Reduce CO₂ emissions that result from the conversion of intact forest to agricultural and pastoral land.
- Community Objectives
 - Empower marginalized and vulnerable communities through the legalization of land, promotion of reproductive rights and participation in resource management.
 - Improve quality of life in the project zone by creating access to new markets, promoting sustainable production and improving public health and education opportunities.
 - Promote landowner and community self-sufficiency in the project zone through diversified economies and sustainable land uses.
 - Preserve awareness and respect for traditional, cultural, spiritual and religious identities of communities within the project area.
- Biodiversity Objectives
 - Maintain habitat for viable, abundant, and diverse natural populations.

- Reduce threats to rare, threatened, and endangered species.
- Maintain the function of the natural ecosystems.
- Support local and global knowledge of biodiversity in the project zone.

As of this monitoring period, there are 756 different project activity instances (PAIs) that make up the 59,439 hectares of the Project Area. 13 new PAIs were included in this monitoring period.

2. VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Audit Team Composition (*Rules 4.3.1*)

Name	Position in the team
Javier Cócera Cañas	Lead Auditor
Pablo Moreno Cerero	Auditor
Marcos Recio Blitz	Auditor
Daniel Bermejo Vesga	Technical reviewer

Javier Cócera is a forest engineer with a Master in forest management. He has developed his career focused to the forest management. Mainly he has been working through sustainability in two ways: the main one as forestry consultancy, developing forest management plans, working with GIS and LiDAR both in the field and the office and getting experience of the forest resources. The second one was developing environmental footprint projects and sustainability reports. Currently Javier is working in AENOR as auditor focused in AFOLU projects. Javier participated in courses about ISO lead auditing and have performed audits in projects in Europe, LATAM, Africa and Asia.

Pablo Moreno is a Forest Engineer, and he has a Master's Degree in Forest engineering and management, both carried out in Polytechnic University of Madrid. Pablo has more than 3 years of experience in forestry and sustainability. He has worked since he stated his master's studies close to the environment in different ways. The main branch of his career has been forest management, operations management, technical analysis, working with GIS and field work as well as quality assessment and R&D development in forestry production-related topics in search of efficiency and process optimization. The other path of his career has been focused to sustainability consultancy and research and climate change. He has worked in different countries: Spain, U.S.A. and Australia. In AENOR is working with international projects, mainly in Africa and South America. He is a native Spanish speaker proficient in English and holds a medium level of French.

Marcos Recio has more than 2 years of professional experience in forestry and sustainability. He has worked since finishing his university studies closed to the environment and climate change. The main branch of his career has been the energy efficiency and the forest management. The other path of his career has been focused to renewable energies and integrated management systems. He has worked in different countries: Spain, Senegal, Paraguay among other countries. In AENOR he is working with international projects, mainly in and South America, Africa, above all in Perú. Most of the projects he is working on are AFOLU and UNFCCC verifications and validations.

Daniel Bermejo is a Forest Engineer with a MSc in Sustainable Finance. He began his career in private consulting, specializing in climate risk analysis and TCFD risks, forestry development, agriculture and forestry banking standards, environmental footprint projects and others. Since 2022 he participates as an auditor in several AFOLU projects in different carbon schemes, such as VCS, CCB, GS, FCPF, Cercarbono and BCR. Daniel has a professional Certificate Program in Sustainable & Inclusive Landscapes from Wageningen University, understanding topics regarding Landscape Leadership, Governance, Finance and Climate Action. He has participated in several ISO lead auditor courses. He is an expert in Climate, Community and Biodiversity aspects and has worked in LATAM, North America, Africa, and Europe countries. He speaks Spanish, English and French fluently.

The audit team has the appropriate expertise to carry out the CCB audit process.

According to point 4.3.1 of the CCB program rules, the team carrying out the audit must have experience in the following areas:

- 1) Proficiency in a relevant local or regional language for the project location: all members of the audit team have Spanish as their mother tongue. Complementary, all members of the audit team are fluent in English, and each of them are also fluent in different languages, such as Portuguese or French.
- 2) Relevant agriculture, forestry and/or other land use experience in the project country or region: all team members have studies related to nature and environment as described in the previous paragraphs. All team members are forestry engineers or related, with master's degrees in environmental fields as well. In addition, all team members have experience working with audit processes, especially in climate change audits under VCS and CCB in LATAM, Africa, Europe and Asia.
- 3) Relevant social and cultural expertise: all members of the audit team are fully experienced in conducting CCB audits. The members of AENOR have travelled internationally carrying out VCS and CCB audits, so they are fully aware of the socio-cultural aspects to be taken into account in each audit and in each place.
- 4) Relevant ecological and biodiversity expertise: all members of the audit team have forestry and/or environmental studies, which allows them to know and apply their knowledge in ecology and biodiversity issues to the projects they are working on. The members of the audit team have worked on a wide range of projects and are well versed in the environmental and biodiversity conditions in the project area, as well as in other parts of the world where they conduct audits. Moreover, each of the audit team members have completed valuable certifications in relevant topics, such as climate change, biodiversity, governance, sustainable finance, and others.

2.2 Method and Criteria

The verification was performed through a combination of document review, onsite inspections and interviews with relevant stakeholders, as discussed in Sections 2.3 through 2.5 of this report. At all times, the project was assessed for conformance to the criteria described in Section 1.2 of this report. As discussed in Section 2.6, findings were issued to ensure that the project was in full conformance to all requirements.

A project specific Verification and Sampling Plan was developed to guide the verification auditing process to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The purpose of the Verification and Sampling Plan was to present a risk assessment for determining the nature and extent of verification procedures necessary to ensure the

risk of auditing error was reduced to a reasonable level. The Verification & Sampling Plan methodology was derived from all items in our verification process stated above. Specifically, the sampling plan utilized the VCS guidance documents and ISO 14064-3. Any modifications applied to the Verification and Sampling plan were made based upon the conditions observed for monitoring in order to detect the processes with highest risk of material discrepancy.

Based on these analyses and considering the requirements of the GHG program used, the following sampling was carried out:

- Project proponent, developers/management team, local team onsite (management capacity).
- Project design and boundaries.
- Project rights and legal requirements.
- Stakeholders' consultation process & Public Comment Period and engagement.
- Project conflicts, barriers, or difficulties.
- Project Communication & Grievance Mechanism.
- Financial issues, financial sustainability.
- Benefit permanence (mid and long term).
- Project area context prior to the project initiation and the main deforestation drivers.
- Additionality assessment.
- Methodology used and deviations.
- Risk assessment. NPRR and NPR tool used.
- Baseline scenario, project scenario, leakage.
- Carbon calculations. Estimates and assumptions for determining GHG data. Remote sensing.
- Ex-post Quantification of emission reductions or removals.
- Monitoring procedures. Monitoring team and equipment.
- Areas of High Conservation Value (HCV).
- Project activities conducted during the monitoring period.
- Project impacts on Climate, Community, and Biodiversity during the monitoring period (and related to PD).
- Exceptional benefits (Biodiversity) in the monitoring period.

The sampling aims to check the quantity and type of evidence below:

- To carefully review the MR and supporting documentation for conformance to the verification criteria.
- To reproduce 100% of sheets in the MR and the other spreadsheets for the monitoring report description crosschecking with used methodology requirements (VM0015 for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation v1.1).

- To check 100% the project boundary and land cover classification and changes in the project area for the monitoring period using the GIS database.
- To carefully review the NPRR and supporting documentation for conformance to the verification criteria and consistency with the MR.
- 100% verify Non-Permanent Risk Report results using the NPRR tool and considering the VCS & CCB Standard requirements.
- To reproduce the GHG emissions reductions calculations (ex-post) presented in the spreadsheet and crosscheck with the Project Description, current Monitoring Report and previous Monitoring Reports
- To verify 100% the carbon stock changes and the land used classes in the project area for the monitoring period, as well as to examine the monitoring of the carbon variables.
- To examine the monitoring of the community and biodiversity variables and indicators. To assess the project impacts expected/monitored on the community and biodiversity aspects.

The verification activities in which risks were assessed were the evaluations of the monitoring system (data flow, data control procedures, etc.) but mainly the quality of raw data as well as sources and the spreadsheet calculations.

AENOR reproduced and verified 100% of sheets in the spreadsheets referenced as /06/ in section 2.3 below, for the monitoring period 01 January 2022 to 31 December 2022 for the project area. The project boundaries for the monitoring period were 100% checked using the GIS data, and crosschecked for a sample of random points onsite in the project boundaries and covering different land uses; also, re measuring a sample inventory plots in project and leakage area. Other parameters were also verified and crosschecked with validated values.

AENOR carried out a deep and meticulous review of the spreadsheets in order to verify the correct application of the methodology (formulae, equations) and checked that data required to calculate the GHG emissions reduction were appropriately provided. Based on the assessment carried out, AENOR confirms with a reasonable level of assurance that the claimed emissions reduction are free from material errors, omissions, or misstatements.

AENOR confirms that sufficient evidence was presented for the reported net anthropogenic GHG emissions reduction and that there is a clear audit trail that contains the evidence and records that validate the stated figure in this verification report since:

- Sufficient evidence available: The project participant has provided the 100% of data used in the calculations to achieve the final amount of GHG emissions reduction reported.
- Nature of evidence: The raw data were collected from reliable sources. They are detailed in the project documents and have been provided to the verification team and were checked during the interviews.
- Cross-checked evidence: AENOR cross-checked the collected information through interviews with stakeholders and reproducing calculations.

Hence, AENOR confirms that the stated figures in the MR are correct and confirms that is able to certify net anthropogenic GHG emissions reductions based on verifiable and reliable evidence.

2.3 Document Review

A detailed review of all project documentation was conducted to ensure consistency with, and identify any deviation from VCS program requirements, the methodology (VCS Methodology VM0015 v1.1), and the validated PD. Initial review focused on the MR and included an examination of the project details, implementation status and internal reports, data and parameters, and quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals as well as CCB requirements compliance' documented supporting evidences. Documents reviewed included data from monitoring, management plans, maps and satellite images, monitoring and grievance SOPs, carbon calculation spreadsheets, and responses to Corrective Action Requests and Clarifications (see Appendix 2).

The verification included a review of the validated PD and the MR, relative to the field conditions, and interviews with project management staff and stakeholders. Modifications to the verification and sampling plan were made based upon the conditions observed for monitoring in order to detect the processes with highest risk of material discrepancy.

The VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v 4.0 was used by the Project Proponent (PP) to assess overall project risk. The PP is able to use this version of the tool and not the updated one for 2024 as they received an exemption from VERRA on 14th March 2024 /106/ only for this verification. AENOR reviewed the Non-Permanence Risk Report provided with the verification support documentation and confirmed that the project adheres to the requirements set out in the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool. Each risk factor was thoroughly assessed for conformance. The final score was calculated to be 10%.

A complete list of the reviewed documentation can be found in Appendix 1

2.4 Interviews

Interviews were performed as part of the verification process in order to confirm and verify the information provided in the documents (see section 2.3). AENOR audit team met onsite in the project area with individuals with various roles in the project. This included a series of interviews with in-country staff that support the mission of the project. In addition, interviews discussions were conducted with project members, leaders of the local communities and other project-related stakeholders. The following table summarizes the interviews carried out during the process.

Date of the meeting	Name	Role/Relation to the project
22/09/2023	Joel Deboer	EP Carbon Technical manager
22/09/2023	Sam Frankel	EP Carbon Director of Projects and Operations
09/10/2023	Karen Aguilar	FUNDAECO Director of Planning and REDD+ Manager
09/10/2023	Eddy Ottoniel Palencia Padilla	FUNDAECO Regional Director
09/10/2023	Iván Cabrera	Regional Director CONAP Northeast
09/10/2023	Eddy Ottoniel Palencia Padilla	FUNDAECO Regional Director
09/10/2023	Edgar Giovanni Zamora	Councilor in Municipality of Puerto Barrios
09/10/2023	Carlos Alberto Cael Aguilar	Cerro San Gil School director

09/10/2023	Carlos A. González F.	Forest guard- PAI 938 Sendero de las Escobas.
09/10/2023	Cesar Miguel Alarcón	PAI 419
09/10/2023	Karen Dubois	Owner/ Program director
09/10/2023	Claudia Mariela López	Institutional educational Project Coordination Puerto Barrios
09/10/2023	Oscar Rosales	Alianza Colaboración
10/10/2023	Fellow girls	Two fellow girls benefiting from the fellowship program of the project.
10/10/2023	Amarilis Ramírez	Grupo mujeres from San Francisco Las Margaritas
10/10/2023	Estela Pérez	Prestadora de Botiquín/medicin dispenser San Francisco las Margaritas
10/10/2023	Edgar Regievar	COCODE President Margaritas
10/10/2023	Wlfredo Velazquez	COCODE member
10/10/2023	Julia Aracely Lemus	COCODE member
10/10/2023	Elvia Beltrán	COCODE member
10/10/2023	Raul Efrain Cazum	COCODE member
10/10/2023	Alberto Popchun	COCODE Sesaquipe asociación Livingston
10/10/2023	Erick Moisés Barrantos	Instituto Guatemalteco de Turismo Rio Dulce
11/10/2023	Eugenio Yatz	COCODE President Aldea El Cedro
11/10/2023	Angus Yatz Xol	ViceMayor Aldea el Cedro
11/10/2023	Arnaldo Ba	Vocal Aldea El Cedro
12/10/2023	Sayda Gabriela troches	Ecoveleros San Juan
12/10/2023	Mario Antonio Cruz Pop	Member La Guaira Cocolí COCODE
12/10/2023	Ramón Macú Xol	La Guaira Cocolí COCODE president
12/10/2023	Israel Cuz	Member La Guaira Cocolí COCODE
12/10/2023	Ramiro Cuz Acal	Member La Guaira Cocolí COCODE
12/10/2023	María Cabral	Matrona /nurse

In the case of PAIs or external institutions, the interviews were carried out as a group or individually between the stakeholders and the AENOR team, and in the absence of FUNDAECO management personnel in order to safeguard the objectivity and confidentiality of the responses. Names of PAIs owners interviewed has been omitted in the table above for privacy reason, although the information is in FUNDAECO's VM0015 Accounting Model v5.9.xlsm document for consultation under request.

During the field visit, the AENOR team was able to interview several stakeholders, with representation from various ethnic groups, religions, geographical sectors of the project, collective and individual owners.

During the design of the random sampling of the community stakeholder groups to be interviewed, it was taken into account to include all affected groups according to the validated identification of stakeholders (see Sixth deviation to PD in MR 2.2.4.2 section). It is important to emphasize that an individual generally belongs to more than one stakeholder group, for example, a woman (as stakeholder) can be both community forest owner, midwife, and beneficiary of an agroforestry project, so the interviews, individual and collective, gather individuals that belong to several types of stakeholders at the same time.

Interviewees (particularly PAIs) were asked specific questions regarding the impact of the Project to the community and biodiversity as to cross-check with the information reported on the MR. Additionally, the personal opinion regarding the Project was asked to all interviewees, expressing all of them their positive impression. As for biodiversity trends, specific questions were made in terms of the number and species spotted by the interviewees that access the forest regularly. All interviewees asked were able to confirm the positive trend reported on the MR and stated their positive opinion regarding the impact on the biodiversity and ecosystems of the project area.

2.5 Site Inspections

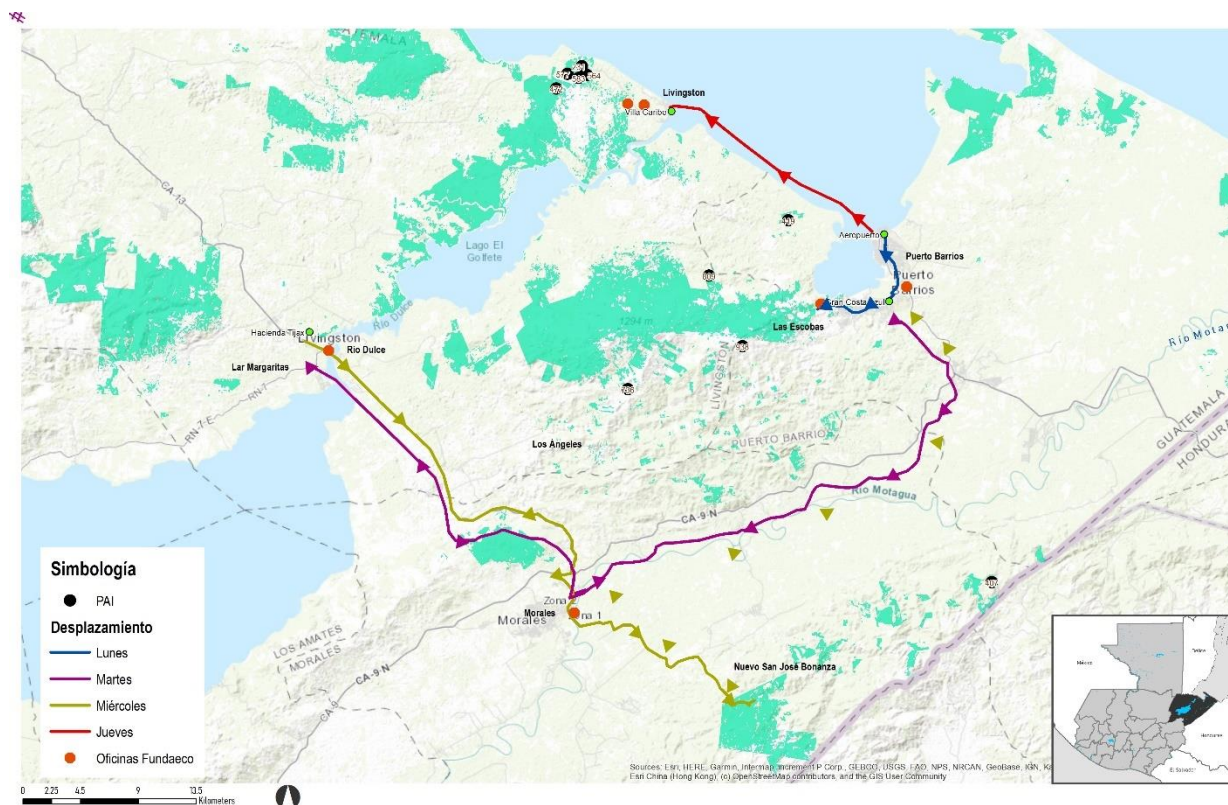
The objectives of the on-site inspections performed were mainly to cross check the description provided in the MR related to the environmental and social conditions of the project area, but also:

- Ensure that the geographic area of the project is, as reported in the MR and the accompanying geodatabase base, in conformance with Section 3.10.1 of the VCS Standard.
- Perform a risk-based review of the project area to ensure that the project conforms to all other requirements of the VCS/CCB rules and the methodology.
- Observe the PP's evidence and collect and record data in order to assess whether data collection techniques conform to the monitoring plan and related documentation and to evaluate data quality control systems.
- Select samples of data and information for verification in order to meet a reasonable level of assurance and to meet the materiality requirements of the project, as required by Section 4.1.2 of the VCS Standard.
- Assess the implementation of the project activities reported.
- Carry out interview with stakeholders (staff, communities, institutions, rangers) in order to cross check the documentary information provided.

In fulfillment of the above objectives, the Lead auditor and Local expert performed an on-site inspection of the project area from 9th October to 12th October observing the project area and vicinity to assess whether conditions are as described in the MR.

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A full walkthrough of project calculations in order to give verifier a chance to follow the process followed and where to find key information in the documents provided. The following topics were discussed: Demo of the major quantified pools, net emission reduction (NER) generation, FREL discussion, leakage determination, land use change monitoring, VM0015 accounting procedures, uncertainties, and any adjustments to quantification methods from validation until the final VCUs issued.
The project boundaries for the monitoring period were checked using the GIS data while onsite and crosschecking a sample of random points onsite in the project boundaries and covering different land uses and land use change (forest to non-forest) in the monitoring period.
Meeting with FUNDAECO management for general presentation of the project, complaints and communications mechanism, benefit distribution mechanism, changes in scope, financial feasibility, FPIC process, progress in project activities. Additionally, with the REDD+ Manager, they reviewed the monitoring system and records and a sample of the contracts of the PAIs that would be visited/consulted.
In the interviews with the partners (PAIs) reported in section 2.4, the social and environmental benefits of the project, contract, complaints, monitoring, risks of non-permanence, FPIC, etc. were addressed.
<u>Project activities:</u> At least one project activity of each type was visited (and its implementers/beneficiaries were interviewed, reported in section 2.4 above):
Support for the processing of government forestry incentives and land legalization. Via interviews with government officials.
Institutional collaboration (surveillance, development of Land Use Management Plans, management of protected natural areas, training, etc.).
Healthy and empowered women and girls program (scholarship program, training in sexual and reproductive health and family planning, clinics, etc.).
Establishment of agroforestry plots for diversification and intensification of production (coffee, pepper, rambutan, etc.). This could not be visited but it was confirmed via interviews.
Patrols for fire surveillance, deforestation, hunting, invasions.
Environmental education and animal rescue.
Ecotourism

For the onsite visit, the PP prepared a map with the requirements of the audit team for the interviews and visits, the audit team, on top of the interviews, was able to visit several PAIs in order to confirm the reported data.



Given that visit itinerary, and due to roadblocks during the week of the visit in Guatemala and the project area caused by national politics (check these links to news from different sources of the blocks in the project area as evidence: [Prens Libre](#), [DataExport](#), [Terminal Ferroviaria Puerto Barrios](#)) the audit process had to be updated continuously in order to avoid any restrictions or problems during the visit (which the PP team coordinated sensibly and in no time the audit team perceived any risk or any kind for the audit) As a result of this, the visit still allowed the audit team to choose between options of visit in the accessible area and interview stakeholders, already mentioned in this report, and visit PAI to check the presence of forest and meet forest patrol agents as well as different facilities and nurse homes or “matronas” trained by the project activities. In terms of PAIs visited, the audit team was able to visit the highlighted PAIs in the map and included, due to the situation explained, Pais further north as number 97 in Tapon Creek and the restricted fishing area in Ría Sastrun.

2.6 Resolution of Findings

All documentation provided by the PP was assessed against the applicable version of the relevant VCS and CCB guidance document. Several clarification requests (CL) and corrective action requests (CAR) were raised and submitted to the PP, which addressed them either by providing to the audit team the requested information or by making the appropriate corrections. Updated versions of the documentation were submitted by the PP and the audit team reassessed them against the guidance documentation. This process was repeated iteratively until all CL and CAR were fully closed. Specifically, 2 CARs and 9 CLs were raised for VCS and CCB.

All findings issued by the AENOR audit team during the verification process have been closed. In accordance with the VCS Standard, all findings issued during the verification process and the inputs for their closure are described in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.6.1 Forward Action Requests

No FARs were raised to the PP during the verification process. No FARs were pending from the previous verification.

2.7 Eligibility for Validation Activities

AENOR holds accreditation for validation for the relevant sectorial scope 14 under which this project activity is classified.

3. VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Participation under Other GHG Programs

The verification team is not aware of project involvement in other forms of environmental credits from its activities. The project has not been registered, and is not seeking registration, under any other GHG programs. Then, the project is eligible to participate under the VCS program.

3.2 Methodology Deviations

No new methodology deviations were applied during the monitoring and quantification of VCUs for this monitoring period.

However, in section 2.2.2.2 of the MR /01/ Methodology Deviations for previous Monitoring Periods that are already accepted and validated in previous audits can be found.

1. The first deviation applied by PP is referred to the estimation of the carbon stocks for the wood product pool. The methodology requires estimating the wood products at the time of deforestation an estimation of extracted biomass using a measure of commercial volume extracted is proposed by the methodology in its appendix III for medium-term wood products and long-term wood products.

The PP proposes to use the VM0003 Methodology for Improved Forest Management Through Extension Rotation Age (IFM ERA), v1.2 to estimate the carbon stocks in the wood products as it provides a conservative and/or more accurate estimation.

The VM0003 Methodology allows a more accurate estimation of the extracted biomass carbon than the VM00015 due to the fact that this latter uses an indirect measurement of commercial volume relying on multiple estimators including above-ground biomass and commercial volume regressions, whereas the VM0003 estimates the EXCWP parameter just based on volume regressions equations then, the estimation does not rely on so many estimators, then, reducing the uncertainty and increasing the accuracy.

AENOR deems that the deviation is appropriately described and justified in PD /05/ and supported documentation and that the project remains in compliance with the VCS rules. For the assessment, AENOR validated the approaches and assumptions described and their application in calculations. After all, AENOR accepts the deviation and deems it reasonable because it increases the accuracy and shall not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions because the VM0003 v1.2 omits mid-term wood products which leads to a more conservative estimate of wood products in the baseline.

2. The second deviation is related to the calculation of the long-term (20 years) average carbon stocks of post deforestation classes. The project proponent has randomly sampled initial and final LULC classes to arrive unbiased estimates of carbon stocks. The project proponent applies the unbiased estimates of carbon stocks in accounting and uses a linear decay model per the requirement of Section 6.1.2 rather than a 20-year average.

The carbon stocks' estimates for each selected carbon pool are unbiased because the carbon stock samples for each LULC classes were randomly selected. The project proponent conservatively accounts for the uncertainty in the carbon stock estimates according to the requirements of Section 6.1.1(f). Because the deviation is unbiased, it is more accurate than using (potentially) bias models to predict the flux within each carbon pools over a twenty-year prediction period.

Relative to the VCS Requirements for the decay of carbon over time, it is more accurate to account for the decay of biomass in below-ground and deadwood using a linear 10-year decay model rather than a 20-year average. By taking an average over time, the methodology allows for non-conservative "forward crediting" in the baseline scenario where emissions reductions for decay are accounted for before they otherwise would have occurred. This deviation is more accurate and conservative than the prescribed methodology methods.

AENOR has checked that assumptions described are faithfully used in calculations and really gathers in a more accurate and/or conservative way the situation of the project and shall not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions. Hence, AENOR deems that the deviation is appropriately described and justified in PD and supported documentation and that the project remains in compliance with the VCS rules. AENOR accepts the deviation and deems it reasonable because it's a more accurate approach.

3.3 Project Description Deviations (*Rules 3.5.7 – 3.5.10*)

There is one (1) project description deviation in the current monitoring report

The PD deviation consists of a deviation in the usage of equation three (3) of the methodology. Changing the details of the calculation of $ABSLRR_{i,t}$ for calculation of the baseline spatial model data for (this) Monitoring Period 6 and following monitoring periods. The project previously used a conservative deforestation rate of 3.42% to determine a static annual baseline deforestation of 20,503 hectares within the reference region. However, it has been determined that the project had incorrectly applied Equation 3 of the VM0015 Methodology by estimating a static rate of baseline deforestation across the reference region. The project is updating baseline deforestation estimates by applying equation 3 as it is written. For Monitoring Period 6 and all future monitoring periods using the current baseline, the baseline deforestation estimates shall be updated such that:

1. The baseline deforestation rate ($RBSLRR_{i,t}$) be calculated using Puyravaud's equation , as allowed in the VM0015 Methodology,
2. That $RBSLRR_{i,t}$ be applied to the remaining forest area of the reference region in year t, per the requirements of Equation 3 of the VM0015 Methodology, rather than to the entirety of the reference region forest area at the project start.

The baseline scenario for this project remains unchanged, this is simply an adjustment of baseline deforestation estimates to comply with the VM0015 Methodology. Additionally, while the applied rate of

deforestation has increased, the net impact is a decreased estimate of baseline deforestation for this monitoring period, as the rate is being applied to a reduced forest area. This change will reduce the current and future crediting of the project under the updated baseline by approximately 30%.

After the discussions with Verra and the Project Proponent regarding this issue, AENOR considers that the deviation is properly described and justified in the MR, and therefore, it is in compliance with the CCB and VCS rules.

AENOR considers that the deviation does not affect the additionality nor the applicability of the methodology and hence, the deviation is valid.

Several PD deviations validated in previous verification events still apply. Detailed description of the previous PD deviations can be found in Section 2.2.4.2 Project Description Deviations for Previous Monitoring Periods.

1. During the monitoring period corresponding to the third verification, the PP determined that there were 33 hectares within the project area boundaries that overlapped with ARR Project ID 1558. As these areas of land were receiving crediting through two different projects verified under the Verified Carbon Standard, double counting was occurring on these properties against VCS Requirements. Therefore, the verified project area was modified to remove all 33 hectares of overlap between the verified boundaries and ARR Project ID 1558. The previously verified leakage area was also modified due to a change in project area boundaries. Any calculated over-issuance of credits that occurred during previous verifications was removed from the total VCU estimate for the 2019 verification.
2. The second PD deviation refers to the exclusion of the carbon pool "litter". The PP appropriately described and justified the deviation in section 2.9.2 of the monitoring report. The carbon pool was included at validation, however, the project proponent determined that the litter carbon pool was not a significant pool and took in consideration the methodology assumption that states "the litter carbon pool is a pool to be decided by the PP and recommended only when significant (VM0015 Table 3)".
3. The third PD deviation refers to the adding of new plots to improve the precision of carbon stock estimates. This procedure is related to measurement and monitoring. During the monitoring period 35 plots allocated in non-forest classes and 6 plots allocated in the Humid Forest class were considered in order to reduce measurement uncertainty.
4. A fourth previous PD deviation is identified to include the Biodiversity Gold Level in the project. AENOR took into consideration the provisions in section 3.5.7 of the CCB Rules and assessing the project's situation considered the inclusion of the Biodiversity Gold Level as a validation of a project description deviation based on the significance of the deviation from the existing project design, but mainly based on evidence gathered during the site visit.
5. A fifth previous PD deviation was applied to market leakage deduction to reflect actual market leakage effects more accurately by eliminating this deduction. This project was validated with the default market leakage deduction of 20%. Additional research in the region and a new analysis of the market impacts of the baseline scenario has demonstrated that the market leakage impact of the project is in fact de minimis. Since project validation, additional documentation and research has been identified within Guatemala that demonstrates that project impacts on commodities associated with logging and cattle ranching are very unlikely to result in significant deforestation or emissions elsewhere in Guatemala. Therefore, the leakage deduction when calculating final VCUs

will only include activity shifting leakage and the market leakage deduction will be reduced from 20% of NERs to 0%.

6. Lastly, a sixth during the 4th monitoring period. The validated PD presented broadly in sections 1.3.6, 2.7, and 6 communities, community groups and stakeholders that occur in the Project Zone. Section 8.3 presented Community data indicators to be monitored but did not specify each impacted community group to be monitored. Instead, they were grouped by project activities. The PD deviation specifies the community groups participating in the project that are being monitored using the indicators for project activity groups provided in Section 8.3.2 of the PD: i) Forest owners and possessor within the grouped project area, ii) All community groups and individuals within the project zone, iii) Communities affected by land conflict within the project zone, iv) Individuals with reforestation or agroforestry projects, v) Local producers and Entrepreneurs, vi) Women groups, vii) Girls and youngsters, viii) School students, ix) Women from All community groups, x) Midwives, xi) All community groups and individuals in the jurisdiction of the community health commissions, xii) Community groups from Existing Protected Areas, and xii) Historical communities without legal land rights.

3.4 Minor Changes to Project Description (Rules 3.5.6)

A project description minor change has been applied in this monitoring period as per the requirements of the VCS standard 4.4 in terms of project location and boundaries. These minor modifications can be found in figure 8, table 2 and section 1.2.6.3 of the MR. The audit team has reviewed the updates made and deems them correct as they comply with section 3.6.17 of the VCS standard. The audit team is able to say that because the main changes applied refer to the addition of new project instances that comply with the eligibility criteria described in the updated PD /05/

Additional minor changes to the PD, validated in previous verification events and still applying, are described in section 2.2.3 of the MR.

3.5 Grouped Project (G1.13 – G1.15, G4.1)

During this Monitoring Period 13 new Project Instances have been added for quantification reasons. Additional minor changes to the PD, validated in previous verification events and still applying, are described in section 2.2.3 of the MR. The VVB has reviewed the contracts of each new PAI /76-90/ and confirmed the information provided by the PP in table 17 of the MR. The new instances are included in the project area described in section 1.2.5 of the PD /05/. Figure 4 in the MR represents the project area with all existing PAIs including the newly added ones.

The new Instances comply with the eligibility criteria set out in section 4.2.4 of the PD according to VM0015 v 1.1. via the contracts signed with the owners that the PP signed as well as the documents that state the start date for those PAIs, the patrol reports, reviewed by the VVB and confirmed correspondence with the data provided by the PP in the MR. In this sense, the verification of the eligibility criteria can be divided as it is done in the updated PD of the project by VCS standard related criteria and methodology related criteria:

- For the VCS related criteria 1-6: 1) the new instances are located within the Grouped Project area as evidenced by the GIS information from validation and the location information of the new instances /71-75/; 2) is an auto referenced one including all criteria which can be demonstrating by complying with all criteria stated; 3) the information provided by the PP in order to validate the

- new instances is deemed enough as it demonstrates location accuracy, stakeholder consultation, owners agreements and sufficient start date documentation evidence in the form of forest patrols.
- 4) the new instances are validated against the criteria defined in section 2.1.8 of the updated PD/05/; 5) The new instances, via contracts and forest patrols have sufficient evidence to demonstrate ownership and the start date; 6) the PAIs included only contribute to the carbon accounting only since the start date presented as evidenced in the calculation spreadsheet.
- For the VM0015 Methodology related criteria 7-16: 7) Contracts are in place with sufficient information in order to certify the transferability of the ownership. 8) FPIC process for new owners have been completed as evidenced by the meetings reported /47,48,49,50/and, ultimately, by the contracts signed; 9) the activities included in the baseline are among the ones stated in the criteria as demonstrated by the documentation provided by the PP /11,12,51/; 10) the new instances comply with the eligible categories stated in VM0015 methodology as detailed in section 2.2.5 of the MR; 11) The new PAIs are included in the Grouped Project Area validated which was determined as forest during validation and checked with the GIS information /71-75/; 12) by checking satellite imagery the audit team concluded that the new instances comply with the requirement of qualifying as forest during the last 10 years; 13) In the PD section 2.4 /05/ the PP already demonstrates that the project area does not fall in soils rich (>65%) of organic matter in the soil; 14) The technologies used in the new instances are described in table 17 of the MR /01/ and comply with the criteria, the audit team was able to confirm this via documentation provided by the PP as the monitoring reports /22/; 15) all the new instances are subject to the same baseline depicted in the validated PD as they fall into the Grouped Project area /71-75/; 16) Additionality was demonstrated for the validation event and all the new instances fall into the validated area as Grouped Project Area /71-75/

The audit team reviewed the voluntary carbon market standards such as GS, PV, VERRA and CERCARBONO as well as jurisdictional programs such as FCPF and ART-TREES and confirmed there is no overlapping with the project. All the documentation related to the new PAIs was reviewed by the audit team, specifically, the contracts, forest patrol reports and GIS information provided /71-75/. More detailed information on the new PAIs is available in section 2.2.5 of the MR.

The audit team considers that the documentation shared in form, mainly, of the contracts signed by the new owners and the spatial information on the new PAIs is complete and adequate, it is also clear and easily identifiable how the forest patrol that marks the initiation of the project in those PAIs is set and carried out through the reports /08,09,10/. Thus, AENOR confirms that the newly added project instances are valid.

4. VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Public Comments (Rules 4.6)

The MR was subjected to a 30-day public comment period from 24-February-2024 to 25-March-2024. No comments were received during the public comment period.

This comment period is so recent due to a mistake from the registry not uploading the complete documentation when the project was first admitted for the 6th verification as evidenced by an email from VERRA secretariat on the 22nd of February 2024 to which the audit team has access to, explaining this situation.

4.2 Summary of Project Benefits

Section 1 of the MR provides information about the project benefits. Achievements for the current monitoring period and for the project lifetime are detailed with specific data per categories.

Data are supported with evidence and records checked through interviews to relevant stakeholders and desk review. The section has been completed appropriately with data from the sources provided such as GIS package, records of trainings activities, employees, etc.

As specific and remarkable achievements for the current monitoring period the MR in its section 1.1 states:

- The participation of school students in various environmental education and awareness activities. Which the audit team, on top of reviewing the evidence provided by the PP in the Increase Awareness Students spreadsheet /07/ in which it is reported that 62 total events were held to this end, on top of that, the audit team was able to visit the places where some of them are held, interviewed 2 students of the program “becarias” on the 10th of October in Las Margaritas Appendix 3 that are being beneficiaries from this program as well.
- The implementation of forest patrols in coordination with multiple agents. The audit team reviewed the totality of the forest patrols reports provided and checked they related to the reported numbers as well as meet with several patrollers as part of the interviews during the visit, for instance, the members of Aldea El Cedro on the 11th of October, that are also in charge of the patrols of their lands included in the project.
- Women empowerment through sexual and reproductive health awareness talks, the audit team was able to confirm the involvement of the project with these activities through interviews, for instance, the one held on the 10th of October with the Grupo *mujeres* from San Francisco Las Margaritas.
- The addressing of lack of economic and employment opportunities by the support to sustainable entrepreneurship and accompanying landowners in the request process for government forest protection incentives (PINFOR/ PINPEP/PROBOSQUE) this was confirmed by local government officials confirming the project’s activity in this topic and also in every interview with beneficiaries.

In addition, the project reports in section 1.2 of MR standardized benefits related to

- GHG emission reductions
- Reduction of forest loss
- Improved forest land management, this was confirmed by the interviews performed with land owners where they recognized the project is helping them to maintain the forest as a ecological asset.
- Training of community members, confirmed by the reported numbers /03,07/ and the confirmations during the interviews.
- Employment creation, with forest patrols and medical support in the communities, for example.
- Improvement of livelihoods.
- Health services improvement, providing training and medicines to the local communities. The audit team was able to interview and visit several of these trained persons confirming the reported data.
- Improvement of access and quality of education, via, for example, the already pointed out Becarias program.
- Well-being improvement through project activities and confirmed throughout the interviews.

- Biodiversity conservation, evidenced in the number of hectares that are continuously taken care of as well as the new lands being included.

In opinion of AENOR, the project benefits are credible based on the supporting documents provided by PP and evidence received during the AENOR interviews with stakeholders, records checked and field records.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Implementation Status (G1.9)

Section 2.1.1 of the MR provides the objective to be achieved by the project activities and the main tasks carried out for the monitoring period. The information is supported with additional documents such a TOC Activity Matrix and the Monitoring Indicator and Results Matrix that give a complete information about the achievements as well as reports /38, 43, 49, 67/ that confirm the stated information.

In this monitoring period, the PP has focused project activities on the following fields, which were initiated in previous years:

- Leakage mitigation through forest patrols carried out by law enforcement. Changes in land use and land cover within the leakage belt was accounted.
- Forest incentives files preparation and presentation to the forest incentives program.
- The project continued to provide local producers with training and commercial support, several of these producers are located in the leakage belt.
- Efforts to mitigate risk to project permanence, community benefits, and climate benefits continued through improving education and economic opportunities for girls by providing educational scholarships, giving support and technical assistance to community and local producers and agroforestry projects, and improving access to health services.
- Efforts for biodiversity monitoring has gone beyond with the presentation of biodiversity findings from first community managed monitoring project.

Project activities combined forest protection through patrols with land titling and request of government forest protection incentives, which motivate landowners participating in the project to protect their forests.

The PP has monitored the forest in this period using satellite imagery of the project area for any deforestation event in the project area. Results of the monitoring were provided in the GIS package where the deforested areas occurred during the monitoring period can be found.

The community-oriented project activities implemented during the past monitoring period with the greatest impact on the quality of life for people within the project zone were those tied to generating alternative and sustainable sources of income, expanding health and reproductive care throughout the project zone, and improving the resource and land management capacity of communities. Together, these project activities have worked to address focal issues raised by communities throughout the project zone. Section 4 of the MR provided the community monitoring results and demonstration of net positive community impacts for this monitoring period.

Regarding communities' issues, AENOR verified during the onsite interviews that the technical teams of the PP in the project zone included local people speaking the local languages and they are used to translate

the project information to them in a form they understand. Gender approach is also considering as part of the Healthy and Empowered Women and Girls Program. Interviewing to the communities and individuals added to the project, AENOR verified their knowledge about the risks and benefits of the project and how their opinions are collected to be considered in the project decisions and planning. Section 2.3 of the MR provides further information about the measures for the participation of stakeholders in the decision making and the procedures for the grievances and conflicts.

Project activities designed to bring about benefits to biodiversity also tend to overlap quite frequently with climate and community objectives as well. As such, many activities implemented by the PP serve to address multiple objectives across all CCB categories. The primary activities that FUNDAECO has implemented to target the biodiversity objectives of the project consist of measures targeted at reducing deforestation, including the enforcement of protected area laws, improved land use management, and improving economic opportunities.

FUNDAECO has also taken measures to directly protect populations of vulnerable species through the establishment of fish restoration zones and amphibian protection protocols.

In addition, FUNDAECO has worked to educate the public on the importance of biological diversity and environmental sustainability, through different environmental awareness programs mainly directed to school students. The PP also monitors and catalog species within the project zone in order to improve both the Project's and the scientific community's understanding of species diversity within the region. Section 5 of the MR shows the biodiversity monitoring results and an assessment of net positive biodiversity impacts for this monitoring period.

Section 2.1.10 of the MR describes the contribution of the project to Sustainable Development Goals of Guatemala. The project activities implemented during the monitoring period have a direct impact on SDGs 2, 3, 13, 14 and 15, as demonstrated in table 6 of the MR.

The implementation plan for the phased project activities has been also provided to the AENOR team along with the budget and implementation schedule. The project has achieved its objectives in Climate, Community and Biodiversity by implementing project activities in every program area as results confirm.

Section 3 of this verification report contains a list of all deviations or changes applied to the project, including methodology deviations, project description deviations, and minor changes to the project description, validated for previous monitoring periods; no methodology or PD deviations were reported by PP or identified by AENOR, but a minor change in the PD, which was approved. AENOR deems that all deviations and changes are appropriately described, justified, and supported documentation and that the project remains in compliance with the VCS and CCB rules.

In conclusion, during this verification process, AENOR has not detected project changes in regard to the project title, its purposes, and objectives. As such, the project activity accurately reflects the proposed project which is mainly focused in the following program areas: resource protection and governance, sustainable enterprise, community empowerment & inclusiveness, education, and improved access to resources. Through interviews with key staff, the auditor's team confirms the main objectives of the project activity.

AENOR checked the monitoring plan contained in the validated PD and compared it with the monitoring report to verify whether there was any difference that would cause an overestimation of the GHG emission

reductions in the current monitoring period. AENOR has confirmed that there are no material discrepancies between the actual monitoring system, and the monitoring plan set out in the PD and the applied methodology, except to the project deviations and changes already commented and assessed in the MR and this verification report. Also, the PP effectively monitors the required parameters to determine the project's reductions and removals by sinks and emissions by sources as required by the monitoring plan and the applicable methodology.

The parameters reported, including source, frequency and review criteria as indicated in the monitoring plan were verified to be correct and in line with the revised monitoring plan of the validated PD. Necessary management system procedures including responsibility and authority of monitoring activities have been verified to be consistent with the PD. Knowledge of personnel associated with the project activity was also found to be satisfactory. For this monitoring period there are not remaining issues from previous verification.

The project has not participated nor been rejected under any other GHG programs. GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project are not included in an emission trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading. The project has not received or sought any other form of environmental credit. Neither has become eligible to do so since previous verification.

The audit team has also assessed the sustainable development contributions that can be found in Section 2.1.10 of the MR, and after reviewing relevant attached evidence, such as bird, amphibious and reptile monitoring reports and varied training evidence, AENOR can confirm that the information reported both in the PD and the MR is well aligned and local communities are being benefited from these contributions.

Hence, after a complete review of the different documents provided and the interviews carried out, AENOR is able to confirm that the project implementation is in accordance with the project description contained in the PD and the implementation status described in the MR. There are no material discrepancies between project implementation and the project description

4.3.2 Risks to the Community and Biodiversity Benefits (G1.10)

Section 2.2.6 of the MR addresses the risks to the project benefits. The PP has developed Non-Permanence Risk Reports, dividing the project are in 2 separate risk areas based on differing land tenure and conservation commitments, to estimate the risks on Climate benefits in accordance with the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v4.0.

One of the most relevant risks to the implementation of REDD projects is the role of the Institutional Organizations and the support provided by them to the project activities over time. This information is provided in the PD, the MR and ratified during interviews and confirmed in the verification of similar projects in Guatemala by AENOR. The lack of resources and lack of continuity of public services could results in a slow and interrupted implementation of public policies and strategies. This can affect the project coordination with authorities in charge of law enforcement.

To diminish this risk, FUNDAECO is part of National and Local working groups and Associations to favor the implementation of the project and works with the official institutions to avoid the lack of support and resources.

The design of the project as grouped project with many landowners involved and the existence of a defined grouped project area, a project zone and a project area require a correct enforcement of law in the region.

The lack of governance in the project zone and surrounding areas could also be a risk for the project activities. However, the PP tries to mitigate this risk engaging local technicians and working with community promoters that keep a constant and close communication with communities and landowners to know their claims and demands. Moreover, as commented above FUNDAECO actively works in the region in different groups.

The project lifetime is 30 years. However, the project is designed to create benefits and impacts that are expected to last far beyond this time frame. For instance, through activities to support land titling FUNDAECO is ensuring community rights and also access to projects, funding, and stability for benefited communities. Furthermore, technical assistance for productive alternatives and access to education will contribute to maintain project benefits. It is expected all these joint interventions to generate impacts at the local development dynamics and patterns in the project zone, beyond project lifetime. Project Implementation Plan, records of workshops carried out, Agents and Drivers of Deforestation Assessment among other documents, were assessed by the audit team.

Other potential risks such as financial ones were also considered and mitigated through the support of Althelia Climate Fund.

AENOR deems that the PP identified correctly the risks to the project benefits but the most important is that created, and it is implementing actions to reduce or diminish the negative impacts of these risks in the benefits on the climate, community and biodiversity.

4.3.3 Community and Biodiversity Benefit Permanence (G1.11)

The project is currently taking active measures to enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits of the project beyond the project crediting period by implementing long-term activities throughout the project lifetime. Section 2.2.7 Benefit Permanence of the MR describes them in detail based on Climate, Community and Biodiversity measures.

AENOR has verified those activities through the desk review and during the on-site visit, where the following people were interviewed and asked about the benefits of the project among other topics: FUNDAECO's team, Regional Coordinators and Councilors, Fellows from the Healthy and Empowered Women and Girls Program in the Sierra Caral Chapter and several PAI stakeholders, among many others community members (further information in appendix Section 2.4)

Hence, AENOR deems that the benefit permanence and the measures implemented are in accordance with the validated PDD and they are reasonable and apparent to further implemented.

4.3.4 Stakeholder Access to Information (G3.1- G3.3)

The PP informs on the general progress of activities through FUNDAECO project web site <https://fundaeco.org.gt/fe/>, email communications, and social media. Documents for specific activities such as health services for each clinic, protected area maps, forest incentive files, conservation agreements and other are presented during specific meetings. AENOR has been able to verify this information accessing to each one of the links and communications mentioned in Section 2.3.1 of the MR, checking the date and the possible beneficiaries of the messages. Also, although some beneficiaries might live in areas with difficult phone or internet coverage, the audit team confirmed during the visit that they were aware of the communication channels from the project and were able to communicate with them effectively.

FUNDAECO has provided summary documents for the Project Description and all Monitoring Reports in the local language, disseminating them through the aforementioned channels, which were observed during the onsite meeting. FUNDAECO has also disclose relevant information about potential costs, risks and benefits to stakeholders prior taking any further project decisions. AENOR audit team, during the on-site visit, was able to collect information through private interviews regarding communications they have received about risks and benefits of the project, and confirmed that, any doubt, question or inquire any beneficiaries may have had about the project was timely and satisfactory answered.

The audit team verified and confirmed through interviews to different community members and stakeholders that they have appropriate known about the project and that they have been provided with access to full project documentation, including MR summaries and bulletins regarding project implementation as appropriate actions taken to explain the verification process to stakeholders. AENOR can also conclude that the stakeholders had access to information regarding project activity.

4.3.5 Stakeholder Consultation (G3.4 – G3.5)

The veracity of the local stakeholder consultation was verified during the interviews. AENOR checked the evidence of the different meetings about the project as well as the reports of the FPIC /21, 47, 48/ in which a poll was performed with a clearly defined questions list and and 1092 people participated from 38 different communities, the communication plan, etc. Evidence confirms that information provided by the PP is credible and consistent.

The stakeholder process consisted different actions such as meetings and assemblies with the organized and unorganized groups, individuals, Departmental Development Councils (CODEDE), Municipal Development Councils (COMUDES), Community Development Councils (COCODES), Women Rights Groups and governmental institutions. These community structures have been used to implement Free Prior and Informed Consent activities in previous years.

AENOR interviewed representatives of these different community structures that confirmed the participation of them in the consultation process.

The meetings explained the fundamental knowledge about Climate Change and the environmental services of the forest; the deforestation rates of the Caribbean Guatemala; the concepts and elements related to REDD+, and the objectives, strategies and benefits of the REDD+ Project. Print media were also used to inform local people, performing an illustrated summary of the Project Design Document. FUNDAECO was also sensitive to the indigenous people and women groups during the consultation process. In fact, local workers in the project area belonging to FUNDAECO speak indigenous language.

AENOR deems that the stakeholder consultation practices carried out by the PP during the monitoring period ensures the participation of all community groups and other stakeholders in the design and implementation of the project, respecting their values, customs, and institution, as well as optimizing community benefits. Based on the evidence provided and the testimonies of community members and representatives directly consulted by the audit team, AENOR considers that continuous communication with stakeholders has been properly carried out throughout the monitoring period, directly with communities and other stakeholders or through their legitimate representatives, and that this communication has been

effective in allowing stakeholders to influence the project implementation. The stakeholder input has been properly documented and it is appropriately reflected in the project's documents.

4.3.6 Stakeholder Participation in Decision-making and Implementation (G3.6)

The stakeholder involvement in project design as well as the stakeholder communication system is described in the validated PD /05/ and the MR /01/. The audit team was able to verify the stakeholder's involvement through the different interviews and meetings conducted and through records of different meetings and workshops as reported in the evidence provided and already discussed, the PP has also shared the grievance logbook /46/ where no conflicts are related to the information or the community participation in the decision making process. Community members demonstrated awareness and consent of the project's activities. In opinion of AENOR, the communication and consultation plan is being implemented as described in the project design document.

The PP has received several requests during this processes that have been adopted and incorporated in the project activities, as documented in the MR. During this monitoring period 155 meetings were held to coordinate activities and decision making with stakeholders. Effective participation across all project activities is ensured through several processes described in section 2.3.10 of the MR. The PP has also established a series of institutional and programmatic mechanisms in order to ensure a gender perspective in the implementation of all field activities.

4.3.7 Anti-discrimination (G3.7)

The project is committed to fair treatment and equal opportunity for all stakeholders, community members and employees. Neither the project, nor any agent of the project, has discriminated against or will discriminate against any person for any reason, including – but not limited to – gender, religion, nationality, tribe, or sexual identity. FUNDAECO is committed to providing a workplace and programmes that are safe and free from all kinds of harassment. The PP has developed and is implementing a Code of Ethics and the Gender and Non-Discrimination Policy (D34, D39) in order to ensure compliance with CCB Standards and to avoid discrimination or harassment based on gender, race, religion, and sexual orientation. This policy is enforced through the implementation of activities as described in section 2.3.11 of the MR.

During the process of the verification, the audit team didn't find any evidence that the project is engaging in any form of discrimination even when the interviewed stakeholders were asked about it directly and there have not been any report coming from stakeholders regarding some kind of discrimination.

The verification team has reviewed the information provided in the MR and crosschecked with the evidence mentioned such as the Code of Ethics and the Gender and Non-Discrimination Policy /95/ where, for instance, Fundaeco sets the intention to clearly comply with the no child labour national legislation and that all decisions are made taken into consideration only objective criteria and no discrimination by gender, age, or ethnicity will happen. Complementary, through the onsite visit carried out by the verification team, AENOR had the opportunity to ask to the stakeholders and beneficiaries if they had knowledge of any sign of discrimination. None of the interviewees declared to know proofs of discrimination. Furthermore, among the interviewees, there were women who declared to be part of the project without being discriminated.

AENOR checked and confirms that the PP has developed specific measures to prevent discrimination and to guarantee equal opportunities for community members, including women and vulnerable and/or marginalized people.

4.3.8 Stakeholder Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (G3.8)

The PP has established a grievance redress procedure, described in the validated PD, in which reception, registration, response, resolution and/or referral of grievances is executed at different geographical and organizational levels, according to their gravity and urgency, ranging from requests of access to information, operational and administrative complaints, grievances and disputes over rights of access, collective conflicts, and potential violations of Legislation and Fundamental Rights. Different and specific channels of communication and complaint will be used, based on current practices, in order to ensure that all stakeholders, particularly vulnerable populations – such as indigenous women- have rapid access to complaints and grievance redress.

A registry of complaints, responses and referrals is kept /46/ at the Regional, National and Institutional Level. During the audit no complaints were identified by the auditor, although certain beneficiaries had doubts about the payments procedure after re-asking about it, the audit team was able to confirm that the goal of sharing these concerns was to force the project proponent to pay before they agreed to do it, so no other complaints were identified.

In order to improve the Project's performance as related to proper and effective response to complaints and grievances, mechanisms will be implemented, such as quarterly monitoring of requests for information, complaints and grievances, annual stakeholder satisfaction surveys, annual risk assessment and identification of potential conflicts, and development of a project contingency plan.

Definitively, PP and partners have involved in the consultation process to all people affected by the project in order to get a complete set of inputs from project area as well as to inform them about the project. PP has a continue communication with the local communities to implement and monitor goals of the project.

The PP has describes the situation of the ongoing grievance processes, the audit team has confirmed the situation with documentation provided by the PP and, during the visit, no stakeholder, when questioned about it, was aware of any grievance they might have had that had been unattended or mismanaged by the PP.

For the current monitoring period, some grievances were received through the grievance mechanism. AENOR during the onsite visit reviewed the grievance as well as the response provided by the PP. AENOR confirmed that such responses are aligned with the grievances procedure. All grievances were easily solved and AENOR was not able to identify any additional complaint than those indicated in table 21 of the MR.

Likewise, AENOR held numerous interviews with a broad range of stakeholders and confirmed that the grievance redress procedure described in the PD has been implemented during the monitoring period. AENOR could evidence how the PP has considered the comments, desires, and needs from local communities in its programs. Therefore, AENOR's verification team is able to confirm the grievances procedure was applied as per validated CCB-VCS-PD and in accordance with VCS and CCB (G.3.8) requirements.

4.3.9 Worker Relations (G3.9 – G3.12)

PP provides 4-week training for new employees immediately after beginning employment (induction process). Directors and Coordinators ensure that additional training is provided to staff, where needed, with efforts from FUNDAECO or from external support. As reported in the MR /01/ and in the reports shared,

during the monitoring period, 33 training activities were held covering subjects according to identified needs. Interviews confirmed that employees were trained and well-versed in the skills needed to carry out their jobs as well as continuous training for refreshing the initial training.

The MR section 2.3.14 describes the policy for employment opportunities. The project gives opportunities to local technicians and communities through three different mechanisms; by direct hiring, by supporting productive projects from individual entrepreneurs or producers, or by supporting community productive projects. Most of the employees hired by the project -71%- are local technicians or professionals born in the zone or that have been living there for more than 20 years. In addition, as reported in the MR /01/, during 2022 under the “Empleos Verdes”, the project supported 14 international migrants from Central America, with temporary employments, as park guards and support to the women and young girls initiatives.

The rights and obligations of workers are observed and enforced in accordance with Labor Code of Guatemala. This document is made available to workers at each office in printed form and in digital form. Besides these regulations when hired, the employee receives the institutional Code of Ethics and Values, which contained general and mission related values to be observed by our staff. The PP has developed its Policy on Gender, No Discrimination and Violations against Fundamental Human Rights. All manual and regulations were implemented under the concepts and criteria stated along this Policy.

In relation to occupational risks, specific procedures related to FUNDAECO field work were included in the institutional Policy and Plan for Health and Safety. FUNDAECO has also adopted the Security and Risk Manual at the Herpetarium, from the Guadalajara Zoo Herpetarium in order to manage its local Herpetarium at Cerro San Gil. The above Policy and related documents are communicated in different manners established in the document ‘Plan de comunicación y divulgación de riesgos’; the policy was presented to all project workers 2016, new employees receive this information as part of the induction process, signs are placed at the offices and other facilities, specific trainings are provided each year, and meetings are held periodically to address the policy elements, and internal social media are also used as non-formal tools to keep messages regarding risk prevention and procedures during specific situations.

During the visit the audit team was aware of the local capacity building of communities and stakeholders as the trainings provided by the PP are directed to the local inhabitants of the area and when questioned about it, although they welcomed the continuous financial support from the project they believed that the new activities or improvements made by these training would continue even if FUNDAECO disappeared.

AENOR did not detect incompliance with them checking the documents provided and interviewing to the workers. Then, the audit team deems that the project fulfills with CCB requirements related to labor relations.

4.3.10 Management Capacity (G4.2 – G4.3)

The MR shows (2.4.1 Required Technical Skills and Expertise) that the technical skills of the project proponent and other partner organizations were maintained and that project activities were implemented successfully. FUNDAECO has more than 20 years of experience working in the design and promotion of protected areas in Caribbean Guatemala. FUNDAECO has actively participated in all Forest Carbon and REDD+ working groups in the country and as developed other VCS projects.

In addition to the technical skills provided by the PP, the project has partnered with other organizations to increase capacity:

- EP Carbon: FUNDAECO partnered with this company to guarantee the good implementation of the VCS and CCB standards and methodologies, as well as to develop carbon accounting for the project. EP Carbon has provided FUNDAECO training workshop to increase the GIS team and the REDD+ Manager skills, as well as the Directors comprehension on the CCB and VCS standards in the past and continues to provide support for the team as needed.
- AME Guatemala: AME Guatemala is a Guatemalan NGO specialized in women rights a gender. FUNDAECO partner this organization in order to have an external observer for the gender policy implementation, and for the development and implementation of gender protocols for the women health clinics.
- Althelia/Ecosphere: Besides supporting project investments this partnership supports VCUs marketing and sales.
- Fundación Panthera: Fundaeco partners with Fundación Panthera to monitor felines and other mammals.
- FLAAR Mesoamerica: FUNDAECO has partnered with FLAAR to produce information and education materials on local biodiversity.

The MR states that the project has committed to cover project operation costs, initially through an investment from the Althelia Climate Fund that covers development expenses, project activities and scaling-up. Currently, and for the remaining lifetime of the project, FUNDAECO is also committed to selling carbon credits with support from the ACF and Ecosphere+. However, because of uncertainty in voluntary carbon markets, FUNDAECO continues to seek funds from international agencies to guarantee project cashflow. The project provided verifiers with an updated budget and cash flow worksheet. The Project's breakeven point was confirmed to be already reached as evidenced by the NPV and cashflow document provided to the VVB /61, 66/. Thus, they have the suitable and appropriate technical, financial and managerial capacity to develop the project, as it was checked by AENOR during the audit.

The PP has developed a Code of Ethics /93/ and the Policy against corruption and bribery /101/ and implements internal manual and procedures /99/ , annual audits, and best management practices to avoid the involvement of its team and collaborators in in any form of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion. The audit team considers that the project management has defined and set a strong and comprehensive framework to prevent the commitment any kind of illicit acts by project staff. No evidence of any form of corruption or illegality was found during the review of the provided evidence and the site visit.

4.3.11 Commercially Sensitive Information (Rules 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

The following document and information are commercially sensitive and not publicly available:

- Project budget
- Financial projections
- FUNDAECO Manuals, Policies and regulations
- Contracts between FUNDAECO and forest owners
- Any other agreements or contacts related to the project

AENOR was provided with the information and checked the information and is able to confirm that it meets the VCS Program definition of commercially sensitive information and that it is not related to the

determination of the baseline scenario, demonstration of additionality, and estimation and monitoring of GHG emission reductions and removals of the project.

4.3.12 Rights Protection and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (G5.1-G5.5)

For the recognition of property rights the project area is formed by lands from many landholders with different land tenure arrangements, including private property, private property holders without formal title termed possessors, community lands, State lands administered by CONAP, State lands given in concession to communities and industries and other users. With the exception of possessors, all of the tenure arrangements present in the grouped project area arises from either formal titles or formal management agreements with the State. It has been checked with the contracts as well as during the interviews that no encroachment from the PP has happened and that the property rights are preserved. The Project, as described in this report and the MR works also with the local authorities to foster land owners development and empowerment even if they are not part of the project as confirmed by local authorities to the audit team during the visit.

All participating properties have transferred their emissions reductions Rights of Use to the PP. Each contract transferred project ownership for a minimum of 30 years. Where project activities have been implemented since the project start date carbon rights are transferred retroactively and landowners have declared to not participate in any other emissions trading programs.

The audit team reviewed the contracts of a randomly selected sample PAIs and is available to confirm with a reasonable level of assurance that rights are recognized, respected, and supported and that the project does not encroach uninvited on private, community or government property. As reflected in all the reviewed contracts /76-90/, free, prior, and informed consent was obtained from all the property rights holders. During the onsite visit, this issue was directly asked by the VVB in every interview considered relevant and clarified with all the relevant stakeholders who confirmed that the communication with the project team and personnel is fluent and efficient, they feel heard and taken into account. The PP describes in section 2.5.2 and the FPIC related shared evidence /47,48/ how the one-to-one or community wide meetings were planned and held in order to inform all stakeholders about the project and its benefits and obligations.

As stated in the MR, the project does not require or involve the involuntary relocation of people or of activities important for their livelihoods or culture. The project is designed respecting and supporting people rights, in this sense the project includes land legalization actions that allow interested communities, with historical rights but without land titles, to include their forest in the grouped project area.

According to information provided in the MR and gathered from authorities and the project proponent. AENOR can confirm that the project protects the rights of indigenous peoples, communities, and other stakeholders in accordance with the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards and the validated project design.

During the site visit the audit team confirmed with the stakeholders interviewed that no reallocation was caused due to the project activities and there is no plans on doing so, respecting their livelihoods and culture.

As part of the project activities the forest patrollers inform the local authorities of any illegal activities that they encounter so they are tackled the right way reducing illegal activities in the area, during the visit this

was confirmed with the stakeholders as they are sure that the project activity and FUNDAECO's presence in the area is beneficial for preventing these activities.

In section 2.5.4 of the MR, the PP identifies the illegal activities that have historically occurred within the project area and described the actions taken to reduce them. These actions are aligned with the project activities and their implementation have been confirmed by the evidence provided by the PP and the stakeholders consulted by the audit team during the interviews were local community members interviewed in the 10th and 12th of October 2023 confirmed that the actions taken such as forest patrols and capacitation building by the project are effective as they work on helping to prevent the local forest area from damage. The local community members compare it with nearby areas not included in the project in which nothing of this is taking place and value the difference, in this sense, the audit team was aware of these differences during the visit as community members, local stakeholders and project members pointed out those degraded areas during the onsite audit. The stakeholders interviewed, several local leaders and COCODE members, insist that the support received from the project activities, whether financial, technical or managerial, is permitting them to take better care of their lands without recurring to degrading activities, the most repeated concept is that this activities "*help them conserve the land they live in*". The Project does not and has not benefited from any illegal activity.

4.3.13 Legal Status (G5.6)

The MR lists all the relevant national and local laws and regulations in section 2.5.6. Evidence of its fulfilment is considered complete. AENOR did not detect during the verification process any incompliance related to laws and regulations.

4.4 Climate

4.4.1 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

Procedures for quantifying the GHG emission reductions were conducted in accordance with the methodology VM0015 version 1.1. The verification team performed an intensive review of all input data, parameters, formulas, calculations, conversions, statistics and resulting uncertainties and output data to ensure consistency with the VCS documentation, methodology and associated tools, and the PD, in order to achieve this, the audit team held a technical meeting with EP Carbon on 15th September 2023 to clarify the calculations performed. Further, the verification team reproduced calculations for selected samples to ensure accuracy of the results. Conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by project proponents in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulas were accessible for review. The verification team recalculated subsets of the analysis to confirm correctness. Where applicable, references for analysis methods or default values were checked against relevant scientific literature for best practice.

The PP has provided the necessary data for the satellite imagery assessment and calculation in section 3.2.3.2.1 of the Monitoring report. The procedure for classifying the imagery used the methods from the previous reporting period.

The complex information in the Monitoring report is completed with the LULC matrixes for both project area and leakage belt. These tables were reviewed by AENOR and compared with the spreadsheet and carbon calculations to confirm that the assessment was done correctly under the methodology.

Baseline emissions

Section 3.2 of the MR and the calculation spreadsheet /06/ submitted to AENOR provide information related to the baseline emissions calculations.

AENOR has checked the calculations provided and confirms that emissions in the baseline scenario are consistent with the validated PD. Some project deviations occurred during the previous monitoring period. AENOR verified the correct application of the project deviation in formulas to calculate the emissions reductions of the project according to the applicable methodology.

Baseline emissions changed slightly from the previous monitoring period for the project and leakage areas. The spatial model itself remains unchanged from validation.

The accumulated emissions in the project area in the baseline scenario for the monitoring period account for **945,439 tCO₂e**.

Calculation Project Emissions

Calculation of emissions from project activities has been determined following monitoring plan in the methodology and the PD. The deforestation in the project area was defined in accordance with the methodology but considering the methodology deviations listed in section 3.2 of this report.

For the present monitoring period, the area of all categories in the project area and leakage belt has been calculated; the Forest Cover Maps for the project area and leakage belt have been updated along with the remaining forest area in the reference region /71-75/.

According to data provided for the monitoring period the deforestation in the project area has been 292 ha for a total of 5,258 hectares across the project lifetime; the VVB performed a reviewed of a sampled remote sensing plots in which they were able to confirm the reported data reported by the PP, moreover, the VVB held a technical meeting with the PP and their collaborators in the remote sensing part of the project in which the activity data collection techniques and results were discussed and analyzed. The emissions for the monitoring period due to this deforestation in the project area were **179,160 tCO₂e**.

The non-CO₂ emissions from forest fires have not been monitored because it was not considered in the baseline scenario.

The project does not consider planned activities leading to decrease the carbon stocks, and potential increases in carbon stocks are discarded as conservative measure.

Calculations and GIS files /71-75/ were provided to AENOR. A complete description of the process, assumptions and assessments carried out by proponents is provided in the monitoring report.

Calculation of Leakage

Any ex-post emissions in the leakage belt that were found to exceed the baseline estimate were considered to be a result of leakage due to activity displacement. It is estimated that during this monitoring period there were 99 additional hectares deforested within the leakage belt for a total of 3,737 hectares across the project lifetime.

Tables in section 3.2.3 of the MR show the ex-ante baseline estimation of carbon stocks in the leakage belt and the ex post net carbon stocks in the leakage belt. It is demonstrated that the ex-ante net baseline carbon stock change in the leakage area (482,144 tCO₂e) is higher than deforestation in the actual ex-post carbon stock change (85,195 tCO₂e) for the monitoring period. Thus, the total ex post leakage from activity shifting is zero.

As per the PD deviation validated in previous verifications and described in section 3.3 of this report, the market leakage deduction is considered to be 0.

Therefore, the total leakage emissions for the monitoring period are 0.

Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Calculation of emission reductions has been provided. Audit team has found the calculation traceable and in accordance with the applied methodology and its deviations, described in section 3.2 of this report.

The following table summarizes the estimated baseline, project, and leakage and the estimated net GHG emission reductions for the monitoring period.

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Total Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
2022	945,439	179,160	0	766,279

Therefore, the project achieved a net GHG emissions reduction of **766,279 tCO₂e** during the current monitoring period.

Per Sections 5.2.2 and 5.2.4 of the VCS Registration and Issuance Process, v4.3 document, the project was eligible for a buffer credit release of all buffer credits in excess of the lower risk rating score. The project was also eligible for a 15% time release of all updated buffer deposits. On May 2nd, 2023, Verra approved the release of 235,082 VCUs from the project's buffer pool (Project ID 1622_Buffer Release Report_02MAY2023.pdf). The GHG accounting model provided /06/ has been updated to account for this buffer release in total buffer pool calculations.

Finally, after calculating NERs, VCUs are calculated by removing the buffer credits. The non-permanence risk rating for this project is 10%. Therefore, during this monitoring period (01-January-2022 to 31-December-2022), the project generated **689,651 VCUs for issuance and 76,628 buffer credits**. This does not include the 235,082 VCUs released from the buffer pool in May 2023.

AENOR has also compared the reductions estimated during the ex-ante and ex-post (current monitoring report) calculations. They are located in the table 48 of the MR and confirm that the smaller quantity of GHG ERs in the MP6, achieving around a 50% lower than the expected in the ex-ante is due to the baseline revision, that significantly lowers the estimate of baseline scenario deforestation as compared to the ex ante estimates made at project start. AENOR assessed the calculations and confirm that the estimation is deemed correct, and therefore, this variation in the comparison is correct.

AENOR reproduced the calculations to achieve the same results and deems they are depicted clearly and correctly in the provided sheets. The AENOR verification team was able to trace them directly from the data sources (field measurements). Formulae used are in compliance with monitoring plan, PD and methodology like the default values used to determine the parameters. Thus, the net amount of VCU to be issued is accurate and realistic. Assumptions used by PP at verification were appropriately cross-checked and assessed with requested evidence.

In order to calculate the above terms, the monitoring report details the data and parameters used during the verification process. For each of them, AENOR checked its accuracy, consistency, and reliability by reproducing the spreadsheets calculations, verifying the correctness of formulae and methods used and crosschecking the data values with sources (see section 2.3).

AENOR carried out a deep review of the technical annex and the calculations (*Fundaeco VM0015 Accounting Model v6.13.xlsm*) and others provided by the PP that feed data values shown in the *Fundaeco VM0015 Accounting Model v6.13.xlsm* (see section 2.3).

AENOR verified the consistency and accuracy of each parameter detailed in sections 3.1.1 and 3.1.2 of the MR by crosschecking the information with the information in section 8.2 and 8.3 of the PD as well as checking values and reproducing the calculations in the spreadsheet's calculations and GIS package /71-75/ (see section 2.3) and did not find inconsistencies between them after the closing of CARs and CLs requested. Therefore, AENOR deems that values reported for the parameters are accurate and consistent. Information was deemed accurate and consistent taking into account sources used. Other default values used are from sources well accredited and validated at validation stage.

AENOR verified the list of parameter available at validation reported in the monitoring report and values applied (if applicable) or the references to the documents. The list is complete and in compliance with the methodology and the PD.

The data and parameters monitored and used to determine the emission reductions of the project are also detailed in section 3.1.2 of the monitoring report. AENOR verified that list is complete and in compliance with the applicable methodology and the PD. For each parameter, the references to the tables where they are used are provided.

The parameters monitored are the following: APDPAicI,t; APFAicI,t; APLPAicI,t; APNiPAicI,t; CUCdPA; EADLK; EADLKt; EBBBSLPAt; EBBBSLtoticI; EBBBSPA; EBBCH4icI; EBBN20icI; EBBPSPA; EBBPSPAt; EBBtoticI; Δ CFCdPA, Δ CFCdPA_t; Δ CFCiPA; Δ CFCiPA_t; Δ CLPMLK; Δ CLPMLK_t; Δ CPAdP Δ CPFiPA; A; Δ CPAiPA; Δ CPAiPA_t; Δ CPDdPA; Δ CPDdPA_t; Δ CPFdPA; Δ CPFdPA_t; Δ CPFiPA; Δ CPFiPA_t; Δ CLdPA; Δ CPPLdPA_t; Δ CLiPA; Δ CLiPA_t; Δ CPNiPA; Δ CPNiPA_t; Δ CPSLK; Δ CPSLK_t; Δ CPSPA; Δ CPSPA_t; Δ CUCdPA; Δ CUCiP Δ CUFiPAA; Δ CUCiPA_t; Δ CUDdPA; Δ CUDdPA_t; Δ CUFdPA; Δ CUFdPA_t; Δ CUFiPA_t; Δ REDD; Δ REDD_t; GIS software, Landsat imagery.

In order to verify the accuracy and consistency of parameters monitored and used to calculate the avoided emissions reductions achieved for the monitoring period, AENOR verification team reproduced table by table using the sequence established in the methodology, checking the correctness of the formulae applied and assumptions used, when applicable and that values used matched with data sources. At the same time, the verification team had to check the set of other spreadsheets (see section 2.3) that feed the *Fundaeco VM0015 Accounting Model .xlsm* calculation spreadsheet and show data inputs for calculating

the terms listed above. In addition, the whole set of spreadsheets are fed from sources mainly the GIS package and other sources/reports.

AENOR's audit team assessed the parameters listed in section 3.1 of the final version of the VCS&CCB MR, including fixed and monitored parameters and considered that they are complete and in accordance with the applied methodology and validated VCS PD. Verification team confirms that the emission reductions, including accuracy of spreadsheet, formulae, conversions and aggregations are consistent in the using of the data and parameters. Also, the methods and formulae set out in the project description for calculating baseline emissions, project emissions and leakage have been followed.

4.4.2 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

The data and parameters used to determine GHG emission reductions and removals are listed in section 3.1 of the MR.

In accordance with the PD and applied methodology, carbon stocks/ha in the different strata are considered fixed, however, as commented in the project deviation section the carbon stocks were updated as the PP included the information from more permanent sample plots in order to increase the representative of data and increase the accuracy. On the other hand, PP has implemented standard operative procedures to monitoring degradation, deforestation, fires and to information storage.

The PP uses a GIS package for analyzing the existence of forest and non-forest in the project area and leakage belt during project verification. The monitoring report describes the steps followed to analyze the information. The monitoring of unplanned deforestation will be done using higher spatial resolution satellite images, depending on access to images and the advancement of technology.

The assessment of land-use and land-cover change was done using Sentinel-2 satellite images to generate the deforestation data. Deforestation estimates obtained from this analysis has been compared with the deforestation model established in the baseline scenario.

This information is deeper treated in several documents that support information provided in the monitoring report.

AENOR has verified that the monitoring plan is being implemented as the described in the PD. An integrated cooperation between FUNDAECO, EP Carbon and Althelia Ecosphere allows carrying out the multiple activities considered. AENOR checked that key workers are fully involved in monitoring events (training, measuring, archiving, reporting, quality control, etc.). QA/QC procedures are considered strict at identifying, reviewing, and handling inconsistencies found in order to improve the management of the project.

Roles and responsibilities along with data management and archival system are also detailed in the monitoring report and other supported documents.

Interviews with the project staff and inspection of data and results demonstrated that the PP possess all of the competencies required for reporting of GHG emissions reductions on accurate way.

Data presented to the audit team were clear and coherent and processing steps could be traced to the corresponding sections of the methodology and monitoring plan with transparency.

The monitoring plan provides means for internal data review and quality control, and the data presented by the project proponent included the results of these internal assessments. AENOR considers that information provided is sufficiency and the quality of that information is appropriate to determine the GHG reductions.

4.4.3 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The project utilized the non-permanence risk analysis tool, AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool 4.0 which, although it is not the most updated one, the project has an exemption confirmed from verra to its usage, to assess risk according to internal risk, external risk, natural risk, and mitigation measures for minimizing risk. The verification team reviewed the Non-Permanence Risk Report following VCS Standard v4.1 Section 3.2.9 and confirmed that the project adheres to the requirements set out in the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool.

At all levels, the verification team evaluated the rationale, appropriateness, and justifications of risk ratings chosen by the project proponent. Each risk factor was thoroughly assessed for conformance.

The PP divided the project area in two separate risk areas based on differing land tenure and conservation commitments. Risk Area A is defined by properties that are owned through clear title by FUNDAECO. Risk Area B is defined by properties that are owned through clear title by national entities, municipal entities, private owners, and poseedores (possessors).

The final score for both areas was calculated to be less than 10% and thus the project is able to take the minimum risk rating of 10%. A brief review of each factor is found in the table below.

Risk Area A

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
Internal Risks		
Project Management: It is assessed using table 1 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	-4 (total may be less than zero)	a) The project does not use any planted trees for GHG credits generation. Risk rating=0 is justified. b) While there are regular patrols funded by FUNDAECO across the project area and within protected areas that hold carbon stocks on which GHG credits have been issued, much less than 50% of these are required to be protected by patrols. Evidence: /10/ Risk rating=0 is justified. c) Management team includes individuals with significant experience in all skills necessary to successfully undertake project activities. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. d) Management team maintains a presence in-country and less than one travel day from project site. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified.

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
		e) The management team has extensive experience in AFOLU project design and carbon accounting under the VCS program. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews. Risk rating=-2 is justified. f) There is an adaptive management plan in place, as described in FUNDAECO's Implementation Plan. Evidence: /67/ Risk rating=-2 is justified.
Financial viability: It is assessed using table 2 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	0 (total may not be less than zero)	a)-d) The project has already reached breakeven point. Evidence: /61/ .and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. e)-h) Not applicable. As of the current risk assessment, the project has already reached the breakeven point and has secured sufficient funding since the start of the project to reach breakeven. Evidence: /61/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. i) Not applicable Risk rating=0 is justified.
Opportunity Cost: It is assessed using table 3 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	-8 (total may be less than zero)	a)-f) NPV from project activities is expected to be at least 50% more profitable than the most profitable alternative land use activity. Evidence: /66/. Risk rating=-4 is justified. g) FUNDAECO is a non-profit organization. Evidence: /94, 102/. Risk rating=-2 is justified. h) FUNDAECO's land holdings are protected by a legally binding agreement that covers the length of the project crediting period. Evidence:/76/ and interviews. Risk rating=-2 is justified. i) Not applicable.
Project Longevity: It is assessed using table 4 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	15 (total may not be less than zero)	a) Not applicable b) Although FUNDAECO is legally committed to protecting their lands for a period of 60 years, the Implementation Plan and Financial Model only cover a 30-year project lifetime, thus the overall project lifetime is set at 30 years. Evidence: /76-90/ Risk rating=15 is justified.
Total internal risk=3 (total may not be less than zero)		
External Risks		
Land Tenure and resources	0 (total may not be less than zero)	a) Ownership and resource access / use rights of properties in Risk Area A are held by

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
access/impact: It shall be assessed using table 6 of the Risk Tool.		FUNDAECO. Evidence: Decree 07 2013 that establishes carbon, FUNDAECO REDD+ database. Risk rating=0 is justified. b) Not applicable. c)-d) There are no disputes over land tenure or ownership of the project area in more than 5 % of the project area nor disputes over access/use rights (or overlapping rights). Evidence: /71-75/, Interviews in section 2.4, sample of PAIs contracts reviewed. Risk rating=0 is justified. e) Not applicable. f) FUNDAECO's land holdings are protected by a legally binding agreement. Evidence: Interviews in section 2.4, sample of PAIs contracts reviewed. Risk rating=-2 is justified. g) Not applicable.
Community engagement: It shall be assessed using table 7 of the Risk Tool.	-5 (total may be less than zero)	a) FUNDAECO has consulted with 2101 of the 2800 families living within the Grouped Project Area. Evidences: /08, 09, 11, 21, 22, 48, 51/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. b) Of those roughly 5,000 households within the project zone, FUNDAECO has consulted with 2101 of those households that may be dependent on the project area. This means that FUNDAECO has consulted with roughly 42% of the households that may be dependent on the project area within the surrounding region, which is well above the 20% threshold. Evidences: /48, 51/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. c) The project generates net positive impacts on social and economic well-being of local communities is validated under the CCB Standards. Evidence: sections 4 and 5 in MR, Verra Registry. Risk rating=-5 is justified.
Political Risks: It shall be assessed using table 8 of the Risk Tool.	2 (total may not be less than zero)	a-e) Guatemala presents a score of -0.60 according to the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source. Evidence: /70/. Risk rating=4 is justified.

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
		f) The country is implementing REDD+ Readiness activities. Evidence: FCPF website. Risk rating=-2 is justified.
Total external risks=0 (Total may not be less than zero)		
Natural risks		
Fire Risk: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0	The likelihood of a natural fire is once every 100 years, being insignificant to carbon stocks. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Evidence: INAB website, SIFGUA website, reliable and applicable literature. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable
Pest and disease outbreaks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=0	Due to the project area's wet tropical climate, high biodiversity levels, and natural distribution of native species, the forests have low susceptibility to losses due to pest and disease compared to forest plantations. No evidence of pest or disease outbreaks has been identified in the project area. Evidence: INAB website. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable.
Extreme weather: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=0	Although hurricanes do affect the Caribbean coast, due to its geographic location, Izabal is very infrequently subjected to hurricanes. The only hurricane on record passing through the Izabal region was in 1887 and was a category 1 hurricane, the lowest category. The frequency of hurricanes is on a level of once every 100 years or more and thus poses no risk to the project area. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Evidence: /57-60/. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable.
Geological risks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0	Seismic events are a regular occurrence within Guatemala. However, the majority of seismic activity is located to the west due to the subduction of the Placa de Cocos beneath the Placa del Caribe. Both the seismic and volcanic impact on carbon stocks is considered to be insignificant due to no historical evidence of loss from these types of natural events. Evidence: INSIVUMEH, reliable and applicable literature. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable
Total natural risks=0		
OVERALL RISK RATING=3+0+0=3 Then an overall risk rating of 10% is considered.		

Risk Area B

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
Internal Risks		
Project Management: It is assessed using table	-4 (total may be less than zero)	a) The project does not use any planted trees for GHG credits generation.

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
1 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.		Risk rating=0 is justified. b) While there are regular patrols funded by FUNDAECO across the project area and within protected areas that hold carbon stocks on which GHG credits have been issued, much less than 50% of these are required to be protected by patrols. Evidence: /10/ and interview. Risk rating=0 is justified. c) Management team includes individuals with significant experience in all skills necessary to successfully undertake project activities. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. d) Management team maintains a presence in-country and less than one travel day from project site. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. e) The management team has extensive experience in AFOLU project design and carbon accounting under the VCS program. Evidence: section 2.4 in MR and interviews. Risk rating=-2 is justified. f) There is an adaptive management plan in place, as described in FUNDAECO's Implementation Plan. Evidence: /67/. Risk rating=-2 is justified.
Financial viability: It is assessed using table 2 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	0 (total may not be less than zero)	a)-d) The project has already reached breakeven point. Evidence: /61/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. e)-h) Not applicable. As of the current risk assessment, the project has already reached the breakeven point and has secured sufficient funding since the start of the project to reach breakeven. Evidence: /61/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. i) Not applicable Risk rating=0 is justified.
Opportunity Cost: It is assessed using table 3 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	-8 (total may be less than zero)	a)-f) NPV from project activities is expected to be at least 50% more profitable than the most profitable alternative land use activity. Evidence: D10. Risk rating=-4 is justified. g) FUNDAECO is a non-profit organization. Evidence: /94, 96/. Risk rating=-2 is justified.

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
		h) FUNDAECO's land holdings are protected by a legally binding agreement that covers the length of the project crediting period. Evidence:/76/ Risk rating=-2 is justified.
		i) Not applicable.
Project Longevity: It is assessed using table 4 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	15 (total may not be less than zero)	a) Not applicable b) The portions of the project area within Risk Area B are under legal agreement to continue the management practice. Properties within Risk Area B include those that are owned by national, municipal, private, or poseedores entities that have transferred their rights of use to FUNDAECO under a legal agreement that also requires prevention of deforestation and land use change. The fifth, seventh, and twelfth clauses of this contract establish that the landowners are to avoid, by means at their disposal, deforestation on their property and willfully comply with the terms of the contract. The contract establishes a legally binding commitment by the landowner for a minimum period of 30 years. Evidence: /76-90/ Risk rating=15 is justified.
Total internal risk=3 (total may not be less than zero)		
External Risks		
Land Tenure and resources access/impact: It shall be assessed using table 6 of the Risk Tool.	0 (total may not be less than zero)	a) Ownership and resource access / use rights of properties in Risk Area B are held by FUNDAECO. Evidence: Decree 07 2013 that establishes carbon, FUNDAECO REDD+ database. Risk rating=0 is justified. b) Not applicable. c)-d) There are no disputes over land tenure or ownership of the project area in more than 5 % of the project area nor disputes over access/use rights (or overlapping rights). Evidence: /71-75/, Interviews in section 2.4, sample of PAIs contracts reviewed. Risk rating=0 is justified. e) Not applicable. f) FUNDAECO's land holdings are protected by a legally binding agreement. Evidence: Interviews in section 2.4, sample of PAIs contracts reviewed. Risk rating=-2 is justified. g) Not applicable.

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
Community engagement: It shall be assessed using table 7 of the Risk Tool.	-5 (total may be less than zero)	a) FUNDAECO has consulted with 2101 of the 2800 families living within the Grouped Project Area. Evidences: /08, 09, 11, 21, 22, 48, 51/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. b) Of those roughly 5,000 households within the project zone, FUNDAECO has consulted with 2101 of those households that may be dependent on the project area. This means that FUNDAECO has consulted with roughly 42% of the households that may be dependent on the project area within the surrounding region, which is well above the 20% threshold. Evidences: /48,51/ and interviews Risk rating=0 is justified. c) The project generates net positive impacts on social and economic well-being of local communities is validated under the CCB Standards. Evidence: sections 4 and 5 in MR, Verra Registry. Risk rating=-5 is justified.
Political Risks: It shall be assessed using table 8 of the Risk Tool.	2 (total may not be less than zero)	a-e) Guatemala presents a score of -0.60 according to the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source. Evidence: /70/. Risk rating=4 is justified. f) The country is implementing REDD+ Readiness activities. Evidence: FCPF website. Risk rating=-2 is justified.
Total external risks=0 (Total may not be less than zero)		
Natural risks		
Fire Risk: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0	The likelihood of a natural fire is once every 100 years, being insignificant to carbon stocks. Evidence: INAB website, SIFGUA website, reliable and applicable literature. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable
Pest and disease outbreaks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=0	Due to the project area's wet tropical climate, high biodiversity levels, and natural distribution of native species, the forests have low susceptibility to losses due to pest and disease compared to forest plantations. No evidence of pest or disease outbreaks has been identified in the project area. Evidence: INAB website. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable.
Extreme weather: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=0	Although hurricanes do affect the Caribbean coast, due to its geographic location, Izabal is very infrequently subjected to hurricanes. The only hurricane on record passing through the

Risk factor	Risk Rating	Assessment conclusion
		Izabal region was in 1887 and was a category 1 hurricane, the lowest category. The frequency of hurricanes is on a level of once every 100 years or more and thus poses no risk to the project area. Evidence: /57-60/. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable.
Geological risks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0	Seismic events are a regular occurrence within Guatemala. However, the majority of seismic activity is located to the west due to the subduction of the Placa de Cocos beneath the Placa del Caribe. Both the seismic and volcanic impact on carbon stocks is considered to be insignificant due to no historical evidence of loss from these types of natural events. Evidence: INSIVUMEH, reliable and applicable literature. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable. Mitigation (M) measures: Not applicable
Total natural risks=0		
OVERALL RISK RATING=3+0+0=3 Then an overall risk rating of 10% is considered.		

AENOR has checked that information provided in the NPRRs for the monitoring period is consistent with supporting documents provided. The assumptions and justifications provided to determine the risk rating of each risk factor are elaborated and they are based on provided documents using conservative assessments. AENOR deems that information provided is reliable and appropriate from reliable sources, thus, the overall risk rating is credible and realistic. Thus, the overall risk rating of 10% for both risk areas is credible and realistic.

4.4.4 Dissemination of Monitoring Plan and Results (CL4.2)

The PP informed on the project progress during meetings organized with different communities and stakeholders, and meetings were organized to inform on project progress as well as to invite new forest owners to participate in the project. The monitoring results are disseminated through summary reports informing on the project activities and results along the period in meetings and are also available in the project offices and women health clinics across the project zone. Per the CCBA rules, this monitoring report is available in the project offices and women health clinics one month before the audit visit for the public comments period, as was verified during the onsite visit.

This was also verified by the audit team during stakeholder interviews, in which interviewees confirmed that they were aware of the results of the monitoring results and that the PP shares them on a regular basis

4.4.5 Optional Gold Level: Climate Change Adaptation Measures (GL1.3)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.4.6 Optional Gold Level: Climate Change Adaptation Benefits (GL1.4)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5 Community

4.5.1 Community Impacts (CM2.1)

The MR states in section 4.1.1 the community impacts achieved by the project during the monitoring period, including increasing hectares under the forest incentives program and watersheds protection; meetings to support conflict resolution; participation in agroforestry project by local producers; local farmers with access to agroforestry technicians, and many other community impacts stated in the MR.

The project proponent offered the audit team different evidence to demonstrate the community benefits mentioned above, such as the training and assistance records and the patrolling and surveillance performed during 2022 /10/.

Furthermore, during the on-site visit, the audit team verified each one of the benefits through on-site documental review, interviews with local stakeholders and employees and other documentation such as contracts shown to the verification team. Then, AENOR's Verification team confirms that the information reported in the CCB-VCS-MR is properly addressed and that the community impacts are truly beneficial for local communities and stakeholders.

4.5.2 Negative Community Impact Mitigation (CM2.2)

According to the MR, all activities implemented by the project during the monitoring period have improved the livelihoods and well-being of different community groups and no negative impact on the communities was identified and therefore no measures or activities need to be implemented in this regard.

The PP identified potential negative impacts listed in Section 5.2.1 of the Monitoring Report for the last monitoring period that happened during the Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) process /47,48/, and also took measures to mitigate these impacts so that the project has had a net positive impact on communities.

In summary, the project dealt with:

- Ownership issues, ensuring the voluntary signature of a contract between FUNDAECO and project participants, as the contract contains a clause that clarifies that land ownership is not affected.
- Leakage issues, through the successful implementation of a more rigorous control and surveillance plan and through educational outreach that reinforced penalties for such actions.
- Livelihood issues, by supporting the implementation and training for productive projects that do not imply deforestation such as commercial crops on already agricultural lands, eco-tourism services, handicrafts, bakery and cooking entrepreneurship, etc.

AENOR's team assessed the negative community impacts through a desk review and on-site audit visit. The audit team checked the contract model between FUNDAECO and the project participants and reviewed a sample of the contracts signed during the on-site visit. AENOR also reviewed educational outreach and trainings /03-07/ and the surveillance plan of FUNDAECO.

Assessment by the audit team through the desk review and further onsite analysis concluded that the likelihood of net negative impacts on the well-being of the community is adequately addressed in the monitoring report and in accordance with the validated project description.

4.5.3 Net Positive Community Well-being (CM2.3)

The project was designed to address agents and drivers of deforestation mentioned in the drivers of deforestation study (See MR) and to contribute to triggering a socio-economic dynamic that results in the reduction of deforestation. The project activities were designed to work with a wide array of communities to positively impact their well-being, this in a scalability design and prioritizing communities located in the areas with more deforestation and also considering different communities' interests.

Several activities that could not be implemented by the PP without the carbon project have been included and explained in Section 4.1.3 of the Monitoring Report, such as the increasing number of health community facilities, agroforestry technicians and land title rights, the scholarship program and the Program Ecoveleros, among other things.

Several interviews with community members and leaders and other stakeholders during the on-site visit demonstrated that communities were receiving benefits they would not otherwise have received in the absence of the project, as stated in the MR and the activities summarized above. Income-producing opportunities were made available and included the poorest people and women. Access to health services has improved and the capacity of community has increased.

4.5.4 Protection of High Conservation Values (CM2.4)

Section 4.1.4 of the MR describes the measures applied to maintenance of the High Conservation Value (HCV) attributes related with community. The primary measure taken to maintain HCVs were:

- the deployment of 1,390 forest patrols,
- the execution of 45 surveillance patrols alongside sacred sites and,
- the enrolment of 126 new forest lands along watersheds, recharging areas in PROBOSQUE and PINPEP programs.

As per confirmed during the on-site visit, the project proponent is providing improvement for environmental services and the activities carried on during the MR have covered the basic need of local people. Different employees and training have been obtained by the local people. Complementary, the VVB has reviewed the evidence offered by the PP, such as the information related to patrolling /10/, and the training records /03/ and crosschecked them with the information obtained from the on-site visit.

Therefore, and in opinion of AENOR, none of the project activities have had, nor are likely to have, a negative impact on community-related HCVs. They are designed to either protect or enhance existing HCVs, as was verified by AENOR during the verification process.

4.5.5 Other Stakeholder Impacts (CM3.2-CM3.3)

Section 4.2 of the MR gathered information about the positive and potential negative impacts on the offsite stakeholders. The MR included the possibility of a low-risk impact on cattle ranchers due to project implementation but to support them, the PP has promoted and supported them to access government forest incentives.

In this regard, AENOR has been able to verify, both on-site and during the desk review, that net positive community impacts from the project activities within the project area have also positively affected

stakeholders not directly impacted by these activities. These stakeholders include government institutions, municipalities, and other organized groups that are not community groups. The audit team was able to verify this information by reviewing market leakage literature, such as Cattle Ranching in Guatemala, FUNDAECO's Cattle Market Impact Analysis and some other relevant data /28 /.

Even though cattle ranchers could be negatively impacted by the project due to reduced land for pasture expansion, the results of the monitoring have estimated that their average incomes remain high for the area and there has been no evidence of them being harmed by the project. AENOR had access to this financial information and is able to confirm this statement.

AENOR has assessed that the project doesn't result in specific net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups. Assessment by the audit team concluded that the likelihood of net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups is adequately addressed in the monitoring report and the net impacts of project activities on the well-being are positive.

4.5.6 Community Monitoring Plan (CM4.1, CM4.2, GL2.2, GL2.3, GL2.5)

A plan for monitoring community was developed early in the project lifetime and successfully validated. The community monitoring plan, including the project activities, indicators, frequency of monitoring, data sources and results of the most recent monitoring, is included in section 4.3.1 of the MR.

The specific Project Activity Groups measured were:

- Impacts in Resource Protection, Governance and Monitoring
- Impacts in Sustainable Enterprises
- Impacts in Community Empowerment & Inclusiveness
- Impacts in Education
- Impacts in Improved Access to Resources

All the impacts mentioned in the MR were positive. The audit team, during the on-site visit, performed different interviews to stakeholders that confirmed the information reported in Section 4.3.1 of the MR, stating that there were no negative impacts during the last monitoring period. Hence, the net impact of the project on all the above has been assessed to be positive by AENOR's audit team.

The PP has demonstrated that monitoring is able to identify positive and negative impacts on the more vulnerable people in the communities. Verification team assessed the evidence provided /49/ which are mainly the pictures and videos that evidence the community participation. The pictures provided have been contrasted during the visit to confirm dates, frequency and sampling methods used.

AENOR confirms that the community monitoring plan is implemented as per validated CCB-VCS-PD and with the procedures and systematics used in the verification event.

4.5.7 Community Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CM4.3)

According to Section 4.3.2 of the MR, the monitoring information has been disseminated in three channels:

- The MR and the Spanish summary through FUNDAECO's webpage, offices and health facilities,
- Health services data has been presented during specific meetings with health commissions,

- Social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

AENOR confirmed during the on-site visit by interviewing local stakeholders the awareness about the results of the projects, its implementation and monitoring. Verification team reviewed the evidence provided by the PP on-site such as the participatory process and the consultations which are the list of participants of each consultation process under the community MR dissemination /49/.

The AENOR team has also reviewed the links where the information has been uploaded for the stakeholders, and additionally, the audit team, through the on-site visit and the interviews performed confirms that the dissemination of the documents stated by the PP has been done correctly.

In opinion of AENOR the results of community monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated CCB-VCS-PD.

4.5.8 Optional Gold Level: Short-term and Long-term Community Benefits (GL2.2)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.9 Optional Gold Level: Smallholder/community member Risks (GL2.3)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.10 Optional Gold Level: Marginalized and/or Vulnerable Community Groups (GL2.4)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.11 Optional Gold Level: Net Impacts on Women (GL2.5)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.12 Optional Gold Level: Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (GL2.6)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.13 Optional Gold Level: Governance and Implementation Structures (GL2.8)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.5.14 Optional Gold Level: Smallholders/Community Members Capacity Development (GL2.9)

Not applicable. The project is not seeking Climate Gold Level validation or verification at this time.

4.6 Biodiversity

4.6.1 Biodiversity Changes (B2.1)

The MR states in section 5.1.1 the biodiversity changes achieved by the project during the monitoring period, considering these changes as positive for biodiversity conservation. The reported changes are the following:

- Increased forest protection and governance:
 - 4,216 ha of land were added during this monitoring period to the project.
 - 1,452.36 hectares of lands FUNDAECO helped to register with PINFOR/PINPEP.
 - 1,390 patrols to prevent deforestation and/or to follow denunciations
 - 3 of 3 protected areas executive councils CELs are functioning (6 meetings during the monitoring period)
- Birds are monitored as Key taxa: 27 monitoring events to cover one season for bird monitoring
- Increased resource and ecosystem protection:
 - 301 ha of coastline surveyed
 - 5 fishing restriction zones are supported by the project
- Improved land management in non-forested land: 3.44 ha were planted with agroforestry systems and timber over non forested land.

The verification team performed a desk review that included an assessment of difference evidence, such as the jaguar connectivity report /35,37, 41/, the FUNDAECO bird monitoring program report /38/, the wild animal rescue registry /43/ and different biodiversity monitoring records /38, 39/. This information was crosschecked with the IUCN red list and further information provided by the PP, confirming the information stated in the MR.

During the on-site visit, the audit team reviewed biodiversity and current problems associated. Implementation of CCB biodiversity monitoring plan and biodiversity conservation results including conservation of trigger species. Also, activities such as the forest patrols to prevent deforestation and HCVs areas, or biodiversity hotspots were assessed and verified on-site.

Finally, different interviews were performed and, in those interviews, questions about biodiversity improvement were done. The verification team visited those biodiversity richness places and had the opportunity to insight the presence of important species. Contrasted interviews regarding protected areas, bird monitoring, animal rescue and fishing restriction zones allowed the verification team to confirm the important conservation activities implemented in the project area.

Therefore, verification team is able to confirm that the project's assessment of changes in biodiversity resulting from project activities in the project zone during the monitoring period are accurate.

4.6.2 Mitigation Actions (B2.3)

Section 5.2.1 of the MR detail the measures taken specifically designed, planned and implemented to create positive impacts for biodiversity via supporting landowners throughout the project zone in land legalization efforts and enrolling landowners into PROBOSQUE and PINPEP; engaging landowners in land-management and planning activities to diversify agricultural commodities and to avoid monoculture plantations; protecting HCVs trough preventing deforestation; forest patrols and conservation agreements with communities to increase local participation and efforts to protect these areas; additional monitoring in coastal areas and wetlands; rescue events of endangered individuals and enhancement of park guards

skills in nature and species conservation, PA management as protocols to prevent the spread of any harmful amphibian diseases.

AENOR has reviewed different evidences related to the above mentioned measures, including Fundaeco's wild animal rescue registry /43/, animal monitoring reports /38/ and chytrid fungus training report /36/, and together with the on-site visit, the verification team can confirm that the information stated in section 5.1.2 and along the whole biodiversity section is accurate.

Based on the evidence provided by the PP and the opinion of the stakeholders consulted by the audit team, AENOR deems that the mitigation actions taken are appropriate and in accordance with the project's validated project description.

4.6.3 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts (B2.2)

The demonstration of a net-positive biodiversity impact over the project lifetime has been done by comparing the biodiversity baseline scenario, with the project's current biodiversity conditions in Section 5.1.3 of the MR. Some of the evidences shared with the audit team are the amphibian and reptile monitoring report /39/, FUNDAECO's bird monitoring program report /38/, the Theory of Change Model /24/, different conservation agreements, camera traps photographs and patrol surveys /10/, proving most of the aspects defined in the MR.

The project activities that produce biodiversity impacts have been categorized into four different program areas, which focus on resource protection, empowerment and inclusiveness, education, and access to resources. Many of these project activities that are effectively maintaining and supporting biodiversity in the project area are bringing about climate and community benefits as well.

Through direct interviews with stakeholders the audit team confirmed that the information stated on the MR is true, and the project activities have only positive incomes for biodiversity as well as for social sectors. The list of people interviewed is in Section 2.4.

The project has created benefits within the project zone that are unparalleled in comparison with the biodiversity baseline scenario. The benefits which exist within the project zone greatly outweigh the potential impacts of any potential unmitigated negative offsite action. Because of the project and its implemented project activities, the net effect of the project on biodiversity in and around the project zone is positive as it was demonstrated to AENOR.

Therefore, verification team considers that the net impact of the project's activities on biodiversity are positive.

4.6.4 High Conservation Values Protected (B2.4)

All biodiversity related HCVs Areas are present in the project zone and the project has been implementing activities that protect, maintain and enhance these valued biodiversity features and landscapes and other sites of biodiversity significance and value in a manner commensurate with their conservation significance/status or identified quality in the biodiversity conservation plan.

The primary measure taken to maintain biodiversity HCVs is through the reduction of deforestation within the project area. As is discussed in PD, biodiversity is highly correlated with forest cover, and many of the

identified biodiversity HCVs consist of forested areas within the project area and project zone, including protected areas, migratory corridors, landscape level ecosystems, and threatened ecosystems. By reducing deforestation and degradation threats within these areas, both the ecosystems and the threatened species within those ecosystems will be protected and maintained. Furthermore, FUNDAECO is implementing forest protection measures through the deployment of forest patrols /10/, the enrollment of landowners in PINFOR and PINPEP programs, confirmed with documentation and during the interviews in the onsite visit, conservation education initiatives, and agroforestry systems.

Additionally, FUNDAECO is implementing specific measures to protect endangered amphibian species /03, 07,36/ within the project area through the training of park guards in measures to prevent the spread of deadly amphibian fungal diseases.

Based on the evidence provided by the PP and the opinion of the stakeholders consulted by the audit team on-site, AENOR deems that no HCV is negatively affected by the project. Furthermore, the project is actively working on protecting these HCVs.

4.6.5 Invasive Species (B2.5)

No invasive species, either floral or faunal, has been introduced or used by the project in its different interventions in any of the areas affected by the project. The project is closely monitoring the presence and populations of various species in the project zone and there are no reported cases wherein invasive species have either been introduced or the population of any invasive species has increased as a result of the project. The project bans the use of invasive species in any of its activities.

4.6.6 Impacts of Non-native Species (B2.6)

Section 5.1.6 of the MR states the Justification of Use and the possible Adverse Effects on the species used in the project area. Due to existing agricultural markets and increased economic incentives for small-scale farmers, FUNDAECO does use several non-native species in its agroforestry programs, including rubber, cardamom and rambutan. However, these species are non-invasive and were introduced into Guatemala as agricultural species over 50 years ago. The Guatemalan government considers these species to be “naturalized” and to pose no threats to biodiversity within the country.

In order to further reduce any risks to biodiversity benefits through the use of non-native species in agroforestry programs, FUNDAECO engages landowners in land-management and planning activities to diversify agricultural commodities across an ownership and to avoid monoculture plantations.

In opinion of AENOR, the use of these non-native species is well justified and is common practice in Guatemala and the Caribbean region and don't pose harm to the project area's environment and its surroundings.

4.6.7 GMO Exclusion (B2.7)

Not applicable. AENOR has checked that no GMOs are used to generate GHG emission reductions or removals and project activities are prohibited from using GMOs.

4.6.8 Inputs Justification (B2.8)

The FUNDAECO Policy document /99,103/ environmentally friendly waste management measures are to be implemented as part of any project activity. In addition, all agroforestry and sustainable agricultural programs through FUNDAECO also abide by USAID guidelines for safe pesticide use and an internal best agricultural practices policy that outlines and justifies safe and appropriate pesticide and fertilizer use.

All inputs used in the project area, fertilizers, herbicides, and fungicides have no or minimal impact and are used in agricultural plots, posing minimum risk to the natural ecosystem, also, during the interviews and the site visit, the audit team was able to confirm that the users were aware of these policies.

4.6.9 Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts (B3.1) and Mitigation Actions (B3.2)

FUNDAECO project activities have been designed, planned, and implemented in a manner that these have produced general positive impacts as described in previous Sections. None of the project interventions has had any negative consequence for any aspect of coastal or marine biodiversity or any of the HCVs areas either on-site or offsite as assessed at the time of preparation of this monitoring report.

However, the PP has identified as negative offsite impacts on biodiversity the misuse of pesticides and fertilizers as well as ineffective waste management techniques, which could cause biodiversity toxicity and water contamination. To prevent it, the PP implements Best Agricultural Practices, including adequate doses according to fabric instructions and good waste management and disposal. All used products have key toxicity levels between practically not (PNT) to moderate (MT). AENOR audit team verified key evidence information during the on-site visit.

In opinion of AENOR, the project has adequately identified all potentially negative offsite biodiversity impacts and has taken actions to mitigate the impacts, and deems the information stated on the MR as reliable and right.

4.6.10 Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits (B3.3)

The project has created benefits within the project zone that are unparalleled in comparison with the baseline scenario had the project not been present. The benefits which exist within the project zone greatly outweigh the potential impacts of any potential unmitigated negative offsite action.

Outside the project area, thanks to project implementation, the annual deforestation rate has been reduced, as can be seen in project documentation, and FUNDAECO is promoting forestry and agroforestry activities in the deforested area in the project zone /25-28/. Furthermore, protection activities, such as forest patrols /10/, are protecting the actual PAIs as well as other forests within the project area. Furthermore, the Jaguar connectivity report /41/ confirms the information reported in the MR.

Because of the project and its implemented project activities, the net effect of the project on biodiversity in and around the project zone is positive as it was demonstrated to AENOR.

4.6.11 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (B4.1, B4.2, GL3.4)

A plan for monitoring biodiversity was developed early in the project lifetime and successfully validated. The community monitoring plan, including the project activities, indicators, frequency of monitoring, data sources and results of the most recent monitoring, is included in section 5.3.1 of the MR.

The specific Project Activity Groups measured were:

- Impacts in Resource Protection, Governance and Monitoring
- Impacts in Sustainable Enterprises
- Impacts in Community Empowerment & Inclusiveness
- Impacts in Education
- Impacts in Improved Access to Resources

Based on findings of the monitoring report, all the above-mentioned biodiversity, HCVs and other related impacts were found to be positive and there were no negative impacts. Hence, the net impact of the project on all the above aspects of biodiversity and HCVs has been assessed to be positive.

The audit team has reviewed the evidence provided /34-43/ to demonstrate the biodiversity monitoring plan, as well as surveys and inventories results provided to verifiers, including bird, amphibian and jaguar specific monitoring reports.

Complementary, the VVB has reviewed during the on-site visit all the biodiversity aspects and current problems associated as well as the implementation of Biodiversity monitoring plan and conservation of trigger species. The biodiversity monitoring plan complies with the validated PD. The SOPs verified during the onsite visit and their respective procedures are in accordance with the section of the MR and the validated PD.

Therefore, the monitoring plan is in compliance with the validated CCB-VCS-PD. AENOR can confirm dates, frequency and sampling methods used are in accordance with the validated PD and with the procedures and systematics used in the verification event. In opinion of AENOR the monitoring plan is effective to have a real idea of the situation. Measures scheduled and designed by the project proponent to maintain or enhance the biodiversity are correct and results confirm their effectiveness.

4.6.12 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (B4.3)

AENOR confirmed during the on-site visit by interviewing local stakeholders the awareness about the results of the projects, their implementation and monitoring, and that the PP shares them on a regular basis. Social media was used to inform on relevant findings during monitoring or patrolling activities.

20 community members participated in monitoring activities in order to keep them engaged and informed. The printed MIR summary report was available in 6 project offices and 26 health facilities, with the suggestions mailbox in order to collect comments, questions and grievances. This information was also supported documentary in evidences /49,50,51/.

Therefore, AENOR deems that the information provided on the MR is reliable and correct. Hence, the dissemination of the monitoring plan is under the CCB requirements.

4.6.13 Optional Gold Level: Trigger Species Population Trends (GL3.3)

The project area and project zone have a number of endangered and critically endangered trigger species within it that qualify this project for exceptional biodiversity benefits under the CCB Standard version 3. The project area qualifies as providing exceptional biodiversity benefits by meeting the vulnerability criteria (a), which requires the regular occurrence of at least a single individual critically endangered or endangered species. The Sierra Caral protected area is a known habitat for 1 critically endangered species *Craugastor*

nefrens, 3 endangered species *Cryptotriton wakei*, *Nototriton brodiei*, and *Duellmanohyla soralia*, and 2 vulnerable species *Craugastor Charadra* and *Ptychohyla hypomykter*.

The project was unable to establish a baseline for the number of individuals for the trigger species. Amphibian populations are difficult to estimate, so the use of other indicators, such as presence/absence of related species and habitat are more suitable assessments of their conservation status. During species monitoring activities, it was possible to find individuals for key amphibian species including: *Duellmanohyla soralia*, *Ptychohyla hypomykter*, and *Agalychnis moreletii*.

The fact that the trigger species such as, *Cryptotriton nasalis*, *Cryptotriton wakei*, *Nototriton brodiei*, *Duellmanohyla soralia* (endemic to Sierra El Merendon) as well as *Craugastor Nefrens* (endemic to Sierra Caral) and *Ptychohyla sanctaecrucis* (endemic to Santa Cruz) have been located in the project area at the start of the project shows that the existing forest area is providing critical habitat for this species. It is expected that if the project were not in place today, that this endangered amphibian species would experience habitat loss and fragmentation, in addition to increased risks of disease, which would likely decimate its existing population.

The Theory of Change framework /24/ shows how project activities are designed to achieve positive benefits for threatened and endangered species within the project zone. Several project activities have been implemented to protect endangered amphibians within the project zone, ensuring that the project is maintaining or enhancing the population of the trigger species. Specifically, the government recognition of Sierra Caral as a National Protected Area during this monitoring period, and the enforced protection of this forest area, has worked as the first measure taken to effectively maintain and enhance the population species.

The audit team has reviewed the papers provided by the PP where there is evidence of the presence of these species within the project area. Complementary, during the onsite visit, the VVB has visited places where it was possible to find these species, having sometimes the opportunity to see some of these species. Additionally, different interviews have been performed and information about the presence of these species and their increasing, have been obtained.

The verification team was able to confirm that the presence of these species under the project area is reliable and accurate through the review of relevant documentation.

4.6.14 Optional Gold Level: Effectiveness of Threat Reduction Actions (GL3.4)

The IUCN Red List notes that The Sierra Caral protected area is a known habitat for 1 critically endangered species *Craugastor nefrens*, 3 endangered species *Cryptotriton wakei*, *Nototriton brodiei*, and *Duellmanohyla soralia*, and 2 vulnerable species *Craugastor Charadra* and *Ptychohyla hypomykter*.

Habitat loss has been identified as the primary threat and is a known threat to other endangered species in the area. These forests are threatened by being converted primarily to subsistence agriculture or pasture. The project is taking measures to reduce deforestation and degradation threats within these areas, to ensure that both the ecosystems and the threatened species within those ecosystems will be protected and maintained.

The PP was able to carry out the monitoring activities and the quitrid fungus prevention training in Cerro San Gil. As part of these trainings, monitoring used techniques, such as through the bleaching of boots

when entering and leaving forests, to prevent the possible introduction or spread of a fungus that can wreak havoc on amphibian species. For this monitoring period, training sessions with 155 park guards were held to enhance knowledge protected areas, climate change impacts on biodiversity and amphibian fungus disease prevention and protected areas management. Other 11 training activities were implemented to strengthen biodiversity protection capacities.

To promote conservation of amphibians and their habitat, FUNDAECO has deployed a series of promotion and education activities using education materials for adults and children that are distributed during environmental talks and fairs.

In opinion of AENOR, the PP is taking measures that are effective at maintaining or enhancing the population status of trigger species

4.7 Additional Project Implementation Information

There is no more additional implementation information.

4.8 Additional Project Impact Information

There is no more additional impact information.

5. VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

After review of all project information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation and the interview process, AENOR confirms that the monitoring conducted by the Project Proponent, along with the supporting Monitoring Report, are accurate and consistent with all aforementioned VCS Version 4 and CCB Third Edition criteria, the validated PD, and the selected methodology (VM0015 v1.1). AENOR confirms that the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast, Monitoring Report (Version 4 dated 27 February 2024) has been implemented in accordance with the validated PD including any validated changes as applicable. The verification of the ex-post emissions of The Conservation Coast Project has been conducted by AENOR in accordance with ISO 14064-3:2019.

AENOR confirms all verification activities, including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, monitoring and project documentation adherence to VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates), and CCB Project Design Standards (Third Edition), as documented in this report are complete. AENOR concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast, meets the requirements of VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates) and CCB Standards Third Edition for the monitoring period (01-January-2022 to 31-December-2022).

The project is achieving the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits, including Gold Level Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits as described in the Monitoring Report.

AENOR confirms that no new methodology deviations or PD deviations were reported by the PP or identified by AENOR. AENOR confirms the only minor Project Description change during this verification event adhere to VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates), and CCB Standards Third Edition. AENOR concludes without any qualifications or limitation that the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast the project complies with the validation criteria for projects set out in in CCB Version 3 and VCS Version 4.

The GHG assertion provided by the project proponent and verified by AENOR has resulted in a total net GHG Emission Reductions of 766,279 tCO₂e by the project during the monitoring period (01-January-2022 to 31-December-2022). Considering 10% of buffer withholding based on the VCS Non-Permanence Risk Assessment Tool v4.0 (in which the Project took the minimum risk rating), which means a buffer allocation of 76,628 tCO₂e, the Verified Carbon Units (VCU) to be issued are 689,651 tCO₂e.

For this period there is a 15% release of buffer credits, 235,082 VCUs in May 2023 following VCS Registration and Issuance Process Document 19 September 2019, v4.0.

Verification/monitoring period: From 01-January-2022 to 31-December-2022.

Verified GHG emission reductions and removals in the above verification period:

Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
2022	945,439	179,160	0	766,279

Overall non-permanence risk rating: 10%

VCUs buffer to be deposited: 76,628 tCO₂e.

Total VCUs to be issued: 689,651 tCO₂e.

Year	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Buffer pool allocation	VCUs eligible for issuance
2022	766,279	76,628	689,651

Date: 04 September 2024

Lead Auditor
Javier Cócera

6. APPENDIX 1: REVIEWED DOCUMENTATION

#	Document
01	FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.6.docx
02	3rd rd Findings Conservtion Coast Guatemala 260224_Closed.docx
03	communities particpating in environmental education.xlsx
04	Fundaeco Modeling Recording of calculation explanation 22.09.23.msg
05	Fundaeco Project Description v2.0_MP6 Update.pdf
06	Fundaeco VM0015 Accounting Model v6.15.xlsm
07	Increase Awarenees students.xlsx
08	MIR Summary 2022 V2.docx
09	MIR Summary 2022 V2.pdf
10	patrols list.xlsx
	BACKGROUND INFORMATION
11	Brief on Agents and Drivers v2.docx
12	CNCG SM drivers of deforestation_final_1.pdf
13	COVID-19 situation 2021.pdf
14	Documento del Paquete de Prepración para REDD+.pdf
15	EG-PERSUAP-Final_Oct2012.docx
16	Final ERPD_FCPF.pdf
17	Finalizacion CONTRATO JADE 2010-2011.pdf
18	Fundaeco VC CCB Project Description Summary v2.36.pdf
19	IndicadoresSocioeconomicos_Linea base.pdf
20	MOU BNP PARIBAS_Complete.pdf
21	Perception Report REDD+ Caribe Guatemala.pdf
22	Plan de Implementación REDD 2020.pdf
23	Project endorsement.pdf
24	TOC Activity Matrix v1.14.xlsm
	BAP
25	02 buenas practicas agricolas CARDAMOMO.docx
26	03 buenas practicas agricolas PIMIENTA NEGRA.docx
27	03 buenas practicas agricolas RAMBUTAN.docx
28	04 Formulario evaluacion AGEXPORT.docx
	BENEFIT PERMANENCE
29	Acta de presentación del POT al Consejo de PB.pdf
30	Diagnostico PGIMCC.pdf
31	FUNDAECO Budget_Cashflow Analysis 2022V1.xlsx
32	Lineamientos PGIMCC.pdf
33	NPV Analysis.xlsx
	BIODIVERSITY INFORMATION
34	Amphibians Monitoring Report 2022.pdf
35	Binational Jaguar Conectivity Preliminary.pptx
36	Capacitación y entrenamiento del tema protocolos de prevención quitridiomycosis 2022.pdf

37	Convenio Panthera.pdf
38	FUNDAECO BIRD MONITORING PROGRAM-REPORT 2022.pdf
39	Informe de charcas.PDF
40	Informe Redes sociales _ REDD Monitoreo Biologico (1).pdf
41	Jaguar connectivity report.pdf
42	Proyecto monitoreo binacional jaguar.pdf
43	rescate de animales 2022.pdf
	COMUNITY INFORMATION
44	Base socioeconómica - Altelia.pdf
45	Consultoria Estudio Viabilidad Agroforesteria 10062014.docx
46	Grievance Logbook 2022.pdf
47	Informe de Proceso FPIC 2015-2016.docx
48	Informe de Proceso FPIC 2017-2018.docx
49	MIR DISSEMINATION PHOTO REPORT2022.pdf
50	Plan de Socialización, CPLI y Comunicacion.docx
51	Procedimiento para el Monitoreo Socioeconomico y Comunitario.docx
52	schema verification 2022.pdf
	NPR
53	VCS-Non-Permanence-Risk-Report-v4.0FUNDAECO RiskAreaA2022V1.2.pdf
54	VCS-Non-Permanence-Risk-Report-v4.0FUNDAECO RiskAreaB2022V1.2.pdf
55	VCS-Risk-Report-Calculaton-Tool-v4.0FUNDAECO RiskAreaA2022V1.2.xlsm
56	VCS-Risk-Report-Calculaton-Tool-v4.0FUNDAECO RiskAreaB2022V1.2.xlsm
57	1887 - Unnamed - Cat1 Hurricane.JPG
58	1934 - Unnamed - Tropical Storm.JPG
59	1971 - Laura - Tropical Storm.JPG
60	2012- Helene -Tropical Depression.JPG
	CONTROL Y VIGILANCIA2022.pdf
61	FUNDAECO Budget Cashflow Analysis 2022V1.xlsx
62	Historical Hurricane Tracks.JPG
63	informe incendios temporada 2021-2022.docx
64	Informe de Proceso de Consulta Previa _ GPV4.docx
65	informe incendios 2019 2020 CONRED con mapa.pdf
66	NPV Analysis.xlsx
67	Plan de Implementación REDD 2022.pdf
68	REPORTE DE TORMENTAS Y HURACANES DURANTE EL 2022.docx
69	reporte _depresion 12E.pdf
70	wgidataset2022.xlsx
	GEOSPATIAL INFORMATION
71	KMLs
72	LA
73	LULC
74	LULC Accuracy Statement
75	Project Instances geospatial information

	RESOLUTIONS AND CONTRACTS
76	Contrato 198.pdf
77	Contrato 388.pdf
78	Contrato 399.pdf
79	Contrato 926.pdf
80	Contrato 958.pdf
81	Resolucion 31-1804-0031-2.2.3-2023 Santos Felipe Sola Payes 926.pdf
82	Resolucion 31-1804-0184-2.2.3-2022 Blanca Estela Rivas Chinchilla Contrato 388.pdf
83	Resolucion 31-1804-0241-2.2.3-2022 Silvia Marlenee Lima Perez Contrato 399.pdf
84	Resolucion 31-1804-0242-2.2.3-2022 Luis Santiago Lima Perez Contrato 399.pdf
85	Resolucion 31-1804-0245-2.2.3-2022 Adán Ismael Orellana Rivas Contrato 388.pdf
86	Resolucion 31-1804-0247-2.2.3-2022 Emma Yadila Felipe Trinidad Contrato 926.pdf
87	Resolucion 31-1804-0248-2.2.3-2022 Evelyn Carolina Lima Pérez Contrato 399.pdf
88	Resolucion 31-1804-0249-2.2.3-2022 Irma Veronica Lima Perez Contrato 399.pdf
89	Resolución 31-1801-0191-2.3.5-2019 ASOVIBOS ONG Contrato 958.pdf
90	Resolución 31-1802-0201-2.3.5-2022 ASOVIBOS ONG Contrato 198.pdf
	INSTITUTIONAL EVIDENCE
91	Contrato VCUs entre FUNDAECO-PROPIETARIO 10915.doc
92	Cuentadancia Contraloría Gral. de Cuentas.pdf
93	Código de etica FUNDAECO 2017.doc
94	Exención de Impuestos.pdf
95	Gender, No Discrimination, and Human Rights PolicyV2.docx
96	Inscripcion en Registro Civil.pdf
97	INSCRIPCION IGSS.pdf
98	Manual compras 191118.docx
99	MANUAL DE POLITICAS NORMAS Y PROCEDIMIENTOS jul 2015.pdf
100	Project status schema 2019.jpg
101	PÓLITICA ANTICORRUPCIÓN Y ANTI SOBORNO.docx
102	Registros Institucionales.docx
103	REGLAMENTO INTERNO DE TRABAJO.pdf
104	RTU.pdf
	EXEMPTIONS
105	VCS_TEMPLATES_EXEMPTION-APPROVED_1622_19APR2024
106	VCS_NPRT_EXEMPTION-APPROVED_1622_14MAR2024

7. APPENDIX 2: CORRECTIVE ACTION AND CLARIFICATION REQUESTS

NC/CAR id.	01	Date: 30/10/2023
NC/CAR description		
Table of contents: As per the CCB_VCS_Monitoring_Report_Template_CCBv3.0-_VCSv3.4. Appendix 1 New project areas and stakeholders is missing.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 22/11/2023
We presented all information required by the CCB_VCS_Monitoring_Report_Template_CCBv3.0-_VCSv3.4 Section 2.2.5 in each subsection from 1 to 7, and as the template specifies <i>"The New Project Areas and Stakeholders table (see Appendix 1) may be used if appropriate. Delete if not used"</i> we decided not to use it as we would be duplicating the information. However, we are improving information presented in the table 17, regarding rights of lands. Please see modified table 17. And we are improving the drafting of subsection 4 regarding scalability limits.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring_Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 26/01/2024
Modification to the MR reviewed. CAR01 is closed.		

NC/CAR id.	02	Date:: 30/10/2023
NC/CAR description		
Section 2.2.1 implementation schedules, update the milestones in the project's development and implementation in table 7 up to the submitting of the document.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 22/11/2023
Table 7 has been updated up to the submission of the documentation to the VVB		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 26/01/2024
Ok, this has been updated, please correct the years as the submission was done in 2023, review all mistakes of this nature in the table. Thus, CAR02 remains open.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 08/02/2024
The year of submission was corrected along the table		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.3		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 15/02/2024
This has been reviewed and confirmed by the VVB. Thus, CAR 02 is closed.		

CL ID	01	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 1.1 table 1. MR5 in the increased awareness of ecosystem and habitat importance for native species row states that 15,704 and that will mean that only 5,855 students were included this MP if the total number is 21,559		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
There was a typo mistake in the previous MR version, the data was corrected, reflecting the achievement for the project lifetime up to 2022: 21,759 students.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 26/01/2024
The figure might still be wrong as if the 5th verification MR reports 15,704 students, the sum now will result in 21,759. Thus, CL01 Cannot be closed.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 08/02/2024
Effectively there was still a typo, the correct figure is 21,579. This data was corrected in MR V0.3		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.3		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 15/02/2024
Corrected. Thus CL01 is closed.		

CL ID	02	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 1.1 Table 1: Provide evidence to support all the Achievements during the Monitoring Period claimed.		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
Evidence has been provided according to the 4 indicators included in table 1 Please notice that in the case of sufficient household, during the findings answer process we notice that our database had a mistake regarding the number of beneficiaries. This reflects a correction in Table 1, where we presented 124 beneficiaries during the monitoring period and 598 beneficiaries during the Project lifetime. The correct figures presented in version 0.2 of the MR are: 75 beneficiaries newly registered and 549 during the project lifetime. The database column G presents the resolution approval by INAB, including approvals from 2022 and from late 2021 that were not included in the previous MIR as it was late in the year and we lacked the information.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
4 files contains the evidence 1. Increase awareness 2. Widespread protection 3. Increase awareness SRH 4. Sufficient Household FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 15/12/2023
The evidence provided has been reviewed by the audit team. 1. The PP has shared the reports for the activities, please clarify if all the evidence shared corresponds to the reported in this section of the table. If that is the case, please modify the redaction as some of these initiatives also affect adults, as the one performed in Comité de Mujeres Sastrún held on the 19th and 20th September 2022 or the activities in Aldea Fronteras as it the 23rd of march in which 13 comadronas participated. Also, clarify if the reported people benefited from these activities are individual or each participant each time, meaning that if a person attends to two different events, would that be counted as one or two beneficiaries? It will help, if only the schools are considered, that the PP shared a summary table with the reported activities is available. 2. Please provide a comprehensive list of forest patrols made during the MP, as the Audit team was not able to confirm, with the evidence provided, the total number of forest patrols reported.		

What the audit team was able to confirm is the coordination for these patrols with government agencies and communities. - In this case the VVB was able to confirm the reported data. Please correct the figure as the thousands mark is wrong. It should be 5,142 instead of 51,42. - Ok, the changes are noted and confirmed. If you have them, please share the following resolutions (number in column A and column G reference) Also the contracts (referenced in column B and C) related to those resolutions: - No. 72: 31-1802-0201-2.3.5-2022 -No. 71: 31-1802-0191-2.3.5-2022 -No. 2: 31-1804-241-2.2.3-2022/31-1804-249-2.2.3-2022/31-1804-242-2.2.3-2022/31-1804-248-2.2.3-2022 -No. 1: 31-1804-0247-2.2.3-2022 -No.5: 31-1804-245-2.2.3-2022 y 31-1804-184-2.2.3-2022 Thus, CL02 is not closed.	
Project Proponent's Response	Date: 08/02/2024
- The figure of 6055 do correspond to the total of students, however when providing the evidence, we presented evidence for the whole of environmental education activities including both students and adults. Considering this, the redaction remains the same. A new table is provided presenting data only for students' participation. See Increased Awareness students. We have participants lists for each activity; when accounting data we only extract quantitative information, so it is in fact possible to count a beneficiary more than once. However, we try to cover as much schools as possible, meaning that we rarely repeat in a school or school year (grado) - For monitoring purposes, the project collects data in quarterly monitoring bases. F the presentation of the requested list we have unified these quarter bases, and during this process we notice that the total of the patrols is 1,390 and no 1,213 as written in the previous version of the MR. This figure has been corrected across the different sections of the MR 0.3 , and of the MIR Summary V2, See Patrols List, MR V0.3 and MIR Summary V2 - The figure has been corrected to 5,142 See MR V0.3 - We have provided the requested resolutions and related contracts. Notice that the name listed in the table which is the name of the person who signs the REDD+ Contract, do not necessarily is the same for the resolution. Presented resolutions can correspond to PROBOSQUE which is the incentives program for owners with a land title, or to PINPEP which is the program for land possessor in this case a PAI can be related to several resolutions with a different family representative. Please see the table below for a broader explanation. See Resolutions and contracts	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
- Excel Increased Awareness Students, and FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.3 - Excel Patrols List, FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.3, MIR Summary V2 - Resolution and Contracts	

VVB's evaluation	Date: 22/02/2024
1. The evidence provided has been reviewed and deemed correct and as conservative as it seems reasonable when managing this kind of data. 2. The evidence and corrections made are considered correct. 3. This is still incorrect. 4. The evidence has been reviewed.	
Project Proponents Response	Date: 26/02/2024
3. The typo was corrected for 5,142	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.4	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 27/02/2024
The figure is now corrected. Thus CL02 is closed.	

Table: Explanation on Resolutions and Related Contracts

PAI	Resolution	REDD+ signer	Incentive beneficiary	Explanation
198	31-1802-0201-2.3.5-2022	ASOVIBOS ONG	ASOVIBOS ONG	NA
958	31-1802-0191-2.3.5-2022	ASOVIBOS ONG	ASOVIBOS ONG	NA
926	31-1804-0247-2.2.3-2022	Santos Felipe Sola Payes	Emma Yadila Felipe Trinidad	In the case of these three parcels 926, 399 and 388, as the parcel is a possession the option was to access PINPEP which is program dedicated to land possessors. However, this Program has a limit of 5ha. In order to register the whole parcel and get a support from the PINPEP, the family decided to name multiple beneficiaries
399	31-1804-0241-2.2.3-2022	Carlos Antonio Lima Pérez	Silvia Marlenee Lima Perez	
	31-1804-0249-2.2.3-2022		Irma Veronica Lima Perez	
	31-1804-0242-2.2.3-2022		Luis Santiago Lima Perez	
	31-1804-0248-2.2.3-2022		Evelyn Carolina Lima Pérez	
	31-1804-0245-2.2.3-2022		Adán Ismael Orellana Rivas	
388	31-1804-0184-2.2.3-2022	Adan Ismael Orellana Rivas	Blanca Estela Rivas Chinchilla	

				dividing the parcel into several parcels for the incentive's purposes only (the parcel remains one). For each parcel a technical file is fulfilled, and a family representative is named, generating a different resolution name for each representative.
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CL ID	03	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.1.1 Provide evidence of the communication of the situation of payments to the beneficiaries as during the visit it was outlined that some beneficiaries did not fully understand the situation.		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
A report describing the socialization process is presented, including as annexes the referred update personal data cards (ficha de actualización de datos), and the referred preliminary invoices signed by the Project partners (recibos preliminares).		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
INFORME DE SOCIALIZACION PAGO ANTICIPADO REDD V2 Files containing the update personal data cars and preliminary invoices for each geographical chapter: • RHF Sierra Caral • RFPM Cerro San Gil_PManabique_aledaños • AUM Rio Sarstun_Rio Dulce • APE Sierra Santa Cruz		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 21/01/2024
The evidenced provided by the PP is considered to be enough in terms of explanation of the situation to the beneficiaries and transparency. Thus, CL03 is closed.		

CL ID	04	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.1.9. Please, clarify how overlapping with other forest carbon projects is being monitored. Particularly regarding Project ID 1558 expansion.		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
As stated in the version 7 of the Joint Project Description and Monitoring Report for project 1558, FUNDAECO is the Project developer and implementer for project 1558. This is also sustained by the Framework Cooperation Agreement/Communications Agreement signed between FUNDAECO and Livelihoods Fund (public in VCS project database), that stated the role of each partner indicating that; FUNDAECO is in charge of entering into cooperation agreements with each landowner, and Livelihoods Fund to provide financing. Both documents demonstrates that FUNDAECO holds control of project activities, including project expansion. On the other hand, FUNDAECO is part of several working groups which allow us to learn about new project initiatives that might need to be monitored to avoid overlapping this includes three protected area Councils across the Region, the REDD+ Developers Group for Guatemala, the Forest Restoration Work Group, amongst others.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
• VCS PD & MR_FUNDAECO_161115_VVB_v7_clean.pdf • Communications agreement - header of MoU.pdf		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 21/01/2024
The explanation provided by the PP is deemed sufficient. CL04 is closed.		

CL ID	05	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.1.10 table 6 provide evidence to confirm the achievements during MP6		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
Evidence has been provided according to each SDG included in the table. Please notice the next explanations: - For SDG 2.3 an excel with a database that identifies the farmers with their names and IDs. This are farmers that receive continuous support and not necessarily new farmers. - For SDG 3.7 we are providing our database that contains the record of services provided. see cells 185 Y, 185 Z and 185 AA - For SDG 14.5 we have provided the document named "Estrategia para el establecimiento participativo de una Red de Zonas de Restauracion Pesquera y Su Plan de Acción 2021-2026": page 14 and 15, states that FUNDAECO have signed an agreement with the local fishermen for six ZRP, however in the MIR we only reported four as the legal process for two of them is suspended because of their location in the borders with Belize. The legal agreements signed with the fishermen implies that they are committed in no fishing in these areas, and that the ZRPs are under implementation. - For SDG 15.12 number of hectares purchase a list of land purchased and the surface is presented. - For SDG 15.12 creation of PA: FUNDAECO has been promoting the declaration of Sierra Santa Cruz as protected area by the National Congress. In the previous years we have carried on the technical studies and organized participative meetings with local communities and stakeholders. The technical study was presented to CONAP in 2021, so during 2022 we were just following up on the progress with the National Council of Protected Areas, and answering to questions from the local communities. The record presented is a from a meeting where several points were discussed, including an update on the process for the designation of the PA. The specific paragraph is marked. - For SDG 15.1.2 hectares of watersheds protected. This surface comes from the surface of the PAIs that area located across the different watershed or microwatersheds that provide water to towns or communities. During this revision we found that some PAIs were not a added into the total surface, this figure was corrected in the MIR version 0.2 adding 19038.53. An excel sheet is presented showing the PAIs surface and located across the different watersheds. - For SDG 15.2 Reguistered land into PINFOR, PINPEP or PROBOSQUE: Originally we reported 1673.30 ha, however to answer this findings we collate our information with INAB records and the actual surface is 1452.36. This information is updated in the MIR version 02. The Excel 15.2.1 Registered PINPEP PROBOSQUE newly beneficiaries_ha, presents the approval resolution number from INAB, we report the ones from 2022 and the ones that were approved lately in 2021 and that were not reported on MIR 2021.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		

• 2.3 farmers participating in agroforestry • 13.3 schools and communities • 3.7 patients • 3.7 workshops held • 14.5 Fishing restriction zones • 15.1.2 creation of PA • 15.1.2 hectares of watershed protected • 15.1.2 purchase of land for protection • 15.1.2 purchase of land for protection • 15.5 train parkguards prevent amphiibian fungus • FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 10/01/2024
The audit team has reviewed the evidence provided. - SDG 2.3 Please indicate that it is a continuous support in the MR as it may seem that the 345 farmers receiving support might be a 6th verification result alone, include this information in the MR. The evidence provided is valid. - SDG 3.7 Evidence provided reviewed. - SDG 13.3 is not treated here as it was tackled in CL02, refer there for updates. - SDG 14.5 the VVB has reviewed the evidence provided. - SDG 15.1 The evidence provided has been reviewed. - SDG 15.2 The evidence provided has been reviewed. - SDG 15.5 The evidence provided has been reviewed and confirmed. Thus, CL05 remains open.	
Project Proponent's Response	Date: 08/02/2024
For SDG 2.3 we have added the phase "345 farmers with continued support". See MR V0.3 SDG 13.3 A table that list the events and communities that participated in environmental education activities is provided.	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
For SDG 2.3 FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.3 SDG 13.3 Excel communities participating in environmental education	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 22/02/2024
CL05 is closed as it was adressed correctly.	

CL ID	06	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.2.5 Provide all the documents listed in table 17 as evidence.		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
As stated in table 17 we are presenting the documents that reflect Project ownership, in the case of PAIs 956, 957, 958, 961, 989, 991 and 992 is a contract. And for those PAIs where FUNDAECO holds the landownership (960, 963, 964, 966, 988, 990) we are presenting a legal minute which states the authorization from FUNDAECO General Assembly to incorporate the properties to the REDD+ Project. Regarding the PAI start date we are presenting the report that reflects the project technology implemented for all the new PAIs.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
PAI technology start date PAI technology start date		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 10/01/2024
Evidence has been provided and reviewed by the VVB. Hence, CL06 is closed.		

CL ID	07	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.3.9 (in general stakeholder consultation and information availability and communication) During the visit the audit team was able to identify that some stakeholders although knowledgeable of the activity of FUNDAECO, were not fully aware of the REDD+ project due to the variety of activities the organization is involved in. Please provide further detail in the situation and, if possible, provide evidence of communication of the project activities to all stakeholders.		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
During the feasibility analysis (2011) and prior to the preparation and presentation of the PDD (2015 and 2016), FUNDAECO carried out a FPIC process in which a wide range of actors were invited to participate. During this process FUNDAECO explained Climate Change, the role of deforestation in Climate Change, the generalities of the REDD+ mechanism and the project itself with its components, activities and expected impacts. As progress was made in the identification of forest owners and possessors, the information provided was more detailed so that those interested in including their forests understood the commitments, the generation of credits, and the benefit distribution mechanism, among others. The project has been designed to address the different causes of deforestation, both direct causes and indirect causes, this implies that the activities are implemented with a series of actors, whose role in the fight against deforestation can be direct since they own forests and/or are agents of deforestation, or indirect because they are related to forestry governance, but also actors whose role is more related to the transformation of the socioeconomic dynamics related to the underlying causes of deforestation. The approach followed by FUNDAECO has been to provide information according to the role of each of the actors in addressing the causes of deforestation, focusing on activities that will be specifically coordinated with the actor. That is to say, when coordinating with an actor whose role in the project activities does not respond to a direct cause of deforestation, the concepts of REDD+ are not addressed, for example, with a teacher, a health officer, a boy or girl we will discuss specifically about the activities that we will implement together. In this context, it is possible that some of the actors interviewed do not know about the REDD+, but rather only know about the activities related to their role. Find attached an example of a power point used during the FPIC process.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
Consulta con Propietarios de Bosque y Presentación de Contratos		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 26/01/2024
The explanation provided by the PP is deemed correct as it complies with the CCB v 3.1 requirement G3.5 in which the PP must " Demonstrate that all consultations and participatory processes have been undertaken directly with communities and other stakeholders or through their legitimate representatives, ensuring adequate levels of information sharing with the members of the groups." In		

this case, the PP is sharing information relevant for each stakeholder, which could also be confirmed during the visit.

Thus, CL07 is closed.

CL ID	08	Date: 30/10/2023
CL description		
Section 2.3.13 table 20 provide evidence to confirm the achievements during MP6		
Project proponent's response		Date: 22/11/2023
Evidence is provided according to the different training subjects presented in table 20. The type of evidence presented is diplomas, training reports, training participants lists and training events lists		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
• Agriculture and Agrobusiness • Biodiversity monitoring and amphibians • Forest Management plans_restoration • Forest Protection_PA Management • HR and WH • Land use policies_regulations • 1. CC_standards_PAgreement • 1. Excel training • 1. GIS and Data Management		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 15/12/2023
The evidence provided has been reviewed by the VVb and deemed correct. Thus, CL08 is closed.		

CL ID	09	Date: 30/10/2023		
CL description				
Section 4.3.1 table 42 provide evidence to confirm the achievements during MP6				
Project proponent's response			Date: 22/11/2023	
Table below presents the list of all indicators reported during the monitoring period, and the file of evidence. Please notice that some indicator and their file have specific explanation. Corrected indicators were updated in MR v0.2				
Documentation provided by the project proponent				
Table below presents the list of all indicators reported during the monitoring period, and the file of evidence. Please notice that some indicator and their file have specific explanation. Corrected indicators were updated in MR v0.2 FUNDAECO 2022 CCB_VCS_Monitoring Report_CCBv3.0_VCSv4.0_v0.2				
VVB's evaluation			Date: 15/12/2023	
The VVB has reviewed the information and evidence provided by the PP. CL09 is closed.				
Table for CL 09: Files and Explanations				
Project Activity Group	Project Activity	Indicator	File name	Explanation
Resource Protection, Governance, and Monitoring	Registered land into PINFOR or PINPEP	# hectares of lands FUNDAECO helped to register with PINFOR/PINPEP	sufficient houseld_PINPEP PROBOSQUE newly beneficiaries_ha	Hectares of lands FUNDAECO helped to register PINFOR/PINPEP: Originally, we reported 1673.30 ha, however to answer this finding we collate our information with INAB records and the actual surface is 1452.36. This information is updated in several section of the MR version 0.2. The database column G presents the resolution approval by INAB, including approvals from 2022 and from late 2021 that were not included in the previous MIR as it was late

				<i>in the year and we lacked the information.</i>
	Protection and management of community water sources	# hectares of water source protected	hectares of watershed protected	<i>Hectares of watersheds protected. This surface comes from the surface of the PAIs that area located across the different watershed or microwatersheds that provide water to towns or communities. During this revision we found that some PAIs were not added into the total surface, this figure was corrected in the MR version 0.2 adding 19038.53. An excel sheet is presented showing the protected watershed surface cell F389.</i>
	Conflict resolution roundtable	#meetings	#ha newly registeres in registry_legalization	NA
Sustainable Enterprises	Creation of agroforestry plots	# farmers participating in agroforestry projects	#farmers participating in agroforestry	<i>An excel with a database identifies the farmers with their names and IDs. This are farmers that receive continuous support and not necessarily new farmers</i>
	Reforestation and Agroforestry PINFOR or PINPEP	# landowners participating in program	# landowners reforestation PINFOR PINPEP	An excel with a database of landowner who are participating in the PROBOSQUR or PINPE program since 2017, as the program provides support during 6 years.
	Community nurseries	# community entrepreneurs	NA	NA
	Construction of ecotourism sites	# of ecotourism sites established	NA	NA

	Support to women in sustainable enterprises productive projects	# of women supported	women supported in sust enterprises and prod projects	NA
	Reforestation and Agroforestry PINFOR or PINPEP	\$ per hectare of benefits per period for landowners in program	\$ per agroforestry PINFOR \$ per agroforestry PROBOSQUE	NA
Community Empowerment & Inclusiveness	Legalized private and community land	# hectares newly registered in both local and national land registry	#ha newly registered in registry_legalization	NA
	Creation of health facilities: women clinics and community first-aid cabinets clinics	# of women clinics and community first-aid cabinets clinics established	creation of health facilities.pdf	NA
	community management of health facilities	# of health community commissions (community management bodies)	midwives and community health providers_health commissions	Excel midwives and community health providers_health commissions See Column E
	Community participation in protected area management	# of communities participating in second level associations and protected areas councils	CEL minutes	NA
	Engage fishermen in reef monitoring	# of community fishermen attended	engage fishermen_monitoring reports	NA
	support to cultural religious activities	# of events supported	engage fishermen_monitoring reports	NA

	Creation and working of women health clinics	# of midwives engaged in the clinics	midwives and community health providers_health commissions	Excel midwives and community health providers_health commissions See Column D
	Protection of sacred sites	# of patrols	patrols in sacred sites	NA
Education	Train community members on marine biodiversity and monitoring	# of community members attended	train community members marine biodiversity monitoring	NA
	Provision of health services	# of workshops held	provision of health workshops_outreach events SRH	NA
	Provision of health services	# outreach events held within communities	provision health services outreach	NA
	Provision of health services	# peer-to-peer health educators	Peer to peer	NA
	Training and workshops on agroforestry production and care	# farmers attended	farmers who attend training in agroforestry	NA
	Provide access to FUNDAECO agronomist	# of landowners / communities attended	access to FUNDAECO agronomist	NA
	Training for new productive activities and entrepreneurs hip	# of people attended	people trained new prod activities	During the answer to findings, we detected a mistake in the accounting of some of this training activities. We have corrected along the MR v0.2 the original data presented (696 people) for the correct data 435.
	Training for new productive activities and entrepreneurs hip	# of workshops held	people trained new prod activities	During the answer to findings, we detected a mistake in the accounting of some of this training activities. We have corrected in the MR v0.2 the original data presented (35 events) for the correct data 21.

	General community training	# of people participated	general training	NA
	General community training	# of trainings held	general training.xlsx	NA
	Train community members on marine biodiversity and monitoring	# of community members attended	train community members marine biodiversity monitoing	NA
	Provision of health services	# of workshops held	provision of health workshops_outreach events SRH	NA
	Provision of health services	# outreach events held within communities	provision health services outreach	NA
	Provision of health services	# peer-to-peer health educators	Peer to peer	
	Training and workshops on agroforestry production and care	# of people attended	farmers who attend training in agroforestry	NA
	Training and workshops on agroforestry production and care	# of workshops held	farmers who attend training in agroforestry	NA
	Environmental education for schools	# schools participating with FUNDAECO	#schools and students environmental education	NA
	Environmental education for schools	# students visiting ecotourism centers	students visitng ecotourism sites	NA
	Environmental education for interested communities	# workshops or events held	#workshops environmental education communities	NA

	General community training	# trainings held	general training.xlsx	NA
Improved Access to Resources	PINFOR or PINPEP payments	# families receiving PINFOR/PINPEP payments	families receiving incentives	NA
Improved Access to Resources	support to management plan implementation for PINFOR or PINPEP	# landowners FUNDAECO helped with management plans devised	landowners helped with management plans	NA
Improved Access to Resources	Legal services	# landowners / communities FUNDAECO assisted with legal services	NA	NA
Improved Access to Resources	Process and travel logistics for land legalization	# landowners, individuals, communities FUNDAECO assisted with transportation and logistics for land legalization	No evidence is provided	We organize and support the visit of landowners to the government institutions, however we do not have records of this support
Improved Access to Resources	Provision of health services	# of patients treated	provision of health services	See cell Q185
Improved Access to Resources	Provision of health services	# of women using contraceptive methods	provision of health services	See cell BQ184
Improved Access to Resources	Provision of health services	# of communities with access to services	# of communities_access health services	During this revision we detected that by mistake we have copied the same number as for indicator Provision of health service # of workshops held (147) aa double accounting of communities so the number has been corrected to 72 instead 147, please see MR V0.2
Improved Access to Resources	Agroforestry stock for new	# seedlings/plan	#seedlings_plants provided	NA

	and existing plots	ts provided for new plots		
Improved Access to Resources	Nursery establishment	# nurseries hired or supported	NA	NA
Improved Access to Resources	Protection and management of community water sources	# hectares of water source protected	hectares of watershed protected	NA
Improved Access to Resources	Provide access to FUNDAECO agronomist	# of communities / landowners receiving access to agronomist	access to FUNDAECO agronomist	NA

Contrato REDD	No. Resolución de aprobación	Nombre del contrato REDD+	Titular de incentivo
NA	31-1802-0201-2.3.5-2022	ASOVIBOS ONG	ASOVIBOS ONG
958	31-1802-0191-2.3.5-2022	ASOVIBOS ONG	ASOVIBOS ONG
399	31-1804-0241-2.2.3-2022	Carlos Antonio Lima Pérez	Silvia Marlenee Lima Perez
	31-1804-0249-2.2.3-2022		Irma Veronica Lima Perez
	31-1804-0242-2.2.3-2022		Luis Santiago Lima Perez
	31-1804-0248-2.2.3-2022		Evelyn Carolina Lima Pérez
926	31-1804-0247-2.2.3-2022	Santos Felipe Sola Payes	Emma Yadila Felipe Trinidad
388	31-1804-0245-2.2.3-2022	Adan Ismael Orellana Rivas	Adán Ismael Orellana Rivas
	31-1804-0184-2.2.3-2022	Orellana Rivas	Blanca Estela Rivas Chinchilla

8. APPENDIX 3: ATTENDANCE LISTS

AENOR
Confía

PROYECTO: CONSERVACIÓN CMST
MOTIVO DE REUNIÓN: Inicial / CCUAP

LUGAR: Pto. Barrios
FECHA: 9 Oct. 2023

LISTA DE ASISTENCIA

No	NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS	GRUPO/RELACIÓN CON EL PROYECTO	COMUNIDAD	FIRMA
1	Kristi Ayle Rose	FUNDADOR REDD Manager		Kristi Ayle Rose
2	Eddy O. Palencia	FUNDADOR Dir. Regional		Eddy O. Palencia
	Ivón Caceres	CONAP, Intel	Pto. Barrios	Ivón Caceres
	Edgar Giovanni Zamora	Consejo Municipal Pto. Barrios	Pto. Barrios	Edgar Giovanni Zamora

PÁGINA 1 OF 2

AENOR
Confía

PROYECTO: CONSERVACIÓN CMST
MOTIVO DE REUNIÓN: Varios

LUGAR: Casa San Gil Los Escobos
FECHA: 9. 10. 23

LISTA DE ASISTENCIA

No	NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS	GRUPO/RELACIÓN CON EL PROYECTO	COMUNIDAD	FIRMA
1	Carlos Alberto Córdova	Director de la Escuela	Casa San Gil Norte los Escobos	Carlos Alberto Córdova
2	Carlos A. Lopez F.	Guarda bosque y propietario	Aldea El Castaño	Carlos A. Lopez F.
3	Cesar Alda con	San Andrés (Finca) 119	Aldeas Persepolis y San Andrés	Cesar Alda con
4	Karen Florencia Dubois	Protección / Dirección Programa	Fundador / Aldea Santa	Karen Florencia Dubois
5	Claudia Mariela Lopez	Coordinación de Proyectos Educativos Institucionales/Aldea	Puerto Barrios, todos	Claudia Mariela Lopez
6	Osman Benito	Almuerzo de laboratorio		Osman Benito

PÁGINA 2 OF 2

Confía

PROYECTO: C Const LUGAR: Cocode de San Francisco Las Margaritas

MOTIVO DE REUNIÓN: FECHA: 10 Oct

LISTA DE ASISTENCIA

No	NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS	GRUPO/RELACIÓN CON EL PROYECTO	COMUNIDAD	FIRMA
1	Cludia Verónica Berrío	Becaria	San Francisco Las Margaritas	Cludia Berrío
2	Maria Gisela Berrío	Becaria	San Francisco Las Margaritas	Maria Gisela Berrío
3	Aracely Berrío	Grupo Mujeres	San Francisco Las Margaritas	Aracely Berrío
4	Estela Pérez	Prestadora del Bolequín	San Francisco Las Margaritas	Estela Pérez
5	Edgar Berrío	Tres Cocode	Margaritas	Edgar Berrío
6	Margarita Berrío	Cocode	Margaritas	Margarita Berrío
7	Julia Aracely Berrío	Cocode	Margaritas	Julia Aracely Berrío
8	Elisa Beltrán	Cocode	Margaritas	Elisa Beltrán
9	Raúl Efraín Cuxum	Cocode	La Nueva Esperanza	Raúl Efraín Cuxum
10	Alberto Popayan	Cocode Sestrupe A/Berrío A: Ildi Kider Pte	Luzminton	Alberto Popayan

PÁGINA 3 OF 7

AENOR

Confía

PROYECTO: LUGAR: FECHA: 10 Oct 23

MOTIVO DE REUNIÓN: LISTA DE ASISTENCIA

No	NOMBRE Y APELLIDOS	GRUPO/RELACIÓN CON EL PROYECTO	COMUNIDAD	FIRMA
1	Elisa Berrío Berrío	Instituto Geográfico de Tuzón	Pio Dolce	Elisa Berrío

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