



LUANGWA COMMUNITY FORESTS PROJECT VCS VERIFICATION REPORT



Document Prepared by AENOR International S.A.U

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Report ID	VCS VerR 1775 01January2023-31December2023 clean
Project title	Luangwa Community Forests Project
Project ID	1775
Verification period	01-January-2023 to 31-December-2023
Original date of issue	26-December-2024
Most recent date of issue	16-June-2025
Version	V5
VCS Standard Version	v4.7

Client	BioCarbon Partners (BCP)
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Summary:

AENOR INTERNATIONAL S.A.U (AENOR) has carried out the sixth VCS verification of the Luangwa Community Forests Project (LCFP hereinafter). The LCFP is a large-scale REDD+ grouped project implemented on communal land and private ranches in Zambia's Eastern, Lusaka, Central and Muchinga Provinces with a first, second and third project activity instance (PAI hereinafter) of (Project area (PA) - 943,646 ha/Project Accounting Area (PAA) - 485,495ha), (PA - 92,990ha/PAA - 50,730 ha) and (PA - 199,622 ha/PAA - 122,856 ha) respectively (Figure 1 of the VCS MR). The fourth PAI (subject to validation and verification in this 2023 monitoring period) is (PA - 901,147 ha/PAA - 513,011 ha) in extent. The total PA and PAA, at the end of this monitoring period, is estimated at 2,137,405 ha and 1,172,092 ha respectively.

The project was developed to conform to the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS, Version 4.7). Furthermore, the Project is aligned with the Government of the Republic of Zambia's (GRZ) National REDD+ Program, implemented through the Forestry Department.

Implementation is in partnership with the communities, their respective traditional authorities, and the government of the Republic of Zambia. The project generates ERs through avoided deforestation with mitigation activities that include a combination of direct conservation support, engagement and capacity building with key Government and community stakeholders. The baseline scenario is unplanned deforestation driven primarily by subsistence agriculture. Communities are impoverished and biodiversity declines due to deforestation and increased poaching.

The project's community objective is instituting poverty alleviation activities benefiting at least 20,000 households, specifically targeting poor and vulnerable households. The biodiversity objectives are maintaining a wildlife corridor between several national parks in the catchment of Zambia's 4th largest river system, conserving and maintaining vulnerable and endangered species through habitat protection and reduction in poaching. The climate objectives are to avoid deforestation in the project area and assist communities and biodiversity with climate change adaptation strategies through income diversification, improved farming techniques, crop diversification, and maintenance of habitat

corridors. PA boundaries were marked at validation and since then, aerial and ground patrols are conducted regularly to monitor compliance. During each monitoring period, 20% of accounting and proxy area biomass plots and 100% of leakage area monitoring plots are inventoried and in the current monitoring period (M6), the biomass dataset was updated as per the monitoring plan. Remote sensing is used to monitor disturbance and fires while wildlife and other biodiversity indicators are monitored in annual fixed transects surveys and random ground patrols.

The project implementation and crediting period start date is 1st May 2015 and will be operational until 30th April 2045. The second, third and fourth PAs started on the date of 11th August 2021, 1st January 2022 and 1st January 2023, respectively. All four instances will also be operational until 30 April 2045. The estimated ERs for the 30-year project span are 148,030,169 tCO₂e at an average of 4,934,339 tCO₂e/yr.

The combined estimated gross ERs of the four PAs for the current monitoring period (1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023) is 3,004,873 tCO₂e. In the current monitoring period, there was NPRR risk factor deduction of 21% (631,023 tCO₂e), resulting in the total final Issuance of 2,373,847 tCO₂e VCU.

The purpose of the verification was to determine the conformance of the project concerning the VCS Standard v4.7. Furthermore, the assessment of the ex-post monitored anthropogenic GHG ERs that has occurred because of the project's activities. The scope of the verification was to assess the conformance of the validated project, once implemented, with the VCS requirements and requirements in the validated VCS PD.

The verification consisted of the following three phases to confirm that the monitoring report meets the stated requirements and identified criteria:

- A desk review of the project monitoring report (MR) /1/ and monitoring plan implementation
- Follow-up interviews with project stakeholders with an on-site visit as well as a review of project activities
- The resolution of outstanding issues and internal technical review, followed by the issuance of the final verification report and opinion.

This is the sixth verification event, corresponding to the monitoring period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

During the verification event, 6 CAR and 3 CLs were reported. All these issues raised during the verification process were appropriately closed by means of corrections, clearer explanations, and other supporting documents. 3 FARs have also been raised, to be resolved in the next verification period.

The purpose of the visit assessment (see Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this verification report for more information) was to determine the conformance of the project with respect to the VCS Version 4.7 Standard; The field visit took place from the 28th of October 2024 to the 9th of November 2024, in which the auditor visited the PA and PAA, interviewed key stakeholders, staff and other related experts, visited carbon plots, and reviewed the VCS-MR /1/ and supporting documents, among other activities. The scope of the verification was to assess the conformance of information in the project design document with the VCS standards.

Hence, once all issues detected were appropriately solved, AENOR carried out a final verification report and deemed with a reasonable level of assurance that the project complies with all the verification criteria for VCS. 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 net GHG emission reductions for the lands included in the project boundary at the verification stage have been quantified under VCS rules.

The GHG emission reductions were calculated based on the approved methodology VM0009 Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion, v3.0 of 6th June 2014, and the monitoring plan included in the MR/1/.

In the current monitoring period, the project conducted a CDM update due to the FAR that was raised in the previous verification for M5.

The AENOR verification team assessed the calculations and can confirm that the gross GHG emission reductions during the monitoring period amount to 3,004,873 tCO₂e (without discounting buffer emissions) for this monitoring period. AENOR's verification team can confirm that the project is well managed and that results are well supported. Monitoring plans are effective, and the project proponent has developed enough procedures and tools to collect data. A buffer discount rate of 21% was applied, resulting to 2,373,847 tCO₂e VCUs eligible for issuance.

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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 following:

- The extent to which methods and procedures, including monitoring procedures, have been implemented per the monitoring report /1/, including the monitoring plan.
- The extent to which the GHG emissions reductions reported in the monitoring report is materially accurate.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

Verification Scope: The scope of the verification audit is to verify the emission reductions of the project against the Verified Carbon Standard version 4.7, the identified methodology and the validated project document throughout the monitoring period from 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023 /1/.

These audit's objectives included verifying the project's calculated reductions with the Verified Carbon Standard requirements and any additional requirements of VCS AFOLU projects. In addition, the audit assessed the project with respect to the validated baseline scenarios presented in the Monitoring report/1/.

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 GHG's; and periods covered.

Criteria: The criteria from the following documents were used to assess this project:

- VCS Standard v4.7.
- VCS Program Guide v4.4.
- VCS Program Definitions v.4.5.
- Registration and Issuance Process, v4.4.
- VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v 4.2.
- VCS Validation Report Template, VCS Version 4.3 (The April 2024 VCS Program Updates indicates that "VCS Program project templates v4.4 are effective from 1st January 2025 for all project requests").
- VM0009 Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion, v3.0 (and all the applicable tools).

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

1.3 Level of Assurance

The evaluation was carried out to ensure a satisfactory level of assurance regarding compliance with the specified audit standards and significance thresholds within the audit's scope. Following the audit results, a favourable assessment indicates reasonable assurance that the project's greenhouse gas (GHG) assertion is substantially accurate and provides a fair depiction of the GHG data and details.

The materiality threshold concerning the combined impact of errors, omissions, and misrepresentations compared to the total reported GHG emission reductions was set at five per cent (1%), as outlined in the VCS Standard for large projects.

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 VCS validation and verification.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The LCFP is a large-scale REDD+ grouped project implemented on communal land and private ranches in Eastern, Lusaka, Central and Muchinga Provinces, Zambia with an initial, second and third PAIs of PA 943,646 ha/PAA 485,495 ha, PA 92,990 ha/PAA 50,730 ha and PA 199,622 ha/PAA 122,856 ha respectively. The fourth PAI, subject to validation and verification in this monitoring period, is PA 901,147 ha/PAA 513,011 ha in extent. The total project area and accounting area, at the end of this monitoring period, is estimated at 2,137,405 ha and 1,172,092 ha respectively.

Implementation is in partnership with the communities, their respective traditional authorities and the government of the Republic of Zambia. The project generates ERs through avoided deforestation with mitigation activities that include a combination of direct conservation support, engagement and capacity building with key Government and community stakeholders. The baseline scenario is unplanned deforestation driven primarily by subsistence agriculture. Communities are impoverished and biodiversity declines due to deforestation and increased poaching.

The project's community objective is instituting poverty alleviation activities benefiting at least 20,000 households, specifically targeting poor and vulnerable households. The biodiversity objectives are maintaining a wildlife corridor between several national parks in the catchment of Zambia's 4th largest river system, conserving and maintaining vulnerable and endangered species through habitat protection and reduction in poaching. The climate objectives are to avoid deforestation in the project area and assist communities and biodiversity with climate change adaptation strategies through income diversification, improved farming techniques, crop diversification, and maintenance of habitat corridors. Project area boundaries were marked at validation and since then, aerial and ground patrols are conducted regularly to monitor compliance. During each monitoring period, 20% of accounting and proxy area biomass plots and 100% of leakage area monitoring plots are inventoried and in the current monitoring period(M6), the biomass dataset was updated as per the monitoring plan. Remote sensing is used to monitor disturbance

and fires while wildlife and other biodiversity indicators are monitored in annual fixed transects surveys and random ground patrols.

In the current monitoring period, the project conducted a CDM update due to the FAR that was raised in the previous verification for M5.

The project implementation and crediting period start date is 1 May 2015 and will be operational until 30 April 2045. The second, third and fourth project activity instances started on the date of 11 August 2021, 1 January 2022 and 1 January 2023, respectively. All four instances will also be operational until 30 April 2045. The estimated gross ERs for the 30-year project span with all four project activity instances combined is 148,030,169 tCO₂e, at an average of 4,934,339 tCO₂e/yr.

The combined estimated gross ERs of the four project activity instances for the current monitoring period (1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023) is 3,004,873 tCO₂e. In the current monitoring period, there was NPRR risk factor deduction of 21% (631,023 tCO₂e), resulting in the total final Issuance of 2,373,847 tCO₂e VCU.

The verification of this monitoring period was requested to AENOR by BCP. The audit of the Monitoring Report, supporting documentation, and interviews has provided AENOR with the evidence to determine conformance to the VCS Standards with reasonable assurance.

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Method and Criteria

The project underwent an assessment to ensure alignment with the criteria outlined in Section 1.2 of this report. The verification procedure encompassed document review, interviews, communication with pertinent staff, and on-site inspections (All these were conducted from the 28th of October 2024 to the 9th of November 2024). As detailed in the report, findings were issued to confirm the project's full adherence to all VCS requirements. AENOR conducted this verification and affirms, with a reasonable level of assurance, that the project satisfies all verification criteria.

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 to detect the processes with the highest risk of material discrepancy.

The verification has been performed through an in-depth desk review, a site visit to the project, interviews with local stakeholders and interviews with relevant personnel responsible for monitoring between October and November 2024. 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.

Regarding the verification schedule and key milestones, the following are highlighted:

- Public Comment Period: No public comment period was provided.
- KOM date: 26th September 2024.
- NOVS delivery: 8th of October 2024.
- Final Audit Plan: 25th of October 2024.
- Site visit: 28th of October to 9th of November 2024.
- Issuance of the 1st round of findings: 27th of November 2024.
- Closure of findings: 9th of December 2024.

AENOR reproduced and verified 100% of sheets in the spreadsheet of ERs calculations /26/29/52-59/, and the data calculations carried out in those sheets for the project area for the monitoring period (1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023). The project area was 100% checked using the GIS database and shape files /67-84/. The carbon calculations were also 100% verified with validated values.

AENOR opted to conduct a thorough and meticulous examination of the documents to ensure the accurate application of the VM0009 methodology version 3.0, including its formulas and equations, and to verify the provision of necessary data for calculating GHG emission reductions. Following this

assessment, AENOR asserts with a reasonable level of assurance that the stated emission reductions are devoid of significant errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

Furthermore, AENOR confirms the adequacy of evidence supporting the reported net anthropogenic GHG emission reductions, noting a clear audit trail containing the necessary evidence and records to substantiate the figures stated in this verification report since:

- Sufficient evidence available: The project participant has provided 100% of the data used in the calculations to achieve the final amount of GHG emission reductions reported.
- Nature of evidence: The raw data was collected from reliable sources. They are detailed in the project documents and have been provided to the verification team, and the most relevant ones are appropriately detailed in Appendix 2.

AENOR audit team conducted an on-site inspection of the project area to verify the information collected and to replicate the calculations outlined in Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of the verification report. As a result of this inspection, AENOR confirms the accuracy of the data presented in the monitoring report. Based on the evidence provided, which is both verifiable and reliable, AENOR can certify the net anthropogenic greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions associated with the project.

AENOR Confía, S.A. (Unipersonal) verification/validation entity accredited by ANAB with AEN accreditation number 8993.

2.2 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 VM0009 V3.0), and the MR/1/.

The initial review focused on the Monitoring Report (MR) /1/ and included an examination of the project details, implementation status, data and parameters, and quantification of GHG emission reductions. Documents reviewed included data carbon agreements with Community Forest Management Groups (including Luembe, Lundu, Malama, Mburuma, Mnkhanya, Mpanshya, Mphuka, Msoro, Mulilo, Mwanya, Mwape, Nabwalya, Nsefu, Nyalugwe, Private Ranches, Sandwe, Shikabeta, Chiawa, Chifunda, Chitungulu, Jumbe, Kaloko, Kambombo and Kazembe) /2-25/, REDD+ Project Implementation status (including deforestation and leakage monitoring, beekeeping, biodiversity monitoring, carbon stock assessment, community social services, conservation farming, conservation patrols, conservation fire management, finance, FPIC consultations, water, sanitation and boreholes, and others) /26-36/, proxy soil sampling /37-42/, varied SOPs (including procedures for grievance, FPIC, manual deforestation mapping, community engagement, verification notice, engagement, minutes, grievance registry and others) /37-51/, calculations (including biomass data, papers, M5 old spreadsheets, and updated M6 spreadsheets) /52-59/, NPRR evidence /60-66/, spatial and GIS data /67-84/, drivers of deforestation report /85/, CDM updates between M5 and M6 /86-88/, biomass plot data and SOPs/89-96/, leakage plots /97-98/, FPIC /99/, SDGs compliance /100-108/, meetings for communication and results monitoring, FPIC and others /109-117/, benefit sharing plan /118-141/, CVs /142-151/ and responses to Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and Clarifications (CLs) (Appendix 3).

The VVB has reviewed all the evidence presented by the PP /47, 187-193/, which supports the claims made in Section 3.1 of the MR and includes additional details about the activities implemented during this monitoring period. Specifically, new activities that were not initially included in the MR, such as natural resources governance and the recruitment of "scouts," /193/ have been added. This additional information has been integrated into Section 3.1 of the MR, explaining how these activities were monitored, their start date, and their contribution to emission reductions.

Furthermore, the VVB has reviewed the project's deforestation monitoring approach, and is able to confirm that the project established inventory plots in areas that suffered significant disturbances, including within the project's accounting area. Biomass data collected from these plots capture the effects of disturbance and have been integrated into the project's emissions calculations. The Master Carbon Stock Dataset /184/ contains plot-level information from these disturbed areas and has been submitted as supporting evidence of compliance with MR.33.

In addition, to account for disturbed zones where no plots were directly installed, the Project Proponent implemented a spatial extrapolation method. This involved delineating polygons around the affected areas and applying per-hectare emission factors derived from measured plots to estimate emissions in those locations. This ensures that biomass loss is accurately estimated even in areas without onsite sample plots.

In line with MR.32, the project has also developed and included maps within section 5.2 of the MR showing the boundaries of all major disturbances that occurred during the current monitoring period, including those within PAI#4. Additionally, the underlying spatial data /26, 54/ used to define these disturbed areas has been submitted as part of the supporting documentation to demonstrate full adherence and compliance to MR.32 requirements.

It is worth mentioning that the identification of deforested areas in PAI#4 resulted in an increase in reported project emissions, which led to a decrease in the total number of Verified Carbon Units issued for this monitoring period.

Following a comprehensive review of the revised sections of the Monitoring Report (1.1, 4.2, 5.2, and 5.4) and the supporting documentation /26, 59/ submitted by the Project Proponent, the VVB confirms that the Project Proponent has demonstrated clear and transparent compliance with Monitoring Requirements 32 and 33 of the VM0009 methodology.

Overall sampling approach:

The audit sampling plan was developed by considering several key factors, including the forest inventory conducted by the PP /52/, deforestation analysis and disturbance within the PAA /26, 58, 59, 81, 82/, historical land-use change analysis /87/, and the contribution of the LCFP Zambia Project to the Sustainable Development Goals (Section 1.1 of the Monitoring Report), as well as the audit plans, findings and FAR during previous monitoring period (M5). Additional considerations included project activities during the current monitoring period (MP6) (Section 3.1 of the Monitoring Report), road lengths /30, 87, 88/, and population density /87, 88/. The audit team also relied on the PP's extensive

knowledge of the terrain, which informed the selection of plots in the most time-efficient way. Critical factors such as logistical challenges due to the lack of roads, the topography of the land, distances between plots, and difficult terrain conditions were all carefully considered. Moreover, the vastness of the project area, covering 2,137,405 ha, along with timing constraints, required meticulous planning and coordination to optimize time and resources during the audit process. Field risks and safety concerns were also evaluated, particularly the potential threats posed by wildlife, including elephants that inhabit the project area, and floodings. Addressing these factors was essential to ensuring the efficiency and safety of the audit process.

Representation of the project area and communities:

The audit plan was designed to ensure broad spatial coverage by randomly selecting chiefdoms across all four provinces encompassed by the project—Eastern, Lusaka, Central, and Muchinga. Field audits were conducted in 11 out of the 31 chiefdoms, with a particular focus on (1) areas newly added during the 2023 monitoring period and (2) areas not visited in previous audits. The visits were strategically distributed across communal lands, private ranches, and wildlife corridors to ensure comprehensive and diverse coverage of the project area.

Biomass, proxy and leakage plots:

According to sections 1.1 and 4.3 of the Monitoring Report, during each monitoring period, 20% of the biomass plots in the accounting and proxy areas, and 100% of the leakage area monitoring plots are inventoried. In the current monitoring period (MP6), the biomass dataset was updated as per the monitoring plan.

For the MP6 audit, the audit team incorporated on-site verifications of biomass plots, leakage plots, and proxy plots into their sampling plan to ensure comprehensive coverage of all plot classes within the project area. Particular attention was given to the FAR addressed in the previous verification (MP5). AENOR, which conducted the previous two verifications (MP4 and MP5), had already audited plots representing the 3 classes. To enhance representativeness for the MP6, the audit team employed a random selection approach, prioritizing (1) plots from PAI 2-3 and (2) plots not previously verified during MP4 and MP5. This strategy aimed to provide broader coverage and ensure a more accurate assessment of the entire project area. As detailed in Section 2.5.1 of the Verification Report, the audit team also issued a Forward Action Request (FAR) for PAI4 plots to be visited during the next monitoring period, further reinforcing the commitment to thorough and systematic verification. Below the stratification of the plots visited:

- Mpa12 (Mpanshya), Kam10 (Kazumba Game ranch) (PAI2 biomass plots).
- Mbu10 (Mbuluma), Mbu0 (Mbuluma), Kaz8 (Kazembe) and Kaz16 (Kazembe) (PAI3 biomass plots).
- Lk2 (Mpanshya), Lk47 (Nyimba) and Lk48 (Nyimba) (leakage plots).
- Prx19 (Shikabeta), Prx27 (Nyalugwe) and Prx38 (Nyimba) (proxy plots).

The audit team carefully selected specific plots to maximize data collection. The measured data was then compared with the information reported in the spreadsheets /89-96/. This comparison confirmed that the reported values are accurate, with only minor differences within acceptable limits, ensuring that the reported data is realistic, objective, and trustworthy.

CDM assessment:

To assess the accuracy of the newly determined CDM, AENOR conducted a random assessment of the project area using Google Earth Pro, Google Earth Engine and QGIS during the desk review stage. The assessment did not reveal any significant errors that would affect the accuracy of the CDM. Additionally, the historical land-use change analysis was reviewed, and no significant errors were identified.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the MP6 audit employed a rigorous and representative sampling plan using random sampling, supported by comprehensive analyses of the forest inventory /52/, deforestation trends /26, 58, 59, 81, 82/, sustainable development contributions, and field risk assessments. The review of supplementary data and verification of field measurements further ensured that the collected samples accurately represent the entire project area. Therefore, the data obtained during this monitoring period are deemed sufficient to reliably reflect the project's overall conditions.

The VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool was used by the Project Proponent to assess the overall project risk. AENOR reviewed the Non-Permanence Risk Report /65/ downloaded from the Verra Project Hub provided with the risk-supporting documentation for verification by the VVB and confirmed that the Project adheres to the requirements set out in the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v4.2. Each risk factor was thoroughly assessed for conformance. The final score was calculated to be 21%.

Appendix 2 of this report details the list of documents provided by PP and reviewed by AENOR during the process.

2.3 Interviews

The AENOR verification team conducted on-site interviews to confirm selected information and resolve issues identified in the document review.

The interview and the identifying process are explained as follows. AENOR carried out a completed and accurate interview process on several dates.

AENOR carried out a completed and accurate interview process on several dates. Several weeks before the start of the on-site audit visit to the LCFP project area, AENOR's audit team reached the Project Proponent team to let them know the audit team's preferences regarding the stakeholder groups to be interviewed to guarantee confidence, representation, and impartiality, based on the information collected from the Stakeholder Consultation Process and a requested list of community stakeholders. Considering that LCFP is a grouped project, and the initially collected information from the PD, MR and

supporting evidence, it could be concluded that, in the time before the audit visit, stakeholders from Chinyunyu, Mbutuma, Mburuma, Mpanshya, Nyalugwe, Luangazi, Lundazi, Kazembe, Chama, Lundu, Chinsali, Mukungule, and Mpika Chiefdoms were the most relevant to be interviewed, accounting stakeholders from the 4 PAIs eligible within LCFP PA.

AENOR's audit team defined a preliminary questionnaire to complement and support the desk review process as a starting point to interview each one of the stakeholders on-site. The questionnaire considered Verified Carbon Standards (VCS), Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCB) topics and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) values based on the information compiled by AENOR's audit team about the project before the on-site visit, during the desk-review. A small sample of these questions has been included ahead for clarification and transparency purposes. Moreover, and as stated below, AENOR's audit team used these questions for gathering purposes. Several new questions were sporadically and systematically included during on-site interviews, considering the direction in which discussions were directed and the topics that stakeholders wanted to discuss freely during the different moments of the interviews.

Readers can find a list of all the stakeholders, project staff and community members who were interviewed during the audit site visit (October and November 2024):

MEETING TOPICS: BCP Staff for Opening Meeting / Kasumba CFMG, FMT Team, Chief Representatives and CFMG, Mpanshya CFMG, Nyalugwe CFMG / CRM, Penelope Project Community Engagement lead and Chief, Community Scouts, The Chief, Kazembe CFMG, District Agriculture Coordinator, Chiefdom Head & Representatives/CRB, CFMG and FZS, Provincial Forestry Officer, Chief, CRB/CFMG Lead farmers, BCP.

DATE: 28th,29th, 30th, 31st October& 1st,3rd,4th,5th,6th,7th,8th November 2024

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
1	28th October 2024	CHRISTOPHER GUNDUJA	TECHNICAL ADVISOR	BCP	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
2	28th October 2024	FRANCIS NGONA	CHIEFDOM LEAD	BCP	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
3	28th October 2024	BESA KALINDA	CARBON SPECIALIST	BCP	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
4	28th October 2024	MUSMEME CHARIDE	CHEFDOM LEND	BCF	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
5	28th October 2024	AUSTIN MWAMPATISHE	CHAIRPERSON	KASUMBA CFMG ¹	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
6	28th October 2024	EMMANUEL TEMBO	SECRETARY	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
7	28th October 2024	GERALD MWAMPFFID	HEADMAN	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
8	28th October 2024	MOSES MWACHINDALO	MEMBER	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
9	28th October 2024	GYDON HAKALOKA	VICE CHAIRPERSON	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
10	28th October 2024	ALIET PHIRI	TREASURE	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
11	28th October 2024	MARY MUSUMALI	MEMBER	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
12	28th October 2024	ROYCE SALGALA	H.O.F.S	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU

¹ CFMG or Community Forest Management Group

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
13	28th October 2024	AGNES TEMBO	MEMBER	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
14	28th October 2024	BETTY KONKUOESI	H.O.F.S	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
15	28th October 2024	MATIUDA HAKALOHA	VICE SECRETARY	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
16	28th October 2024	SUSAN MATEPETA	H.O.F.S	KASUMBA CFMG	ZAMBIA / CHINYUNYU
17	29th October 2024	PELTOR MBEWEL	FMT LEAD	BCP	MBUTUMA
18	29th October 2024	BRAVE TEMBO	MEMBER	MBULUMA	MBUTUMA
19	29th October 2024	JETHLO BANDA	2T	BCP	MBUTUMA
20	29th October 2024	LUFEO ZULU	FMD	BCP	MBUTUMA
21	29th October 2024	GIBBY NJOBULU	FMD	BCP	MBUTUMA
22	29th October 2024	L . DANNY	CHAIRPERSON	BCP	MBUTUMA
23	29th October 2024	FRANCIS TEMBO	SNR HEADMAN	CHIEFDOM	MBURUMA
24	29th October 2024	PHILIP NVIRWIA	TRANLATOR	CFMG	MBURUMA
25	29th October 2024	CHUZU GIVENESS	CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MBURUMA
26	29th October 2024	LUNGU DANNY	CDC	CFMG	MBURUMA
27	29th October 2024	SAKALA LAZAROUS	MEMBER	CFMG	MBURUMA
28	29th October 2024	CHRISTINE NJOBVU	MEMBER	CFMG	MBURUMA
29	29th October 2024	LUKA TEMBO	CDC CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MBURUMA

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
30	29th October 2024	BONIFACE CHIFUNDA	FMC CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MBURUMA
31	30th October 2024	CHRIEPIN CHIKOPA	CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MPANSYA
32	30th October 2024	SOKWANI MSISKA	ED	CFMG	MPANSYA
33	30th October 2024	JOSEPH PHIRI	E MEMBER	CFMG	MPANSYA
34	30th October 2024	JOSEPH MUTALE	CDC	CFMG	MPANSYA
35	30th October 2024	IGNATIUS CHWSAYA	RMC CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MPANSYA
36	30th October 2024	MOSES DAKA	V / FMC	CFMG / CRB	MPANSYA
37	30th October 2024	GEORGE KASABALI	FMC	CFMG / CRB	MPANSYA
38	31st October 2024	OBSTEL KATASHU	CHAIRPERSON	CFMG / CRB	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
39	31st October 2024	MERCY PHIRI	F.M.C	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
40	31st October 2024	FASTON N. MUMBA	CHIEF REP	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
41	31st October 2024	KAMWAYI LUNGU	R.M.C	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
42	31st October 2024	KELVIN DAKA	V.C.D.C	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
43	31st October 2024	NGAWA LUNGU	MEMBER	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
44	31st October 2024	MISHECK PHIRI	V / FMC	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
45	31st October 2024	MOSES DAKA	C.D.C	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
46	31st October 2024	TEMBO ARGHUM	BOOK-KEEPER	CFMG / CRB	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
47	31st October 2024	EVARISTO PHIRI	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	RN-IN-CHARGE	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
48	31st October 2024	MICHAEL NJOBURU	V. RMC	CFMG	NYIMBA - NYALUGWE
49	1st Nov 2024	PENELOPE CHILO	CHIEFDOM LEAD	BCP	LUANGAZI
50	1st Nov 2024	LABAN NGAMBI	CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	LUANGAZI
51	1st Nov 2024	FASTONE NGUMBE	CHIEF REP	CFMG	LUANGAZI
52	1st Nov 2024	AARON MALUNGA	E/O	CFMG	LUANGAZI
53	3rd Nov 2024	MUTALE MWILA	CONSERVATION COORDINATOR	BIOCARBON PARTNER	LUNDAZI
54	3rd Nov2024	FRIDAY NGULUBE	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
55	3rd Nov 2024	MATHIAS BANDA	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
56	3rd Nov 2024	DAVISON BANDA	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
57	3rd Nov 2024	ALICE NKHATA	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
58	3rd Nov 2024	DOUGLAS LUNGU	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
59	3rd Nov 2024	NELSON MBAO	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
60	3rd Nov 2024	COLLIUS ZULU	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
61	3rd Nov 2024	LANGSON PHIRI	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
62	3rd Nov 2024	BRANCHID	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
63	3rd Nov 2024	PEPHIAS DAKA	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
64	3rd Nov 2024	ALFRED PHIRI	COMMUNITY SCOUT	CHITUNGULU CFMG	LUNDAZI
65	3rd Nov 2024	BEYAID NYAMA	DRIVER	BIOCARBON PARTNER	LUNDAZI
66	3rd Nov2024	CHILEKELI B	COMMUNITY SCOUT	BIOCARBON PARTNER	LUNDAZI
67	3rd Nov 2024	BANDA VINCENT	PATRON	CHIEFDOM	KAZEMBE
68	3rd Nov 2024	ELIEL SIMUYEMBA	SOURCING OFFICER	BCP	KAZEMBE
69	3rd Nov 2024	MOFFAT CHILANGA	SOURCING OFFICER	BCP	KAZEMBE
70	4th Nov 2024	CHIBALE MVULA	BOOK-KEEPER	CFMG	KAZEMBE
71	4th Nov 2024	GEORGE ZULU	CRB	CFMG	KAZEMBE

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
72	4th Nov2024	RANB WELMIWE	INDUNA	CFMG	KAZEMBE
73	4th Nov 2024	GOODSON .R	INDUNA	CFMG	KAZEMBE
74	4th Nov2024	CHARLES NGUNI	RMCIS	CFMG	KAZEMBE
75	4th Nov 2024	BENARD MBEWE	CDC CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	KAZEMBE
76	4th Nov 2024	SIMON KHASA	VICE CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	KAZEMBE
77	4th Nov2024	WILSON ALFOCE	SECTOR IN CHARGE	CFMG	KAZEMBE
78	4th Nov 2024	WEBSTER .N.	RMC C/P	CFMG	KAZEMBE
79	4th Nov 2024	PHILIP NYIRONO	FMC / SECRETARY	CFMG	KAZEMBE
80	4th Nov 2024	KARIM .M	FMC C/P	CFMG	KAZEMBE
81	4th Nov 2024	EUSTER ZIMBA	CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	KAZEMBE
82	4th Nov 2024	IDAH MVUZA	EXECUTIVE	CFMG	KAZEMBE
83	5th Nov 2024	DANNY MUSUKWA	DACO	MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE	CHAMA
84	6th Nov 2024	VAN MBULO	CHIEF REP	CHIEFDOM	LUNDU
85	6th Nov 2024	ANDREW SABI	LEAD FARMER	VAG ²	LUNDU
86	6th Nov 2024	CHRISTINE MVULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
87	6th Nov 2024	GRACE NSOFWA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
88	6th Nov 2024	BEAUTY MFULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
89	6th Nov 2024	MERCY MFULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
90	6th Nov 2024	JENIPHER CHISUPA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
91	6th Nov 2024	JOSEPHINE BWALI	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
92	6th Nov 2024	ISAAC NGENRU	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
93	6th Nov 2024	STENCIA MFULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
94	6th Nov 2024	APHET .M	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU

² VAG or Village Action Group

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
95	6th Nov 2024	CHRISPIN .N	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
96	6th Nov 2024	MSONGA WINWELL	COORDINATOR	VAG	LUNDU
97	6th Nov 2024	CHANDA CHALES	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
98	6th Nov 2024	KAHIBA JAMES	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
99	6th Nov 2024	BOYD CHOWE	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
100	6th Nov 2024	PETER BWALI	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
101	6th Nov 2024	MONDAY BWALI	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
102	6th Nov 2024	STEPHEN .H.	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
103	6th Nov 2024	SUNDAY MVULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
104	6th Nov 2024	RUTH MVULA	LEAD FARMER	VAG	LUNDU
105	6th Nov 2024	AMOS BWALI	B / SECRETARY	CFMG / CRB	LUNDU
106	6th Nov 2024	NKONDE ROMAN	B / MEMBER	CFMG / CRB	LUNDU
107	6th Nov 2024	CHISUPA ISAAC	CLA	F2S	LUNDU
108	6th Nov 2024	BOWA MARRON	CDC CHAIRPERSON	CFG	LUNDU
109	6th Nov 2024	MBULO WESTON	FMC CHAIR	CFMG	LUNDU
110	6th Nov 2024	CHISUPA NEPHAS	B / CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	LUNDU
111	6th Nov 2024	MVULA PETER	CDC / SECRETARY	CFMG	LUNDU
112	6th Nov 2024	MUMORS MBULUMA	F.M.C	CFMG	LUNDU
113	6th Nov 2024	MWEEMBA .C.	CCO	F2S	LUNDUM
114	6th Nov 2024	MARTIN MUSABA	PFO	FORESTRY	CHINSALI
115	7th Nov 2024	RICHMOND MBOLOME	CHIEF	CHIEF MUKUNGULE	MUKUNGULE
116	7th Nov 2024	HENRY CHILUBA	CHIEF ATT	CHIEF RETAINER	MUKUNGULE
117	7th Nov 2024	CHINUFYA LEWARD	CHOBENA	CRB CHAIRPERSON	MUKUNGULE
118	7th Nov 2024	CHRISTOPHE ANDREW	MUKUNGULE	CHIEF REP	MUKUNGULE
119	7th Nov 2024	SYDNEY CHIBAE	BOOK-KEEPER	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
120	7th Nov 2024	DERRICK KABWE	SECRETARY	CFMG	MUKUNGULE

	Date	Name & Surname	Role/Profession/Stakeholder /Group	Community/Company	Location
121	7th Nov 2024	MWILA .C.	MEMBER	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
122	7th Nov 2024	BEATRICE .M.	MEMBER	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
123	7th Nov 2024	GIITONE .M.	VICE CHAIRPERSON	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
124	7th Nov 2024	MUMBA JACKSON	TREASURE	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
125	7th Nov 2024	MWAPE IAN	MEMBER	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
126	7th Nov 2024	KILIAD .B. CHUNGA	MEMBER	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
127	7th Nov 2024	NGULUBE SHARON	VICE CHAIR	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
128	7th Nov 2024	MPUNDU SOVIET	VAG	CFMG	MUKUNGULE
129	7th Nov 2024	MWARE IAN	LEAD FARMER	NKOBA VAG	MUKUNGULE
130	7th Nov 2024	FILAMBA GIVEN	LEAD FARMER	MWANSWA VAG	MUKUNGULE
131	7th Nov 2024	GEORGE SICHANE	LEAD FARMER	KALUBA VAG	MUKUNGULE
132	7th Nov 2024	KAWELE GIFT	LEAD FARMER	CHISHALA VAG	MUKUNGULE
133	7th Nov 2024	MUMBA AGNSS	LEAD FARMER	CHOBELA VAG	MUKUNGULE
134	7th Nov2024	MARY MULENSA	MEMBER	CHISHALA VAG	MUKUNGULE
135	7th Nov 2024	CHIBESA JOSEPH	LEAD FARMER	CHOBELA VAG	MUKUNGULE
136	8th Nov 2024	BESA KALINDA	PCS	BCP	MPIKA
137	8th Nov 2024	CHRISTOPER Gunduza	TA	BCP	MPIKA

Some of the questions to the stakeholders, project employees and regional authorities were related to matters such as:

- How has the project area changed since the project start date (2015)?
- What activities were carried out in the project area before the project started?
- What activities are carried out in the project area now?
- Have there been any fires or pest outbreaks in the project area in the last years, during the monitoring period?
- Are you aware of illegal logging in the project area during the monitoring period?
- Have you participated in a participatory rural appraisal during the monitoring period? If so, could you describe it?
- Is there any reluctance or concern about the project implementation during the monitoring period?
- In your opinion, what are the main risks and benefits of the project during the monitoring period? Have the PP informed you of risks and benefits of the project during the monitoring period?
- Have you had any conflict, complaint or grievance related to the project during the monitoring period? Has it been solved? How? Are you aware of any grievance, conflict, or complaint from others due to the project?
- What are your channels of communication with the project staff?
- Do you have any suggestions for the project developer on how to improve the project?
- What do you know about the verification process and the audit team visit?
- How often do project personnel meet with the communities to discuss the project?
- Have you received any benefits from the project during the monitoring period? Have you been negatively affected by the project? Have you received any training?
- Do you feel the PP has respected land ownership during the monitoring period? Does your community have any disputes over land ownership? Do you believe the community has been fairly rewarded for its participation during the monitoring period?
- Have you noticed climate changes in the project area during the monitoring period? Does the project support you in adapting to climate change? Have you seen any native wild animals in the project area?
- What are your responsibilities as a project employee? Have you been provided with an employment contract? Were your employee rights and benefits explained? Do you think the hiring process treated and considered all people fairly, including women?
- Have you received any training as a project employee during the monitoring period?
- Do you think local communities have given equal opportunity employment to fill up the positions?

- Does the project comply with local, regional and national laws and regulations? Do you know about any disputes over the boundaries of the project lands? Do you know if local communities freely consent to participate in the project?

However, during the process, some questions were updated based on the feedback acquired from local people to obtain as much information of the highest materiality and quality as possible. Some of these new related questions were strictly connected to the conversation the audit team had with each one of the interviewees.

Some of the questions directed to the LCFP (BCP) management employees were related to the following:

- Contracts,
- Ownership, project starting date,
- Activities carried out before the project started and the ones allowed nowadays inside the project area,
- Community involvement and their interconnections,
- Illegal logging activities,
- Patrolling,
- Remote sensing activities, including community and biodiversity monitoring,
- Fires, outbreaks, and forest diseases,
- Local stakeholder communication and meetings,
- Risks and benefits of the project, and others.

The stakeholders, employees and local authorities were interviewed by AENOR's audit team. The on-site interviews took place from the 28th of October to the 9th of November 2024. All the information was audited with a reasonable level of assurance, and accuracy was acquired.

AENOR's audit team has attached the attendance sheets for all the on-site meetings in Appendix 4 of this report. For each meeting, the location, dates, names and surnames, the role/profession/stakeholder group, community, and signatures have been included.

Apart from these meetings, AENOR's audit team prepared the audit on-site visit to sample as many biomass (6), leakage (3) and proxy plots (3) as possible, considering the difficult conditions of the roads and the terrain to access most of them. Thus, the audit team visited the following plots:

- Mpa12 (Mpanshya), Kam10 (Kazumba Game ranch) (PAI2 biomass plots)
- Mbu10 (Mbuluma), Mbu0 (Mbuluma), Kaz8 (Kazembe) and Kaz16 (Kazembe) (PAI3 biomass plots)
- Lk2 (Mpanshya), Lk47 (Nyimba) and Lk48 (Nyimba) (leakage plots)
- Prx19 (Shikabeta), Prx27 (Nyalugwe) and Prx38 (Nyimba) (proxy plots)

The audit team chose specific plots to guarantee that the greatest amount of data available is obtained. Afterwards, the audit team compared the data obtained in those measurements with the one reported

in the spreadsheets /89-96/, confirming that the values reported are correct, with reasonable infimum differences and guarantees that the reported data is realistic, objective and beyond doubt.

The audit team visited each plot with the support of BCP team, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the BCP team diligently followed all standard operating procedures (SOPs) as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot. The VVB also had interviews with the quantifiers that were measuring the trees to understand if the BCP internal procedures were being applied properly.

The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.

For more information, see Section 2.4 of this report, below.

2.4 Site Visits

The objectives of the on-site inspections performed were mainly to cross-check the description provided in the MR /1/, related to the VCS requirement implemented by the Project proponent, including:

- Ensure that the geographic area of the project, as reported in the VCS-MR and the accompanying GIS files /86-88/, is in conformance with Section 3.11.2 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 rules and the methodology.
- Observe the Project Proponent's evidence and collect and record data 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 to meet a reasonable level of assurance and to meet the materiality requirements of the project, as required by Section 4.1.10 of the VCS Standard.
- Perform a risk-based review of the project area to ensure that the project is in conformance with the eligibility requirements of the VCS rules and the applicability conditions of the methodology;
- Interview local authorities to confirm that the project operates in accordance with current permits and authorizations and its relationship with local actors and communities.
- Interview the key personnel involved in each of the LCFP project benefits, including local stakeholders and observe monitoring practices.
- Verify activities such as patrolling, community support, and biodiversity monitoring, in the project zone, among others (REDD+ project implementation).

In addition to the site inspection, meetings via teleconferences were carried out with project representatives and personnel in charge of carrying out the calculations /52-59/, image processing /86-88/, and project benefits, among others.

The complete list of activities verified on-site, and the itinerary can be seen below.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
28/10/2024	Initial meeting with the LCFP MR6 team.	Chinyunyu Office	Introduction of the Audit team. Confirmation of the audit plan and activities during the site visit was done with teams' secondment. Presentation of the LCFP members and audit team members to take part in the visit. The Audit team made notations about the outcome of the field visit where the PP will receive the findings in CAR, CLs or FAR.	Confirmation of the activities and the proposed visit schedule. Partnership and consultations with stakeholders, including visits to biomass, proxy and leakage plots.
28/10/2024	Visit to Kasumba CFMG	Kasumba CHF	During the discussions with the Kasumba Community Forest Management Group (CFMG), several important topics were covered. These included stakeholder consultations, engagements, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms, and the benefit-sharing plan that the community has developed. The CFMG expressed a strong understanding of these processes and confirmed their active participation in them. They highlighted their ongoing, positive relationship with the LCFP project (Local Community Forest Project) in their area, emphasizing that the day-to-day interactions have been constructive and beneficial. Additionally, the group discussed the concept of property user rights, particularly in relation to the community forest areas. These forests are to be fully protected by the local community, with support	The CFMG and the community are happy with the BCP initiative since it helps them get involved in forest and environment protection, fight poverty through community projects, scouts (patrolling) and honorary forestry officers more so conservation of the forest. The training done to lead farmers and follower farmers have additional benefits to the community.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			and guidance from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). This collaborative arrangement ensures that the community is actively engaged in the management and protection of the forest resources, while receiving necessary technical support from the DNPW to uphold conservation and sustainable land use practices.	
29/10/2024	Meeting with Mbuluma Chief representative	Mbuluma CHF	The discussions covered various key topics, including stakeholder consultations, engagements, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG confirmed their deep understanding of these processes and their active participation in them. They also affirmed that their day-to-day interactions with the LCFP project in their area have been positive and productive. Regarding property user rights, the community is familiar with the concept, where landowners possess proof of ownership for their lands, while forest sites are governed by national (government) rights.	The chief representative was happy to highlight the process they took to invite the BCP to start the program with them in the years back. They have evidence of office construction due to proceeds of CFMG forest protection.
29/10/2024	Meeting with Mbuluma CFMG	Mbuluma CHF	During the meeting with the Mbuluma CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance	Mbuluma CFMG joined the LCFP in the PAI3 where community engagement activities by BCP have been done already. It was clear with

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			resolution mechanisms, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial. The group also addressed the issue of property user rights, particularly in relation to the community forest sites. These forests are to be fully protected and managed by the community, with support and guidance from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW). This partnership ensures that the community is directly involved in the conservation and management of the forest, while also benefiting from the technical expertise and support provided by the DNPW to maintain sustainable land use and conservation practices.	posters indicating the upcoming audit Visit between October and November 2024.
29/10/2024	Biomass Plot visit (PAI3)	Mbuluma Community Forest (MBU10)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the MBU10 biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	
29/10/2024	Biomass Plot visit (PAI3)	Mbuluma Community Forest (MBUO)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the MBUO biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The plot is surrounded by huge threats such as forest fires and charcoal production as evidenced by the burned logs and charcoal kilns. The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
30/10/2024	Proxy Plot visit	Shikabeta Community Forest (Prx 19)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Prx 19 proxy plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
30/10/2024	Meeting with Mpanshya CFMG	Mpanshya Wildlife Corridor	During the meeting with the Mpanshya CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	Mpanshya CFMG joined the LCFP in the PAI2 where community engagement activities including training done seasonally by lead farmers also trained by BCP have been done already. It was clear with posters indicating the upcoming audit Visit between October and November 2024.
30/10/2024	Leakage Plot visit	Mpanshya (Lkg 2)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Lkg 2 leakage plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	Numerous stumps have been observed by the audit team and the community mentions that they are squatters who have recently settled there, hence the drivers of deforestation in the area. Nonetheless, the values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
				biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
30/10/2024	Biomass Plot visit	Mpanshya wildlife corridor (Mpa 12)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Mpa 12 Biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
31/10/2024	Meeting with Nyalugwe CFMG	Nyalugwe CHF	During the meeting with the Nyalugwe CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes.	Nyalugwe CFMG joined the LCFP in the PA11 where community engagement activities including training done seasonally by lead farmers also trained by BCP have been done already. It was clear with posters indicating the upcoming audit Visit between October and November 2024. Project benefit description is unlimited to 6 teachers, boreholes, hammer mills, iron sheets, boats,

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	community scouts, health Centre renovation and livestock promotion. A visit to the Nyalugwe mechanized borehole and the rehabilitated Rural health Centre.
31/10/2024	Proxy Plot visit	Nyalugwe CHF (Prx 27)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Prx 27 proxy plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
1/11/2024	Proxy Plot visit	Nyimba PAI1 (Prx 38)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Prx 38 proxy plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
01/11/2024	Meeting with Penelope, BCP Chiefdom lead	Nyimba	The AENOR audit team interviewed the BCP employee who was affirmative with the following topics regarding her work. Coordination with local authorities, community relationships and other missions in Nyimba. Her employment with BCP and onboarding processes, staff rights, grievances resolution mechanisms in her employment, staff capacity building and support to do her job effectively, BCP adherence to national and local laws. Her personal confidence in the project prosperity and benefit to the community and her career growth in BCP are green lighted.	The Gender inclusivity was emphasized by the staff as much as she is practicing them in her jurisdiction.
1/11/2024	Meeting with Luembe CFMG	Luembe Chief and CFMG in Nyimba	During the meeting with the Luembe Chief representative and CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their	Luembe CFMG has worked with the LCFP in Nyimba where community engagement activities including training done seasonally by lead farmers also trained by BCP have been done already. It was clear with posters indicating the upcoming audit Visit between October and November 2024. Issues experienced involved the delay of carbon funds (M5 verification due to the CDM update required by Verra during the PRR

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	stage) which was effectively communicated to them by BCP.
1/11/2024	Leakage Plot visit	Nyimba (Lkg 47)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Lkg 47 leakage plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	3 stumps have been observed by the audit team. Nonetheless, the values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
1/11/2024	Leakage Plot visit	Nyimba (Lkg 48)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Lkg 48 leakage plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	This is a PAI1 leakage plot. The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
1/11/2024	Biomass Plot visit	Kazumba Game ranch (Kam10)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Kam10 Biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
3/11/2024	Meeting with the Community Scouts at BCP Office	Lundazi BCP Field Office	The meeting focused on the backgrounds of the community scouts prior to joining BCP, including how they applied and became part of the organization. It also covered their experiences with BCP-supported training, the tools they use to effectively carry out patrols, and their rights as staff members, with attention to both women and men. Additionally, the discussion included the grievance resolution mechanisms in place and the benefits derived from their work. The meeting also addressed whether refresher training sessions are conducted.	They are also responsible for biodiversity monitoring where they mention that they have seen more animals than before. They attribute this to the growth and protection of forests.
3/11/2024	Meeting with the Chief	Kazembe Chiefdom	The meeting centered on the background of the community and chiefdom before joining BCP. He shared how he was initially approached by the community to invite BCP and willingly gave his consent for the stakeholder engagement to move forward. Over the past two years, by signing relevant documents, he has shown his commitment to the LCFP, enabling his community's participation in the project. During the sensitization process, he was invited to meetings to raise awareness about the project, where key topics such as FPIC,	He urged BCP to expedite payments even though they have been informed of the delays (M5 verification due to the CDM update required by Verra during the PRR stage; M6 verification in process).

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and the benefit-sharing mechanism were discussed in detail. These discussions were formally documented through meeting minutes and agreements.	
03/11/2024	Meeting with Moffat and Elly (BCP staff in charge of sourcing PAI4)	Lundazi BCP office	The sourcing officers responsible for recruiting new chiefdoms described their process of sensitization, which begins with meetings with the chief, the VAG (Village Action Group), and the Indunas. Afterward, they proceed to engage with the community directly, village by village, to train and raise awareness about the new project involving community land. Key messages conveyed during these sessions include the importance of active participation in community forest protection, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and the benefit-sharing plan. The involvement of other government agencies and project partners is also highlighted as crucial in these sensitization meetings, which have been held recently.	The sourcing officers are the team responsible for overseeing all aspects of onboarding, including project documentation, stakeholder engagement, and participation. They have a dedicated logistics team that camps in the community for several days to carry out this essential project requirement.
4/11/2024	Meeting with Kazembe CFMG	Kazembe (PAI3)	During the meeting with the Kazembe DNPW officer and the CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG	The Kazembe CFMG has collaborated with the LCFP on various community engagement activities. During this collaboration, a CFMG member raised an issue of encroachment, and the process of addressing the encroacher was

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	carried out and documented. Such information was shared with the VVB.
4/11/2024	Biomass Plot visit	Kazembe (Kaz 8)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Kaz 8 Biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.
4/11/2024	Biomass Plot visit	Kazembe (Kaz 16)	The audit team, together with the FMT team, visited the Kaz 16 Biomass plot, where they used a handheld device to navigate to the geotagged plot center. The audit team verified the plot coordinates by uploading them to the central point, which was successfully located. Throughout the process, the FMT team diligently followed all SOPs as they conducted the remeasurement of the trees within the plot.	The values collected on these samples were compared to those values reported in the biomass inventory data, confirming that the forest inventory has been done properly, without any significant biomass overestimations.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
5/11/2024	Meeting with the District Agricultural coordinating officer (DACO)	Chama	The DACO was clear and direct in confirming the following points regarding BCP and its work in Chama and the surrounding areas: Stakeholder meetings were conducted thoroughly, with his active participation, and there was no coercion involved; rather, it was the community's initiative to invite BCP to collaborate with them. The grievance resolution mechanism (GRM) utilizes the existing structures within the chiefdom, although no significant issues have been reported. Additionally, they work closely with lead farmers to promote good agricultural practices within the community.	
6/11/2024	Meeting with the Chief	Lundu (PAI4)	The meeting centered on the background of the community and chiefdom before joining BCP. The Chief shared how he was initially approached by the community to invite BCP and willingly gave his consent for the stakeholder engagement to move forward. Over the past two years, by signing relevant documents, he has shown his commitment to the LCFP, enabling his community's participation in the project. During the sensitization process, he was invited to meetings to raise awareness about the project, where key topics such as FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and the benefit-sharing mechanism were discussed in detail. These discussions were formally	BCP has carried out several activities in his area, including CSA training for lead farmers, CFMG meetings, VAG meetings, a forest monitoring meeting, and a meeting on benefit-sharing. They have been informed about the payment delays but have urged that the payments be expedited (M5 delayed as per CDM update when raised in the PRR findings from Verra side). Even though this had already been communicated by BCP.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			documented through meeting minutes and agreements.	
6/11/2024	Meeting with Lead Farmers	Lundu Chiefdom	The meeting focused on the recruitment process for lead farmers, as well as key topics such as FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and agricultural practices including land preparation and farming operations before BCP's involvement. It also covered workshop topics during the transition period, the training provided, and the support tools available for working with BCP. Additionally, the discussion included a comparison of yields, and the impact of the new practices introduced by BCP. Participants highlighted the positive outcomes and the community's growing confidence in the new farming methods.	They highlighted the new agriculture practices as easy and sustainable.
6/11/2024	Meeting with Lundu CFMG	Lundu	During the meeting with the Lundu CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship	Lundu CFMG is collaborating with the LCFP on various community engagement activities like scouts and lead farmers.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	
6/11/2024	Meeting with Chrispin, the Community Liaison Officer at FZS	Lundu	As a stakeholder and partner to the LCFP project, they have common interest in conservation of wildlife in the North Luangwa National Park, by virtue of working in the same Lundu community, they collaborate in various activities and that there has never been any conflict of interest. They have been invited to all meetings in the community areas to attend and align their agenda.	FZS commends BCP for the outreach to the most vulnerable areas and they have received positive feedback.
6/11/2024	Meeting with Mr. Musaba, the provincial Forestry Officer	Chinsali	The PFO has been actively engaged in all recent stakeholder meetings organized by BCP and has played a leading role in the establishment of the CFMGs in Mpika, Nabualia, and Mukungule. He views the processes led by BCP as forward-thinking and sustainable, particularly appreciating their efforts to reach remote areas like Nabualia—an achievement he finds especially commendable. He expressed his gratitude to the sourcing team for their effective outreach to villages within the chiefdom, helping to raise awareness about the LCFP project, onboarding, and other key initiatives. Additionally, he mentioned the ongoing discussions in Parliament regarding carbon project laws. Despite these debates, he emphasized that the	

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			overall approach remains focused on ensuring that CFMG are fully informed about the project. This important work has already been carried out by BCP.	
7/11/2024	Meeting with the Chief	Mukungule (PAI4)	The meeting centered on the background of the community and chiefdom before joining BCP. He shared how he was initially approached by the community to invite BCP and willingly gave his consent for the stakeholder engagement to move forward. Over the past two years, by signing relevant documents, he has shown his commitment to the LCFP, enabling his community's participation in the project. During the sensitization process, he was invited to meetings to raise awareness about the project, where key topics such as FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and the benefit-sharing mechanism were discussed in detail. These discussions were formally documented through meeting minutes and agreements.	BCP has carried out several activities in his area, including CSA training for lead farmers, CFMG meetings, VAG meetings, a forest monitoring meeting, and a meeting on benefit-sharing. They have been informed about the payment delays but have urged that the payments be expedited. Even though this had already been communicated by BCP. Another carbon project different to the one of BCP have control of two CFMGs (Chovela and Chisala) areas while BCP has gotten FPIC from Mukungule CFMG. The VVB reviewed this information and considers there is no risk of double accounting.
7/11/2024	Meeting with Lead Farmers	Mukungule Chiefdom	The meeting focused on the recruitment process for lead farmers, as well as key topics such as FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms (GRM), and	They highlighted the new practices as easy and sustainable.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			agricultural practices including land preparation and farming operations before BCP's involvement. It also covered workshop topics during the transition period, the training provided, and the support tools available for working with BCP. Additionally, the discussion included a comparison of yields, and the impact of the new practices introduced by BCP. Participants highlighted the positive outcomes and the community's growing confidence in the new farming methods.	
7/11/2024	Meeting with Mukungule CFMG	Mukungule	During the meeting with the Mukungule CFMG, several key topics were discussed, including stakeholder consultations, community engagement, agreements, FPIC, grievance resolution mechanisms mostly regarding encroachment, animal human conflicts, and the community's benefit-sharing plan. The CFMG understood their roles in forest and wildlife protection since they co-exist with them and demonstrated a strong understanding of these topics and confirmed their active involvement in these processes. They also emphasized the positive and ongoing relationship with the LCFP in their area, noting that their daily interactions with the project have been constructive and beneficial.	Mukungule CFMG is collaborating with the LCFP on various community engagement activities like scouts and lead farmers.
07/11/2024	Closing meeting	Mpika	A debrief was conducted with the two BCP staff present. The purpose was to summarize the audit	The PP agreed to cooperate with the VVB during the coming days.

Date	Activity	Place	Outcomes	Other information
			mission and inform them to anticipate the forthcoming findings that usually come in the three sections of CAR, CL and FAR. Confidentiality principles have been assured during the audit process and continuously. It was emphasized that additional evidence of various project sections, along with other requested documentation, would be needed as necessary.	

It is important to note that the VVB maintained three videoconference technical meetings on the week of the 21st of October 2024, regarding GIS, carbon accounting and NPRR, a part of other meetings between October and December.

See different images of the site visit attached in Appendix 05 of this report.

2.5 Resolution of Findings

Findings established during the verification can be seen as a non-fulfilment of verification criteria or an identified risk to fulfilling the project objectives. The findings could take the form of a Corrective Action Request (CAR), Forward Action Request (FAR) or Clarification Request (CL).

A Corrective Action Request (CAR) shall be raised if one of the following situations occurs:

- Non-compliance with the program requirements or applied methodology is found in the project description and/or has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient.
- Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions which will impact the number of emission reductions.

A Clarification Request (CL) shall be raised if the information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable VCS requirements have been met.

A Forward Action Request (FAR) shall be issued for actions if the project implementation, monitoring and reporting require attention and/or adjustment for the following verification period.

As a result of this assessment, 9 findings were found, six (6) Corrective Action Requests (CARs) and three (3) Clarification Requests (CLs). CAR and CLs were closed based upon adequate responses from the project proponent, which met the applicable requirements; findings were reassessed before their formal acceptance and closure. All results, including the issues raised, the responses from the project proponent and the conclusions, are contained in Appendix 3. All required changes are observable in the latest MR Version /1/ and the relevant annexes.

Three (3) FARs have also been raised, to be resolved in the next verification period.

Following the resolution of findings, the AENOR auditor concluded that the MR /1/ is accurate and complete and provides an understanding of the nature of the project and the project's benefits on climate. In addition, the project proponent demonstrates how emission reductions are reached, monitored and reported.

2.5.1 Forward Action Requests

Some FARs have been raised during this verification process.

1. FAR number one (1).

In line with methodology deviation number 5 (see the MR for more information), this FAR has been raised to provide assurance that any overestimation of emission reductions (ERs) due to the use of PAI 1 carbon stock value (246.1 tCO₂e/ha) for PAI-4 is compensated during the next verification. This (risk of) overestimation, in the case demonstrated by the VVB in charge of the next verification, will have to be compensated by the PP in the following verification period as soon as the PP updates the carbon stock values for the PAI-4 based on remote sensing and ground-truthing monitoring.

Although the audit team has received assurance from the PP's forest inventory raw data for PAI 4, the VVB has access to the updated forest inventory data for PAIs 1 to 3, and have visited plots among the three PAIs on different site visits, which should clearly identify an underestimation of emission reductions (nothing related to an overestimation), as carbon stock value for PAI-1 is significantly lower than those reported for PAI-4.

However, as the VVB has not (yet) visited biomass plots for PAI 4, which will have to be pursued in the next verification, this FAR is requested to comply with Section 2.2 of the VCS Standard v4.7, which states that the principles taken from ISO 14064-2, among others, are Accuracy, Transparency and Conservativeness.

2. FAR number two (2).

A Forward Action Request (FAR) is issued to monitor the potential risk of double claiming in the future, depending on the outcome of the client's grace period request /182/. This FAR would focus on the following actions:

Monitoring the Outcome of the Grace Period Request: Track and document the final decision regarding the client's application for a three-year grace period to independently generate ERs under the LCFP, despite the implementation of the EP-JSLP.

Clarification of ER Ownership: Ensure that once a decision is made, the ownership and allocation of ERs are clearly defined between the LCFP project and the EP-JSLP to prevent overlap and double claiming.

This FAR ensures monitoring and actions to mitigate any potential future risks related to double claiming.

3. FAR number three (3).

A new Forward Action Request (FAR) is issued because there is a time-gap between the available satellite imagery (April) and the end of the monitoring period (December). Although this gap has been consistent since the beginning of the project and has been deemed correct during the last verification events, there is a risk that significant disturbances may not be detected.

This FAR must ensure that, by the end of the baseline validity period, the PP provides evidence of continuous monitoring without any gaps, and that all deforestation events have been accounted for avoiding any time-gap between the available satellite imagery.

2.6 Eligibility for Validation Activities

AENOR has conducted the verification considering the paragraph 4.1.20 VCS standard. AENOR holds accreditation for validation and verification for the sectoral scope 14. Agriculture, Forestry, Land Use.

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

During the current monitoring period one methodology deviation (the fifth), connected to one of the FARs raised in M5 monitoring period (1st of January 2022 to 31st of December 2022) has been reviewed by AENOR's audit team through visiting biomass plots in PAI-2 and PAI-3. The requested methodology deviation was using PAI-1 carbon stocks for PAIs 2 and 3 PAAs, as the raw data collected by the PP, and reviewed by the VVB during M5 verification, was indicating that carbon stocks in PAIs 2 and 3 were higher than those reported for PAI 1, being a conservative decision that would allow the PP to continue with the verification. The VVB visited the following biomass, leakage and proxy plots:

- Mpa12 (Mpanshya), Kam10 (Kazumba Game ranch) (PAI2 biomass plots)
- Mbu10 (Mbuluma), Mbu0 (Mbuluma), Kaz8 (Kazembe) and Kaz16 (Kazembe) (PAI3 biomass plots)
- Lk2 (Mpanshya), Lk47 (Nyimba) and Lk48 (Nyimba) (leakage plots)
- Prx19 (Shikabeta), Prx27 (Nyalugwe) and Prx38 (Nyimba) (proxy plots)

AENOR's audit team collected and sample data from these plots, and compare such data with the forest inventory performed by the PP, deeming the figures as correct. Moreover, the VVB could confirm through such review that, indeed, PAIs 2 and 3 have higher carbon stocks than PAI 1, which would not require the PP to make any discount to claimed ERs in M5 verification, as the PP requested less ERs than those they could be claimed using PAIs 2 and 3 carbon stock data.

A part of this fifth methodology deviation, there are other 4 methodology deviations similar to the ones verified in previous monitoring reports (find more information in Section 3.1 below).

Finally, the PP has requested a sixth methodology deviation, requesting to use the average carbon stock for PAIs 1 to 3 for PAI 4, whose plots will have to be visited in the next verification (M7) to assess if any ER overestimation happened during M6, and discount it as necessary. Find more information below.

3.1 Methodology Deviations

There is a new methodology deviation applied in this monitoring period (see number 6 below).

The following 5 methodology deviations (also described in section 3.2 of the MR) were applied to the project from previous monitoring periods:

1. Demonstration of Forest Age

The methodology requires (in PDR.22) that a digital GIS-based) map of the project accounting areas, including aerial or satellite imagery showing that they are comprised of forests or native grasslands as

of the project start date and 10 years prior to the project start date. The project did not meet this requirement because it chose to map forests in the project area with PALSAR radar data and the earliest available data for that sensor is from 2007. The Audit team did a desktop assessment using the PD/1/ and the MR/2/ together with the audit visit to the community forests and interviews where they visualized undisturbed forests with beneficial community coexistence. The LCFP project areas are virgin forests that were previously remote and some are inaccessible. Thus, there is no history of large disturbances in the area that would have been followed by regeneration between 2005 and 2007. An accurate 2007 forest map of the areas was used and it was indistinguishable from a 2005 map.

VCS Standards v 4.4, Section 3.18 Methodology Deviations, sets the requirements that a project shall fulfil to ask for a methodology deviation. Based on the evidence that supported the methodology deviation, such as the review of the forest inventory validation estimations /6-19/, AENOR's audit team deems that the proposed deviation is more efficient for project-specific circumstances, and it has allowed to achieve, at least, the same level of accuracy that what is set out in the methodology.

AENOR's audit team deems that the proposed methodology deviation meets with the criteria and specifications for permitted methodology deviations as set out in Section 3.18 of the VCS Standards v 4.4, and that the deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions. The audit team considers that the methodology deviation is valid.

2. Leakage Plot Protocol

The PP described a minor deviation of the visual approach for leakage monitoring (Appendix R, VM0009). During the audit team visit, one leakage plot was visited and the demonstration of the leakage determination was such that no stumps were left out of the accounted figures. Instead of forest Inventory team members estimating degradation, they were required to geo-reference every felled tree in the permanent plots and the total number of felled trees were compared against the average density of trees/ha in the project accounting area, again avoiding biased estimations/erroneous counting of trees in 1 ha plots. This value was then placed in a degradation category as per VM0009. This variation meets the criteria and specification of the methodology deviation as outlined in section 3.1.8 of the VCS standard V4.4 and has been validated for use in the previous monitoring periods (M1-M4/3/).

Though previously validated, AENOR's audit team deems that the proposed methodology deviation meets with the criteria and specifications for permitted leakage plot /35/ protocol methodology deviations as set out in Section 3.18 of the VCS Standards v 4.4, and that the deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions. The audit team considers that the methodology deviation is valid.

3. Biomass estimation

The VVB has reviewed and assessed the proposed methodology deviation included in Section 3.2.1 of the MR regarding biomass estimation in the project. In this regard, a detailed process was followed to confirm that the methodology deviation has been applied correctly and consistently:

The audit team analyzed the use of two different allometric equations to estimate above ground biomass. These equations were developed from data provided by Professor Chudimayo from Zambian Miombo, and the first equation was used to estimate the biomass of trees up to 63 cm in diameter at breast height (DBH), assuming that trees between 55 cm and 63 cm DBH have the same biomass as a 55 cm DBH tree. The second equation was developed by Mugasha et al. in Tanzanian Miombo to estimate the biomass of trees between 63 cm and 110 cm DBH, assuming that trees greater than 110 cm DBH have the same biomass as a 110 cm DBH tree.

The audit team reviewed the presented evidence /184/, which provided a detailed analysis of how the allometric equations were applied and validated in the context of the project. It was verified that the methodology deviation, as described in Section 3.18 of VCS Standard version 4.4, was applied correctly and did not negatively affect the quantification of greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions.

After reviewing the evidence and the data provided, the audit team concluded that the methodology deviation has been applied consistently throughout the process, without causing overestimations or underestimations in the GHG emission reduction calculations. Finally, the audit team considered that the proposed methodology deviation meets the criteria and specifications set out in the VCS standards, and does not affect the conservativeness in the quantification of GHG emission reductions. The methodology deviation was validated as valid and appropriate for the project.

In summary, the VVB has assessed all steps taken in applying the methodology deviation in biomass estimation, confirming that it was applied correctly, consistently, and in accordance with VCS standard requirements.

4. Soil Emission Calculations

The project proponent describes in section 3.2, that the VM0009 baseline soil emissions model assumes that SOC in deforested areas will deplete to the same value as the proxy area after 5 years. Project SOC emissions are supposed to be tracked directly through field measurements in encroached areas.

The audit team visited the project area and observed that the main drivers of deforestation being the smallholder farmers who instead of deliberately choosing high fertility areas for conversion with higher-than-average SOC values. With this methodology, encroachment that causes an increase in SOC is not consistent with the community in relation with what is occurring to soil stocks. To avoid this bias, the Project Proponent assumed that once encroached, the average SOC stocking per ha in the encroached area becomes the proxy area SOC stocking.

AENOR verified that encroachment has not been experienced so far and these methodology deviations were validated in previous verification events and are therefore valid.

The new methodology deviation and the assessment made by AENOR's audit team can be found below:

5. Carbon Stock Figures – New Project Activity Instances (only applicable to M5 MP)

In correlation with PRR finding number 6 raised by Verra in M5 monitoring period, related to the non-installation of biomass plots within PAI3 (see also PD deviation section for more details on the

construction of a new reference area that complies with VM0009 size requirements, designed for being used for a Project Accounting Area or PAA that includes the three project PAIs), the PP decided to request a conservative methodology deviation to use the first instance accounting area carbon stock value of 236.2 tCO₂e/ha in PAIs 2 and 3.

The PP has quoted some studies, such as Handavu et al. (2021) and Bulusu et al. (2021), to provide assurance that disturbances of miombo woodlands across Zambia (i.e., wood harvesting or charcoal production) affect plant density and height, which is likely to affect carbon storage of these woodlands. Other paper quoted by the PP, Bouvet et al. (2018), highlight the available challenges and uncertainties associated with accuracy when estimating carbon stocks in African woodlands. AENOR's audit team assessed the implications of these three studies, acknowledging that Handavu et al. have identified that Miombo woodlands across the Sub-Saharan Africa region have estimated carbon stocks values ranging between 167 tCO₂e/ha and 845 tCO₂e/ha, which indicates the audit team that there is high variability that results in high uncertainty.

The LCFP project management team developed its own forest inventory data using locally derived allometric equations as mentioned in section 4.3 of the MR. Within Section 2.3.1 of the VCS MR, the PP explains the carbon stock values applied for the three PAIs (but calculated for PAI-1), and the remeasurement strategy of measuring 20% of the biomass plots per year, so that the project's overall carbon stock estimates are updated every 5 years after all plots have been re-measured.

As highlighted in other sections, the upcoming carbon stock dataset would be updated for the 2023 crediting period (M6) as the biomass plot monitoring rotation started in 2019. The forest inventory raw data for PAIs 2 and 3 to date (Appendix G) /138/, assessed by AENOR's audit team, clearly indicates that the carbon stocks in PAI-2 (551.38 tCO₂e/ha) and PAI-3 (388.26 tCO₂e/ha) are actually higher than the PAI-1 value of 236.2 tCO₂e/ha.

Moreover, as assessed by the audit team, there are relevant studies conducted in miombo woodlands that report carbon stocks that are higher than those used by the LCFP project in the current MP. For instance, Munishi et al. (2010) calculated Miombo carbon stocks values of 385 tCO₂e/ha in the southern highlands of Tanzania, and Missanjo et al. (2015) obtained carbon stocks of 845±16 tCO₂e/ha in Chongoni, Malawi.

The PP, therefore, conservatively considered the use of the lower value of all the three instances for this MP as conservative decision, 236.2 tCO₂e/ha. The PP will update the carbon stock master dataset for the next monitoring period, and use these values in the next monitoring period.

Moreover, two FARs have been raised, one of them in correlation with the submission request of this methodology deviation, to provide assurance that any overestimation of ERs due to the use of PAI-1 carbon stock value for the three PAIs will have to be compensated in the following verification period, as soon as the PP updates the carbon stock values for the three PAIs based on remote sensing and/or ground-truthing monitoring. Even though the audit team has received assurance from the forest inventory raw data for PAIs 2 and 3 /138/, as mentioned above, this FAR is requested to comply with Section 2.2 of the VCS Standard v4.4, which states that the principles taken from ISO 14064-2, among others, are

Accuracy, Transparency and Conservativeness. Therefore, AENOR audit team deems that methodology deviation number 5 is conservative and applicable.

6. Carbon Stock Figures – New Project Activity Instances (PAI-4)

The PP chose to use carbon stock value representative of instance 1 due to incomplete biomass plot data for instance 4 (the VVB has not been able to visit plots inside PAI 4). The project has identified this as a methodology deviation and has chosen to use the revised instance 1 accounting area carbon stock value of 246.1 tCO₂e/ha for PAI-4 that is the lowest carbon stock value among the three PAIs. Although the project is aware that there are other carbon stock figures in the literature, it decided to choose one from the PAI-1 for the following reasons assessed by AENOR's audit team:

According to AENOR's assessment, throughout Zambia, miombo forests are in varying states of disturbance by human activity, mostly from selective wood harvesting for the manufacturing of charcoal, which has altered the species diversity and canopy structure. These extractive practices frequently alter the ecosystem to the point where it is susceptible to more deterioration. According to studies like Handavu et al. (2021) and Bulusu et al. (2021), these disturbances have a major impact on plant height and density, which is probably going to have an impact on how well these forests store carbon. Additionally, although efforts to quantify carbon stocks in African woods have progressed recently, accuracy issues and ambiguities remain, as detailed by Bouvet et al. (2018).

Estimated carbon stock estimates from field research in Miombo forests throughout Sub-Saharan Africa range from 167 tCO₂e/ha to 845 tCO₂e/ha (Handavu et al., 2021). This suggests a significant degree of variability that creates a great deal of uncertainty when attempting to relocate. Therefore, instead of depending on literature, the LCFP, as assessed by the VVB, used data from its own forest inventory. As stated in section 4.3 and 3.2.1 of the MR, locally derived allometric equations are used to determine the project's carbon stocks.

The LCFP has not completed monitoring PAI-4 biomass plots at the time of preparing MR M6, however preliminary data for PAI-4 shows a higher carbon stock value of 321 tCO₂e/ha, as assessed by the VVB /59/ reviewing the updated carbon stock values for PAIs 1 to 3 and the raw data collected for PAI 4. The project, therefore, conservatively considered the use of the lower value among the three PAIs of 246.1 tCO₂e/ha from PAI1, instead of the higher values from in PAI2 and PAI3, which are 599.6 and 380.8 tCO₂e/ha, respectively. If complete data for Instance 4 becomes available in the next verification (M7) and the updated carbon stock value become also available and it is affirmed that the carbon stock applied to PAI-4 during this monitoring period reveals an overestimation, the project will compensate during the next verification, as FAR1 requires the next VVB during M7 verification.

The majority of studies carried out in Miombo forests have reported carbon stocks that are larger than those utilized by the LCFP project during the current monitoring period (M6), which the VVB has taken into consideration. For example, Missanjo et al. (2015) determined carbon stocks of 845±16 tCO₂e/ha in Chongoni, Malawi, and Munishi et al. (2010) determined Miombo carbon stocks values of 385 tCO₂e/ha in Tanzania's southern highlands.

Therefore, these statistics, along with the initial carbon stock of 321 tCO₂e/ha /185/ demonstrate that the carbon stock value of 246.1 tCO₂e/ha from PAI-1, which was calculated locally and confirmed and verified by the VVB during this verification process, is a conservative stand-in value that may be utilized until the project receives complete instance 4 biomass data.

Therefore, AENOR audit team deems that methodology deviation number 5 is conservative and applicable.

The Project remains in compliance with the VCS rules, it is completely implemented, and discrepancies have been commented on in the MR and suitability assessed by AENOR.

3.2 Project Description Deviations

The following 4 project description deviation were applied to the project from previous monitoring periods:

Parameters $t^{[i-1]}$, $t^{[m]}$, $t^{[m-1]}$, $U_B^{[m]}$, $U_{EM}^{[M]}$ have been included as data and parameters. They were mistakenly excluded from section 3.3.2 of the validated PD, but they are monitored during the crediting period and therefore this omission does not impact on the applicability of the methodology, additionality or appropriateness of the baseline scenario. Thus, the audit team considers the deviation to be valid and that the project remains in compliance with the VCS rules.

AENOR verified that this project description deviation was validated in previous verification events by checking the validated PD, validation report and all previously issued MRs and verification reports, published in Verra's Registry.

The Section 3.3.3 of the validated PD, and section 3.2.2 of the Monitoring report was assessed by the AENOR audit team. The section describes the Sentinel-2 or Landsat imagery as data sources for the project visual interpretation of forest disturbance analysis but not including the incorporation of the 4.77m spatial resolution Planet-NICFI mosaics dataset. Section 3.3.3 of the validated PD does not also clearly describe any accuracy assessment procedure for the manually digitized visual forest disturbance analysis. As a result of incorporating Planet-NICFI mosaics dataset in the forest disturbance visual analysis and an accuracy assessment procedure in the current monitoring period, section 5.2 of the Monitoring report was updated by the PP to include the dataset.

The Project Proponent applied a SOP to guide the manual digitization of converted areas, named Manual Deforestation mapping SOP, which also included an accuracy assessment procedure /see 13/.

The incorporation of Planet-NICFI mosaics as a data source for the forest disturbance analysis is attributed to its good spatial resolution of 4.77m, making identification and manual digitization of forest disturbance easier and improves accuracy. Considering that forest disturbed areas are only monitored during the crediting period, both deviations do not impact on the applicability of the methodology, additionally or appropriateness of the baseline scenario. In addition, the use of Planet-NICFI mosaics dataset improved the accuracy of the analysis and did not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions. The Planet-NICFI mosaics dataset and the accuracy assessment procedure will be included in the PD at the next project baseline re-evaluation.

A part of the previous PD deviations, there is a new one for this M6 verification process, named as:

- **Addition of new project activity instances and new project proponents**

This M6 MR has been updated to include a new PD deviation. The project proponents and the locations of PAIs are described in Sections 2.1.3 and 2.1.7 of the PD. These two Sections are outdated because this is a grouped project with new project activity instances that have been included since project validation. Nevertheless, the project continues to adhere to the applied methodology, and these modifications to the PD have no effect on the methodology's applicability or the suitability of the baseline scenario. In fact, the PD, section 2.1.7, table 4-6, identified each of these additional project activity cases as feasible possibilities for project expansion.

As acknowledged by the VVB, the PAIs that fell on private properties were added to the list of other organizations interested in the project, whereas the PAIs that fell on community lands led to the creation of new CFMGs that were added to the list of project proponents. For information on all GFMGs and private game ranches, including CFMGs, that are part of the current monitoring period, see Section 3.3 of the MR (Tables 23 and 24). The Ministry of Agriculture, Chama, and Mpika District Offices were also included in the project throughout the present monitoring period.

Thus, the VVB considers this PD deviation as necessary and compliant both with requisites indicated in the VCS MR Template and the VCS Standard v4.7.

Moreover, the PD deviation Early CDM Update applied to M5, as required by FAR2 of the VCS Verification Report in M5 (1st January 2022 to 31st December 2022; mandated by Verra through PRR's findings), has been updated in this M6, with new inputs, outputs, and outcomes. That is why, in M6 MR "PD Deviation" Section, there are no signs of all the explanations provided during M5 MR "PD Deviation! Section, as these have been updated for the new ones. If there is any need to compare the M5 and M6 Early CDM Update assessments, please move to M5 and M6 MRs and/or M5 and M6 VCS Verification Reports, "PD Deviation" Sections in all the cases. See more information below.

- **Early CDM Update (M6)**

During the Project Review Report (PRR) process conducted by Verra for M5 VCS MR, it was concluded the necessity of delineating a new reference area (RA) representative of the whole project area (PA), including all the Project Activity Instances (PAIs) (1, 2 and 3; these were the PAIs eligible in M5 VCS MR, previous monitoring period and verification; the VVB is now verifying M6 MR, 2023 natural year), in accordance with VM0009. This is due to the inclusion of a new PAI (3) in the previous MR (M5; MP 1st January 2022 to 31st of December 2022) that resulted in the initial validated Reference Area (RA) (pre-M5 MRs, the first four VCS verifications performed by LCFP since 2015) not meeting the methodology requirement of (1) "having a forested area at any point in time during the historic reference period (HRP) equal to or more than the project accounting area (PAA)".

As such, aligned with Verra requisites during PRR review of the M5 VCS MR, the VVB decided to raise FAR2 (see M5 VCS Verification Report for more information), which would require the VVB in M6 to review a new updated RA that would comply with the methodology requirement quoted in the previous paragraph (1). The PP has maintained several technical meetings with Verra REDD+ specialists, to agree on a final ideal version of the updated RA, that should be reviewed in a formal VCS verification process by a VVB. Such assessment is the one all readers can find below until the end of the "PD Deviation" Section.

It is important to highlight the efforts made by AENOR's audit team to properly understand and assess the shared files and data related to the delineation of a new RA both in M5 and M6, and all its implications in GHG ERs. Below it can be found a list of all the meetings and/or milestones performed between VERRA, AENOR and BCP to properly comprehend the scope of the PRR findings (second round) raised for M5 VCS MR (MP 2022 natural year) and the steps forward, including the assessment of all the shared files and updates:

- 23/01/2024 – MR5 LCFP PRR Second round of findings were submitted by VERRA.
- 25/01/2024 – MR5 LCFP First meeting with AENOR's audit team to discuss the findings and its resolution.
- 30/01/2024 – AENOR and VERRA sustained a telecom to better comprehend the scope of the still open PRR findings.
- 06/02/2024 – BCP and VERRA sustained a telecom and agreed the way forward for each one of the findings.
- 12/02/2024 – AENOR and BCP meets again to discuss the required updates to comply with VM0009 requirements on reference area size, among other PRR findings (root-to-shoot ratio, inventoried carbon stocks or Emission Factors (EFs), etc.). It was considered to outcomes of VERRA's meetings with AENOR and BCP, separately.
- 14/02/2024 – VERRA sent an email detailing the agreed way forward for each one of open PRR findings.
- 29/02/2024 – MR5 LCFP first intermediate meeting to acknowledge the progress on the delineation of a new reference area, including crosschecking of VM0009 methodology requirements.
- 01/03/2024 – MR5 LCFP second intermediate meeting to acknowledge the progress on the delineation of a new reference area, including crosschecking of VM0009 methodology requirements.
- 22/04/2024 – MR5 LCFP part 1 of the meeting to assess the updates related to GIS-remote sensing, activity data for detecting deforestation, assessment of the PAI-2 and PAI-3 carbon stock measurements and uncertainty analysis to assess the credibility of PAI-1 data for the three PAIs, CDM update (number of CDM interpretation points within the RA, random distribution implementation, SOPs, satellite images used, results and conclusions).
- 23/04/2024 – MR5 LCFP part 2 of the meeting to assess the updates related to GIS-remote sensing, activity data for detecting deforestation, assessment of the PAI-2 and PAI-3 carbon stock measurements and uncertainty analysis to assess the credibility of PAI-1 data for the three PAIs, CDM update (number of CDM interpretation points within the RA, random distribution implementation, SOPs, satellite images used, results and conclusions).
- 02/05/2024 – MR5 LCFP intermediate discussion to resolve some doubts on the shared files, based on a preliminary assessment made by AENOR's audit team.
- 12/06/2024 – MR5 Updated status of meetings between Verra and BCP, regarding the update of the RA.

- 04/07/2024 – MR5 Meeting for assessing Finding 9 still active issues, between BCP and AENOR.
- 31/07/2024 – MR5 Meeting for assessing Finding 9 still active issues, between BCP and AENOR.
- 14/08/2024 – MR5 Meeting between Verra and AENOR. Doubts resolution.
- 26/09/2024 – MR6 Meeting between BCP and AENOR. KOM.
- 01/10/2024 – MR6 1st technical meeting (updated RA) between BCP and AENOR + site visit preparation.
- 07/10/2024 – MR6 2nd technical meeting (updated RA) between BCP and AENOR + site visit preparation.
- 21/10/2024 – MR6 3rd technical meeting updated GIS, between BCP and AENOR.
- 22/10/2024 – MR6 4th technical meeting updated calculations, between BCP and AENOR.
- 23/10/2024 – MR6 5th technical meeting, updated NPRR, between BCP and AENOR.
- 25/10/2024 – MR6 6th technical meeting, updated RA, between BCP and AENOR.
- 18/11/2024 – MR6 explanations after 1st round of findings, updated RA, between BCP and AENOR.

The following AENOR's audit team assessment refers to Project Description Requirements (PDR from now on) 40 to 47 that can be found within VM0009 methodology³.

PDR.40 to PDR.44 refers to those requirements on the delineation of the RA for planned and unplanned types (see page 67 out of 305 of the VM00096), including the following:

- PDR.40 A map of the delineated boundaries, demonstrating that the reference area was held by the identified baseline agent or agents and does not include the project area.
- PDR.41 Results of a spatial analysis to demonstrate the reference area had as much forest or native grassland as the project accounting area at some point in time during the historic reference period.
- PDR.42 Evidence that the management practices of the baseline agent in the reference area are similar to those that would have been applied to the project accounting area or areas in the baseline.
- PDR.43 A description of the rationale for selection of reference area boundaries relative to the respective project accounting area.
- PDR.44 The documentation required in the reference area selection requirements that the selected reference area meets the Reference Area Selection Requirements.

³ <https://verra.org/wp-content/uploads/imported/methodologies/VM0009-Methodology-for-Avoided-Ecosystem-Conversion-v3.0.pdf>

PDR.45 refers to those requirements on defining the RA for planned baseline types (see page 69 out of 305 of the VM0009 methodology³), including the following:

- PDR.45 Evidence that secondary agents have been considered in the delineation of the reference area for baseline types F-P1.a, F-P1.b.

PDR.46 and PDR.47 refers to those requirements on defining the reference period for planned types (see page 70 out of 305 of the VM0009 methodology⁶), including the following:

- PDR.46 Established reference period boundaries.
- PDR.47 The date when the agent acquired control of the reference area or when the land management practices employed in the reference area changed.

Other PDRs, such as 48-66 and 74-75 are assessed after the CDM interpretation points assessment within this same PD deviation.

1.1.Reference Area Selection

AENOR has witnessed that, just like the initial RA (pre-M5 and M5 RA), the selection and delineation of the revised RA (F-U3 baseline type) for LCFP was done using Administrative Ward boundaries data from the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and Central Statistics of Zambia (CSO)⁴. Wards are delineated by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the Central Statistics of Zambia (CSO) for the purpose of the population and housing census and elections. Administrative Wards units were used because they provide a similarity measure, i.e., population density that can be used to relate the RA to the Project Area (PA).

The audit team received the 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2022 Census Population and Housing data /see 88/, and a spreadsheet with all the data organized by Province, District, Area Size, Population, and Population Density, both for the PA and RA and a final comparison between them /88/ (readers will note that Appendix 3 include the evidence reviewed by AENOR's audit team; such Appendix collects the data by type of evidence, and in some cases, one number, such as "/88/", can include 20 pieces of evidence or even more). Figure 9 within the VCS MR provides the new RA and the LCFP PA considering the four PAIs (three PAIs eligible for verification in M5, and the new validated and verified PAI in M6; it is important to note that, according to the meetings between Verra and BCP, the updated M6 RA was created considering PAIs 1 to 3, as these efforts of consolidating a new RA started since the 2nd round of PRR of M5, January 2024. The PP has demonstrated that PAI 4 is eligible to be part of the PA and PAA, as per VM0009 methodology requirements), and also includes cartographic details of the BCP Offices, towns, main roads, rivers, other water bodies, forest reserves, National Parks, and others.

In order to come up with the updated M6 RA, the audit team could assess that the PP selected administrative wards that overlap or are adjacent to PAIs 1 to 3, resulting in the selection of 74 wards. Likewise, after that, a thorough similarity analysis was carried out, comparing each of these wards to the PA using important criteria such as population density, road density, proximity, median elevation, and median slope, whose assessment is explained in the following pages.

⁴ [Ward Boundaries of Zambia – GeoNode](#)

As observed and analysed by the VVB, a rating system was developed to ensure accuracy in assessing wards. Wards were scored based on their alignment with project criteria, with road density and population density given a higher weighting. Other characteristics were weighted identically. The ultimate rank ranged from 7 to 0 with wards in the top three categories given priority for final selection, except for future growth regions. As acknowledged by AENOR, the PP excluded wards with the lowest rankings (0 and 1) and any top-tier wards (ranked 7 or 6) that were excluded due to future expansion plans were compensated by removing an equivalent area from wards ranked #2. Second-ranked wards were arranged according to size, with exclusion starting with the largest and working down until the total excluded area was equal to or greater than the area left out of the highest-ranked wards. In total, from the original mentioned in the previous paragraph, 44 administrative wards were chosen.

Spatial analysis was next performed on the final shp from the previous stage, excluding any areas that were classified as project areas, protected areas, or possible expansion zones. To obtain the final reference region, all places with slopes greater than 45 degrees were further removed. For spatial data, AENOR reviewed Figure 9 of the VCS MR and Appendix I, which include several documents, such as PAI 1 to 4 areas, RA areas, and other documents.

With a total area of 1,316,116 ha, the updated M6 RA was made up of 44 reference administrative wards (6 of which overlap with the original RA wards and 38 of which are new). Five of the original RA wards were discarded as a result of the ward selection process; this means that more than 50% of the initial RA extent was discarded. AENOR's audit team has held several technical meetings to see how this procedure was performed, where it could clearly be seen how these areas were being modified and updated using this criterion. The audit team could ask questions to make sure methodological decisions were in accordance with VM0009 and VCS Standard requirements.

Likewise, using Hansen Global Forest Change data, the study estimated the forested area in the RA in 2000 to show that there was an equivalent or larger amount of forested land at any point over the historical reference period (HRP). According to the efforts made by the PP, which was done using GEE, 1,246,812 ha of forest were covered by trees in 2000. In comparison to the forested area of 1,172,092 ha (PAA) in M6, the RA satisfies the VM0009 size criteria. It must be noted that AENOR's audit team has held technical meetings with BCP to get the necessary level of assurance so that the PP could demonstrate compliance with having a forested area in the RA larger during the historical reference period (i.e., 2000) than the PAA of the four PAIs combined. Also, the VVB could access the GEE of Global Forest Change from GLAD⁵, and the GEE created by BCP specifically for making such assessment, and the results matched with the statements and figures included in the VCS MR. The different layers could be observed and assessed. The data sources could be tracked back to their original links and data providers.

⁵ <https://glad.earthengine.app/view/global-forest-change>

As indicated in Section 6.8.1.1 Reference Area Selection Requirements of the VM0009 Methodology, page 65 out of 305, the RA must address some predetermined criteria (which is quoted below) to ensure that the agents and drivers of conversion are similar to those of the PAA, as well as to prove that those agents performed similarly in the RA to the way they would have performed in the PAA under the baseline scenario. As such, the PP has provided compliance in the VCS MR M6 on how the RA is representative of the PA, for which they have performed a similarity analysis (see the assessment below).

1.2.RA & PAA similarity analysis

The following factors have been considered by the PP in the similarity analysis:

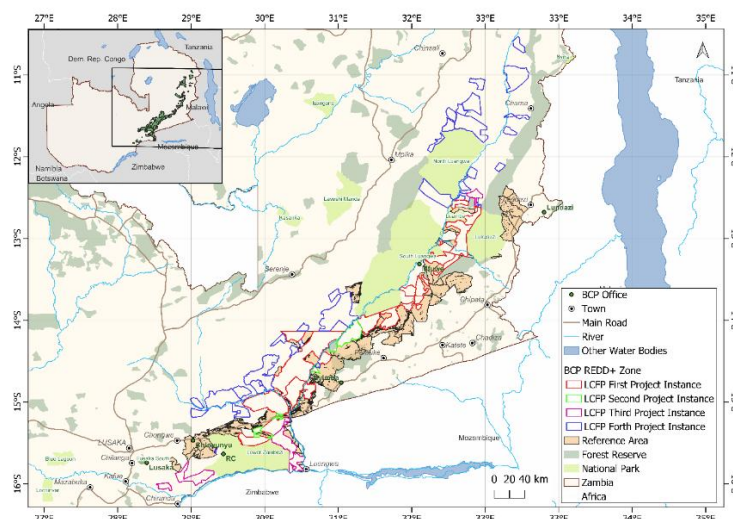
- Geographical proximity factors.
- Road density.
- Accessibility and mobility of the agents of deforestation
- Population density.
- Landscape configuration (Slope and Elevation, Soil Types).

1.2.1. Geographical proximity Factors

31 out of the 44 RA administrative wards overlap with the PA administrative wards and the remaining 13 are adjacent. This indicates, after the assessment made by AENOR's audit team, that the RA is geographically contiguous with the PA, implying that the agents of conversion in the RA are affected by similar cultural and socioeconomic factors as the agents of conversion in the PA, and therefore the social economic status of both the PA and the RA area is considered to be similar.

The same inference can be drawn regarding market access. Given the geographical proximity of the RA to the PA (again, of the total 44, 31 wards overlapping and 13 being adjacent), the same transportation routes/roads passing through the PA also traverse the RA, linking the same major towns. Thus, the reference area exhibits significant similarity in terms of market access as the project area.

Figure 9 of the VCS MR shows the roads and main towns around the PA and RA (find it below).



1.2.2. Road density

For M5 (2022 natural year monitoring period) updated RA, AENOR's audit team acknowledged that the road density similarity analysis between the PA and the RA was conducted using 2 roads data sets:

(1) a historic roads layer (1980-2010) accessed from NASA's socioeconomic data application centre (SEDAC), to assess the road density in the RA at the start of the reference period.

(2) an updated roads layer, with more recent roads (2021), mapped and used to delineate the PAA and to assess the road density in the PA in 2021 (including manually digitized roads made by the PP, as the vast majority of roads present in the PA has not been delineated on publicly available maps).

Nonetheless, for M6 updated RA (as required by FAR2 of the M5 VCS Verification Report and aligned with Verra's PRR findings), the road density similarity analysis was conducted using the same publicly available dataset in both the reference area and the project area. The roads dataset has the same data source as the administrative ward's dataset⁶. Such dataset, as observed by AENOR's audit team, represents the wards of the Republic of Zambia. Wards are delineated by the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) and the Central Statistics of Zambia (CSO) for the purpose of the population and housing census and elections.

The consolidated results are those reported in Table 16 of the VCS MR, which defines the RA in the HRP (1986) and the PA (2022) road density (find it quoted below):

Area	Road Distance (km)	Area Size (km ²)	Road Density (km/km ²)
Reference	1032.95	13,236.67	0.078
Project	437.39	21,374.05	0.020

Nonetheless, BCP explained both to Verra and the VVB that because a 2020 dataset was utilized, the road density data estimated from such dataset misrepresents the status of the RA in 1986. As a result, a proxy parameter (population density) was used because the same trustworthy data set was not available to compare the RA at the start of the HRP 1986 and the PA in 2022. Due of its high association with road density, population density was used. Thus, BCP decided not to use the aforementioned findings (road density) and portray the road density scenarios in 1986 and 2022 in the RA and PA, respectively, using a proxy (population density – strong correlation).

As analysed by the VVB, road density is a proxy for forest access and, thus, threat level. The LCFP's independent deforestation agents and drivers' study /85/ has been made for BCP Community Forests Program in January 2018 by UNIQUE forestry and land use GmbH organisation. This 64-page report, considered and assessed since the beginning of the verification process, identifies the deforestation

⁶ http://riskprofilesundrr.org/layers/geonode:popward/metadata_detail

quantities in the historical reference period (HRP; 2006-2017), the agents of deforestation (smallholder farmers, charcoal producers and consumers, firewood collectors and consumers, migrants and settlers, road infrastructure developer, illegal timber harvesters, miners and fire users), the drivers of deforestation (agricultural expansion, charcoal production, firewood extraction and others), driver variables explaining quantities and locations of deforestation, underlying causes of deforestation, chain of events leading to deforestation and opportunity cost and co-benefits, among many other elements. Such a document found that population density and accessibility to forests—that is, distance to roads, distance to settlements, and slope—are the primary driver variables explaining the amount and location of deforestation.

The results in the proxy for road density 2022 i.e. population density, indicates that the RA was more threatened in 1986, at the beginning of the Historic Period, than the PA in 2022. Therefore, the reference area delineated is considered a conservative choice for a VM0009 reference area in this regard.

It is AENOR's understanding that population density data offers a more comprehensive and accurate view of deforestation pressures than road density alone, as it considers broader socioeconomic variables like infrastructure development, road access, waterways, and electricity provision, thereby reducing the risk of inaccurate depiction of conditions at two different time points.

AENOR's audit team has reviewed the data sources provided both for roads and population /87/, including Census of Population in 1990, 2000, 2010 and 2022, and all the combined data /87a/, spatial data, such SEDAN roads, Africa roads and other /87b/, and others (see /88-9 and 88-10/). The reported information has been representatively sampled, fitting all the disclosed information in the VCS MR.

The results disclosed by the PP in the VCS MR aligns with the explanations and conclusions within the quoted report /85/ above. Thus, based on this similarity analysis factor, the RA delineated is considered a conservative choice for a VM0009 RA.

1.2.3. Accessibility and mobility of the agents of deforestation

LCFP's agents and drivers study quoted in previous similarity analysis factor assessment /85/ established that between 2007 and 2017, all deforestation in Eastern and Lusaka province happened on slopes less than 45 degrees and within 6.5 km from the roads. Therefore, the PP has opted to use these 2 parameters to identify areas that are accessible by the agents of conversion in both the PA and the RA. Thus, for this similarity analysis factor, the PA has been limited to those areas within 6.5 km from roads and slopes of less than 45%. The entire RA is also limited to within 6.5 km of roads, and all areas with slopes greater than 45% were excluded.

Considering that the same distance from roads and slope delimitation was used in the PA to get the PAA (where the CDM is applied) and when delineating the RA, the audit team believes that the RA can be considered similar to the PA as far as accessibility and mobility of the agents of conversion is concerned. The data and argumentation provided confirms it.

1.2.4. Population density

LCPF's agents and drivers' study quoted in the previous two similarity analysis factors /85/, as acknowledged by the audit team, identifies the drivers of deforestation across the entire Eastern and Lusaka Provinces, and thus, includes both the PA and RA. In fact, the study identifies (page 10 out of 64) the following locations:

1. Lusaka Province, Rufunsa District, and Mpanshya Chiefdom.
2. Eastern Province, Nyimba, Mambwe and Lundazi District, and Luembe, Nyalugwe, Jumbe, Msoro, Mnkhanya, Malama, Nsefu and Mwanya Chiefdoms.

In this study (page 26 out of 64, first paragraph), population density was "(...) identified as the driver variable that possesses a clear relationship with historical deforestation, and thus, can explain the quantities of deforestation in the historical reference period in [Lusaka and Eastern Provinces]." Population density in the RA wards in 1986, at the beginning of the historic reference period, was examined in relation to population density in 2021 in the PA's reference wards.

The analysis used the following shared data:

- Ward level population data from 2000 and 2010 census reports /see 87-88/.
- District level 1990-2010 and 2010-2022 average annual population growth rates /see 87-88/.
- 1980-1990 Provincial annual average population growth rates published by the Zambian Central Statistics Office. <https://www.zamstats.gov.zm/2022-census/reports/>

The assessment made by the PP included the estimation of population density figures (which was reproduced using the same spreadsheet /88h/), for the individual RA wards in 1986 (beginning of the historic reference period) and PA wards in 2022. This analysis also used population wards spatial data.

As per AENOR's audit team understanding, the 1990 census report lacked district-level data, so the 1986 population figures were derived using provincial annual growth rates rather than district-level statistics. Furthermore, since the wards of Chamtowa, Kachama, Nyamanongo, and Ukwimi were only established in 2010, their 1986 population figures were calculated using the 2010 population figures as well as the population growth rates from 1980–1990 and 1990–2010. These estimations have been provided via spreadsheet /88h/, which was properly assessed by the audit team.

The population density simplified results for the PA and RA wards are shown in the table below. However, see also Tables 17 and 18 of the VCS MR for specific information by ward, province, district, area size, population and population density, for the RA administrative wards population density in 1986 and the PA administrative wards population density in 2022, respectively. Figure 10 of the VCS MR makes a comparison between the Population Density in the PA Administrative Wards and the RA wards using a line diagram (wards in the vertical axis, and population in the horizontal axis).

	<u>Average Population Density</u> (people/km ²)
<u>Reference Area Wards</u>	6.97
<u>Project Area Wards</u>	15.47

Thus, AENOR's audit team believes that the similarity analysis for the population density factor is sufficient, where it is clear to understand that in the 1986 average population density in the RA wards was estimated to be 6.97 persons per km², while the 2022 population density for PA wards is estimated at 15.47 persons per km². This clearly indicates that there are more people per square kilometer in 2022 in the PA wards than there were in the RA wards in 1986 at the beginning of the HRP.

After considering all the sources of evidence and the assessment provided by the PP, the audit team concludes that:

1. Population density is considered a suitable proxy for deforestation threat, as the agents and drivers of deforestation study /85/ identified population density as the driver variable that possesses a clear relationship with historical deforestation.
2. The results quoted in the VCS MR clearly indicate that the PA faces higher levels of deforestation threat in 2021 compared to the RA at the beginning of the HRP (1986).
3. The choice of the RA for the project is considered conservative and in compliance with VM0009 requirements (PDR.40 to PDR.47).

Population density is regarded as an appropriate proxy for the threat of deforestation since it was found to be the driver variable with a strong correlation to past deforestation by the independent agents and drivers of deforestation study for the project.

1.2.5. Landscape configuration.

1.2.5.1.Slope and Elevation

As indicated in the VCS MR, the PP has provided elevation range, mean and the median, the maximum slope and the mean and median as well. The PP could obtain this data using NASA SRTM Digital Elevation 30m data, for which they estimated such parameters for the PA and the RA using GEE.

During one of VVB's technical meetings with the PP, the audit team requested BCP to share step by step the process to export the data, reproducing all the methods and procedures performed, for which the VVB could assess if there was a match between GEE live results and those reported in the VCS MR. The results were satisfactory, and the VVB could access the datasheet and directly inputted to GEE⁷.

⁷ https://developers.google.com/earth-engine/datasets/catalog/USGS_SRTMGL1_003

The VVB has included below the same slope and elevation table as it has been disclosed in the VCS MR:

Parameter	PAA	RA
Elev_Range (m)	327-1616	315-1497
Elev_Mean (m)	705	785.7
Elev_Median (m)	659.7	755.5
Slope_Max	0-70	0-64.3
Slope_Mean	5.8	4.6
Slope_Median	3.9	3.3

Thus, it is AENOR's audit team understanding that the PAA and RA share similar topography, with mean and median elevation values differing only by 11.4% and 12.7%, respectively. In terms of elevation, the maximum elevation in the PAA is only 7.9% higher than in RA. These differences are within the 20% margin, indicating comparable altitudinal features. The elevation profiles of the two areas are similar, especially in base levels and central elevation inclinations. AENOR's audit team requested information on how the PP selected such 20% threshold as a basis for comparable values (more information in the findings sheet Appendix 3 of this report), for which the responses provided referred to Verra proposing it directly as good practice, and AENOR accepted it as per the many meetings performed between BCP, AENOR and Verra.

Likewise, AENOR's assessment indicates that the slope characteristics show that the PAA and RA are very comparable. The overall slope of the terrain is similar in both regions, as seen by the median slopes differing by 15.4% and the maximum slope in PAA being 8.9% steeper than in RA. Despite the fact that PAA's mean slope is 20.7% greater than RA's, this small difference suggests that both areas have generally moderate topography, with PAA being somewhat steeper. The fact that both regions have the same minimum slope values (0.0°) further suggests that both landscapes contain flat zones. When combined, this input provide credence to the idea that the geographical layouts of the PAA and RA regions are comparable, with only slight differences that do not lessen their overall resemblance.

Moreover, again, all areas with slopes exceeding 45% were excluded from both the PAA and RA. This way, audit team concludes that on average, there is a minimal deference between the RA and the PA as far as vulnerability to deforestation is concerned, highlighting the RA's cautious selection.

The PP has provided the visual interpretation of Elevation and Slope for the PAA and RA, respectively in Figures 11.1 and 11.2 of the VCS MR. This mapping evidence clearly demonstrate how similar both spatial boundaries are. Both figures include other map features, such as cities, main roads, rivers, BCP REDD+ Zone, RA and the four PAI areas. As stated above, the source of evidence is NASA SRTM Digital Elevation 30m, which has been assessed, sampled and reviewed by AENOR's audit team in different moments.

1.2.5.2. Soil Types

The VCS MR provides the dominant soil groups both in the PA and RA, highlighting the presence of:

- Leptosols (LP).
- Luvisols (LV).
- Ferrasols (FR).
- Lixisols (LX).

The analysis performed by the PP, as has been assessed by AENOR audit team through the FAO Harmonized World Soil Database v2.0⁸, reveals that PA and RA share similar soil compositions, with Leptosols and Luvisols being dominant soil types. However, RA has a higher presence of Ferrasols, while Lixisols are only present in the RA (very limited presence).

When considering agricultural expansion as the primary driver of land conversion, the conservative selection of the RA is evident. The RA has a higher proportion of Ferrasols (FR) at 15%, limiting the likelihood of agricultural development. Similarly, the RA has a lower proportion of Luvisols (LV) at 38%, making it more susceptible to agricultural expansion. The RA conservatively meets the "Areas of Limited Soil Productivity" VM0009 requirements, as it contains a greater abundance of more productive soils like Luvisols compared to the RA. This supports the conservative nature of selecting this RA as the final RA spatial boundary for M6, providing a cautious and realistic baseline scenario for land conversion risks.

Thus, considering landscape configuration similarity analysis, the RA and the PA can be identified as similar.

1.3. CDM Sample Points

As there is overlap of the new RA with the initial one, the PP has chosen to estimate the necessary number of CDM interpretation points for the new RA by extrapolating from the CDM point density of the initial RA, utilizing the data already collected for the initial RA and thus, ensuring consistency. VM0009 methodology does not present any limitations to this approach.

The new RA covers a total extent of 1,316,116 ha and based on the original RA point density, i.e. 0.004673662 points per ha, approximately 6,151 points were estimated to be dispersed into the new RA (the old ones for the initial RA plus all the new CDM interpretation points due to the delineation of a new RA that includes the old one, pre-M5 monitoring periods). Nonetheless, the PP discussed it with AENOR's audit team, choosing to allocate more points than those statistically estimated. In total, LCFP team randomly allocated 6,190 points in the new RA.

⁸ <https://www.fao.org/soils-portal/data-hub/soil-maps-and-databases/harmonized-world-soil-database-v20/en/>

As introduced in the previous paragraph, as the initial portion of the RA already had 2,600 points installed, only 3,590 points were installed in the new segment of the new RA. This random distribution was carried out using a script in GEE to ensure an equitable representation across the entire area.

Moreover, the VVB determined the required sample size to verify with a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error. A formula for sample size for proportions in audits or population studies is used. Below are the detailed steps AENOR followed:

1. Define the total population (N): 6,190 selected sampling points.
2. Establish the confidence level (Z): for a 95% confidence level, the value Z is 1.96 (obtained from normal distribution tables).
3. Define the margin of error (E): the allowed error in the estimation is 10% (i.e., $E = 0.1$).
4. Estimate the expected population proportion (p): as there is no prior information about the proportion of "correct" or "incorrect" points in the population, the most conservative value is used:

$p = 0.5$ (assumes maximum variability).

5. Use the formula for sample size for a finite population:

$$n = (Z^2 * p * (1 - p)) / E^2 * (N / (N + ((Z^2 * p * (1 - p)) / E^2 - 1)))$$

Where:

- $Z = 1.96$ (confidence level)
- $p = 0.5$ (expected proportion)
- $E = 0.1$ (margin of error)
- $N = 6,190$ (total population).

Step-by-step calculation performed by AENOR

1. First, calculate the sample size for an infinite population: $n_{inf} = (Z^2 * p * (1 - p)) / E^2 = (1.96^2 * 0.5 * (1 - 0.5)) / (0.1)^2 = (3.8416 * 0.25) / 0.01 = 96.04$

This means that for a very large population, you need to sample 96 points.

2. Adjust the sample size for a finite population: $n = (n_{inf} * N) / (N + (n_{inf} - 1)) = (96.04 * 6190) / (6190 + (96.04 - 1)) = 594614.96 / 6285.04 = 94.63 \sim 95$

Thus, the VVB, based on this sample, required 95 points out of the 6190 selected to meet a 95% confidence interval and a 10% margin of error. Nonetheless, AENOR's audit team decided to increase the sample size from 95 to 200 points.

When increasing the sample size from 95 to 200 points, the margin of error is significantly reduced.

- Initial Margin of Error (95 points): ~10%.
- Estimated Margin of Error (200 points): ~7%.

This lower margin of error provides greater precision, ensuring that results are more representative of the entire population (6,190 points). This way, an improved statistical precision and confidence in results is obtained. The 95% confidence level remains constant, ensuring your findings are reliable and defensible.

A larger sample size reduces variability, making the results more robust and representative of the population. Sampling 200 points increased the likelihood of identifying potential non-conformities or patterns. The VVB wanted to demonstrate diligence and commitment to VCS Standard requirements.

The audit team opened all the files in QGIS as well, and representatively chose random points to assess the credibility of the results, using the same remote sensing files as those utilized by the PP /88/. These files include other kind of documents (R coding, SOPs, shapefiles, spreadsheets), such as:

1. 20241016__LCFP CDM Point Interpretation SOP.docx
2. 20241017_LCFP_M6_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK_1.xlsx
3. LCFP_Annex_cdm_v2.0.R
4. logistic model summary_after_recode.txt
5. proportion.deforestation_after_recode.txt
6. R_Code.csv
7. Rplot.png
8. 20240918_LCFP_M6_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK.xlsx
9. Spatial Data
 - a. 20240919_LCFP_LCFP_RA_CDM_Image_Interpretation_Points_Combined.shp
 - b. 20240925_LCFP_LCFP_RA_CDM_Image_Interpretation_Points_Combined_Grids.shp
 - c. 20241017_LCFP_Reference_Area.shp

In summary, with 6,190 points distributed within the 1,316,116 ha of the new RA, building upon the previous analysis, the new CDM results from a comprehensive executed sampling approach aimed at capturing the diverse characteristics of the RA, as confirmed to the audit team directly via video conference and through the thorough review of the shared files.

The audit team used the LCFP M6 CDM Update Image Interpretation spreadsheet /88.8/, the CDM Update Accuracy Assessment spreadsheet and replicated the procedure in accordance with the LCFP CDM Point Interpretation SOP /88.1/. AENOR's audit team has also accessed and sampled relevant information of the logistical model, including a summary /88.4-5/ and the R model /88.3/, among others.

1.4.Reference Period and Historic Imagery to Parameterize Cumulative Deforestation Model

PDR.48 requires that the PD (this is a PD deviation) must include an established reference period boundaries for the reference period, and the PP performed an assessment that has the following period:

Referenced period start: May 1986.

Reference period end: May 2022.

There are no contradictions considering VM0009 requirements or the VCS Standard.

PDR.49 requires that the PD (this is a PD deviation) must include a list of available historic imagery for the RA with respect to the reference period. As such, the PP has included in Table 19 of the VCS MR M6 a list of available historical imagery for the RA, quoting Landsat 5, Sentinel-2 and NICFI imagery (Planet) within the reference period. The PP shared this available remote sensing files to AENOR's audit team in the form of "Path/Row or Tile Name", so that these files could be located on the Internet, downloaded, and being used for replicating and reproducing the assessment made by the PP. The PP avoided sharing all these files due to its heaving weight.

PDR.50 requires that the PD (this is a PD deviation) must include a timeline of important events as they relate to the agents and drivers of conversion with respect to the reference period. However, there are no specific timeline of events for agents of conversion, so no more information was disclosed by the PP.

PDR.51 requires that the PD (this is a PD deviation) must include a narrative rationale for the selection of the reference period. As such, the PP highlighted that the deforestation in the Eastern Province started in the southern part near settlements along the Great East Road and expanded as the population grew. The deforestation progressed towards the Luangwa valley, and no specific events related to this progression were identified. The project utilized historical imagery from different time periods to analyze deforestation, including Landsat 5 imagery from 1986-2009, Sentinel-2 imagery from 2016-2017, and NICFI images (Planet) from 2020-2022. The incorporation of NICFI images enhanced the accuracy of the analysis compared to Landsat and Sentinel 2 imagery. That narrative has been assessed by the audit team, and deems it correct considering the agents and drivers of conversion study /85/ quoted alongside this PD deviation and the experience of the audit team visiting the project both in 2023 (M5) and 2024 (M6).

PDR.52 to PDR.56 refers to historic imagery to parameterize α , β and θ , including the following:

- PDR.52 A map of the reference area showing the area of "double-coverage".
- PDR.53 Quantification of "double coverage"(greater than 90%).
- PDR.54 A line plot of the historic image dates to confirm stationarity.
- PDR.55 Evidence that all image pixels are not more than 30m x 30m.
- PDR.56 Empirical evidence that imagery is registered to within 10% RMSE, on average.

For PDR.52 and PDR.53, see Figure 12 of the VCS MR, in which the PP have shared a map of the RA and the double coverage points ($\approx 100\%$). The PP specifically chosen imagery to minimize clouds and was thus almost entirely cloud free, resulting in 100% double coverage, meaning that all parts of the RA were covered by the selected imagery at least twice during the historical reference period. As quoted above, 6,190 random points were randomly generated.

For PDR.54, the PP shared in Figure 13 the initial line plot to demonstrate approximate stationarity of historical imagery, and in Figure 14 the updated CDM line plot to demonstrate approximate stationarity of historical imagery. See page 72 out of 305 of the VM0009 methodology, which states that:

“The dates of historic imagery should be plotted on a line plot and this plot should be interpreted for stationarity in the time series of imagery. This is necessary to ensure the estimated time components of the image weights per equation [A.3] are unbiased. The time series is stationary if the image dates are distributed, on average, across the entire historic reference period”.

Thus, as the PP’s updated CDM line plot complies with VM0009 methodology requirements (is stationary and evenly distributed through the timeline), it is deemed correct.

For PDR.55 and PDR.56, as stated in the MR, as identified in Table 19, where all the imagery used for the interpretation points in the reference area are identified, year by year, it is clarified that this imagery was 30-meter resolution or less. The audit team investigated to realize that this very typical remote sensing sources of information (Landsat 5, Sentinel-2, and Planet NICFI) are based on a 30-meter resolution or less. Moreover, the registration for the imagery was visually checked before starting the analysis, as providing live demonstrations via video conference. All of the images were well registered with less than 10% RMSE with the exception of the Landsat 5 image from 1999. The shift in that image was considered while interpreting the images.

PDR.57 and PDR.58 refers to the sampling conversion to parameterize α , β and θ , including the following:

- PDR.57 The sample size.
- PDR.58 A map of the reference area showing the sample point locations.

Within Figure 12 of the VCS MR M6, it can be clarified the RA and the location of the CDM interpretation sample points and double coverage.

For PDR.59 to PDR.62, related to the parameterizing of α , β and θ , they include the following PD requirements:

- PDR.59 The covariates that were considered and their data sources.
- PDR.60 The parameters in θ that were evaluated during model selection.
- PDR.61 The parameters in θ of the selected model.
- PDR.62 The rationale used for selecting θ including comparisons of AIC.

VM0009 allows for using parameters (θ) other than time to improve the fit of the logistic function. However, LCFP team only tested a single model with time and found that it provided a good fit. Therefore, no other parameters were considered. The audit team accessed this data and deemed it in accordance with VM0009.

For PDR.63, it requires a protocol for interpreting land cover state from imagery, which must include guidance for interpreting the following:

- Discerning conversion features using shape, texture and context in the reference area landscape.
- Addressing seasonal variation of vegetation (phenology) within imagery.
- Identifying and addressing the characteristics of specific landscape configurations (i.e., mosaic forest, grassland, etc.).

The point interpretation analysis was conducted using a script in GEE to display the historical imagery and make it easy for the user to navigate to each of the 6,190 points. The script has been shared with the audit team to facilitate the sampling process as quoted above.

A protocol was developed /88.1/, named LCFP CDM Point Interpretation SOP, to guide the 3 interpreters who conducted the work. The protocol was developed by a BCP employee who is an expert in remote sensing in Miombo forests in Zambia and very familiar with interpreting a variety of imagery types. The protocol describes, with illustrations:

- How to discern conversion based on changes in pixels, the shapes of changes, surrounding context, and using supplementary higher resolution imagery.
- Being aware of seasonal changes that occur in vegetation, which was most prominent in June imagery (though the historical imagery was specifically selected to avoid this issue as much as possible).
- Defined deforestation as a clearing of 0.5 ha in order to reduce errors associated with image speckle or degradation that did not lead to deforestation. A 5 x 5 grid of Landsat pixel boundaries was overlayed on the imagery and the protocol required that the interpretation pixel (the center pixel) be deforested and have an orthogonal connection to at least 5 other pixels to be considered deforested.

The audit team accessed the protocol, which include explanations on how to record the data (codes 1 to 4, defining forest, non-forest, cloud and no image), setting up the app, open the GEE server, changing the different remote sensing images (from Landsat 5 to Sentinel 2 and Planet NICFI, or using the same satellite images, but changing the years), interpreting the images with real Miombo examples, etc.

PDR.64 refers to the results of an independent check of the interpretation, and PDR.65 requires evidence that systematic errors, if any, from the independent check of the interpretation were corrected.

As such, the audit team was demonstrated via video conference how they to this independent check. Specifically, a 5% ($6,190 \times 0.05 = 310$) random sample was drawn from the forest state interpretations by the 3 interpreters and compared to a forest state classification performed by another interpreter who is more familiar with the study area.

Table 20 of the VCS MR shows the results of an independent Updated CDM error assessment (that was shared via spreadsheet with the audit team) /88.8/. This table identifies the classification accuracy as well as the Kappa statistic for each of the image dates. The accuracies returned were suitable and well within the criteria stipulated by the methodology. There it can be seen the year, degree of agreement, the Kappa, the standard error and the 95% confidence interval. It is relevant to highlight that Kappa's coefficient is a statistical measure that adjusts for the effect of chance on the proportion of observed agreement.

The data used to determine the errors has been shared with the audit team, including relevant spreadsheets such as:

10. 20240918_LCFP_M6_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK.xlsx /88.8/

On average, there was 97% agreement. No systematic errors were detected, but following guidance from VM0009 v3.0, it was decided to set all values after observed conversion to conversion, so the data was recorded.

PDR.66 and PDR.67 refers to PD requirements on estimating uncertainty in parameters α , β and θ . As such, the following is required:

- PDR.66 The estimated uncertainty from [F.13] and statistical summaries from model fitting software, if available.
- PDR.67 Reference to uncertainty calculations.

Figure 15 of the VCS MR identifies the initial logistic function, whereas Figure 16 provides the updated logistic function used in the CDM interpretation points assessment (M6). This logistic function was fit using a R script.

The audit team, in one of the calls with LCFP, received explanations on each of the R parameters, coding and variables included, and the script was run, providing similar results as those reported in Table 21 (Initial CDM function fitting results from R), Table 21a (M5 Logistic function fitting results from R) and Table 22 (M6 updated logistic function fitting results from R) of the VCS MR. See this last one attached below:

Coefficient	Estimate	Standard Error
α	-0.01711	0.01604
β	0.0002983	0.000003740

To respond PDR.74 and PDR.75, which refers to any covariates to conversion used, it was clarified that no covariates to conversion were used.

Moreover, the audit team has accessed relevant items related to this R script, including the logistic model summary /88.4/, the phased logistic curve after recoding, the proportion of deforestation after recode /88.5/ and the script itself /88.6/. Thus, the audit team deems there is sufficient evidence to assume the data reported in the VCS MR is correct.

Following the review of the justifications and explanations provided by the Project proponent in sections 3.2.1 and 3.2.2 of the VCS MR M6 in addition to the VCS verification report template and VCS standards, the AENOR audit team deems that the deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of the final GHG emission reductions or impacting other parts of the methodology. In fact, the verified ERs including this PD deviation reduces the amount of VCU that will be issued.

The audit team's assessment of the evidence documents and interviews with the project staff concluded that the project deviations regarding Other Entities Involved in the Project are valid and do not affect the Net GHG emissions nor affect the conservativeness of these emissions reductions.

3.3 New Project Activity Instances in Grouped Projects

A new Project Activity Instance (PAI) has been included into the grouped project.

First, the PP describes in Section 3.3 of the VCS MR that a 2nd and a 3rd PAI was added to the LCFP PA during M4 and M5 monitoring period (2021 and 2022 natural years, respectively), particularly 92,990 ha and 199,621 ha (of which 183,507 ha consist of forest according to the Zambian definition of forest), respectively.

Likewise, in the current MP (M6, from the 1st of January 2023 to the 31st of December 2023), a 4th PAI has been included comprising 901,147 ha of PA, of which 743,784 ha consist of forest according to the Zambian definition of forest. Within this forested area, 513,011 ha is calculated as PAA and subject to verification in this MP.

The selected start date for the fourth instance (PAI) of the project (January 1, 2023) is appropriate and reflects the beginning of the implementation of activities in the new communities, as demonstrated by the evidence provided /152-169/ and the milestones achieved in the previous phases and the VVB can affirm such date meets requirement 3.6.17 of VCS Standard v4.7. In addition, section 1.6 of the Monitoring Report clearly justifies the start date for all communities included in PAI 4th. The delineation of the forest areas and the recognition of the communities as CFMGs, completed in 2022, ensure that all necessary conditions for the generation of emission reductions (ERs) have been met, justifying the choice of the mentioned date (January 1, 2023).

The audit team has thoroughly reviewed the provided evidence, including the CFMG recognition documents for the new instance 4 communities /152-169/. These documents were cross-checked with the testimonies of several interviewees during the AENOR site visit and all of them affirmed the CFMG recognition is a critical step to acquire legal rights over the forest and its resources, including carbon, from the Government of Zambia. The recognized CFMGs, listed as the project proponents (PP), have fulfilled all necessary requirements to demonstrate project ownership.

The selected start date of January 1, 2023, is justified as the majority of the PAI #4 chiefdoms had been legally recognized as CFMGs by the start of the current monitoring period. Two of the PAI #4 chiefdoms (Chembe and Mboloma) were granted CFMG recognition during the first quarter of 2023. Meanwhile, the selection and boundary delineation of the project areas, which played a crucial role in emission reduction (ER) generation, were finalized in 2022 /191, 192/. Therefore, it can be affirmed that the project proponents have the legal right to control and operate project activities in PAI #4 from the selected start date.

Table 23 of the VCS MR includes a summary of the actual project area, including REDD+ Project Zones on Private Land, 2nd PAI. This table identifies the specific PAI, Private Game Ranch, Chiefdom, PA (ha), forest area (ha) and PAA (ha).

Table 24 of the VCS MR on the other hand includes a summary of the actual project area, REDD+ Project Zones under communal tenure, 2nd, 3rd and 4th PAIs. This table identifies the specific PAI, Community Resources Boards (CRB), Game Management Areas (GMA), Chiefdom, PA (ha), forest area (ha) and PAA (ha).

The VVB have access to GIS files that clearly determine such data in a way that could be visually interpreted, including all the identified features within Tables 23 and 24 /67-84/. Moreover, as indicated by the guidance on grouped project under the VCS, all the new PAIs (in this case, 4th PAI) shall meet the eligibility criteria for inclusion as it has been explained in Section 2.1.20 of the VCS PD.

The audit team checked the PD grouped project criteria, the MR, all the documents provided, VM0009 requirements and performed interviews with project carbon staff about the eligibility criteria. The VVB spent eleven (11) days on-site between the end of October and the beginning of November 2024.

The audit team also assessed the MR with new instances in Kambombo, Chikwa, Chifunda, Mukungule, Nabwalya, Lundu, Bundabunda, Luembe, Lundu, Mulilo, Chisomo, Shikabeta, Kazembe, Mboshya, Mukungule, Tembwe, Chembe and Mboroma, which have been compared with results on GIS /67-84/. Many of these new instances have been visited by AENOR's audit team during M6 site visit. For more information on project activities, interviews, and others, visit Sections 2.3 and 2.4 and Appendix 5 of this VCS verification report. The criteria and means of verification are outlined below.

Grouped Project Criteria	PP's justification	PP's evidence	VVB assessment
Must be within the chiefdoms already identified as potential future activity instances in the PD	All the project instances are within the project boundaries identified in the PD (page 36-40)	Map showing project boundaries see Figure 9 & 10 and Tables 6 -8 in the PD. See Figure 16.1 in this MR	Section 2.1.7 of the VCS-CCB PD (see the Verra Registry), Figure 9 provides a map of the project zone, project communities, PA, HCVs and sites within the PA. Moreover, Table 4 includes Chiefdoms with potential GMA land for future PAIs, whereas Table 5 includes Chiefdoms with potential other lands for future PAIs and Table 6 identifies Private Ranches with potential lands for future PAIs. Figure 10 of the VCS-CCB PD includes the target areas for potential future PAIs. As required by the grouped project criteria, PAI4 is within the already identified potential

			future PAIs in the PD.
The project type for future project instances must be avoided unplanned deforestation. Accordingly, the end land use in the baseline scenario must be non-forest.	The baseline scenario and the demonstration of additionally are determined for the entirety of the geographic project area within which project activity instances are developed. Like instance 1, Instances 2, 3 and 4 have the end land uses driven by deforestation agents are largely agricultural fields, urban settlements, and degraded landscapes. In these provinces, smallholder agricultural expansion is the dominant driver, with forests being cleared for maize and other crops. Charcoal production, driven by urban demand like Lusaka, leaves extensive degraded areas.	PD, Figure 10, page 40. Vinya 2011, KZ_Drivers and Agents Study_Report (Appendix K).	As indicated by the PP, the baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality applies for the entirety of the geographic PAs, applicable to the four PAIs (Figure 10 of the PD). As indicated in the drivers of deforestation report /85/, used as one of the most important sources of evidence during the entirety of the crediting period, the 4 PAIs areas have the end land uses driven by deforestation agents are largely agricultural fields, urban settlements, and degraded landscapes. Likewise, the VVB visited several areas within PAI 4 (see Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this VCS verification report for more information of the Chiefdoms, GMAs and other visited areas). When visiting this area, AENOR's audit team could acknowledge that the baseline scenario and end land use is equal to those reported in PAIs 1 to 3. Finally, the VVB had interviews with CFMG/CRB, chiefs, stakeholders, and other community members, who described the areas as equal as those reported in PAIs 1-3.
The baseline drivers and agents of deforestation in future project instances must be of the same type as the current project instances - clearing of forested land for expansion of small-holder farming and, or	Instances 2, 3, and 4 share the same agents and drivers of deforestation as those observed in the first instance project areas. In Zambia, deforestation is driven by a consistent set of factors nationwide, as highlighted in various publications and reports. Key agents include smallholder farmers, charcoal producers, firewood collectors, illegal timber harvesters, miners,	Drivers and agents' study by UNIQUE (Appendix K) Vinya 2011, KZ_Drivers and Agents Study_Report (Appendix K).	Baseline drivers and agents of deforestation in PAI-4 is the same type as the PAIs 1 to 3, clearing of forested land for expansion of small-holder farming and or charcoal production. As indicated in the drivers of deforestation report /85/, the 4 PAIs areas (such report analysis dynamics of many regions within Zambia, including those reported as part of PAI-4) have the same drivers of deforestation. Likewise, the VVB visited several areas within PAI 4 (see Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this VCS verification report for more information of the

charcoal production.	and users of fire. Their activities are driven by factors such as agricultural expansion, charcoal production, firewood extraction, infrastructure development, and the use of fire. These pressures are further amplified by underlying causes, including poverty, rapid population growth, insecure land tenure, weak regulatory frameworks, and a heavy reliance on wood fuel		Chiefdoms, GMAs and other visited areas). When visiting this area, AENOR's audit team could acknowledge that the drivers of deforestation are the same to those reported in PAIs 1 to 3. Finally, the VVB had interviews with CFMG/CRB, chiefs, stakeholders, and other community members, who described the drivers of deforestation as equal as those reported in PAIs 1-3. In fact, some of these stakeholders clearly recognised being part of such deforestation in the past, but those REDD+ efforts and finance promised by BCP is allowing them to respect the forest.
Future project accounting areas must have met the Zambian definition of forest for at least 10 years prior to the project start date.	According to the Forest Act 2015, "forest" means any land with a tree canopy cover of more than ten percent and area of more than zero point five hectares and includes young stands that have not yet reached, but are expected to reach, a crown density of ten percent and tree height of five metres that are temporarily under stocked areas. All fourth instance project areas meet the definition of forest and accounting areas were calculated according to the same method as First Activity Instance areas. This is demonstrated in the accounting area delieniation where all forest pixels less than 8 connected pixels are	See the classification method described in the PD. Forest Act 2015 ⁹	All four (4) PAIs meet the definition of forest and accounting areas were calculated according to the same method as 1 to 3 PAIs. The VVB have had access to PAI 4 project area in GIS format /84/, and this data has been exported to QGIS, where the audit team has used different remote sensing tools, including satellite imagery, to check if areas indicated as PAA (forested areas eligible for ERs) are forest areas as per the Zambian definition. The VVB also performed a forest/non-forest sampling, to sample the activity data (accounted deforestation) identified by the PP for the 2023 MP. It is also important to note that the VVB spent 11 days on the PA, visiting many PAI-4 communities, GMAs, CRBs and others. Questions were asked to communities to identify areas that were not forest and by any chance were included as eligible forest. Nothing incorrect was found.

⁹ <https://www.parliament.gov.zm/sites/default/files/documents/acts/The%20Forest%20Act%202015.pdf>

	sieved from the forest non forest classification to meet the 0.5ha minimum requirement.		
Some point within 2km of the perimeter of future accounting areas must have been converted from forest to farming.	Perimeters of the newly added areas under the fourth project activity instance did satisfy this requirement without exception.	See ru value in NER calculations in Appendix G	The VVB reviewed Appendix G NER calculations /59/, and the VVB could identify that perimeters of the newly added areas under the 4 th PAI satisfy this requirement.
Future project accounting areas must be located in a tropical ecosystem and must not contain peat soil.	No peatland was detected in the third project activity instance areas	Spatial data for accounting areas does not overlap with available peatland data (See Appendix I)	The VVB downloaded Zambia Wetlands, Lakes and peatlands datasheet^{10, 11}, and compared such data with the boundaries of the four (4) PAIs, including PAI-4. No issues were found. Moreover, both for activity data re-sampling and for CDM interpretation, hundreds of random points were taken to identify deforestation. At the same, areas that were not in accordance with the VM0009 grouped project requirements were looked for, not finding anything contradictory. Likewise, the VVB interviewed several stakeholders which provided confirmation to AENOR's audit team that there were no peat areas among the forested or non-forested areas accounted by BCP for LCFP.

¹⁰ https://grid3-geoportal-powered-by-esri-africa.hub.arcgis.com/datasets/ef791bcb05db473a9dc4eb04e41664b5_0/about

¹¹ https://www.greifswaldmoor.de/files/images/Global%20Peatland%20Database/Barthelmes%20et%20al_FAO_2017.pdf

For each new accounting area, a reference area meeting the requirements in terms of size and similarity to the accounting area as per section 6.8.1 of VM0009 v3.0 must be delineated.	First instance project areas share a common reference area as the Second, Third and fourth instances. The CDM update in the current monitoring period involved delineation of a new reference area which has forested area in 2000 more than the accounting area in M6, hence meeting the area size requirement at some point in the historical reference period as per VM0009v3.0. See Section 3.2.2 in this MR for more details.	Map and spatial data for the common reference areas GEE script for estimating forested area in the RA using Hansen global forest change dataset. ¹²	The VVB has validated and verified an updated M6 RA, which has been identified as a PD deviation. This new RA has a larger forested area in 2000 than the forested area of the PAA, meeting the area size requirement at some point in the historical reference period as per VM0009.
For any new reference areas that may be required, there is sufficient historical imagery meeting the requirements of section 6.8.4 of VM0009 v3.0.	Third ,Second and fourth instance project areas share a common reference area as the first project activity instances	Map and spatial data for the common reference areas See section 3.2.2 ,Table 19	As indicated by the PP and assessed within the PD deviation section of this VCS verification report, PAIs 1 to 4 share a common reference area (RA).
Project activities for new project instances are the same as those described in this PD.	NA	NA	Project activities (REDD+ avoided unplanned deforestation) for PAI-4 are the same as those described in the PD and for all the other MRs referring to PAIs 1 to 3.

¹² <https://code.earthengine.google.com/c3550ea99c4a6685347a88337759aebb>

The project proponents can access any new leakage or proxy areas that may be required for monitoring related to new project instances as per sections 8.3.2.1 and 6.4 of VM0009 v3.0.	Instance 4 areas share common leakage and proxy areas with the 1 st instance project areas	Map showing accessibility to the common leakage and proxy areas – see Figure 9.	The VVB visited during M5 verification, and within M6 verification, leakage and proxy plots randomly selected. These areas are as much eligible as those for PAIs 1 to 4.
Same Governance and Land Tenure and Social Economic Systems	Just like the first project activity instance, All second, third and fourth instance activity areas are private and communal land tenure systems.	Title Deed from private game ranch owners and community forest management Agreements signed between government and Community resources boards (CFMGs)	The VVB visited many areas within PAI4 (see Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this VCS verification report for the itinerary, the groups interviewed and the activities performed by the VVB). These groups, many of them in the form of CFMGs, are the same kind of groups as previous verifications. It is important to note that AENOR as a VVB has verified 2 nd and 3 rd PAI addition to the grouped project, and now is verifying 4 th PAI addition.

The audit team assessed the documents, interviews and audit visit observation and established that the project meets the applicability conditions as set out in grouped project eligibility criteria, the project uses the and applies similar technology as other previous instances. The project baseline and the geographical boundaries are within the specified zones of the project as such, no conflict will arise. The new project activity area has characteristics with respect to additionality consistent with instances one, two and three.

For grouped projects, the audit team also checked through the evidence materials and confirmed the following, that:

- i. The LCFP is within Zambia geographic area as specified in the project description.
- ii. The LCFP fourth instance activity conforms with the all the eligibility criteria above for the inclusion of new project activity instances.
- iii. The LCFP has included the new project activity instance in the MR /1/ with sufficient technical, financial, geographic, and other relevant information to demonstrate conformance with the above eligibility criteria.

- iv. The new project activity instance has been exclusively described in the PD with project location information according to the eligibility criteria.
- v. The LCFP fourth activity instance project ownership titles and lease agreements are valid/2-25/ (Luembe, Lundu, Malama, Mburuma, Mnkhanya, Mpanshya, Mphuka, Msoro, Mulilo, Mwanya, Mwape, Nabwalya, Nsefu, Nyalugwe, Private Ranches, Sandwe, Shikabeta, Chiawa, Chifunda, Chitungulu, Jumbe, Kaloko, Kambombo and Kazembe).
- vi. The fourth PAI area has not been enrolled in any other VCS project.
- vii. The LCFP fourth instance fully conforms with the clustering and capacity limit requirements as set out in the section 3.6.8 and 3.6.9 of the VCS standard v4.4.

After checking the evidence detailed above, the audit team considers that the assessment related to the third project activity instance is complete and consistent with Sections 3.6.16 to 3.6.18 of the VCS standard version 4.7.

Thus, the verification team deems correct and valid the inclusion of the fourth Project Activity Instance. .

3.4 Baseline Reassessment

Did the project undergo baseline reassessment during the monitoring period?

☐ Yes

☒ No

4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Project Details

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion:
Audit history	Validation 14 October 2019 VCS Verification 1-May-2015 to 31-Dec-2018 VCS Verification 1-January-2019 to 31-December-2019 VCS Verification 1-January-2020 to 31-December-2020 VCS Verification 1-January-2021 to 31-December-2021 VCS Verification 1-January-2022 to 31-December-2022 VCS Verification 1-January-2023 to 31-December-2023 VCS (actual MP) The audit team examined the Verra registry and determined that the audit history indicated consistency with their respective VVBs, with AENOR INTERNATIONAL S.A.U participating in the last four verifications under the VCS program and leading the 5th verification.
Double counting and participation under other GHG programs	Not applicable, the PP is not receiving or seeking crediting for ERRs from a project activity under another GHG Program, assess the evidence of not double issuance against VCS Standard requirements. Likewise, the project has clearly clarified that they are not registered nor seeking registration under any other GHG Program. Finally, the PP has provided sufficient assurance that they have not been rejected by another GHG Program. They have been participating with LCFP since 2019 (even though the project start date is 2015). LZRP, another BCP project, has a longer history within the VCS Standard. The VVB reviewed all available documentation, GHG registries and public sources of evidence (including carbon rating companies) and no conflicting information was found. Conclusion on the Compatibility of the Project with the Eastern Province Jurisdictional Program (EP-JSLP) and the Risk of Double Counting/Double Claiming: Following the review of the Greenhouse Gas Emission Reductions (ERRs) generated by the project and the evidence provided by the client in their Monitoring Report (MR), the following conclusions can be drawn:

The PP has provided clear and detailed information about the completion of the Zambia Integrated Forest Landscape Project (ZIFLP) in February 2024, and the transition to the Eastern Province Jurisdictional Sustainable Landscape Program (EP-JSLP). According to the evidence /181-182/, it has been demonstrated that the jurisdictional program's activities apply only from January 1, 2024, and it explicitly states that it will not affect ERs generated by projects prior to this date.

Regarding the impact of the EP-JSLP on the LCFP Project, it has been confirmed /181/ that the entry into force of the jurisdictional program as of January 1, 2024, eliminates the risk of double counting or double claiming for ERs generated until December 31, 2023, which is the monitoring period under review. The VVB is able to affirm that the evidence provided by the client supports this statement, including an official government letter /181/ clarifying that ERs generated by existing projects before the start date of the EP-JSLP will not be affected by the new jurisdictional framework.

Based on the documents provided, the implementation of the EP-JSLP starting on January 1, 2024, effectively prevents the possibility of double counting or double claiming for ERs generated in the LCFP Project area within the Eastern Province from that date onwards. Additionally, the client has requested a three-year grace period that would allow them to continue generating ERs under the LCFP, even with the jurisdictional program in effect /182/. This request is still under consideration by the Ministry of Green Economy and Environment of Zambia.

Since the EP-JSLP began on January 1, 2024, and the LCFP project will no longer generate ERs in the Eastern Province from that date, there is no significant risk of double counting or double claiming for the reviewed crediting period (from January 1, 2023 to December 31, 2023). However, there is a potential risk for future crediting periods depending on the decision regarding the client's request /182/. If granted, the LCFP could continue to generate ERs under its own framework for an additional three years, which should be clearly differentiated from the ERs under the EP-JSLP to avoid any overlap in the generation and claiming of credits.

In summary, based on the monitoring report information and documentation provided /181-182/, it is considered that the LCFP project is aligned with the provisions of the EP-JSLP and does not present an immediate risk of double counting or double claiming for the reviewed crediting period. However, there may be a risk of double claiming in the

	future, depending on the final decision regarding the client's grace period request. Therefore, the audit team considers that a Forward Action Request (FAR) is needed to ensure the risk of double counting/double-claiming will continue being assessed during future verification periods (see Section 2.5.1 of this report).
No double claiming with emissions trading programs or binding emission limits	AENOR's audit team conducted a review beyond the VCS GHG platform, including assessments of programs such as BCR, Cercarbono, Plan Vivo, FCPF, ART-TREES and GS, to ensure that the project is not claiming GHG emission reductions by multiple entities toward separate mitigation targets or emissions inventories. Additionally, the VVB considers that the project activities are not affiliated with other emissions Trading Programs.
No double claiming with other forms of environmental credit	The VVB confirmed by reviewing GHG trading platforms that no other forms of environmental credits are requested by the project activities under LCFP.
Supply chain (scope 3) emissions double claiming	The Project Proponent states that they are not preventing other companies within the supply chain from reporting their Scope 3 emission statements. AENOR Audit team assessed the MR/1/ and through its previous verifications it concludes that there has not been any double claiming in the past and present verifications.
Sustainable development contributions	The Verification team confirmed the sustainable contribution by confirming the achievement of the reported indicator detailed in the MR, section 1.12. They include. 1. Decrease the proportion of population below the international poverty lines where at least 49,379 households benefited from the carbon and livelihood funds through the LCFP earnings for the year 2023. A total of USD 500,315 were paid in livelihood investments in LCFP during 2023. /103.1/103.10/103.12/103.24/ 2. Increase in the average income of smallholder producers, volumes of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry and enterprise size. This was showcased in the audit visit to beehives delivery sites, climate smart farms with a number of lead farmers practicing conservation agriculture and teaching others as well. Other trainings for honey producers and horticultural farms visited on site. /27/

3. Increase in the coverage of essential health services withing the LCFP has been enhanced through the construction of Staff House at Chikwasha Health Post /30.5.b.xiv/
4. Increased access to education services. 24 social projects were implemented in 2023 across the chiefdoms /30/. Currently students are being supported with Tertiary education. 5 teachers supported with salaries /30.5.b.viii/. The VVB visited the PA and interviewed teachers supported with salaries, and also transited to acknowledge social project implemented and supported students.
5. Increased proportion of women in managerial positions where BCP has more than 30% senior management team being female on the payroll, in community implementation projects like bee keeping and in the community scouts. The women in our interviews claim that their rights have been fully respected and as such they have been motivated to do their respective work.
6. Increase the proportion of population using clean and safe drinking water and WASH services. 26 boreholes have been constructed as reported by the PP and the audit team visited some two completed ones.
/30.b.i/30.b.ii/30.b.iv/30.b.v/30.b.vi/30.b.vii/30.b.xxii/30.b.xxiv/30.b.xxv/30.b.xxvii/.

7. Increase in the proportion of population with primary reliance on clean fuels and technology including renewable energy sources. Several actions have been performed: (1) Installation of the solar fence to mitigate Human wildlife interaction in Chitilila village of Katemo VAG Mnkhanya chiefdom, (2) Installation of solar lights at Chiwale Healthpost and chiwale school in Sandwe chiefdom, (3) Installation of Solar Fence in Chisanga in Luembe chiefdom and (4) Procurement and installation of Solar fence in Kalongo Mwape VAg in Mwape chiefdom /30.b.xviii/. The VVB had meeting with relevant stakeholders benefited from these project activities. See Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this VCS verification report for more information of VVB verification activities during the October and November 11-day site visit.
8. Increase in annual growth of GDP per capita, proportion of informal employment and average hourly earning especially for women. Support of at least 49,379 households who benefited directly from carbon and livelihood fees; a total of USD 500,315 were paid in livelihood investments in LCFP; 3,000 beehives have been provided and mean maize grain yields increased from 1.8 tons/ha under conventional agriculture during the baseline year to 4.9 tons/ha, 4.0 tons/ha and 6.5 tons/ha under CSA in 2020/2021, 2021/2022 and 2022/2023 farming seasons respectively.

/103.14/103.15/27.2.b/27.2.c/103.1/103.10/103.12/103.24/
9. Reduction of frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status. The VVB interviewed more than 100 people during the 11-day visit performed between October and November 2024, and collected data from different backgrounds, reducing biases. These groups of people clearly stated no incidents happened in 2023. They were asked about BCR HR manual implementation, for which they clearly stated there are clear policies that protects them both in the workplace and outside of it.
10. Total official international support to infrastructure. Continuous support to CFMG with Annual Work Plan development and Needs Assessments.
11. Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40 percent of the population and the total population. 49,379 households benefited directly from carbon and conservation fees; a total of USD 500,315 were paid in livelihood investments in

	LCFP in 2023. These figures were crosschecked by the VVB /103.1/103.10/103.12/103.24/. Stakeholders interviewed clearly stated the funds their community groups have been receiving. 12. Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing, number of hectares of watershed forests protected to protect ecological system, and as such reduce impact of natural disaster and number of community members partaking in Climate Smart Agriculture techniques to limit drought disaster impact. A total of 60,302 females and 6,752 vulnerable groups has self-reported to have been receiving benefits from different projects. 51.43% of community members are female, LCFP protects 2,137,405 ha of REDD+ area, total # of farmers enrolled under conservation farming in 2023 was 11,122 (800 LFs and 10,332 FFs). 13. Others. AENOR, concludes that the sustainable contributions listed above have implemented the activities that result in SD contributions as has been described in the VCS MR. See SDG documents reviewed by the VVB /100-108/ and implementation REDD+ project docs /26-36/, which includes beekeeping, honey purchases, trainings, biodiversity monitoring, community social services (boreholes, hammer-mill construction, teacher support, extension of water reticulation, school sponsorship, classrooms constructions, solar fences, water supply), conservation farming (fertilizers, work gears, bicycles, CSA training, lead farming training), conservation patrols, finance livelihood and others.
Additional information relevant to the project	No commercially sensitive information has been excluded from the public versions of project documents. AENOR audit team concludes that it has reviewed the Appendix 2 listed evidence and found that all conform with the VCS program requirements hence nothing is excluded.

4.2 Safeguards and Stakeholder Engagement

4.2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
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Stakeholder identification

As acknowledged by the VVB, the LCFP in Zambia began with stakeholder identification as part of the initial viability assessment process. This involved workshops and meetings at national, provincial, district, and Chiefdom levels to identify potential sites for protection and obtain documented consent from stakeholders. The process emphasized the importance of stakeholder consultation for project sustainability, defining stakeholders as anyone potentially impacted by or with decision-making power over forest conservation.

During 2015-2017, detailed stakeholder identification and mapping were conducted in 12 partner Chiefdoms using PRA/PLA techniques as part of the FPIC process. Meetings included representatives from all 62 registered Village Action Groups (VAGs), local government officers, Chiefdom institutions, and village representatives. Community inputs refined stakeholder maps, confirming that all Chiefdom inhabitants were stakeholders due to their collective ownership of community forests.

In 2021-2023, BCP conducted a thorough Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and consultative mapping across the fourth project activity instance chiefdoms. The FPIC process involved consultations with Permanent Secretaries and line ministries, focusing on deforestation, climate change, and sustainable development. Traditional leadership and community engagement were obtained through chiefdom-level inception meetings, and participatory community sessions explained REDD+ benefits.

The structured FPIC process and detailed VAG consultations established a strong foundation for the REDD+ initiative, ensuring broad participation, alignment with national strategies, and community empowerment for long-term conservation and sustainable development. Communities in the fourth instance chiefdoms voluntarily designated REDD+ Zones and began complying with community forest regulations under Statutory Instrument (SI) number 11 of 2018.

It is important to note that the VVB visited the project area for consecutive eleven (11) days between October and November 2024. During this site visit, AENOR's audit team could interview more than a hundred different people from different backgrounds, stakeholder groups, both public and private organisations, community stakeholders, farmers and others. Stakeholder Identification reported in the MR was corroborated with these interviews, and the FPIC consolidated data shared by the PP /35/99/, including the following documents attached below, everything in alignment with best FPIC SOPs practices /45-46/:

- a. Lundu_Chiefdom.folder
 - i. 20220701_Nj_anjo VAG community Meeting_Lundu CRB _Chama_F51_M57.pdf
 - ii. 20220702_Mwinichipeta VAG Meeting_Lundu Chiefdom_Chama.pdf
 - iii. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf
 - iv. 20220717_LCFP_Mfuwe_Lundu_FPIC Report.docx
 - v. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf
 - vi. 20230919_FPIC Sensitization In Liteta and Chimika VAG of Chembe Chiefdom.pdf
 - vii. ACTIVITY REPRT FOR BID CARBOD PARTNERS SENTISATION MEETING IN LND MEETN.docx
 - viii. IMG-20220701-WA0020.jpg
 - ix. IMG-20220701-WA0021.jpg
 - x. LUNDU BRIEF REPORT - HAMOONGA.DOCX
 - xi. Lundu Community Proposed Map for Community Forest.jpg
 - xii. Lundu Potential Forest.jpg
 - xiii. 20220628_143402.jpg
 - xiv. 20220628_CRB meeting_ Lundu _ Chama.pdf
- b. Mukungule.folder
 - i. 20230910_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko community CFMPA_Mpika_Mukungule.pdf
 - ii. 20231010_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko CFMG General assembly_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf
 - iii. 20231102_LCFP_Lundaz_Kakoko proposed REDD+ Zone_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf
 - iv. 20231102_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko Boundary meeting_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf
 - v. Head giving the remarks.jpg
 - vi. IMG_20230910_154051_700.jpg
 - vii. Women inclusiveness in the discussions.jpg
 - viii. 20230301_LCFP_Lundazi_kakoko application letter.pdf
- c. 20220419_Tubuluma Vag_CN.pdf
- d. 20220420_Tumbwe Vag_CN.pdf
- e. 20220929_Map Verification and signing .pdf
- f. 20220929_Map verification meeting.pdf
- g. 20221028_Chisomo_Ground truthing summary Report.pdf
- h. Mpetauke Manda VAG.pdf

The VVB also received evidence of stakeholder notification letters before AENOR's audit team site visit /49/ in different Chiefdoms (Chongwe, Kafue, Rufunsa, Chiawa, Shikabeta, and others).

Finally, the PP shared all the CFMG legal documentation signed between the parties, and how their leadership is organized /2-25/. These documents

	clearly demonstrate proper and free participation, different meetings have happened.
Legal or customary tenure/access rights	The VVB could acknowledge during October and November 2024 site visit that the LCFP has not resulted in a change in the land tenure (the VVB has accessed all the land tenure agreements signed between BCP and stakeholders /2-25/). As previously mentioned, the project conducted a thorough engagement process with all pertinent local parties. Previously, the land was under community resources board (CRB) management in GMAs. The project has assisted the CRBs in establishing community forest management agreements (CFMAs) with the government, which grant them rights to new resources in the region (carbon), as well as in gaining extra status as community forest management groups (CFMGs). The VVB could sample CFMAs, and at the same time, has discussed this with several different stakeholders' groups, both public and private organisations and community stakeholders. They confirmed the credibility of the statements provided within the VCS MR.
Stakeholder diversity and changes over time	As witnessed during AENOR's site visit in late 2024, with a heavy reliance on natural resources for their livelihoods, the four provinces in the PA have similar sociocultural and socioeconomic traits. These regions—which include the Eastern and Central Provinces, Muchinga, and Lusaka—are dependent on agriculture, traditional family structures, and cultural practices influenced by Christianity. In rural areas, these customs are essential to survival and cultural identity. Socioeconomically, they struggle with infrastructure, poverty, and limited access to other sources of income. Cycles of resource depletion and deforestation are accelerated by population increase. The provinces suffer similar issues, including as migration, resource inequities, and inadequate infrastructure, despite variances in agricultural preferences and linguistic diversity. To promote social and economic diversification, government and non-governmental organization initiatives have created new roles, such as cooperative members and rural entrepreneurs. But their effects are still uneven, underscoring the necessity of sustainable development. The VVB believes this is the reality of the situation in the PA, as per all the interviews performed to stakeholders, for which open debates were performed to clearly understand if this is the kind of diversity they are experiencing on the field. Likewise, the VVB made research through the internet, to look for any contradictory information. Nothing to be highlighted was found.

Expected changes in well-being	Meetings with NGOs, community stakeholders, public and private organisations have made the VVB understand that, as the LCFP wants to target at least 20,000 households, the project seeks to improve community well-being by reducing poverty through the establishment of jobs and alternative revenue streams like climate-smart agriculture (CSA) and beekeeping. By raising household incomes and encouraging varied, sustainable livelihoods, the project promotes economic resilience. Borehole drilling increases access to safe and clean drinking water, and healthcare services and infrastructure are reinforced to promote improved sanitation and health outcomes. By building and enhancing infrastructure, offering scholarships, and assisting educators, education development is given first priority, guaranteeing sustained growth in literacy and skill sets. By giving women leadership and decision-making responsibilities, the project advances gender equality. It also guarantees inclusivity by involving vulnerable and excluded groups. The VVB has reviewed clear evidence regarding CSA /31.b.ii.1/31.e/103.14/103.15/ and beekeeping /27/, including trainings, honey purchases, input providers and fertilizers and others. Other significant REDD+ activities include boreholes /30b/, as those visited by the VVB in late 2024, or documentation reviewed for Chifudzi /30.b.i/, Kalongo Mwape /30.b.ii/, Chinsimbwe VAG /30.b.iv/, Misebe VAG /30.b.v-vii/ and others. Other activities, like conservation farming /6/, patrols /7/ and others have been sampled by the audit team. See REDD+ project implementation and other sections with the VCS MR and VCS verification report for more information.
Location of stakeholders	Stakeholders' location has been identified in Figure 6 and Table 2 of the VCS MR. The location of these stakeholders was corroborated during the October and November 2024 11-day site visit by GPS.
Location of resources	The VVB acknowledged that forest resources are in community forest areas, as identified in Table 2 and Figure 1 of the VCS MR.

4.2.2 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication

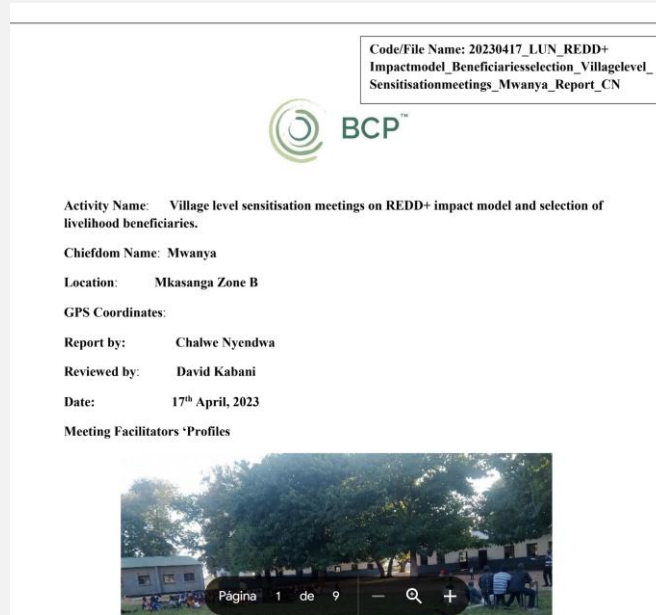
Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Ongoing consultation	As acknowledged by the VVB, to raise awareness of the BCP-REDD+ Model, the community's role in successful project implementation, the VCS/CCB

project verification process, and the community's role in the process, a number of community meetings were organized in 2023 (M6) /194-211/. Additionally, several community meetings were devoted to providing the community with an update on the status of the project's execution. The community used these gatherings as a forum to voice their complaints and have them addressed. During the current monitoring period, more than 1200 community consultation meetings were conducted.

The VVB Information about these consultative meetings was found by the VVB in the Engagement trackers documents within in Appendix E /50.1-4/ as well as among the supporting documentation provided by the PP /194-211/. Within these spreadsheets, for providing readers sufficient information, there is a massive amount of information. For instance, within 2023 Lundazi Engagement Tracker spreadsheet, within Mwanya tab, there are more than a hundred (100) minutes linked to google drive folders (there are four tabs within this spreadsheet, and four spreadsheets have been shared with the VVB; each tab has stakeholder consultation meetings and their specific minutes; these minutes are unique). This Table includes data about the topics discussed, the date, the parties involved, the number of males and females and other information. This massive amount of data was sampled by the VVB, specifically when looking for any issues not disclosed by the PP. A screenshot is attached below:

vag Zone A	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	being	22	8	30		81%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1M9H3hbc03y8
Mkasanga	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being	18	12	30		87%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/12_1uQZY_388fx
vag Zone B	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being	20	10	30		100%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1B45QvIA3M6
Mkasanga	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being	27	25	52		93%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/119d6Ed8iLi8
Chasera vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being	20	10	30		82%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1A6A8X7_nq2
Zone A	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being	12	20	32		82%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1vorf5uh9e1d
Chasera vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being	28	19	47		100%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/10BrV17G3480
Zone C	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being	36	9	45		82%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BC18-133-8hg2
Chasera vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being	28	24	52		96%	NO	https://drive.google.com/file/d/178d03237cv7
Zone B	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Mkwela vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Zone A	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Mkwela vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Zone B	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Mkwela vag	April	well-being impacts	Project impact	Improved well-being							
Zone C	April	Mitigate negative	Project impact	Improved well-being							

When opening one of these files, a screenshot of the things that can be observed is attached below as a sample:



Among the 9 pages of the document, the topics discussed as emphasized, including the Opening Prayer, Introduction, Welcoming remarks, meeting outcomes (understand BCP REDD+ Impact Model, understand their role in project implementation). This minutes also includes attendance sheets, conclusions and else.

The VVB has reviewed both the updated content of Section 2.1.2 and the supporting documentation provided /194-211/ including meeting minutes and other records demonstrating the implementation of stakeholder consultations and meaningful engagement of relevant communities. This documentation transparently demonstrates that:

The stakeholder consultation process was carried out prior to the start of the PAI #4.

All relevant communities were formally recognized as Community Forest Management Groups (CFMGs) before project initiation.

The process ensured inclusive and meaningful participation, consistent with the requirements for community involvement prior to project implementation.

Based on AENOR review, is affirmed that Section 2.1.2 of the MR provides clear, complete, and sufficient information regarding the stakeholder consultation process.

Date(s) of stakeholder consultation

The community engagement tracker spreadsheets, as explained above, are listed in Appendix E, containing all the dates of the meetings held during

	Monitoring Period 6 (M6). After reviewing the engagement tracker and confirmation with the community on the meetings, AENOR concludes that the information regarding the dates of stakeholder meetings provided is correct. There have been if not several hundreds, more than a thousand meetings as per the sample performed by AENOR's audit team and the confirmations provided by LCFP community groups during the late 2024 site visit performed by the VVB in 11 consecutive days.
Communication of monitored results	As confirmed by AENOR's audit team during the October and November 2024 site visit, during the community meetings, the monitoring results were communicated, as identified in Appendix E of the reviewed documentation /43-51/. A participative and engaging strategy was used to share monitoring results with communities during site-level meetings. These gatherings, which took place throughout the project area from March to November 2023, provided forums for discussion and input. The findings on encroachment, community project updates, and the LCFP's current state were discussed, along with any possible ramifications for the project's overarching goals. Communication of monitored results in the current monitoring period below are details of the meetings conducted; Sandwe - 9/12/2023 – Community projects update /50/ Luembe 24/03/2023 – Feedback meetings /50/ Sandwe 9/07/2023 - Impacts of encroachments on forest conservation and community revenues /50/ Mnkhanya 21/03/2023 – Share climate monitoring plan /50/
Consultation records	Based on the reviewed records, the audit team concludes that the community meetings were well-documented and supported by comprehensive reports. These reports contained detailed information about meeting content, outcomes, and local community participation. Furthermore, the accessibility of these reports through the Community Engagement tracker /50.1-4/ indicates a transparent and accountable approach to communication with stakeholders. This demonstrates a commitment to keeping the community informed and involved in decision-making processes. Community Engagement Tracker /50/ is provided in Appendix E, each spreadsheet contains a determined amount of tabs demonstrating proper consultation, with hundreds of minutes with their attached Google Drive links, which have been sampled by the VVB, and

	taken into consideration when interviewing stakeholders during 11 consecutive days between October and November 2024.
Stakeholder input	Based on the audit team's interviews with the community and the review of documentation such as meeting minutes and the grievance register as a reference in Appendix E /51/, the VVB concludes that there is a structured and effective process in place for capturing inputs, contributions, and grievances from both the local community and other stakeholders. Immediate issues are addressed during meetings, while those requiring more time are resolved through subsequent meetings or written communication. All inputs/contributions/grievances from the local community and other stakeholder are noted and drafted into meeting report/minutes or recorded in the grievance register, as has been reviewed and crosschecked by AENOR's audit team. The thorough assessment of the Community Tracker /50/ and Grievance Register /51/, which includes stakeholders' views and opinions, reflects a commitment to transparency, accountability, and responsiveness to community needs and concerns.

4.2.3 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Consent	As identified in the VCS MR, consent to participate in the program from stakeholders was gotten through intensive FPIC meetings and stakeholder consultation meetings at the national, provincial district and Local levels (see Section 2.1.1 of the VCS MR for more details). At the local level, traditional leaders, CRB's/CFMG and local community members were engaged. Program pros and cons, community roles and responsibilities, community benefits, grievance resolution mechanisms were also explained to the stakeholders. In 2021-2023, BCP conducted a thorough Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process and consultative mapping across the fourth project activity instance chiefdoms. The FPIC process involved consultations with Permanent Secretaries and line ministries, focusing on deforestation, climate change, and sustainable development. Traditional leadership and community engagement were obtained through chiefdom-level inception meetings, and participatory community sessions explained REDD+ benefits. The structured FPIC process and detailed VAG consultations established a strong foundation for the REDD+ initiative, ensuring broad participation,

alignment with national strategies, and community empowerment for long-term conservation and sustainable development. Communities in the fourth instance chiefdoms voluntarily designated REDD+ Zones and began complying with community forest regulations under Statutory Instrument (SI) number 11 of 2018.

It is important to note that the VVB visited the project area for consecutive eleven (11) days between October and November 2024. During this site visit, AENOR's audit team could interview more than a hundred different people from different backgrounds, stakeholder groups, both public and private organisations, community stakeholders, farmers and others. Stakeholder Identification reported in the MR was corroborated with these interviews, and the FPIC consolidated data shared by the PP /35/99/, including the following documents attached below, everything in alignment with best FPIC SOPs practices /45-46/:

- a. Lundu_Chiefdom.folder
 - i. 20220701_Nj_anjo VAG community Meeting_Lundu CRB _Chama_F51_M57.pdf
 - ii. 20220702_Mwinichipeta VAG Meeting_Lundu Chiefdom_Chama.pdf
 - iii. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf
 - iv. 20220717_LCFP_Mfuwe_Lundu_FPIC Report.docx
 - v. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf
 - vi. 20230919_FPIC Sensitization In Liteta and Chimika VAG of Chembe Chiefdom.pdf
 - vii. ACTIVITY REPRT FOR BID CARBOD PARTNERS SENTISATION MEETING IN LND MEETN.docx
 - viii. IMG-20220701-WA0020.jpg
 - ix. IMG-20220701-WA0021.jpg
 - x. LUNDU BRIEF REPORT - HAMOONGA.DOCX
 - xi. Lundu Community Proposed Map for Community Forest.jpg
 - xii. Lundu Potential Forest.jpg
 - xiii. 20220628_143402.jpg
 - xiv. 20220628_CRB meeting_ Lundu _ Chama.pdf
- b. Mukungule.folder
 - xv. 20230910_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko community CFMPA_Mpika_Mukungule.pdf
 - xvi. 20231010_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko CFMG General assembly_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf
 - xvii. 20231102_LCFP_Lundaz_Kakoko proposed REDD+ Zone_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf

	- xviii. 20231102_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko Boundary meeting_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf xix. Head giving the remarks.jpg xx. IMG_20230910_154051_700.jpg xxi. Women inclusiveness in the discussions.jpg xxii. 20230301_LCFP_Lundazi_kakoko application letter.pdf c. 20220419_Tubuluma Vag_CN.pdf d. 20220420_Tumbwe Vag_CN.pdf e. 20220929_Map Verification and signing .pdf f. 20220929_Map verification meeting.pdf g. 20221028_Chisomo_Ground truthing summary Report.pdf h. Mpetauke Manda VAG.pdf The VVB also received evidence of stakeholder notification letters before AENOR's audit team site visit /49/ in different Chiefdoms (Chongwe, Kafue, Rufunsa, Chiawa, Shikabeta, and others). Finally, the PP shared all the CFMG legal documentation signed between the parties, and how their leadership is organized /2-25/. These documents clearly demonstrate proper and free participation, different meetings have happened.
Outcome of FPIC discussion	As assessed by AENOR's audit team, outcomes of the FPIC process included sketch maps/final project area boundary that communities freely proposed to be put under REDD+ after the FPIC process, Form 1 Applications to Government under SI #11 of 2018 and Community agreements with BCP. When visiting the PA between October and November 2024, the VVB could discuss these outcomes with different community stakeholders who received FPIC. Among these discussions, all the topics debated in these FPIC meetings were spoken aloud, people could give their opinions on how these meetings were performed. They all clearly stated they are freely participating, and they believe they all have a WIN-WIN situation when partnering freely with BCP.

4.2.4 Grievances Redress Procedure

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Grievance received and steps taken to resolve the grievance including the outcomes of the resolution	Ten (10) grievances have been reported both in the VCS MR Section 2.1.4 and within the Grievance Register spreadsheet /51/. Within the Grievance Register Spreadsheet, the VVB could observe the date the grievance was initiated, the Chiefdom, the initiator of the Grievance, the kind of incident/issue, who received the grievance within BCP, the mean of

communication (letter, verbal, engagement meeting, etc.), the date a response from BCP was initiated, who received such responses among stakeholders, if BCP complied the 30-day requirement of providing a response, if the grievance is closed out, how such grievance has been closed out, the date it went close, how many days it require (in total) to closed the grievance and if it could be closed within 30 days. There are cases where the grievance has been closed within the 30-day threshold, but other cases required more time. Finally, every grievance has a Google Drive link to provides clear evidence on what has been happening, and how the grievance has been closed.

For instance, in Mburuma Chiefdom, interviewed by AENOR's audit team in October and November 2024 site visit (11 consecutive days), community members in Mburuma Chiefdom complained about the LCFP boundary being too close to the community members, this was after the team Comprising of BCP CFMG, Forest Department, DNPW and Ministry of Chiefs Traditional Affairs with BCP conducted boundary Painting in Mburuma Chiefdom. The community members shared their feeling that the boundary was too close to them, this was in Kaunga VAG and Chauluma VAGs. As confirmed by BCP and directly discussed with community members, BCP conducted meetings with the Chief and the Headmen and community members to ensure that they understood the boundary of the community forest, after the meetings it was collectively agreed that the existing boundaries should be maintained and residents within the boundaries would be allowed to remain, but they should not expand any further. Chief Mburuma expressed his support for the boundary and urged his subjects to protect the forest to ensure the success of the REDD+ project and the sale of VCU.

As part of VVB's assessment, AENOR also opened the Google Drive link provided in the grievance registry spreadsheet /51/, for which it could be assessed the issues explained both in the VCS MR and the grievance registry xlsx. See attached below a screenshot of the first page out of 10 regarding the boundary resolution:



Prepared by: Francis Ng'ona, Chiefdom Lead

Meeting Report Compilation date: 01/07/2023

Participants

Mundia Akende Sector Manager BCP

Francis Ng'ona Chiefdom Lead BCP

Morris Chanda GIS Analyst BCP

GRZ Officials

Senior Chief Mburuma

Headmen From Mburuma Chiefdom

Within this report, the VVB could acknowledge the agenda, the discussion, the steps to find a resolution (1. Community Sensitization and Selection of Forest Area, 2. Application for User Rights, Application for Partnership), the minutes of the meeting, the participants attendance sheet, signatures of the Mburuma CFMG leadership and others.

For every 10 grievances, the VVB has proceed equally. In case it was possible to discuss this topic with specific CFMGs or community groups during VVB's site visit, the VVB performed it in such a way. For every grievance, the VVB sampled the documentation provided, and if any issue was considerable, AENOR's audit team requested a meeting to discuss each sensitive topic. In every community meeting, the VVB requested information of any grievances that have been raised by them to BCP, to assess the possibility of grievances happening not disclosed by the PP (apart of those 10 already highlighted).

Grievance redress procedure

The project has signages indicating information and community members with direct physical contacts of BCP employees and mobile numbers for complaints and suggestions with the local communities.

The audit team assessed the Grievance redress procedures conducted by the BCP through interviews with stakeholders and documentary evidence and concluded that the project demonstrates a proactive approach to communication and community engagement by providing signages with

pertinent information and direct contact details of BCP employees. Additionally, offering a dedicated mobile number for complaints and suggestions fosters accessibility and responsiveness, promoting effective communication and collaboration between the project and local communities.

During AENOR site visit (October and November 2024), the audit team was able to interview community members (see Appendix 4) belonging the new communities included in PAI #4, and all the interviewees affirmed a stakeholder consultation process occurred before implementation of the project activities and the grievance mechanism and procedure were duly introduced and made accessible to all new stakeholders.

After reviewing the provided evidence /170-180/ and conducting a field visit, the VVB confirms that the grievance mechanism and procedure were duly introduced and made accessible to all new stakeholders included in PAI #4. The audit team verified through the evidence received that the grievance mechanism was introduced during community forestry introductory meetings and reinforced through dedicated grievance sessions. During these sessions, detailed explanations were provided, and relevant documents were shared. Additionally, the grievance mechanism was presented as part of the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) process /172, 173, 178, 179/, ensuring that the stakeholders fully understood how the mechanism works and how to engage with it.

The grievance mechanism was designed to be transparent, culturally relevant, and accessible to all stakeholders. The introduction of the mechanism was adapted to local understanding by defining grievances in locally relevant terms and enhancing comprehension among community members.

Furthermore, it was confirmed that stakeholder consultation took place in all communities of PAI #4 before the implementation of the project activities, as evidenced by the meeting documentation /170-180/ and testimonies compiled during AENOR site visit. This process was carried out in a thorough and inclusive manner, ensuring that all stakeholders had the opportunity to raise concerns and participate in the decision-making process.

Based on the review of the evidence provided /170-180/ and the field visit, the VVB confirms that both the grievance mechanism and the stakeholder consultation process were properly implemented and made accessible to all new stakeholders in PAI #4 before the start date of project activities.

4.2.5 Public Comments

Comments received	Actions taken by the project proponent	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
No comment was received because the project did not undergo any public comment in the current monitoring period (VCS verification does not require public comment period).	N/A	The audit team reviewed the VCS Verra Registry platform and confirmed that the project did not undergo any public comment in the current monitoring period and no comment was received for this monitoring period (M6).

4.2.6 Risks to Local Stakeholders and the Environment

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Risks to stakeholder participation	The risk of elite capture of benefits poses a significant challenge, potentially discouraging local stakeholders from participating if they perceive that only a small group is reaping the rewards of the project. For instance, households may feel that REDD+ isn't providing sufficient benefits to justify halting deforestation. To mitigate this risk, it's imperative to implement a robust stakeholder engagement and sensitization strategy. This involves ensuring constant presence and active engagement of BCP staff within communities, fostering understanding and support for the project among stakeholders. The verification team is satisfied that The Project proponent has maintained Clear and consistent communication as a pivotal role in sustaining stakeholder interest. The stakeholders involved in the project might not have a complete understanding of the objectives, benefits, and processes associated with REDD+ initiatives. This lack of awareness could impede their active involvement and endorsement. For instance, households might engage in opportunistic behaviour by seeking benefits while simultaneously continuing deforestation activities. To enhance community buy-in, BCP has championed the establishment and reinforcement of local institutions, such as CFMGs. These committees undergo training and are empowered to autonomously manage projects and community natural resources more effectively. The Audit teams deem that this approach aims to foster greater ownership and responsibility within the community, thereby promoting sustainable practices and alignment with the project's objectives.

Emphasis on the importance of effective communication between project proponents and local stakeholders to prevent misunderstandings, mistrust, and reduced engagement has been relayed by the PP. It highlights that poor communication may result in communities not fully understanding the connection between project performance, such as REDD forest conservation, and the benefits they receive, which could impact their participation. To address this, Annual Work Plans and Needs Assessments are conducted for each CFMG, involving government partners to ensure community inclusion in project governance and implementation. Further to this explanation, the Project proponent has been undertaking field visits to all zones in the chiefdom to share project progress, gather feedback, and plan projects for the following year collaboratively. By engaging in participatory planning, projects are evaluated transparently, with measures in place to minimize elite capture and ensure community involvement throughout the implementation process/62-64/.

The audit team concludes that the project emphasizes on effective communication with local stakeholders to prevent misunderstandings and maintain engagement. Annual Work Plans and Needs Assessments, conducted with government partners, ensure community involvement in project governance. Field visits to all zones in the chiefdom facilitate progress sharing, feedback gathering, and collaborative planning, promoting transparency and community participation throughout project implementation.

The importance of addressing stakeholders' fears of economic repercussions, such as loss of livelihoods or reduced access to resources, in REDD+ projects. It underscores the need for effective communication of the economic benefits of such projects to prevent resistance or cheating among households who may continue deforestation while receiving benefits. To address these concerns, the project proponent has implemented tight systems to prevent manipulation or abuse, ensuring that projects bring tangible community benefits. For instance, community funds are retained and administered by the project to mitigate motivations for destructive or corrupt activities. Additionally, the selection of community projects and incentives involves a participatory process with representatives from all villages within a zone, promoting accountability. This was outrightly mentioned during interviews with the local community. Transparent monitoring and reporting protocols are enforced to promptly identify and address instances of corruption or misconduct. The audit team also assessed other key strategies for risk mitigation such as the development of substantial community benefit projects and systems, such as conservation community covenant and found these to be robust.

Working conditions

The health and safety concerns in the implementation of project activities within the LCFP is very crucial as it acknowledges that activities such as fire management and forest monitoring expose workers to risks of injury due to equipment and rough terrain. The project proponent ensures compliance with national and international laws, regulations, and standards related to working conditions to mitigate these risks. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) have been procured and provided to all the audit interviewed workers involved in activities that pose injury risks. Additionally, the audit team reviewed all the training materials and reports /2e/6a/6e/ and affirmed the this is conducted before undertaking any project activity, such as fire management /8/, to ensure proper equipment use and prevent injuries during operations.

The project proponent has underscored the importance of addressing land tenure and rights issues, as well as ensuring meaningful community engagement and participation in REDD+ projects to prevent conflicts and disputes. It notes that unresolved boundary issues or lack of proper land tenure can lead to conflicts between local communities, indigenous peoples, and project developers, resulting in resentment and mistrust. This, in turn, can impact working conditions and resource access for individuals involved in the project. To mitigate these risks, the project emphasizes the development and effective implementation of robust community engagement systems to ensure the participation of all stakeholders, including indigenous peoples and local communities. Additionally, the audit team assessed the established grievance resolution mechanism where stakeholders are encouraged to submit grievances, with a commitment to resolving them within a 30-day period, thus promoting transparency and accountability in project execution. Since no grievance has been reported in the monitoring period there is a clear proof of the mitigative measures.

The project proponent highlighted the risk of gender inequality, with potential for discrimination, unequal opportunities, and harassment against women in the workplace, as seen in any other field. The audit team interviewed the RC camp manager of the organization, BCP, who asserted a zero-tolerance policy towards discrimination and harassment against women in the workplace, as outlined in their codes of conduct. They affirm themselves as an equal opportunity employer and actively encourage women candidates when job opportunities are advertised. Additionally, all scouts conducting patrols in the project area undergo comprehensive training that includes firearm handling and understanding wild animal behaviour. The audit team also assessed the training records which were meant to prepares the staff to handle any encounters with sexual offenses.

	The project proponent highlights security risks associated with the project's proximity to a National Park and a Game Management Area, including threats from wild animals, illegal loggers, miners, and poachers, often armed. These risks endanger the safety of project workers, particularly scouts and forest and biodiversity teams. The audit team was part of the scouts' meetings debrief and announcements are always made to mitigate these risks, all project workers involved in activities such as forest and biodiversity monitoring are prohibited from going into the field without trained armed scouts or wildlife police officers from the Department of National Parks and Wildlife. The measures aim to protect workers against armed groups and aggressive wildlife during patrols, ensuring their safety and effectiveness in their roles.
Safety of women and girls	N/A, no risks have been identified.
Safety of minority and marginalized groups, including children	N/A, no risks have been identified.
Pollutants (air, noise, discharges to water, generation of waste, release of hazardous materials)	N/A, the LCFP does not use any chemicals or conduct any activity releasing elements that have adverse effect on the environment. The VVB visited the PA for 11 consecutive days between October and November 2024. Nothing contradictory was observed or highlighted by any stakeholder. Public officials were also consulted on this topic. There were not aware of any pollutants.

4.2.7 Respect for Human Rights and Equity

4.2.7.1 Labor and Work

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Discrimination and sexual harassment	BCP has a comprehensive HR Policy approved by the Ministry of Labour, adhering to Zambian labour laws and international standards. The organization strictly prohibits discrimination and abuse, including sexual harassment, by any employees or project participants during project activities. A dedicated policy titled "Workplace Harassment, Discrimination, and Bullying Policy" extends to contractors as well. During onboarding, all BCP staff receive thorough explanations of the organization's anti-discrimination and anti-harassment policies and are required to formally acknowledge receipt and understanding of these policies. The VVB has reviewed such documentation from previous M5

	verification, and asked women and different employees about it, to see if BCP is implementing it according to the agreed text. Nothing contradictory was found. BCP actively supports the employment of female Community Scouts (the VVB interviewed a group of scouts, which included women), who must adhere to strict codes of conduct set by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife (DNPW) and Community Resource Boards (CRB). Government organizations involved in the project, such as DNPW and the Forestry Department, operate under established government policies to prevent discrimination and sexual harassment. To mitigate discrimination against project staff and partners, BCP's agreements with communities specify that any threats, violence, or obstruction of access to project areas constitute non-performance. Additionally, the organization has established grievance mechanisms and a Whistleblower service to report unethical behaviour. The Whistleblower Policy aims to address concerns of malpractice and protects individuals reporting such issues from victimization or harassment. Any deviation from key policies is treated seriously by the company and should be reported immediately to authorized officials. These measures have been assessed by the AENOR audit team, with a conclusion that the project proponent is ensuring compliance and accountability within the project framework.
Management experience	The LZRP in Zambia (another project from BCP, even though the one under verification is LCFP), which has been run by the BCP management team since 2012, is the third REDD+ project in the world to get gold-level validation and the first in Africa, as witnessed by the VVB in Verra's Registry. The LZRP is the first REDD+ project in Africa and the second worldwide, having continuously received VCS verifications since 2013. BCP has completed 18 validations and verifications in accordance with VCS and CCB requirements as of 2023. Experts in conservation, ecology, carbon, GIS/RS, community participation, business administration, aviation, and sales and marketing are among the team's more than thirty years of experience.
Gender equity in labour and work	BCP places a strong emphasis on gender equity within its operations, particularly in the context of promoting sustainable use and management of natural resources under REDD+ projects. The organization is committed to mainstreaming gender considerations to ensure equal access, participation, and benefits for men and women in natural resource management initiatives. BCP actively works to reduce or eliminate gender inequalities. To achieve these goals, BCP implements various activities aimed at challenging gender stereotypes and empowering women to take on leadership roles in natural resource management. Economic opportunities for women are actively

	encouraged through livelihood empowerment support and linkages to stable markets. AENOR's audit team could therefore verify that BCP demonstrates its commitment to gender equity through concrete actions, such as supporting the employment of female Community Scouts and enrolling women in programs like Conservation Farming/Climate Smart Agriculture. BCP-supported Community Scouts and Lead Farmers are women, reflecting the organization's efforts to promote gender diversity and inclusion within its projects. Documents reviewed included REDD+ Project Implementation status (including deforestation and leakage monitoring, beekeeping, biodiversity monitoring, carbon stock assessment, community social services, conservation farming, conservation patrols, conservation fire management, finance, FPIC consultations, water, sanitation and boreholes, and others) /26-36/, varied SOPs (including procedures for grievance, FPIC, manual deforestation mapping, community engagement, verification notice, engagement, minutes, grievance registry and others) /37-51/, FPIC /99/, SDGs compliance /100-108/, meetings for communication and results monitoring, FPIC and others /109-117/, benefit sharing plan /118-141/, and others.
Human trafficking, forced labor, and child labor	The project proponent has committed to upholding local laws and international standards, which are reinforced by internal policies aimed at preventing all forms of unethical behavior. These policies serve as a framework to guide the conduct of all employees and stakeholders associated with the organization. By adhering to these laws, standards, and internal policies, the project proponent has ensured that its operations are conducted with integrity, transparency, and accountability, thereby maintaining the trust and confidence of its stakeholders. Documents shared by the PP to the audit team and interviews conducted during the audit visit reveal as such. The audit team can verify from the provided evidence that the organization's dedication to ethical practices is affirmed.

4.2.7.2 Human rights

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Human rights	The project proponent outlines several key aspects related to human rights in the context of a project aimed at recognizing, respecting, and promoting the protection of the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs), Local Communities (LCs), and customary rights holders.

For the risk of (1) potential inadequate respect for the rights of IPs and LCs in the LCFP, leading to human rights violations, including forced evictions, harassment and violence, find below a summary of the human rights aspects highlighted:

1. **Community Consultation and FPIC:** Prior to the implementation of any project that may have an impact on IPS and LCs' lands, resources, or means of subsistence, a needs assessment is conducted to obtain FPIC.
2. **Capacity Building Initiatives:** The project supports capacity-building initiatives within IPs and LCs, empowering them economically, socially, and environmentally through education, training, and skills development as per the assessment of the evidence shared.
3. **Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** A robust conflict resolution mechanism is in place, allowing communities to raise grievances transparently and seek resolution within a defined timeframe, ensuring accessibility and fairness.

For the (2) risk of potential infringement on the land and resource rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders:

4. **Community Consultation and FPIC:** Prior to the implementation of any project that may have an impact on IPS and LCs' lands, resources, or means of subsistence, a needs assessment is conducted to obtain FPIC.
5. **Conflict Resolution Mechanisms:** A robust conflict resolution mechanism is in place, allowing communities to raise grievances transparently and seek resolution within a defined timeframe, ensuring accessibility and fairness.
6. **Equitable Benefit Sharing:** Community Forest management agreements have been signed, highlighting benefit-sharing mechanisms to ensure economic, social, and environmental benefits generated by the project are fairly distributed among the communities.
7. **Legal Recognition of Land Rights:** Through the project's assistance, CFM SI #11 of 2011 has been put into effect, and all of the project's communities have been acknowledged by the government as CFMG and have contracts with the government for the transfer of forest user rights.

For the (3) risk of potential to overlook or undervalue the traditional knowledge, cultural heritage and customary practices of IPs and LCs, risking their loss, appropriation or misappropriation, the LCFP has demonstrated to traditional knowledge. The project acknowledges and respects the local/traditional

knowledge held by IPs and LCs, ensuring that project activities do not exploit or appropriate this knowledge without proper consent.

There is also the (4) risk of potential failure to obtain FPIC before implementing REDD+ activities. Nonetheless, the LCFP started with a thorough FPIC procedure for all instance 1 chiefdoms and is still doing so for all new instances (PAIs 2 to 4). All FPIC-related supporting documentation, such as the four chiefdoms that are part of the project during the present monitoring period, has been shared with AENOR's audit team /2-25/. Furthermore, the project's FPIC is an ongoing process; for instance, before beginning any project operations that could have an impact on their lands, resources, or means of subsistence, IPs and LCs are contacted through a requirements assessment to secure FPIC, as it has been explained by those stakeholders interviewed by the VVB during late 2024 site visit for 11 consecutive days.

Finally, (5) the risk of potential excluding or marginalizing IPs and LCs from meaningful participation in the design, planning, implementation and monitoring of activities. The PP involves a participatory needs assessment to consult IPs and LCs before initiating any project activities that may affect their lands, resources, or livelihoods. This ensures no one is excluded from project implementation. The project collaborates with local natural resource governance institutions (CFMG) and Traditional leadership, involving them in decision-making processes and seeking their input on matters affecting their rights and interests. The project supports capacity building initiatives within IPs and LCs, including education, training, and skills development. The project also ensures equitable benefit sharing by signing community forest management agreements with the respective communities, ensuring that economic, social, and environmental benefits are shared fairly and contribute to the well-being of these communities.

The audit team assessment through interviewing the stakeholders and communities hence concludes that the project proponent demonstrates a comprehensive commitment to upholding human rights, particularly those of Indigenous Peoples, Local Communities, and customary rights holders.

4.2.7.3 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
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Preservation and protection of cultural heritage

The project proponent highlights several human rights aspects:

1. **Respect for Traditional Leadership and Customary Practices:** By involving traditional leaders and respecting customary practices in project implementation, the project acknowledges the importance of indigenous governance structures and cultural norms.
2. **Community Consultation and Participation:** The emphasis on communication and consultations conducted during collective gatherings, announced through traditional channels, ensures that the local communities have a voice in the project decisions, aligning with principles of participation and community engagement in human rights frameworks. See engagement tracker /50/, with Lundazi, Mfuwe, Chinyunyu and Nyimba consolidated list of meetings and attached minutes (more than a thousand documents). The VVB sampled it to find any inconsistencies with the good practices followed by BCP. Nothing contradictory was found.
3. **Preservation of Livelihoods:** By recognizing the reliance of local communities on agriculture and introducing improved farming techniques, the project aims to support sustainable livelihoods and alleviate pressure on communities to engage in activities like deforestation, thereby promoting the right to work and an adequate standard of living /66-114/.
4. **Promotion of Sustainable Practices:** The investment in honey production and transition to sustainable beekeeping practices not only supports economic development but also aligns with human rights principles of environmental sustainability and intergenerational equity /27/.
5. **Protection of Cultural Heritage:** The development of a High Conservation Values (HCV) Protocol and assessment, along with community consultation and awareness initiatives, demonstrates a commitment to preserving cultural heritage, including burial sites, graveyards, and shrines, which are essential aspects of community identity and spiritual practices.

Overall, the audit team's assessment through stakeholders and community interviews reveals that the explanations reflect a holistic approach in the PP that integrates human rights principles such as participation, livelihood support, environmental sustainability, and cultural preservation into project design and implementation.

4.2.7.4 Property Rights

The land is neither owned by the project nor taken from nearby communities. Rather, the communities continue to have guardianship over the land and woods. The Forest Management Agreements that BCP and the communities signed make this very evident /2-25/, which have been assessed by AENOR's audit team. These agreements recognize the communities and their traditional leadership as the legitimate owners of the forest resources.

Additionally, by helping communities apply to the government for designation as CFMG, the LCFP promotes the execution of Statutory Instrument (SI) 11 of 2018. Communities and the government sign agreements through this process, which transfers the government's forest user rights to the local communities working on the project. As a result, the community is legally entitled to the forest resources.

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Disputes over rights to territories and resources	N/A, there are no property rights issues, thus, this table is not applicable.
Respect for property rights	N/A, there are no property rights issues, thus, this table is not applicable.

4.2.7.5 Benefit Sharing

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Summary of the benefit sharing plan	The benefits sharing plan outlined by the PP in section 2.3.4 of the MR for the LCFP appears to have several positive elements aimed at ensuring community involvement, support, and sustainable conservation efforts. The LCFPs benefit-sharing plan aims to ensure equitable and transparent distribution of monetary and non-monetary benefits among key stakeholders. Key stakeholders include participating communities, government, and BCP. Benefits include performance-based payments, financial support to government, sustainable agriculture, improved infrastructure, enhanced ecosystem services, and capacity building for government. Benefit allocation criteria include performance in reducing deforestation and forest contribution. Funds are allocated to GRZ for project facilitation and BCP for management, operational costs, and business administration.

	Distribution mechanisms include annual fund disbursement to participating communities, implementation of livelihood activities and resource protection, infrastructure development, government fund provision, BCP operational costs and business administration, and 20% BCP management fee. The revenue distribution arrangement at gross is the most updated and used in new chiefdoms, while old chiefdoms have a sharing mechanism at net revenue. Government and institutional arrangements include community fund management, participatory allocation, and support from BCP and government. Monitoring and evaluation are ongoing, with ongoing monitoring by BCP and relevant government departments. Annual audits are conducted by the Department of National Parks and Wildlife for CRBs/CFMGs. Overall, the audit team evaluated the benefits sharing plan and concluded that it demonstrates a comprehensive approach to engaging local communities, incentivizing conservation efforts, and ensuring transparency and accountability in revenue distribution /118-141/. However, ongoing monitoring and evaluation will be crucial to assess the effectiveness of these measures and address any challenges or shortcomings that may arise.
Benefit sharing during the monitoring period	Because M5 (2022) Monitoring period was not yet verified by the end of the monitoring period under review (31/05/2023), the project did not disburse any funds to communities in 2023. Nonetheless, alternative Livelihood activities continued in the participating communities. The Government was supported to help facilitate project implementation.

4.2.8 Ecosystem Health

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems	The PP outlines potential risks and impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems: The LCFP aims to enhance landscape connectivity and connect five national parks, including Luangwa and Lower Zambezi ecosystems, with the aim of positively impacting biodiversity. It also aims to improve conservation management in the project areas, potentially improving wildlife habitat conditions. The ongoing rehabilitation of animal populations in the project areas could also have a positive impact on other depleted areas, as it could act as a source for individuals to migrate to re-populate depleted areas.

Soil degradation and soil erosion	The project does not conduct activities that disrupt the pedology of the area, such as extensive agricultural input use or dam construction. However, fertilizers are used in livelihood project implementation, such as D-Compound (10% Nitrate (N), 20% Phosphorus Oxide (P₂O₅), 10% Potassium (K₂O), Sulfur (S) + Zinc (Zn)) and Urea (carbon, nitrogen, oxygen, and hydrogen). These synthetic fertilizers are employed in minimal tillage practices, such as hand hoe basins and animal draught power rip lines, to support local farmers enrolled in the Conservation farming program. Both D Compound and Urea are price competitive and tend to outperform organic fertilizer products when used properly. BCP is exploring a potential transition from chemical fertilizers to comparable bio-fertilizers and has distributed organic fertilizers to 43 farmers in the current monitoring period. Lead Farmers, who train follower farmers, attend refresher training on correct and safe application of both products into their planting basins and rip lines. In-field and real-time auditing and monitoring of fertilizer application operations are conducted by Lead Farmers, BCP agricultural staff, front line Ministry of Agriculture camp, and block extension staff.
Water consumption and stress	
Usage of fertilizers	

4.2.8.1 Rare, Threatened, and Endangered species

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Species or habitat	The project proponent highlights the presence of several Rare, Threatened, and Endangered (RTE) species within the LCFP area. Several RTE species, including elephants, lions, leopards, wild dogs, vultures, and southern ground-hornbills, may be found in the North Luangwa, South Luangwa, Lower Zambezi, Luambe, and Lukusuzu National Parks, which are all close to the LCFP. Additionally, several species may be found in the LCFP project regions either permanently or sporadically. Furthermore, these five national parks are a component of a complex of land at the landscape level where healthy populations of naturally existing species can be found in abundance and distribution patterns that are typical of their habitat. The project's initiatives are especially intended to lessen environmental stress, which would eventually affect RTE species and their habitat in this area. In fact, by lessening the threat and effects of habitat loss and poaching, the project is protecting a crucial buffer zone.

	The potential displacement of these activities into other part of this landscape is mitigated through surveillance and law enforcement patrols taking place beyond the boundaries of the LCFP. The audit team evaluation of the Project proponent, its employees and the community emphasize that the project activities are designed to reduce pressure on the environment, thereby mitigating threats to RTE species and their habitats. The project aims to secure an important buffer zone by reducing the threat and impact of habitat loss and poaching. Additionally, measures such as surveillance and law enforcement patrols by scouts are mentioned to mitigate the potential displacement of these activities into other parts of the landscape. Therefore, the Audit team is contented that the PP acknowledges the presence of RTE species in the LCFP areas and highlights efforts to mitigate threats to their survival through conservation measures.
Areas needed for habitat connectivity	Significant wildlife corridors have been successfully built by the project, linking five National Parks (North Luangwa, South Luangwa, Lower Zambezi, Luambe, and Lukusuzi) and two Trans Frontier Conservation Areas (Zambia-Malawi and Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Zambia). Furthermore, the Mpanshya wildlife corridor's inclusion in M4 improves connectivity between Zambia's Lower Zambezi and Luangwa habitats, both of which are of significant biological significance. The VVB visited the PA and interviewed more than a hundred different stakeholders who corroborated it. Likewise, while observing maps where the different PAIs collide and are adjacent, such connectivity can be observed, with several connections being happening all over the 2 million ha formed by the 4 PAIs.

4.2.8.2 Introduction of Species

Species introduced	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
<i>Zea mays</i> (Maize)	The most common staple food grown in the global South. Sorghum spp. presents a viable alternative and has supplanted maize due to its higher yield and resistance to bird predation. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that there is no documented negative evidence, and it is widely utilized in Zambia.

<i>Cajanus cajan</i> (Pigeon pea)	There is no local alternative among native species. This legume is highly nutritious. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that no adverse evidence has been recorded, and it is extensively utilized in Zambia.
<i>Mangifera indica</i> (Mango)	The introduction of another species <i>Parinari curatellifolia</i> is widely adopted by the PP and serves as a potential alternative to mangoes and is locally employed; however. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that it doesn't match the production and fruit size of the primary species has a slower growth rate and that no adverse evidence has been documented and is widely utilized in Zambia. Top of Form Bottom of Form
<i>Carica papaya</i> (Papaya/Pawpaw)	There are no known local alternatives among native species that match the size of its fruit. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that there is no adverse evidence has been documented, and it is extensively utilized in Zambia.
<i>Moringa oleifera</i> (Moringa)	Possibly, there are alternative local species with similar nutritional values, but <i>Moringa oleifera</i> stands out for its rapid growth. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that there is no adverse evidence has been documented, and it is widely utilized in Zambia for medicinal purposes.
<i>Faidherbia albida</i> (Formerly <i>Acacia albida</i>)	This species is native to Zambia, though it may not naturally exist in all project areas. It holds value for its nitrogen-fixing and soil-stabilizing capabilities, thereby enhancing soil fertility. <i>Faidherbia albida</i> is also suitable for fodder. The stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that there is no adverse evidence has been documented, and its extensive use is observed in Zambia.
<i>Gliricidia sepium</i>	This species, <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> , serves as a versatile nitrogen-fixing tree, providing valuable support to agroforestry and conservation agriculture endeavours while aiding in soil stabilization and offering fodder for livestock. Its rapid growth rate and high biomass production contribute significantly to soil organic matter, thereby enhancing soil fertility. Additionally, it can withstand repeated cutting or harvesting. The stems of <i>Gliricidia sepium</i> are suitable for firewood, alleviating pressure on fuel wood extraction from forests.

	While considered a weed in Jamaica, this classification doesn't apply to other regions, including Zambia, and it's not listed as invasive on the Global Invasive Species Database. Furthermore, the trees typically exhibit limited seed production outside their native range due to a lack of pollinators and unfavourable conditions for seed germination, minimizing the risk of spread.
<i>Tephrosia candida</i> and <i>Tephrosia vogelii</i>	These species are especially valuable for their drought tolerance and nitrogen-fixing properties, as their nitrogen release rate closely aligns with crop uptake, minimizing nitrogen loss. Tephrosia is abundant in bioactive phytochemicals with potent insecticidal properties against a broad spectrum of pests. The leaves of Tephrosia are commonly employed for pest control and no adverse effects have been recorded. Overall, the stakeholders and communities interviewed by the audit team during the field visit mentioned that there are no adverse effects of non-native species inclusion on the community and the forests. The audit team finds the project's approach to species introduction and management to be satisfactory, with evidence of diligent monitoring and mitigation efforts.

Existing invasive species	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
The VVB did not identify invasive species during the field visit.	N/A, there is no evidence of any spread of invasive species in the PA, PAA or PZ.

4.2.8.3 Ecosystem Conversion

Item	Evidence gathering activities and evidence checked
Ecosystem conversion	The project proponent states that the LCFP is a REDD+ project, implying that its primary goal is aligned with the objectives of REDD+, such as reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation, as well as promoting the conservation and sustainable management of forests. The PP commitment of the LCFP to conservation efforts suggests that the project did not involve clearing or draining land that was part of natural ecosystems during the specific period being monitored. This indicates a dedication to preserving existing natural habitats and ecosystems rather than engaging in activities that could contribute to deforestation or degradation.

4.3 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

Procedures for quantifying emission reductions were conducted following the VM0009 v.3.0 June 2014: Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion for Sectorial Scope 14 methodology and its related tools. 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, VCS methodology and associated tools, and the PD.

Furthermore, the verification team reproduced calculations for selected samples to ensure the accuracy of the results. Conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by PP in spreadsheet /26.2/29/52-59/ 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. Where applicable, references for analysis methods or default values were checked against relevant scientific literature for best practice.

Likewise, AENOR verification team assessed the PP's approach to biomass monitoring, and reviewed section 3.3.3 of the PD /1/ for consistencies with Section 9.3.1 of the Approved VCS Methodology VM0009 Version 3.0. This revealed that the PP's monitoring plan employs an annual monitoring of 20% of the initial biomass plots, that ensures consistent and timely assessments of the project's carbon stocks. This implies that carbon stock estimates/dataset are updated at least every 5 years when all the initial biomass plots have been revisited and updated data has been made available (M6 actual verification MP 2023 coincides with an updated 5-year biomass plots data). Currently, the project has successfully revisited 100% of the initial biomass plots (during the M1-M6).

The project has used carbon stock value representative of instance 1 due to incomplete biomass plot data for instance 4, and as identified as a methodology deviation and a FAR and has chosen to use the revised instance 1 accounting area carbon stock value of 246.1 tCO₂e/ha for PAI-4 that is the lowest carbon stock value among the three PAIs. It has been excluded carbon stock data for PAI-4 (delayed for monitoring in M7) from the current carbon stock estimations/dataset, as these will only be integrated into the carbon stock estimations/dataset when the project proponent has collected all the quality data necessary for PAI4, and the VVB could visit plots within PAI-4 for getting sufficient consistency.

The VVB has thoroughly assessed the remeasurement of biomass plots in PAI #01, in accordance with the monitoring plan and the VCS standards. The project proponent remeasured 20% of the biomass plots annually, with the full remeasurement of all biomass plots completed after five years, ensuring that the project's carbon stock estimates are updated regularly and consistently.

The VVB reviewed the PP's approach to biomass monitoring and found that it complies with the approved methodology (VM0009 Version 3.0) and the monitoring strategy outlined in the project design document. Specifically, the PP's strategy of remeasuring 20% of the plots each year ensures that carbon stock estimates are updated every five years after all plots have been remeasured. The VVB also reviewed section 3.3.3 of the project design document and Section 9.3.1 of the approved VCS methodology (VM0009) and confirmed that the monitoring plan is consistent with these requirements.

The VVB further assessed the data from the current monitoring period (M6), which reflected the updated biomass dataset, as per the monitoring plan. After reviewing the remeasurement data, the VVB concluded that the updated biomass values did not result in significant changes when compared to the biomass values used during the first verification. The overall carbon stock estimates remain consistent, and the methodology applied by the PP has been rigorously followed.

In conclusion, the VVB finds that the biomass plot remeasurement process has been conducted correctly, and the updates to the biomass data were consistent with the approved monitoring plan. The remeasurement did not result in material changes to the biomass values compared to the first verification, and the project's carbon stock estimates remain reliable and in conformance with the VCS standard.

Baseline Emissions

Section 5.1 of the MR and the calculation spreadsheet /26.2/29/52-59/ submitted to AENOR provide information related to the baseline emissions calculations.

It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.2 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new updated RA (for M6; different to the one reported in M5 VCS MR) that includes the four Project Activity Instances, in compliance with VM0009.

Baseline emissions ($E_B^{[m]}$) for the current monitoring period (01-January-2023 to 31-December-2023) were calculated using Equation F.15. from VM0009 v3.0

$$E_B^{[m]} = E_B^{[m]} - E_B^{[m-1]} \quad [F.15]$$

Cumulative baseline emissions were calculated using a logistic deforestation model, based upon a point interpretation of forest state in the reference area applying equation F.16 from VM0009, v3.0

$$E_B^{[m]} = E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} + E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} - C_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} - C_{B\ BGB}^{[m]} - C_{B\ DW}^{[m]} - C_{B\ WP}^{[m]} \quad [F.16]$$

Baseline emissions from biomass for the current monitoring period are based on the average per hectare carbon stocks in selected carbon pools from AGOT, BGOT given by equation F.17 for the accounting area and F.18 for the proxy area.

$$c_{P\ BM}^{[m]} = \sum_{b \in B} c_{P\ b}^{[m]} \quad [F.17]$$

$$c_{B\ BM}^{[m]} = \sum_{b \in B} c_{B\ b}^{[m]} \quad [F.18]$$

Cumulative baseline emissions were calculated using a logistic biomass emission model (BEM), validated in the PD, based upon a point interpretation of the forest state in the reference area applying equation F.24.

$$E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} = BEM_{SP}(c_{P\ 1\ BM}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]}) = BEM_{U2,3/P1}(c_{P\ 1\ BM}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]}) \quad [F.24]$$

when $E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} \geq A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}(c_{P\ 1\ BM}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ BM}^{[m]})$

then $E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} = BEM_{U2,3}(wc_{P\ 1,2\ BM}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]})$

when $E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} \geq A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 1\ BM}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 2\ BM}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}(A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]})$

then $E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} = BEM_{U2,3/P1}(wc_{P\ 1,2,3\ BM}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]})$

...

$$E_{B\ BM}^{[m]} = A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 1\ BM}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]}wc_{P\ 1,2\ BM}^{[m=0]} + \dots + A_{P\ n}^{[m=0]}wc_{P\ i,n\ BM}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ BM}^{[m]}(A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]} + \dots + A_{P\ n}^{[m=0]})$$

Cumulative baseline emission from SOC were estimated using a soil emission model (SEM), applying equation F.29.

$$E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} = SEM_{sp}(c_{P\ 1\ SOC}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]}) = SEM_{U2,3/P1}(c_{P\ 1\ SOC}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]}) \quad [F.29]$$

when $E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} \geq A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}(c_{P\ 1\ SOC}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]})$

then $E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} = SEM_{U2,3/P1}(wc_{P\ 1,2\ SOC}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]})$

when $E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} \geq A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 1\ SOC}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 2\ SOC}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}(A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]})$

then $E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} = SEM_{U2,3/P1}(wc_{P\ 1,2,3\ SOC}^{[m=0]}, c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]})$

...

$$E_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} = A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]}c_{P\ 1\ SOC}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]}wc_{P\ 1,2\ SOC}^{[m=0]} + \dots + A_{P\ n}^{[m=0]}wc_{P\ i,n\ SOC}^{[m=0]} - c_{B\ SOC}^{[m]}(A_{P\ 1}^{[m=0]} + A_{P\ 2}^{[m=0]} + \dots + A_{P\ n}^{[m=0]})$$

Cumulative carbon not decayed in SOC used a decay emission model (DEMSOC) as per equation F.33:

$$C_{B\ SOC}^{[m]} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}} DEM_{SOC}(E_{B\ \Delta\ SOC}^{[i]}, t^{[m]}, t^{[i-1]}) \quad [F.33]$$

Carbon not decayed in below-ground biomass used a decay emission model (BEM), as per F.32 of VM0009 v3.0.

$$C_{B\ BGB}^{[m]} = \sum_{i \in \mathcal{M}} DEM_{DW,BGB}(E_{B\ \Delta\ BGB}^{[i]}, t, t^{[m]}, t^{[i-1]}) \quad [F.32]$$

Both cumulative baseline emissions from below-ground biomass at the end of the previous [m-1] and current monitoring period [m] were calculated according to equation F.30.

$$E_{B\ BGB}^{[m]} = \frac{r_{RS}E_{B\ BM}^{[m]}}{1 + r_{RS}} \quad [F.30]$$

The following table summarizes the calculated values of the baseline parameters:

Parameter	Equation used (VM0009 v3.0)	Value (tCO ₂ e)
$E_{BA}^{[m]}$ Baseline emissions for the current monitoring period	F.15	3,220,675 ¹³
$E_{BA}^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from previous monitoring periods	F.16	11,764,035
$E_{BBM}^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from biomass at the end of the current monitoring period	F.24	14,585,663
$E_{(BASOC)}^{[m]}$ Baseline emissions from SOC in monitoring period	F.29	1,363,694
$C_{BSOC}^{[m]}$ Carbon not decayed in SOC at the end of the current monitoring period.	F.33	-964,646
$C_{BBGB}^{[m]}$ Carbon not decayed in BGB at the end of the current monitoring period.	F.32	-190,574
$E_{BBGB}^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from BGB at the end of the current monitoring period	F.30	4,990,704
$E_{BBGB}^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from below-ground biomass at the end of the previous monitoring period	F.30	3,929,104

AENOR has checked the calculations provided and confirmed that this amount of baseline emissions is in conformance and has followed the methodology in the new version of the PD.

Project emissions

It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.2 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new updated RA (for M6; different to the one reported in M5 VCS MR) that includes the four Project Activity Instances, in compliance with VM0009.

For comparison with the assessment conducted during the same period last year, major disturbances within the PA, usually related to clearing for cropland preparation, were manually digitized from cloud-free Sentinel-2 images taken between April and May 2023 (per the validated PD). Maps showing the

¹³ Baseline emissions for AGOT, BGOT and SOC being 2,067,950, 1,061,600 and 91,125 tCO₂e, respectively.

boundaries of these areas can be included within Figures 20, 21a, 21b, 22 and 22a of the VCS MR M6. GEE was the source of the images, which was then uploaded as map tiles to Google Cloud (the script was supplied to AENOR's audit team, who reviewed and sample all the information).

To identify changes in the forest cover, Sentinel-2 mosaics from 2022 and 2023 were both imported into QGIS and compared to one another. Any forest disturbances that were found were then manually drawn as polygons. Planet was also used for any discrepancies. AENOR's audit team performed a sampled to the activity data for deforestation generated by the PP, to assess any non-accounted deforestation that should be included as part of project emissions.

Based on the review of the updated Monitoring Report sections (1.1, 4.2, 5.2, and 5.4) and supporting documentation provided by the project proponent including the Master Carbon Stock Dataset /59/, Emission Reductions (ER) spreadsheet /59/ and spatial disturbance data /59, 26/, the VVB confirms that the project proponent has transparently and clearly complied with Monitoring Requirements 32 and 33 of VM0009, as explain below.

For MR32 requirement, the project has identified and delineated the boundaries of all significant disturbances within the project accounting areas during the monitoring period, by disturbance maps and spatial files /26/ submitted by the PP and reviewed by the VVB. These maps, found in Section 5.2 of the updated MR in compliance with MR32 requirement that request a map of the boundaries of any significant disturbance in the project accounting areas during the monitoring period. These maps include detailed information on disturbed areas such as PAI#4, which were detected using visual interpretation of cloud-free Sentinel-2 imagery from April–May 2022 and 2023. It is worth mentioning that visual comparisons of images from the current and previous year are used by the PP to identify permanent disturbances. After reviewing all supporting documentation /59, 26/, the audit team is able to affirm that for the 2023 (M6) monitoring period, Sentinel-2 imagery from April/May 2022 and April/May 2023 was analyzed and compared to detect one-year changes. This imagery-based approach has been applied since project starts. However, to ensure consistency and compliance with 3.5.7 requirements of VCS Standard v4.7, the VVB raised a FAR (see Section 2.5.1 of this report) avoiding the existence of gaps between monitoring periods. This FAR ensures that, by the end of the baseline validity period, the PP provides evidence of continuous monitoring without any gaps, and that all deforestation events have been accounted for avoiding any time-gap between the available satellite imagery.

For MR33, the project has established inventory plots within disturbed strata, allowing for the inclusion of emissions from these areas in the project's carbon accounting. Biomass measurements were conducted in these plots to ensure that the impacts of disturbance are appropriately captured. Data from these disturbed strata are incorporated into the project emissions estimates /59/.

Where direct sampling was not feasible, the project applied a spatial extrapolation approach using polygons /26/ which were delineated around these disturbed zones, and per-hectare emission factors derived from the inventory plots were applied to estimate emissions for those areas. The associated data are integrated into the Master Carbon Stock Dataset /59/, confirming that disturbances were appropriately accounted for.

The VVB concludes that the monitoring approach, data quality, and spatial analysis methods applied are consistent with the requirements MR32 and MR33 of VM0009 and adequately support the reported emissions and associated Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) for this monitoring period.

As discussed in remote technical meetings, a three-tier verification approach was used by the LCFP to guarantee the accuracy of the forest disturbance analysis process. Two analysts and one verifier—a GIS Technician, a Carbon Specialist, and a Carbon Manager, respectively—were involved in this. All three can correctly recognize forest loss since they have a great deal of experience interpreting visual images. Sentinel-2 imagery was used by the first analyst (GIS technician) to identify, and outline converted areas in accordance with the BCP annual deforestation SOP /47/, reviewed and used by the VVB to perform its own assessment. Then, using the same Sentinel-2 images (10m resolution), the second analyst (Carbon Specialist) performed a thorough evaluation of the dataset produced by the first analyst. At the conclusion of the mapping procedure, both analysts reviewed their results to resolve any differences.

The resulting final dataset revealed a forest cover loss of 810.6 ha in the current monitoring period (see table 30 of the VCS MR for the breakdown of forest disturbed areas stratified by chiefdom). The VVB reviewed the deforestation and the deforestation accuracy folders /81-82/, including the deforestation grids /82.1/, the deforestation monitoring spreadsheet /82.2/ (which coincides with Table 30 of the VCS MR), the accuracy assessment /82.3/ and the shapefile which includes the deforestation boundaries /26.2.a,d,e/.

The areas with the largest deforestation are Chiawa, Jumbe, Mwanya and Msoro, with 411.84 ha, 158.58 ha, 92.79 ha and 68.28 ha, respectively, of disturbance.

The project included Planet-NICFI imagery with a spatial resolution of 4.77m to improve the accuracy evaluation over the present monitoring period, as well as the VVB did for improving spatial resolution review. By comparing the final dataset (10-meter resolution) provided in this MR with a reference dataset created by the verifier using Planet NICFI imagery (4.77-meter resolution), the validator (Carbon Manager) evaluated the manually digitized polygons (Figures 20, 21a, 21b, 22 and 22a of the VCS MR).

The accuracy of the deforestation mapping was assessed using the verifier's results (see Table 30). In order to identify any omissions (per Olofsson et al., 2020) or commission errors (per Ming Lu et al., 2017), the sample design included a thorough analysis of 100% of the digitized area as well as the remaining PA.

An agreement of equal to or greater than 95% between the two datasets is considered acceptable. The accuracy assessment yielded the following results:

- Total area of final reported dataset (Sentinel-2 imagery) – 914.67ha
- Total area of reference dataset (Planet-NICFI imagery) – 894.19ha
- Total Area covered: 923.55 ha

- Commission error: 29.36 ha
- Omission error: 8.88 ha
- Overall agreement (Intersection): 885.31 ha
- Overall Agreement : 95.86%

Overall agreement of 95.86% demonstrates acceptable agreement between the two datasets, and therefore, the reported deforested areas are considered to be accurate. The VVB reviewed both results and considers the assessment as reasonable and conservative.

The disturbed stratum from the M1 to M6 periods only made up 0.38% of the PAA in this monitoring period, as the PP showed. One of the original permanent sample plots happened to fall into the affected area by chance, and it was measured after the disturbance. Consequently, another random plot location was chosen inside the damaged region and measured in order to have enough plots to compute variance. During this monitoring period other permanent sample plot fell also into the affected area (encroachment) by chance and now these disturbed plots are part of the encroached stratum. The VVB accessed the LCFP Master Biomass Dataset Updated for the 2019 to 2023 period /96/, and after a thorough review, plus visiting 12 plots among biomass, leakage and proxy plots, considers the reported information as accurate.

Using equation F.41 VM0009 v3.0, current emissions from changes in project carbon stocks are computed. The project accounting area stocks at the end of this monitoring period were 598,455,611 tCO₂e /59/ following re-stratification (Table 30 of the VCS MR), as opposed to 351,728,283 tCO₂e at the end of the previous monitoring period (M5).

Removing the project carbon stocks for instances added within this monitoring period, and not yet monitored for deforestation, the project area stocks were 351,512,483 tCO₂e. The project emissions for this monitoring period were therefore -215,800 tCO₂e /59/.

The assessment of project emissions has been done with the full review of spreadsheet calculations /26.2/29/52-59/ and the proper comparison with the methodology. Furthermore, GIS material /26.2.a,d,e/67-84/ has been checked to be contrasted with the boundaries of the project and the spreadsheet calculation.

The calculations have been reproduced according to the methodology used, and the verification team obtained the same results. Thus, AENOR considers that the calculations were done correctly by the PP.

AENOR has checked the assumptions provided and confirmed that this amount of project emissions is in conformance and has followed the methodology in the validated Project Description.

Leakage

By advancing alternative livelihoods like beekeeping and enhancing agricultural practices with conservation farming and agroforestry, the project aims to stop leakage in the LCFP project area. BCP's second REDD+ project in Lusaka Province (LZRP), which has not had any leaks in ten years, served as the model for the project's leakage mitigation techniques.

A predetermined leakage monitoring approach was used to sample 25 plots during the sixth monitoring period. Two fresh replacement plots were added after the first two were rejected. The score for the current monitoring period was 0.1 (see Table 32 of the VCS MR), which was marginally higher than the 0.08 figure from the prior M5 MP.

As reported in Section 5.3 of the MR, leakage emission for the current period ($E[m]$) was calculated using equations F.44 and F.45 of VM0009.

$$E_{L\Delta}^{[m]} = E_L^{[m]} - E_L^{[m-1]} \quad [F.44]$$

$$E_L^{[m]} = E_{LASF}^{[m]} + E_{L\Delta SG}^{[m]} + E_{LME}^{[m]} \quad [F.45]$$

Activity-shifting leakage in forested area is calculated through the validated leakage emissions model (LEM) validated in the PD, as per equation F.46. Market leakage is not accounted for by the project.

$$E_{LASF}^{[m]} = LEM\left(c_P^{[m]}, c_B^{[m]}, p_{LDEG}^{[m]}, t^{[m]}, x^{[m]}\right) \quad [F.46]$$

The portion of leakage due to degradation in forest at the end of the current monitoring period was calculated as per equation B.9

$$z = \frac{1}{\sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} A_k} \sum_{k \in \mathcal{S}} \frac{A_k}{n_k} \sum_{j \in \mathcal{P}_k} y_{j,k} \quad [B.9]$$

The following table summarizes the calculated values of the leakage parameters:

Parameter	Equation used (VM0009 v3.0)	Value
$E_{L\Delta}^{[m]}$ Emissions from leakage for the current monitoring period.	F.44	0
$E_{LASF}^{[m]}$ Cumulative emissions from activity-shifting leakage in forested strata at the end of the current monitoring period	F.46	0

$E_{LASF}^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative emissions from activity-shifting leakage in forested areas at the end of the previous monitoring period	F.46	0
$P_{(LDEG)}^{[m]}$ Portion of leakage due to degradation in forest at the end of the current monitoring period	B.9	0.10
$P_{(LDEG)}^{[m=0]}$ Portion of leakage due to degradation prior to first verification event	B.9	0.08

The assessment of the leakage has been done with the full review of spreadsheet calculations /26/29/97-98/. Complementary, GIS material /26.2.a,d,e/67-84/ has been checked to be contrasted with the boundaries of the project and the spreadsheet calculation.

Likewise, the following plots were visited during the October and November 2024 site visit:

- Mpa12 (Mpanshya), Kam10 (Kazumba Game ranch) (PAI2 biomass plots)
- Mbu10 (Mbuluma), Mbu0 (Mbuluma), Kaz8 (Kazembe) and Kaz16 (Kazembe) (PAI3 biomass plots)
- Lk2 (Mpanshya), Lk47 (Nyimba) and Lk48 (Nyimba) (leakage plots)
- Prx19 (Shikabeta), Prx27 (Nyalugwe) and Prx38 (Nyimba) (proxy plots)

As stated above, leakage has been calculated using equation F.43 of VM0009, and an explanation on a minor deviation from the protocol has been explained in section 3.2.1 of the MR.

Leakage was found to be zero because the degradation factor calculated was 0.10 which is less than the minimum 20% threshold according to the VM0009 methodology, meaning that the leakage observed/monitored in the current monitoring period is insignificant and, therefore equal to 0.

Additionally, the MR /1/ has included a visual depiction of the leakage area and the corresponding monitored plots during the current monitoring period. The raw field data about the leakage monitoring exercise has been reviewed in the spreadsheet utilized for calculating the degradation factor.

The calculations have been reproduced according to the methodology used, and AENOR's verification team obtained the same results. Thus, AENOR considers that the PP did the leakage calculations correctly.

AENOR has checked the calculations provided and confirmed that this amount of leakage emissions is in conformance and has followed the methodology in the validated PD.

Net GHG emission reductions

As indicated in Section 5.4 of the MR, net GHG emission reductions were calculated using equation F.53 of VM0009 v3.0.

$$E_{\Delta GER}^{[m]} = E_{B\Delta}^{[m]} - E_{P\Delta}^{[m]} - E_{L\Delta}^{[m]} - E_U^{[m]} \quad [F.53]$$

The confidence deduction based on uncertainty in emissions models, carbon stock estimates in the PAA and carbon stock estimates in the proxy area ($E_U^{[m]}$) was calculated per equation F.57.

$$E_U^{[m]} = E_{B\Delta}^{[m]} \left[\frac{1.64}{E_{B\Delta}^{[m]} + A_{PAA}C_P^{[m]} + A_{PX}C_B^{[m]}} \sqrt{(U_{EM}^{[m]})^2 + (U_P^{[m]})^2 + (U_B^{[m]})^2} - 0.15 \right] \quad [F.57]$$

The following table summarizes the uncertainty parameters calculated:

Parameter	Equation used (VM0009 v3.0)	Value (tCO _{2e})
$E_U^{[m]}$ Confidence deduction based on uncertainty in emissions models, carbon stock estimates in the project accounting area and carbon stock estimates	F.57	0
$U_{EM}^{[m]}$ Total uncertainty in Baseline Emissions Models	F.14	17,326
$U_P^{[m]}$ Total uncertainty in project accounting area carbon stock estimate	B.10	19,070,476 for PAI1, 8,312,380 for PAI2, 15,049,173 for PAI3 and 19,070,476 for PAI4
$U_B^{[m]}$ Total uncertainty in proxy area carbon stock estimate	B.10	16,833

VCUs were estimated using equation F.55, in which emissions allocated to the buffer account are calculated using a non-permanence risk rating of 21% (see Section 4.5 of this report).

$$E_{\Delta NER}^{[m]} = E_{\Delta GER}^{[m]} - E_{BA}^{[m]} \quad [F.55]$$

The following table summarizes the GHG emissions of the project calculated for the current monitoring period.

Vintage period	Baseline emissions (tCO _{2e})	Project emissions (tCO _{2e})	Leakage emissions (tCO _{2e})	Gross ERs (tCO _{2e})	Buffer pool allocation (tCO _{2e})	Net GHG ERs (tCO _{2e})	Total VCU issuance (tCO _{2e})
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1 st January 2023 to 31 st December 2023	3,220,675	-215,800	0	3,004,873	-631,023	2,373,847	2,373,847
Total	3,220,675	-215,800	0	3,004,873	-631,023	2,373,847	2,373,847

The gross anthropogenic GHG reductions due to the project activity for the monitoring period (01-January-2023 to 31-December-2023) were 3,004,873 tCO₂e. The total number of buffer credits that need to be deposited into the AFOLU pooled buffer account is 631,023 and the VCUs eligible for issuance are 2,373,847 VCUs.

AENOR reproduced the calculations to achieve the same results and deemed they are depicted clearly and correctly in the provided sheets. The AENOR verification team was able to trace calculations directly from the data sources of inventory's field measurements. Formulae used comply with MR, validated PD and methodology, like the default values used to determine the parameters, are appropriate. Thus, the net amount of VCUs to be issued is accurate and realistic.

AENOR verified the parameters available at validation, the values reported and the references to the documents where they are used or explained by reviewing, reproducing and crosschecking the evidence provided by the Project Proponent. AENOR checked that the values of these parameters are appropriately and correctly used in equations. Data and parameters available at validation are the ones stated in section 4.1 of the VCS MR.

The data and parameters monitored to calculate the VCUs to be issued are the ones stated in section 4.2 of the MR. AENOR checked that the list of parameters to be monitored was complete and consistent with information in the monitoring plan of the PD.

Regarding the accuracy of spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/, formulae, conversions and aggregations and consistent use of data and parameters, the PP elaborated a complete procedure to assure the accuracy and appropriateness of data. During the verification process, AENOR not only verified the spreadsheet calculation, data and parameters but also the AENOR team could verify that the PP conducted a rigorous QA/QC procedure of its field measurements and an assessment of uncertainty. Thus, AENOR deems the PP performed good practices in this assessment and concludes that GHG reductions were quantified correctly by the project description and applied methodology.

AENOR verified the consistency and accuracy of each parameter detailed in Section 4 of the MR by crosschecking the information in the MR with the information in PD as well as checking values and reproducing the calculations in the spreadsheet calculation package and did not find inconsistencies. Therefore, AENOR deems that values reported for the parameters are accurate and consistent.

The following tables summarize the data and parameters used by the PP to calculate the GHG emission reductions, their verified values and the assessment procedures implemented by AENOR and their results.

Data/Parameter available at validation	Value	Assessment procedure and result
α Combined effects of β and θ at the start of the historic reference period	-0.01711 (unitless)	Value is consistent with the PD deviation updates as can be seen referred in Section 3.3 of this VCS verification report. It has also been correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/
β Effect of time on the cumulative proportion of conversion over time	0.0002983	Value is consistent with the PD deviation updates as can be seen referred in Section 3.3 of this VCS verification report. It has also been correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/
γ Time shift from beginning of historic reference period to project start date	10,589	Value is consistent with the validated PD (see Verra Registry) It has also been correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/
λ_{soc} Exponential soil carbon decay parameter	0.2	Value is consistent with the validated PD (see Verra Registry) It has also been correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/
σ_{EM} Estimated standard deviation of the state observations used to fit the logistic function	0.407	Value is consistent with the validated PD (see Verra Registry) It has also been correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets /26.2/29/52-59/
B The set of all selected carbon pools in biomass. Is a subset of C	2	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
C The set of all selected carbon pools	3	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
J The set of all observations of conversion	13,194	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
M The set of all monitoring periods	27	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
A_{PAA} Size of all four-activity instance project accounting areas. The accounting areas of the first,	1,172,092	Value is consistent with validated PD and GIS data. /67-84/ Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

second, third and fourth project instances are 485,495 ha, 50,730 ha, 122,856 ha and 513,011 ha respectively.		
A_{PX} Area of proxy area	3,840	Value is consistent with validated PD and GIS data. /67-84/ Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
n_d Number of spatial points in the reference area (CDM)	6,190	Value is consistent with remote sensing data /13/, as explained in the PD deviation section 3.3. As a new reference area (RA) has been delineated, the number of spatial points in the RA have increased from 2,600 (M1-M4) to 5,910 (M5) and to 6,190 (M6, actual verification process). Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
o_i State observation for the sample point in the reference area	0 or 1	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
P_{LME} Portion of leakage related to market	0	Value is consistent with validated PD.
q Lag between start of degradation and conversion	620	Value is consistent with validated PD. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
r_{RS} Expansion factor for above-ground biomass to below-ground biomass (root/shoot ratio)	0.54	Value is consistent with validated PD and original source (Chidumayo, E. N. 2013). /55-56/
r_U Onset proportion of conversion immediately adjacent to project area	0.084 for PAI1, 0.163 for PAI2, 0.054 for PAI3 and 0.028 for PAI4	Value is consistent with validated PD. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
t_i The point in time of the observation made at point i	1-13,175	As stated in the VCS MR, the historical reference period stretches from May 4 th , 1986 to May 31 st , 2022, which is 13,175 days in total. These updates have been reflected in the PD deviation Section 3.3 of this verification report, in which a

		new reference area has been delineated. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
t_{PL} Length of project crediting period	10,957	Value is consistent with validated PD. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
w_i Weight applied to the i th sample point in the reference area	Multiple values	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$x_i y_i$ Latitude and Longitude of the i th sample point	Multiple values	GIS evidence /67-84/

The following table summarize the data and parameters monitored used by the Project Proponent to calculate the GHG emission reductions, which has been assessed by AENOR.

Data/Parameter monitored	Value	Assessment procedure and result
$A_{P1}^{[m=0]}$ Area of project accounting area stratum 1 prior to first verification event	485,495	Value is consistent with validated PD and GIS data /67-84/. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$C_B^{[m]}$ Baseline carbon stocks at the end of the current monitoring period	13.8	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$C_{BBGB}^{[m]}$ Carbon not decayed in BGB at the end of the current monitoring period	-190,574	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$C_{B SOC}^{[m]}$ Carbon not decayed in SOC at the end of the current monitoring period	-964,646	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

		It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$C_{Bb}^{[m]}$ Baseline scenario average carbon stock in selected carbon pools	13.8	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$C_{BBM}^{[m]}$ Baseline carbon stocks in biomass at the end of the current monitoring period	13.8	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$C_{BSOC}^{[m]}$ Baseline soil carbon stocks at the end of the current monitoring period	210.6	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$C_P^{[m]}$ Project carbon stocks at the end of the current monitoring period	246.1 for PAI1 and PAI4, 599.6 for PAI2, 380.8 for PAI3 in intact forest and 13.8 in encroached forest	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ As stated in the VCS MR, a methodology deviation was applied so that forest carbon stock of PAI-1 can be used for PAIs 1 and 4. As stated in the methodology deviation assessment, the VVB received the forest inventory carbon stocks raw data for PAI-4, and it was witnessed that carbon stock for PAI-1 is the lowest among the three PAIs with complete data, being a conservative approach until the PP updates the datasets in the next verification.
$C_P^{[m-1]}$ Project carbon stocks at the beginning of the current monitoring period	246.1 for PAI1 and PAI4, 599.6 for PAI2, 380.8 for PAI3 in intact forest and 13.8 in encroached forest	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

		As stated in the VCS MR, a methodology deviation was applied so that forest carbon stock of PAI-1 can be used for PAIs 1 and 4. As stated in the methodology deviation assessment, the VVB received the forest inventory carbon stocks raw data for PAI-4, and it was witnessed that carbon stock for PAI-1 is the lowest among the three PAIs with complete data, being a conservative approach until the PP updates the datasets in the next verification.
$c_P^{[m=0]}$ Project carbon stocks prior to first verification event	236.2	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$c_{P1BM}^{[m=0]}$ Project carbon stocks in stratum 1 prior to first verification event	236.2	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$c_{PBM}^{[m=0]}$ Project carbon stocks in biomass prior to first verification event	114,668,494	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$c_{Pb}^{[m]}$ Average carbon in biomass in the project accounting area	246.1 for PAI1 and PAI4, 599.6 for PAI2, 380.8 for PAI3	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$c_{P1b}^{[m]}$ Average carbon in biomass for project accounting area stratum 1	246.1 for PAI1 and PAI4, 599.6 for PAI2, 380.8 for PAI3	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$c_{PSOC}^{[m=0]}$ Project soil carbon stocks prior to first verification event	235.2	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

$E_{\Delta GER}^{[m]}$ GERs for the current monitoring period	3,004,873	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /262/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{\Delta GER}^{[i]}$ GERs for monitoring period i	14,118,327	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /262/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{\Delta NER}^{[i]}$ NERs for monitoring period i	12,307,340	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_B^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions at the end of the current monitoring period	14,984,708	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_B^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions at the beginning of the current monitoring period	11,764,035	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{B\Delta}^{[m]}$ Change in baseline emissions	3,220,675	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.

$E_{B\Delta BGB}^{[i]}$ Change in baseline emissions from below-ground biomass during monitoring period i	5,181,278	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{B\Delta SOC}^{[m]}$ Baseline change in emissions from soil carbon	269,538	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{B\Delta SOC}^{[i]}$ Baseline emissions from soil carbon in monitoring period i	1,363,694	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_{BBGB}^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from below-ground biomass at the end of the current monitoring period	4,990,704	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{B\ BGB}^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from below-ground biomass at the beginning of the current monitoring period	3,929,104	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{BBM}^{[m]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from biomass at the end of the current monitoring period	14,585,663	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{BSOC}^{[m]}$	1,363,694	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

Cumulative baseline emissions from soil carbon at the end of the current monitoring period		It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{BSOC}^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative baseline emissions from soil carbon at the beginning of the current monitoring period	1,094,156	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_{BA}^{[m]}$ Cumulative emissions allocated to the buffer account at the end of the current monitoring period	-631,023	Consistent with NPPR. /60-66/ Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/ Value correctly estimated. It is relevant to highlight that a PD deviation has been included in Section 3.3 of the VCS verification report, related to the delineation of a new RA.
$E_L^{[m]}$ Cumulative emissions from leakage at the end of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_L^{[m-1]}$ Cumulative emissions from leakage at the beginning of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_{L\Delta}^{[m]}$ Change in emissions due to leakage	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

$E_{LASF}^{[m]}$ Cumulative emissions from activity-shifting leakage in forested strata at the end of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_{LME}^{[m]}$ Cumulative emissions from market leakage at the end of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_{P\Delta}^{[m]}$ Change in project emissions	-215,800	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_{P\Delta BRN}^{[m]}$ Cumulative project emissions due to burning at the end of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$E_U^{[m]}$ Cumulative confidence deduction at the end of the current monitoring period	0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$P_{LDEG}^{[m]}$ Portion of leakage due to degradation at the end of the current monitoring period	0.1	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$P_{LDEG}^{[m=0]}$ Portion of leakage due to degradation prior to first verification event	0.0815	Consistent with previous MR. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

t Time since project start date	3,164	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$t^{[i-1]}$ Time from the project start date to beginning of monitoring period i	2,800	Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$t^{[m]}$ Time from project start date to end of current monitoring period	PAI1 =3,164 PAI2 = 871 PAI3 = 728 PAI4: 364	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$t^{[m-1]}$ Time from project start date to beginning of current monitoring period	PAI1= 2,800 PAI2 = 507 PAI3 = 364 PAI4 = 0	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$U_B^{[m]}$ Total uncertainty in proxy area carbon stock estimate	16,833	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$U_{EM}^{[M]}$ Total uncertainty in Baseline Emissions Models	17,326	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/
$U_p^{[m]}$ Total uncertainty in project accounting area carbon stock estimate	19,070,476 for PAI1, 8,312,380 for PAI2 , 15,049,173 for PAI3 and 19,070,476 for PAI4	Calculation reproduced. Correctly inputted in the calculation spreadsheets. /26.2/29/52-59/

In conclusion, AENOR has thoroughly assessed the calculations and parameters, comparing them with the methodology and previous Monitoring Report. As a result, AENOR affirms that the established parameters are correct and appropriate. The parameters monitored and validated are deemed correct, reliable, and consistent by AENOR. The information presented in the monitoring report aligns with the Project Design (PD), the provided calculations, and the applicable methodology. Therefore, the results presented in the monitoring report are considered reliable, consistent, and accurate by AENOR.

4.4 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG emission reductions

The data and parameters used to determine GHG emission reductions are listed in Section 4 of the MR.

During AENOR's verification, the evidence provided by the PP was enough in both quantity and quality to support the determination of GHG emission reductions reported by the project.

Quality assurance and control is an essential part of company procedures to assure the accuracy of inventory data, modelling results, and carbon accounting. Quality assurance procedures are done to minimize and correct any potential data transcription, calculation, or formatting errors that may result in inaccurate carbon accounting results.

Most field data is collected using digital tools and directly loaded to the database or saved on GDrive where it is checked and then transferred to the database. All data submitted to the central database is subjected to quality control by appropriate staff. The PP has developed SOP and Field manuals which cover all aspects related to carbon inventory. Spot checks and internal audits are conducted to make sure all data collection is carried out following the standards.

Under VCS, the PP is committed to storing all project data in a secure and retrievable manner for at least two years after the end of the project crediting period. To facilitate project management and long-term accounting, all primary data outputs supporting annual verification including the spatial database are stored and maintained.

Roles and responsibilities are identified in the MR. QA/QC procedures were developed by the PP for maintaining consistency and quality of field inventories over time. Interviews with the PP and inspection of data and results demonstrated that the PP possess all the competencies required for accurately reporting GHG emissions reductions.

Field workers are always provided with the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), ensuring that they have clear guidelines to follow during data collection. The audit team verified that the field workers not only have the SOP with them at all times but also apply it correctly and consistently in the field. Additionally, the workers demonstrated a full understanding of the SOP and its application, confirming their competence in following the protocols.

The project follows a specific protocol (proxy soil sampling protocol) that ensures the biomass sampling areas are representative of the project's accounting area. This is achieved through the use of soil proxy areas, which are carefully selected to match the vegetation types within the accounting

area, as outlined in the historical vegetation classification data developed by Fanshawe (1971). The audit team reviewed the process and confirmed that the procedure was followed accurately, including the random selection of polygons to achieve an accurate distribution. This stratification process ensures the representative sampling of the project's accounting areas.

The project team has provided a clear explanation of how data analysis is performed. Specifically, the data from the biomass sampling plots is incorporated into the project's internal server for processing. This step is designed to minimize errors by applying a set of internal quality control procedures that ensure the integrity of the data. During the audit, AENOR was able to observe and confirm that the data analysis process is robust and that the project team follows well-established practices to minimize errors.

The project team is made up of highly qualified experts, technicians, and personnel with extensive experience in both data analysis and biomass sampling. The team's expertise has been verified through audits conducted by AENOR, who reviewed the qualifications and experience of the staff involved in these processes. The audit confirmed that the team possesses the necessary skills and experience to perform the required tasks correctly. Documentation supporting this was provided and reviewed by AENOR, who confirmed that the team's expertise is in line with the necessary standards.

During the AENOR audit, the audit team was able to observe the field team conducting inventory measurements in real-time. The field team was using the SOP, and AENOR confirmed that the team followed the correct procedures for measuring the biomass in the field. The measurements obtained were then checked by the auditors, who confirmed that the values were correct. Furthermore, the field procedure was reviewed and confirmed to be applied properly, ensuring that the inventory process was conducted in full compliance with the project protocols.

AENOR has visited the project site three times to conduct thorough audits. During each audit, they have carefully reviewed the data analysis and biomass sampling protocols. Each time, AENOR has confirmed that these protocols are being followed appropriately and with full compliance. For this particular verification event, the steps taken to ensure data quality were revisited and confirmed to be correct.

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

The above procedures to ensure this are described in Section 4.3 of the MR, in terms of general QA/QC of the monitoring plan and specific QA/QC procedures applied to data and parameters monitored.

AENOR acknowledges the project proponent's commendable adherence to good practices throughout the assessment process. As a result, AENOR concludes that greenhouse gas (GHG) reductions were accurately quantified per the Project Design (PD) and the applied methodology. The evidence provided is deemed sufficient in quantity and appropriate in quality to reliably determine the GHG reductions achieved by the project.

4.5 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The project utilized the non-permanence risk analysis tool, AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool 4.2, to assess risk according to internal risk, external risk, natural risk, and mitigation measures for minimizing them. The audit team reviewed the Non-Permanence Risk Report submitted through Verra Project Hub and additional documentation /60-66/, following VCS Standard v4.7 Section 3.2.10 and confirmed that the project adheres to the requirements set out in the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool.

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

It is important to note that AENOR's audit team requested the PP that for all NPR risk factors, they make sure the report provides explanations, justifications and/or documental evidence in accordance with Project Hub instructions. Instructions are included in the table below for each type of sub-group risk.

This way, the PP explained to the VVB that for some questions in the NPR tool that are non-applicable, the online tool does not allow a way to indicate the question is "N/A", therefore the responses to such questions were automatically left empty. For each case where the PP did not include a response to a non-applicable question in the Project Hub, the PP has outlined its justification in a supporting document shared with the audit team /63/.

AENOR has checked that the information provided in the NPRR is consistent with the 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 the information provided is reliable and appropriate from reliable sources. Thus, the overall risk rating of 21% is credible and realistic.

Internal Risk (1)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Project Management	Project Hub instructions state that: "Each project management risk factor set out below (referring to the Project Hub) shall be assessed. Select the checkbox(es) for the risk factors and/or mitigation options that apply to the project and leave those that do not apply empty. Please upload any required documentary evidence using the link provided to justify your selection. Then click on the 'Save' button at the bottom of the	YES	According to the NPRT, the PP provides different opportunities for continuous communication and consultation: 1- Meetings convened by BCP and stakeholders. 2- Meetings convened for the sessions of the REDD+ Committee. 3- Operational meetings held with communities to consult and agree on how to implement actions related to the operation of the REDD+ project, and the well-being of communities. 4- Project development meetings, in which the progress of the project is

	page before moving to the next section.” Q1 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Does the project have an adaptive management plan in place that includes a monitoring plan? If No, the project fails the risk assessment. If Yes, proceed to Q2 (as identified in the Project Hub). The PP answered YES (see the assessment on the right column, VVB assessment). Thus, Q2 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Do any of the following project management risks apply to the project? The PP indicated that none of them apply (a-g) to them. However, as expressed in the previous page, the PP shared an additional support document /63/ in which they demonstrated that (a-g) risk factors do not apply to them (see the demonstration below).		reviewed and evaluated by the Project proponent and partners. Complementarily, the Monitoring Plan is integrated into the implementation of the PP activities (allowing the information collection on direct effects and impacts that the project generates) and has also been formulated to respond to the diverse needs and expectations of stakeholders. BCP Carbon Accountants have a proven track record in REDD+ verification, having been involved in one of the biggest VCS REDD+ projects in Africa. BCP's Carbon Team is responsible for verifying the LCFP in the past years (4 yearly verifications since 2019). The LCFP has an overall Environmental Management Plan in place. The plan outlines monitoring basics for all the major activities and the feedback system that is required to ensure corrective actions are taken. Management holds regular meetings to review the impact of project activities. Therefore, AENOR's audit team assessed this information throughout onsite interviews, in which the interviewees recognized that during several meetings these communication methods were stipulated to be the ones carried out during the project process.
	a) Species planted (where applicable) associated with more than 25 per cent of the stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued are not native nor proven to be adapted to the same or similar agroecological zone(s) as the project area.	0	Not applicable. in this forest enrichment strategy, planting or reforestation actions do not apply to the project area. There are no invasive species used in the Project Accounting Area. The VVB assessed with onsite testimonies and direct observations shows that the LCFP project area is intact with native forest.
	b) Ongoing enforcement to prevent encroachment by outside actors is required to	0	Drivers and Agent study /85/, reviewed by AENOR's audit team, has

	protect more than 50 percent of stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued		demonstrated that conversation of forest land relates in its majority to subsistence farming and charcoal production. The project is mitigating such activities by providing alternative livelihoods to the neighbouring communities such as conservation farming, beekeeping, horticulture, etc. Likewise, the LCFP has conducted various stakeholders and community meetings to sensitize the community and train them on the protection of forest resources where they draw benefits from. Even though BCP has patrolling teams for both LZRP and LCFP, the PP has demonstrated a high protection of the areas by giving stakeholders new livelihoods. Enforcement is not necessary to safeguard more than 50% of stocks on which GHG credits have been granted; rather, it is necessary to prevent additional encroachment.
	c) Management team does not include individuals with significant experience in all skills necessary to successfully undertake the project activities (i.e., any area of required experience is not covered by an individual with at least five years' experience in that area).	0	The project proponent has a multidisciplinary team with experience in the development and implementation of REDD projects. VVB reviewed the Curriculum vitae of key personnel /142-151/ to confirm the management experience. The VVB has visited LZRP and LCFP projects in several occasions, where all BCP team members demonstrated how to deal with carbon projects. In accordance with provided evidence, BCP is an organization that has been working by implementing programs for the community's economy and simultaneously protecting existing forests.

	d) The management team does not maintain a presence in the country or is located more than one day of travel from the project site, considering all parcels or polygons in the project area.	0	Based in Lusaka, BCP maintains offices in Mfuwe, Nyimba, Chinyunyu, and Lundazi. BCP has its head office based in Lusaka, less than three hour's drive from the project area and there are well-trained, experienced staff based at the conservancy, responsible for day-to-day management plus a Community Engagement Team living within the neighbouring communities, as the audit team could assess during the October and November 2024 on-site visit. Carbon Accountants have a proven track record in REDD+ verification, having been involved in one of the biggest VCS REDD+ projects in Africa. BCP's Carbon Team is responsible for verifying the LCFP in the past years, including the baseline reevaluation in 2020. The audit team has reviewed the CVs of relevant staff /142-151/.
	e) The management team has previously failed to submit a loss report within two years of detecting a loss event.	0	Not applicable. It must be evaluated in other coming monitoring periods. Further, BCP has never failed to submit an event that affects GHG emissions, even though no other BCP project has experienced a loss event.
	f) ALM projects: Some or all the farmers participating in the project have not received training on the improved ALM practices implemented as part of the project or the monitoring and reporting procedures implemented during the crediting period.	0	Not applicable. LCFP is not an ALM project, but a REDD+ project (VCS MR/1/). Confirmed by the whole auditing process and eligibility criteria and applicability conditions of the methodology.
	g) ALM projects: Some or all the farmers participating in the project are unaware of the potential for yields to decrease temporarily due to the	0	Not applicable. LCFP is not an ALM project, but a REDD+ project (VCS MR/1/). Confirmed by the whole auditing process and eligibility criteria

	transition to improved agricultural practices		and applicability conditions of the methodology.
	As indicated in the Project Hub to refer to mitigation factors, Q3 states: Do any of the following mitigations apply to the project?	YES	The answers are expressed below, considering risk mitigation factors h-i.
	h) Mitigation: Management team includes individuals with significant (i.e., more than five years) experience in AFOLU project design and implementation, carbon accounting, and reporting (e.g., individuals who have successfully managed projects through validation, verification, and issuance of GHG credits) under the VCS Program or other approved GHG programs.	-2	The PP has a multidisciplinary team with experience in the development and implementation of REDD projects. The verification team reviewed the Curriculum vitae of key personnel /142-151/ to confirm the management experience. Several information about BCP and their experience is included in the NPRT /65/. The BCP Management team has employees with significant experience in AFOLU project design and implementation, carbon accounting, and reporting (e.g., individuals who have successfully managed projects through validation, verification, and issuance of GHG credits) under the VCS program.
	i) Mitigation (ALM projects): A comprehensive training plan for all farmers participating in the project is in place, covering implementation of planned ALM practices, monitoring and reporting obligations and their potential costs.	0	This is not an ALM project. Thus, the mitigation factor is not applicable to the LCFP project.
Total Project Management (PM): (a + b + c + d + e + f+h+i): 0 Total shall not be less than zero.			

In AENOR´s opinion, total project management risk rating (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool: VCS V4.2

Internal Risk (2)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Financial Viability	Project Hub instructions state that: “The financial viability of a project is based on 1) the number of years until breakeven is reached (i.e., the payback period) and 2) the funding secured relative to what is needed to implement and operate the project until reaching breakeven. Select the radio button that corresponds to the correct response for each question. Also, please select the mitigation checkbox if it applies to the project. Please upload any required documentary evidence using the link provided to justify your selection.” Thus, Q1 (as identified in the Project Hub) states that: How long is the project's payback period (i.e., how many years will it take to breakeven)?	e	See answers below (a-e):
	a) The payback period is greater than 20 years from the current risk assessment.	0	The project has already reached the breakeven point in 2018, and cashflow in the future is predicted to remain positive. Go to e).
	b) The payback period is greater than 10 years from the current risk assessment, but less than or equal to 20 years.	0	The project has already reached the breakeven point in 2018, and cashflow in the future is predicted to remain positive. Go to e).
	c) The payback period is greater than seven and up to and including 10 years from the current risk assessment.	0	The project has already reached the breakeven point in 2018, and cashflow in the future is predicted to remain positive. Go to e).
	d) The payback period is greater than four and up to and including 7 years from the current risk assessment.	0	The project has already reached the breakeven point in 2018, and cashflow

			in the future is predicted to remain positive. Go to e).
	e) The payback period is four years or less from the current risk assessment.	0	The project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven. AENOR has reviewed the financial plan and the cashflow and confirms that such information is considered correct /61/. Also, this information was assessed during the October and November 2024 site visit, together with the management team to understand the cashflow and NPV analysis. The lead auditor of the process is a forestry engineer with a MSc in Sustainable Finance and a background of ESG investing. Likewise, one of the colleagues that work as an auditor in AENOR is an economist, even though he is not part of the audit team. Their assessment, all together with the clear explanations of the PP, provided sufficient assurance of the accurateness of the document.
	As stated within the Project Hub, Q2 questions: What percentage of funding has the project secured to cover the total cash out required before the project reaches breakeven?	i	See answers below (f-i):
	f) Project has secured less than 15 percent of funding needed to cover the total cash out required before the project reaches breakeven.	0	Not applicable. Project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven. See i) below.
	g) Project has secured 15 percent to less than 40 percent of the funding needed to cover the total cash out	0	Not applicable. Project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven. See i) below.

	required before the project reaches breakeven.		
	h) Project has secured from 40 percent to less than 80 percent of the funding needed to cover the total cash out required before the project reaches breakeven.	0	Not applicable. Project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven. See i) below.
	i) Project has secured 80 percent or more of the funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven.	0	Project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven. A Financial Model has been provided to demonstrate the financial health of BCP as the implementing organization /61/. AENOR has reviewed the financial plan and the cashflow and confirms that such information is considered correct. Also, this information was assessed during the October and November 2024 site visit, together with the management team to understand the cashflow and NPV analysis. The lead auditor of the process is a forestry engineer with a MSc in Sustainable Finance and a background of ESG investing. Likewise, one of the colleagues that work as an auditor in AENOR is an economist, even though he is not part of the audit team. Their assessment, all together with the clear explanations of the PP, provided sufficient assurance of the accurateness of the document.
	According to the Project Hub, the mitigation factor to be applied requires answering Q3, which states that: Does the following mitigation apply to the project?	YES	See answer below:

	j) Mitigation: Project has available, as callable and secured financial resources, at least 80 percent of total cash out before the project reaches breakeven.	-2	The financial breakeven point calculations are included and have been assessed by AENOR's audit team /61/. With the risk that REDD+ market values are less than adequate to sustain the project financially in mind, project financials were modelled on very conservative REDD+ credit prices in the project financial plan. However, this is a discrete project with potential high value in the marketplace given its climate, community and biodiversity benefits. At an average price of \$5.80 per ton (this is currently the average price at which BCP sells the project credits), the project would hit break even within 3 years from the current risk assessment. The project proponent has established a trust (Legacy Forests Ltd, previously registered as BCP Trust Ltd) to help counter the risk of low carbon prices affecting community benefits from the project. The trust has leveraged donor funds specifically to support and build upon community benefits. To date, the Trust has benefited from the support of local donors such as USAID, Civil Society Environment Fund (CSEF), Darwin Initiative, National Geographic Society and Musika.
Total Financial Viability (FV) = [as applicable, ((b, c, d or e) + (f, g, h or i + j))] = 0 Total shall not be less than zero and the sub-total for question two with the mitigation j shall not be less than zero (note: the mitigation only applies to Q2)			

Then, in AENOR's opinion, total financial viability risk rating (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool: VCS v4.2.

Internal Risk (3)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Opportunity Cost	Project Hub instructions for Opportunity Cost indicates that:	YES	The most likely of the land use scenarios is subsistence-based and was

	“Opportunity cost analysis shall be based on the net present value (NPV) of the alternative land uses identified in the project’s additionality assessment except where most baseline activities are subsistence driven. If you answer 'Yes' to Q1, please provide the reason, save and proceed to Q3. If you answer 'No' to Q1, proceed to Q2. Q3 is required only if you answer 'Yes' to Q1. Select mitigation action(s) that apply to the project and leave those that do not apply empty. Please upload any required documentary evidence using the link provided to justify your selection.” Thus, Q1 states: Are the baseline activities subsistence-driven? If No, proceed to Q2. If Yes, proceed to Q3.		acknowledged by the audit team during the onsite visit in October and November 2024. The MR covering this monitoring period lists all activities that are having positive community impacts and BCP has consulted extensively with all community stakeholders to understand the drivers of deforestation within the project zone and to formulate the most efficient mitigation strategy and beneficial projects, as the audit team could acknowledged during the late 2024 on-site visit, as per the different interviews that happened in the project area. The project certainly has positive socio-economic benefits and has been previously validated and verified under the CCBA Standard and received gold validation for community benefits. BCP has a highly qualified and experienced team that have worked on conservation and natural resource management projects in Zambia and across Africa. This team has already started implementing several pilot projects within a very short space of time. Because the answer to Q1 is “yes” the tool instructs the user to proceed to Q3. The answer to Q3 is “yes”. Thus, Q2 a-f are not applicable. AENOR has reviewed the response of the PP in the NPRT as well as the information on the MR. This is crosschecked with the general auditing process and other supporting evidence. Complementary, the audit team, assessed through direct observations and onsite testimonies that the information about the activities of the project is deemed correct and accurate according to the information provided.
	a) Net present value (NPV) of the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be at least 100	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).

	percent more than that of the project activities.		
	b) NPV of the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be greater than 50 percent and up to 100 percent more than that of project activities	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).
	c) NPV of the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be greater than 20 percent and up to and including 50 percent more than that of project activities.	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).
	d) NPV of the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be 20 percent or less than that of project activities.	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).
	e) NPV of project activities is expected to be greater than 20 percent and up to 50 percent more profitable than that of the most profitable alternative land use activity.	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).
	f) NPV of project activities is expected to be over 50 percent more profitable than that of the most profitable alternative land use activity.	0	N/A since the project needs to apply to Q3 (instead of Q2) because of the question answered above (baseline activities subsistence-driven).
	Q3 (as indicated in the Project Hub) states: Does the project have net positive community impacts? A response is only required if the answer to Q1 is Yes.	YES	Because the answer to Q1 is “yes” the tool instructs the user to proceed to Q3. The answer to Q3 is “yes”
	g) Net positive community impacts of project activities are not demonstrated.	0	Not applicable. See the answer (h) below.
	h) Net positive community impacts of project activities are demonstrated.	0	The project proponent had demonstrated the net positive impact for the community impacts due to

			project activities (see CCB validation and verification). The audit team interviewed people and crosschecked the information to demonstrate the positive community impacts throughout the project area.
	Q4 (as indicated in the Project Hub) states that: Do any of the following mitigations apply to the project?	YES	See mitigation factor j below:
	i) Mitigation: Project is protected by a legally binding agreement to continue management practices that protect the credited carbon stocks over the duration of the project crediting period.	-2	Both private and chiefdom land are being used for the project. BCP has negotiated 30-year agreements granting it the authority to reduce emissions and conduct REDD operations on private ranches where the project is located. BCP is therefore the project sponsor for these regions. The 99-year leases that the landlords have for the spaces were signed in 2001, so they won't expire before the project is finished. The first 30 years of activities will be conducted. Every CFMA sent to the Zambian Forestry Department includes a long-term active adaptive management strategy that spans the LCFP project period. A Zambian financial institution has received the long-term financial strategy. The audit team interviewed forestry Department stakeholders and assessed the contract agreements of the stakeholders and found this consistent. The audit team also reviewed the agreements with each CFMG /2-25/.
	j) Mitigation: Project is protected by legally binding agreement to continue	0	Not applicable, as the PP has conservatively decided to not apply for this mitigation factor.

	management practices that protect the credited carbon stocks for at least 100 years.		
	k) Mitigation: Where there is a potential for revenue loss compared to the most profitable alternative land use activity, project is a not for profit or has additional financial support (e.g., via grants, government funding, ecosystem services payments or SD VSta assets) to overcome expected revenue loss.	0	Not applicable, as the PP has conservatively decided to not apply for this mitigation factor.
Total Opportunity Cost (OC) = [as applicable, (a, b, c, d, e, f, g or h) + (i or j) + k]: 0 Total shall not be less than zero.			

Communities and the project proponent signed agreements to realize the project activities, during the crediting period.

Then, in AENOR's opinion, total opportunity cost risk rating (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

Internal Risk (4)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Project Longevity	Project Hub instructions for project longevity indicate that: "Project longevity is the number of years, beginning from the project start date, that project activities will be maintained. Project longevity must be a minimum of 40 years to pass the assessment. Please select the correct response to Q1. If you respond "No" to Q1, complete Q2 and Q3. In Q2, enter the project duration in years. Finally, answer Q4. Please upload any required documentary evidence using the link provided to justify your selection."	NO	

	As such, Q1 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Did the project request registration on or after 1 January 2024?		
	Q2 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Does the project have a legally binding agreement that covers at least 100 years from the project's start date? If Yes, the project is given a zero score for this risk category. If No, proceed to Q3.	NO	As stated in the Project Hub, if the answer is NO, the PP had to automatically go to Q3.
	Q3 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: What is the project longevity in years? If you answered Yes to Q1 and the project longevity is less than 40 years, the project fails the risk assessment. If you answered No to Q1 and the project longevity is less than 30 years, the project fails the risk assessment. Please note that projects with project longevity of less than 40 years will be ineligible for the Core Carbon Principles label.	YES	Project Longevity is 30 years. AENOR has reviewed the response provided in the NPRT and confirmed such information with local authorities interviews as well as direct testimonies from people from these communities. AENOR also reviewed the Mentioned Law and confirmed that the information in the PD and NPRT does match with the testimonies and the regulations of the Law. For further information, please see the information in the PD or the NPRT.
	Q4 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Does the project have a management, financial and monitoring plan for the entire project longevity? If No, the project fails the risk assessment. If Yes, proceed to Q5.	YES	The audit team assessed LCFP verification breakeven model /61-62/, acknowledging the response provided by BCP. Go to Q5 to continue with the assessment.
	Q5 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Is the project an ARR or IFM project with harvesting? If No, proceed to Q7. If Yes, proceed to Q6.	No	The project is a REDD+ project. Go to Q7 to continue with the assessment (as required by the Project Hub).

	Q6 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Can the project demonstrate a commitment to continue the management practice, replant or allow re-growth? If No, the project falls the risk assessment.	N/A	As required by the Project Hub, as Q5 does not apply, the PP shall go to Q7 directly.
	Q7 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Does the project have a legal Agreement or requirement to continue the management practice(s)? If No, proceed to a. If Yes, proceed to b.	Yes	Go to b below to continue with the assessment.
	a) Without legal agreement or requirement to continue the management practice.	0	N/A
	b) With legal agreement or requirement to continue the management practice.	18	The project is being implemented on both chiefdom land and private land. For the project lands in private ranches, BCP has signed 30-year agreements giving BCP the rights to emissions reductions and carrying out REDD activities on their lands. This makes BCP the project proponent for these areas. The landowners have 99-year leases for the areas, signed in 2001, which will therefore not expire before the conclusion of the project. Activities will be carried out initially for 30 years. A long term active adaptive management plan covering the project period of the LCFP is attached to each Community Forest Management Agreement (CFMA) submitted to the Zambian Forestry Department. The long-term financial plan has been submitted to a financial institution in Zambia, in

			agreement with requirements of the VCS. The long-term financial plan has been submitted to a financial institution in Zambia, AMOCPA Certified Public Accountants in agreement with requirements of the VCS (relevant evidence has been shared with the audit team) /62/.
	Q8 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: “Is the project a grouped project where contract durations with individual PAIs are less than the project longevity?”	No	The PP responded No, and the VVB reviewed each of the agreements /2-25/ for all the 4 PAIs, and the response is correct.

Total Project Longevity (PL): 18

Total shall not be less than zero. Any project with a legally binding agreement that covers at least 100 years from the project start date will be assigned a score of zero. Any project that requests registration on or after 1 January 2024 with a project longevity of less than 40 years fails the risk assessment. Any project that requests registration before 1 January 2024 with a project longevity of less than 30 years fails the risk assessment. The selected project longevity shall be supported by a management, financial and monitoring plan.

Then, in AENOR´s opinion, Total Project Longevity (18) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

Therefore, **total internal risk** is calculated as the sum of (PM + FV + OC + PL), totalling 18 (according to the NPR tool the total may not be less than zero).

External Risk (1)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	DOE Assessment
Land and Resource tenure	Q1 (as indicated in the Project Hub) states: Has due process been undertaken to discover any disputes over ownership and land, resource access, or use rights? If No, the project fails the risk assessment. If Yes, proceed to Q2.	Yes	The 1995 Lands Act in Zambia grants the President the right to manage land under statutory and customary tenure. The 2015 Wildlife Act and 2015 Forest Act guide the resources in the Project Area, which is in Game Management Areas (GMAs). The Department of National Parks and Wildlife, Forestry Department, and Traditional Authorities have been consulted to ensure property rights and project permanence. Agreements with

			community groups have been signed, and CFMG have been established. Yes, and hence, Go to Q2 to continue the assessment.
	Q2 (as indicated in the Project Hub) states: Has the project executed a binding legal agreement(s) (such as a contract) securing the legal right to control and operate project activities over the entire project area with all entities that have verified ownership claims or verified land, resource access or use rights (such as customary rights holders)? If No, the project fails the risk assessment. If Yes, proceed to Q3.	Yes	The CFMGs are the evidence of right of use. Agreements between BCP and the CFGs are in place, and there is no transfer of property rights to the project proponent. For private ranches, BCP has entered into a contractual arrangement and no property rights transfer. The 32 CFMG project proponents have entered into Community Forestry Management Agreements (CFMA) with the Forestry Department, giving communities rights to forest carbon. BCP has entered into a communications agreement with the CFMG project proponents to represent all project proponents in verification, marketing, and sale of VCU's generated by the project. BCP has been instrumental in operationalizing the Forest Act 2015 by developing guidelines that secure statutory rights. Zambia is currently implementing REDD+ Readiness activities and is a UN-REDD Programme Partner Country. In addition, the project invests in publicizing the project locally and internationally to ensure that the GRZ remains aware of the values that this project is providing the Nation as the country's first REDD+ project. The Project is building a positive, lasting relationship with neighbouring communities and the Government of Zambia to ensure that the land is productive and beneficial to the Nation. Such agreements have been sampled by the VVB /2-25/, and more than a hundred stakeholders with different backgrounds have been interviewed in late 2024 site visit, for 11 consecutive days. Go to Q3 to continue with the assessment.

	Q3 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Do the same or different entities hold land ownership and resource access or use rights?	-	See answer b) below
	a) Ownership and resource access or use rights are held by the same entity(ies).	0	See answer b) below
	b) Ownership and resource access or use rights are held by different entity(ies) (e.g., the government own the land, and the project proponent holds a lease or concession).	2	Agreements between BCP and the CFMGs exist, and the CFMGs offer proof of right of use. Through provisions in the Community Forest Management Agreements, the project proponents have the unrestricted right to assert a decrease in GHG emissions. The 32 proponents of the CFMG project have signed Community Forestry Management Agreements (CFMA) with the Forestry Department, and BCP has contracted with private ranches. In order to represent all project proponents in the verification, marketing, and sale of VCUs, BCP has signed a communications agreement with the CFMG project proponents. Such agreements have been sampled by the VVB /2-25/, and more than a hundred stakeholders with different backgrounds have been interviewed in late 2024 site visit, for 11 consecutive days.
	Q4 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Is the project in a country/jurisdiction with a history of national, sub-national, or local government ("Government") intervention in land or resource use?	-	See answer e) below
	c) Government has previously expropriated significant areas of land	0	Not applicable. Refer to answer e)

	(i.e., 10% or more) in the project area in the past 20 years.		
	d) Government has previously changed land rights in the project's jurisdiction (e.g., cancelled, or blocked land titles, expropriated land or issued overlapping land titles) in the past 20 years.	0	Not applicable. Refer to answer e)
	e) No instances of Government intervention in the past 20 years or specific instances of expropriation and government intervention in land rights in the project area have been conclusively resolved against the government in a court of competent jurisdiction.	0	With statutory and customary tenure arrangements, the President of Zambia is granted all land for the Zambian people by the 1995 Lands Act. Resources in the Project Area, which is under GMAs, are governed by the 2015 Forest Act and the 2015 Wildlife Act /64/. For sustainable wildlife use, the President has the authority to designate a region as a GMA and to establish or expand its boundaries. The 2015 Forest Act gives the President ownership of all trees and forest products from open spaces, botanical reserves, state land, local forests, national forests, and customary areas. To guarantee the project's sustainability, the Department of National Parks and Wildlife, the Forestry Department, and Traditional Authorities have been contacted. With government agencies, MoUs and letters of support have been signed, and CFMGs have been formed. There are no disputes or conflicts over the ownership of land rights in the territory. AENOR has interviewed local authorities and local communities and crosschecked the information with the legal agreements and the information in the MR and NPRT to confirm that BCP's LCFP holds the status of a lease based on the

			constitutional, legal and regulatory provisions cited.
	Q5 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: What percent of the project area is affected by disputes over land tenure or ownership?	-	See answer h) below
	f) Disputes exist in more than 5 percent of the project area.	0	Not applicable. See answer h) below
	g) Disputes exist in up to and including 5 percent of the project area.	0	Not applicable. See answer h) below
	h) No disputes exist.	0	There are no disputes. This information has been crosschecked with the interviews between AENOR and different stakeholders such as local authorities or community members. See Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this report for more information on the activities and interviews performed by AENOR's audit team. The interviewees recognized not to be aware of any type of disputes in the project area. AENOR considers that the explanations in the NPRT are correct according to the information gathered during the October and November 2024 onsite visit.
	Q6 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: What percent of the project area has disputes over access or use rights?	-	See answer k) below
	i) Disputes exist in more than 5 percent of the project area.	0	Not applicable. Please see answer k) below
	j) Disputes exist in up to and including 5 percent of the project area.	0	Not applicable. Please see answer k) below
	k) No disputes exist.	0	There are no disputes. This information has been crosschecked with the

			interviews between AENOR and different stakeholders such as local authorities or community members. See Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of this report for more information on the activities and interviews performed by AENOR's audit team. The interviewees recognized not to be aware of any type of disputes in the project area. AENOR considers that the explanations in the NPRT are correct according to the information gathered during the October and November 2024 onsite visit.
	Q7 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Have the risks of upstream and sea impacts undermining the carbon stocks of a WRC project been demonstrated as insignificant or effectively mitigated for the ten years that follow the risk assessment?	-	N/A, the LCFP project is not a WRC project.
	l) Potential upstream and sea impacts are not demonstrated to be insignificant or effectively mitigated.	0	Not applicable. See answer to question Q7 above. The LCFP project is not a WRC project.
	m) Potential upstream and sea impacts are demonstrated to be insignificant or effectively mitigated.	0	Not applicable. See answer to question Q7 above. The LCFP project is not a WRC project.
	Q8 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Do any of the following mitigations apply to the project?	Yes	See answer below
	n) Mitigation: Project area is protected by a legally binding commitment (e.g., a license,	-2	The audit team interviewed forestry Department stakeholders and assessed the contract agreements of the

	conservation easement, conservation servitude, or protected area) to continue management practices that protect carbon stocks for the duration of the project crediting period.		stakeholders and found this consistent. AENOR has reviewed the agreements /2-25/ and confirmed the legality of such statements with the local authorities.
	o) Mitigation: Where disputes over land tenure, ownership or access or use rights exist, documented evidence is provided that demonstrates the project is taking action to try to resolve the disputes or clarify overlapping claims.	0	Not applicable, the PP decided to conservatively not apply for this mitigation factor.
Total Land Tenure (LT) = [as applicable, ((a or b) + (c, d, or e) + (f, g or h) + (i, j or k) + (l or m) + n + o)] = 0 Total shall not be less than zero.			

Then, in AENOR's opinion, total land tenure (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

External Risk (2)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Stakeholder Engagement	Instructions provided for Stakeholder Engagement within the Project Hub states that: "Stakeholder engagement shall be assessed for projects where local populations, including those living within or surrounding the project area (within 20 km of the project boundary), are reliant on the project area, such as for essential food, fuel, fodder, medicines or	Yes	An outside company that USAID directly contracted with conducted the first baseline survey of Eastern Province stakeholder homes for the LCFP in 2015. Results from a representative sample of more than 4,300 homes surveyed in the districts of Mambwe and Nyimba are compiled in the survey report. Important socioeconomic data show that 19% (847) and 84% (3,468 respondents) of respondents, respectively, rely on the forest for income and consumption. Charcoal, mushrooms, and fuel wood are the most often mentioned forest goods for financial gain.

	building materials. Please select the checkbox(es) for the risk factors and/or mitigation options that apply to the project and leave those that do not apply empty. Upload any required documentary evidence using the link provided to justify your selection. Where local populations are not reliant on the project area, the risk is not relevant to the project, and you may skip this section.” Q1 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Are local populations, including those living in the project area or within 20 km of the boundary of the project area, reliant on the project area? If No, the risk rating for stakeholder engagement is zero and you can proceed to political risk. If Yes, proceed to Q2.		Proceed to Q2
	Q2 (as identified in the Project Hub) states that: Have more or less than 50 percent of stakeholders living within and reliant on the project area been consulted?	-	See question b) below
	a) Less than 50 percent of stakeholders living within the project area and who are reliant on the project area have been consulted.	0	Not applicable, see answer to b) below.
	b) More than 50 percent of stakeholders living within the project area and who are reliant on	0	In order to carry out a REDD+ project within the LCFP PA, BCP requested permission from the communities that were part of the project zone. The community's overwhelming reaction to

	the project have been consulted.		the implementation of a REDD+ initiative there was positive. Additionally, in accordance with the principle of obtaining FPIC from community stakeholders across the 32 chiefdoms since 2015 to the present, all project activities occurring within the Project Zone are proceeding with the full consent of all local residents. About 65% of the target households are thought to be amenable and supportive of forest conservation, according to an initial income perception survey done in 2020 The PP attached the evidence as part of their response within Verra's Project Hub. Likewise, the VVB has assessed FPIC and stakeholder consultation of PAI4 within M6 VCS MR. Such information can be found both within the VCS Verification Report and MR. Also, the VVB has visited the PA in 2023 and 2024 recently. Hundreds of stakeholders were interviewed, and thousands of kilometres visiting different chiefdoms and CFMGs were performed. AENOR's audit team has received credibility of such constant and broad stakeholder consultation since the beginning.
	Q3 (as identified in the Project Hub) states that: Have more or less than 20 percent of stakeholders living outside the project area within 20 km of the project area, and who are reliant on the project area been consulted?	YES	See answer d) below.
	c) Less than 20 percent of stakeholders living outside the project area within 20 km of the	0	Not applicable, see d) below. .

	project area, and who are reliant on the project area have been consulted.		
	d) More than 20 percent of stakeholders living outside the project area within 20 km of the project area, and who are reliant on the project area have been consulted.	0	In order to carry out a REDD+ project within the LCFP PA, BCP requested permission from the communities that were part of the project zone. The community's overwhelming reaction to the implementation of a REDD+ initiative there was positive. Additionally, in accordance with the principle of obtaining FPIC from community stakeholders across the 32 chiefdoms since 2015 to the present, all project activities occurring within the Project Zone are proceeding with the full consent of all local residents. About 65% of the target households are thought to be amenable and supportive of forest conservation, according to an initial income perception survey done in 2020 The PP attached the evidence as part of their response within Verra's Project Hub. Likewise, the VVB has assessed FPIC and stakeholder consultation of PAI4 within M6 VCS MR. Such information can be found both within the VCS Verification Report and MR. Also, the VVB has visited the PA in 2023 and 2024 recently. Hundreds of stakeholders were interviewed, and thousands of kilometres visiting different chiefdoms and CFMGs were performed. AENOR's audit team has received credibility of such constant and broad stakeholder consultation since the beginning.
Total Stakeholder Engagement [as applicable, (a or b) + (c or d)]: 0 Total shall not be less than zero			

During the October and November 2024 on-site visit, the VVB could confirm that local stakeholders participated in the different workshops carried out by project proponent; also, it was confirmed that consultations were carried out in site of the project area (as per stated in the MR). Then, in AENOR´s opinion, total community engagement (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

External Risk (3)	Risk Factor and/or Mitigation Description	Risk Rating	VVB Assessment
Political Risk	Project Hub instructions for Political Risk states that: “The governance score of the country in which this project is located is already populated here. It is calculated from the mean of governance scores across the six indicators of the World Bank Institute’s Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI), averaged over the most recent five years of available data. Please select the mitigation checkbox if it applies to the project.” Thus Q1 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: What is the governance score for the country?	4	See answer b) below
	a) Governance score of less than -0.79	0	Zambia presents a score of -0.47 according to the World Bank Institute’s Worldwide Governance Indicators. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source. See b) below.
	b) Governance score of -0.79 to less than -0.32	4	Zambia presents a score of -0.47 according to the World Bank Institute’s Worldwide Governance Indicators. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source.

	c) Governance score of -0.32 to less than 0.19.	0	Zambia presents a score of -0.47 according to the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source. See b) above.
	d) Governance score of 0.19 to less than 0.82.	0	Zambia presents a score of -0.47 according to the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators. See b) above.
	e) Governance score of 0.82 or higher.	0	Zambia presents a score of -0.47 according to the World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators. See b) above.
	Q2 (as identified in the Project Hub) states: Does the following mitigation apply to the project?	YES	See answers below
	f) Mitigation: The project is in a country that: 1) is party to the Paris Agreement and has submitted an NDC to the UNFCCC Secretariat in the last five years, 2) includes AFOLU commitments (conditional or unconditional) in its NDC, and 3) has a documented and active climate change plan that includes the project activity.	-2	Zambia was one of the first nine UN-REDD Pilot Countries in the World and there is a high level of interest within government for REDD+ pilot projects. This project is significant in that it is the first REDD+ project in Zambia. It is therefore strategic as a sub-national project which aims to support and feed into the design of a national REDD+ program. The project benefits from solid government support and interest for learning reasons. The project proponent is investing significantly in ensuring that the GRZ is kept well informed of this project, and the project's goals to contribute to

			national development goals and the national REDD+ strategy.
Total Political (PC) ((a, b, c, d or e) + f): 2 Total may not be less than zero.			

VVB confirms the governance score against the world bank platform: <http://info.worldbank.org/governance/wgi/Home/Reports>; the average indicator was calculated for the last 9 year. Then, in AENOR´s opinion, total political risk (0) is properly justified and in accordance with the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

Therefore, **total external risk** is calculated as the sum of (LT + CE + PC), totalling 2.

Natural Risk	Score (LS)	Mitigation	Affected by climate change	VVB Assessment
Fire	3	0.25	Yes	The likelihood of a natural fire is every 10 to less than 25 years, being insignificant to carbon stocks. The project is implementing significant fire mitigation activities, as can be seen in the NPRR /8a/8b/8c/. This includes the 2023 Fire Management Implementation Report, the training of Fire Management and implementation of early burning and others. AENOR traced this information within the project area and confirmed through onsite testimonies that the damage caused by fire is mainly related to cultural practices and the preparation of illegal charcoal. These actions are discouraged through the implementation of project activities such as providing technical training for sustainable agricultural activities and maintaining forest cover and reduce deforestation pressure on forests in the project area.
Pest and Disease Outbreaks	0	0	Yes	This risk is considered unlikely, there are no records of disease or pest outbreaks causing any significant impacts (>5%) to carbon stocks in Miombo woodlands. No known literature has documented forest disturbance from pests and diseases in the project area. The audit team visited the project area and asked relevant stakeholders if they know any kind of pest and diseases that are affecting the project area or nearby, and they stated the same information reported in the NPRR.

Extreme weather	0	0	Yes	Zambia is not impacted by hurricanes. Droughts could possibly be considered an extreme weather phenomenon. However, this risk is considered unlikely and there are no records of drought causing any significant impacts (>5 %) to carbon stocks in Miombo woodlands. No known literature has documented forest disturbance from extreme weather conditions in the project area. The audit team visited the project area and asked relevant stakeholders if they know any kind of extreme weather that is affecting the project area or nearby, and they stated the same information reported in the NPRR.
Geological Risk	0	0	No	Zambia is geologically stable and the risk of earthquakes and volcanoes occurring is unlikely. There is, therefore, no risk of significant (>5 %) impacts on carbon stocks in the project area due to geological phenomena. Thus LS= 0 is reasonable.
Total Natural Risk (as applicable, F + PD + W + G + ON): 0.75 Determined by $LS \times M$.				

Then, in AENOR's opinion, **total natural risk** (0.75) is properly justified and in accordance with AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, v4.2.

Future climate impact: Regarding the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool, the project area is within the following reference regions: E. Southern-Africa (100%)

Adaptative capacity: The project demonstrates at least 5 criteria of adaptative capacity. These criteria are:

- Variety
- Learning capacity
- Leadership
- Resources
- Fair governance
- Innovation.

Regarding AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v4.2, the SLR risk shall be assessed where the project is in a coastal zone using the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Assessment Calculation Tool. The project area is not allocated in a coastal zone, so this SLR risk is not applicable to this project.

Below is the assessment for the Future climate impact on natural risk:

Future Climate Impact on Natural Risk	Aggregated Subtotal Risk	Future Impact Factor	Total
Natural risk associated with climate change impact (NR-c)	0.75	1.18	0.89
Natural risk NOT associated with climate change impact (NR-nc)	0.00	1	0.00
Sea Level Rise (SLR)	N/A	N/A	0
Total Natural Risk	0.89		

Risk Category	Rating
a) Internal Risk	18
b) External Risk	2
c) Natural Risk	0.89
Overall Risk Rating (a + b + c)	21.0

AENOR has checked that information provided in the Non-Permanence Risk Report through the Project Hub, as well as supporting documents complementary to the NPR tool in the Verra Hub. The assumptions and justifications provided to determine the risk rating of each risk factor are developed and they are based on provided documents using conservative assessments. AENOR deems that information provided is reliable and appropriate from official sources, thus, the overall risk rating is credible and realistic.

The Total Number of credits to be deposited in the AFOLU Pooled Buffer Account is **631,023 tCO2e**.

5 VERIFICATION OPINION

5.1 Verification Summary

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, is accurate and consistent with all VCS Version 4.7, the validated PD, and the selected methodology (methodology VM0009 Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion, v3.0 of 6th June 2014). AENOR confirms that the project Luangwa Community Forests Project (LCFP) MR /1/ has been implemented in accordance with the validated PD.

AENOR confirms all verification activities, including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, monitoring and project documentation adherence to VCS Version 4.7 (and all associated updates), as documented in this report are complete. AENOR concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the Lcfp meets the requirements of VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates) for the monitoring period (1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023).

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

It is opinion of AENOR, with a reasonable level of assurance, that the reasonableness of assumptions, the described limitations, the methods that supported each one of the claims about project implementation during the monitoring period and the claimed estimated and calculated ex-post emission reductions are free from major errors, omissions, or inaccuracies. The assessment team has no restrictions or uncertainties with respect to the compliance of the project with the verification criteria.

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.

The verification of the ex-post emissions of the Lower Zambezi REDD+ Project has been conducted by AENOR in accordance with ISO 14064-3:2019.

The GHG assertion provided by the project proponent and verified by AENOR has resulted in a total gross GHG emissions reductions of 3,004,873 tCO₂e by the project during the monitoring period (1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023). Considering 21% of buffer withholding based on the VCS Non-Permanence Risk Assessment Tool v4.2, which means a buffer allocation of 631,023 tCO₂e, the Verified Carbon Units (VCU) to be issued are 2,373,847 tCO₂e.

5.2 Verification Conclusion

AENOR is able to issue a positive verification opinion for the 3,004,873 tCO₂e, before discounting the buffer. After discounting the buffer, which is 21% and corresponds to 631,023 VCUs, the net emissions reductions correspond to an amount of 2,373,847 tCO₂e, as reported in the VCS&CCB MR.

The verification consisted of the following three phases: i) a desk review of the MR and monitoring plan implementation; ii) follow-up interviews with project staff and stakeholders and on-site visit; iii) the resolution of outstanding issues and the issuance of the final Verification Report and opinion. In the course of the verification process corrective actions and clarifications were raised. All have been successfully closed as explained in the findings sheet annexed to this report (Appendix 3).

The verification of the ex-post emissions of the project has been conducted by AENOR in accordance with ISO 14064-3:2019.

The verification assessment covered the monitoring period from the 1st of January 2023 to the 31st of December 2023 and verified that calculated emission reductions were achieved during the monitoring period with a reasonable level of assurance. The overall risk rating was 21%.

It is not applicable any conclusion about adaptive activities and resilience for this project. Likewise, AENOR confirms the project benefits on community and biodiversity for the current monitoring period as described in the Monitoring Report version.

It is the opinion of AENOR, with a reasonable level of assurance, that the reasonableness of assumptions, the described limitations, the methods that supported each one of the claims about the outcome of future activities and the claimed ex-post emissions emission reductions are free from major errors, omissions, or inaccuracies.

Verification/monitoring period: From 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

The verified GHG emission reductions in the above verification period:

The non-permanence risk rating (%)	21
If applicable, the Long-term Average (LTA), whether it has been properly updated, and if it has been reached.	N/A (This is a REDD+ project)
Whether a loss has been appropriately accounted for, in accordance with the VCS Program rules, if applicable.	No loss has been accounted

Vintage period	Baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Gross ERs (tCO ₂ e)	Buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG ERs (tCO ₂ e)	Total VCU issuance (tCO ₂ e)
1 st January 2023 to 31 st December 2023	3,220,675	-215,800	0	3,004,873	-631,023	2,373,847	2,373,847
Total	3,220,675	-215,800	0	3,004,873	-631,023	2,373,847	2,373,847

5.3 Ex-ante vs Ex-post ERR Comparison

Vintage period	Ex-ante estimated reductions	Achieved reductions	Percent difference	Explanation for the difference
01-01-2023 to 31-12-2023	3,220,675	3,004,873 ¹⁴	6.7%	As recognized by the PP, achieved ERs were less than those estimated ex-ante, as project emissions were underestimated ex-ante.
TOTAL	3,220,675	3,004,873	6.7%	

16th of June 2025

Daniel Bermejo Vesga, Lead Auditor



¹⁴ Had the project not conducted a CDM update in M6, GERs would have been 3,619,586 tCO₂e and 3,483,057tCO₂e using the initial and the M5 CDM update respectively.

6 APPENDIX 1: COMMERCIALLY SENSITIVE INFORMATION

The Project proponent asserts that no confidential information has been excluded from the monitoring report/1/. The audit team reviewed the evidence documents and concluded that all necessary confidential information had been shared for the VVB review, with no confidential information excluded.

7 APPENDIX 2: LIST OF EVIDENCE ASSESSED

N°	Documents reviewed or referenced
	MR
1	VCS_MR_1775_01012023-31122023_v1.1_Clean.docx
	Appendix A Community Forest Management Groups
2	LUEMBE 2018.04.11_CFMA_Luembe Chiefdom.pdf 20150515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Luembe.pdf 20171015_Luembe_Community_Resources_Board_Constitution.pdf
3	LUNDU 20221219_LCFP_Chama_Lundu Form 1.pdf 20221219_LCFP_Chama_Lundu_DFO Form IV Cover Letter.pdf 20230103_LCFP_Chama_PFO_Cover Letter.pdf 20230309_LCFP_Lundazi_Lundu Approved Form IV_Lundu chiefdom_Chama.pdf
4	MALAMA 2018.03.21_Malama signed CFMA.pdf 2017052_Malama_CRB_Constitution.pdf
5	MBURUMA MBURUMA CFMG CFMPA Signed.pdf
6	MNKHANYA 20171016_Mnkhanya_CRB_Constitution.pdf 20180413_Mnkhanya CFMA signed.pdf 20180503_FINAL Mnkhanya CFMA + Addendum.pdf 20180503_Mnkhanya CFMA Addendum.pdf 20190515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Mnkhanya.pdf
7	MPANSHYA 2018.04.11_CFMA_Mpanshya Chiefdom.pdf 20180813_Mpanshya_CRB_Constitution.pdf
8	MPHUKA Copy of Copy of 20211013_Mphuka Form IV Signed_FIN.pdf MPHUKA CFMG CFMPA Signed.pdf
9	MSORO 2018.03.19_BCP-FMA-MSORO.pdf 20171017_Msoro_CRB_Constitution.pdf 20190515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Msoro.pdf
10	MULILO 20220520_LCFP_Chama_Tiyeseke CFMG_Form IV.pdf
11	MWANYA

	3018.03.23_CFMA-Mwanya Chiefdom.pdf
	20171017_Mwanya_CRB_Constitution.pdf
	20190515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Mwanya.pdf
12	MWAPE
	20210628_Community Forestry Management Group 2.pdf
	Kalongo Mwape CFMPA_Final Signed.pdf
13	NABWALYA
	20223112_LCFP_Mpika_Nabwalya_Form4.pdf
	20230523_LCFP_Lundazi_Signed_Nabwalya Agreement files_Nabwalya chiefdom_Mpika.pdf
	FD Recommendation letter.pdf
14	NSEFU
	2018.03.19_BCP FMA (2).pdf
	2018.03.19_BCP FMA.pdf
	2018.03.19_BCP Nsefu CFMA.pdf
	20171016_Nsefu_CRB_Constitution.pdf
	20190515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Nsefu.pdf
	2018.03.19_BCP FMA (1).pdf
15	NYALUGWE
	2018.03.07_CFMA_Nyalugwe.pdf
	20150515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Nyalugwe.pdf
	20171015_Nyalugwe_Community_Resources_Board_Constitution.pdf
16	PRIVATE RANCH
	PIAMANZI WILDLIFE LTD TITLE DEEDS.pdf
	20171215_luembe_munyamadzi_lease.pdf
	20180328_CRC_Piamandzi_FINAL.pdf
	20180330_Piamanzi Agreement_Counterpart signed by Carmen Casilli.pdf
	20200923_Deed of Conservation&Carbon Rights Easement Between Kazumba Game Ranch and Biocarbon Partners Limited.pdf
	20210101_Deed of Conservation&Carbon Rights Between Sable Transport Limited and Biocarbon Partners.pdf
	20210101_Deed of Conservation&Carbon Rights Between Zaeed Patel(Nyamvu G....pdf
	Application for private forest reg_Munyamadzi_20180615.pdf
	Carmen Casilli_Piamanzi_Agreement POA.pdf
	CHILIINGA RESERVE AGREEMENT.pdf
	Luembe chiefdom- munyamadzi lease - signed.pdf
	Map for application for private forest registration.pdf
	Munyamadzi_FINAL_CRC.pdf
17	SANDWE
	2018.05.09_Sandwe CFMA.pdf
	20200629_Sandwe CFMG Approved Rights.pdf
18	SHIKABETA
	2018.04.11_CFMA_Shikabeta Chiefdom.pdf

	20180813_Shikabeta_CRB_Constitution.pdf
19	CHIWA 20211013_Chiawa Form IV Signed_FIN.pdf CHIWA CFMG CFMPA Signed (1).pdf
20	CHIFUNDA 20221216_LCFP_Chama_Chifunda Form 1.pdf 20230116_LCFP_Chama_Chifunda_DFO Form IV Cover Letter.pdf 20230705_LCFP_Chikwa_Chifunda CFMG Approved form IV.pdf
21	CHITUNGULU 2018.04.20_Chitungulu CFMA.pdf 2018.05.09_Chitungulu CFMA.pdf 20190513_Chitungulu CFMA Rights Application.pdf 20190910_Chitungulu CFMA Application.pdf Communications_Agreement 20190708_VCS multi proponent Communication Agreement_Signed.pdf
22	JUMBE 2018.03.23_CFMA-Jumbe Chiefdom.pdf 20171016_Jumbe_CRB_Constitution.pdf 20190515_Approved CFMA Rights Application_Jumbe.pdf
23	KALOKO 20210722_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko form IV.pdf
24	KAMBOMBO 20221217_LCFP_Chama_Kambomb Form 1pdf 20221219_LCFP_Chama_Kambombo_DFO Form IV Cover Letter.pdf 20230103_LCFP_Chama_PFO _Cover Letter.pdf Approved Form VI_Kambombo.pdf
25	KAZEMBE
	Appendix B – Implementation Status
26	2. 2023_Deforestation- Leakage_Monitoring a. 20230601LCFPDefMonitoringGrids.shp b. 20241014_LCFP_leakage_calculations_M6_BK.xlsx c. Deforestation Monitoring Spreadsheet v1_MR6.xlsx d. MR6_ACC_ANALYSIS_DATASET.shp e. MR6_DEFORESTATION.shp f. MR6_Grids.shp g. MR6_SENTINEL.folder i. 2022 (x56 TIF files) ii. 2023 (x56 TIF files)
27	3. Beekeeping a. Eastern Honey purchasing 2023.xlsx b. Beehive & Farmer Data 2023.xlsx

	c. Beehive Delivery notes.folder i. Chitungulu.folder (x1 jpg) ii. Luangazi.folder (x1 jpg) iii. Luembe.folder (x2 jpg) iv. Mburuma.folder (x2 jpg) v. Mpuka.folder (x2 jpg) vi. Sandwe.folder (x1 jpg) d. Honey Purchases.folder i. chasera.pdf ii. chisulo Screenshot_20230918-091353.jpg iii. chitungulu Screenshot_20230918-091240.jpg iv. Chitungulu.pdf v. Honey Purchases Voucher.pdf vi. Jumbe Chisulo.pdf vii. Jumbe Mphata.pdf viii. kawala Screenshot_20230918-091408.jpg ix. kawaza Screenshot_20230918-091427.jpg x. lusemfwa buying sheet PHOTO-2023-11-29-11-55-16.jpg xi. lusemfwa IMG-20230929-WA0030(1).jpg xii. lusemfwa voucher PHOTO-2023-11-29-12-15-41.jpg xiii. Mnkhanya .pdf xiv. mphata 2 Screenshot_20230918-091339.jpg xv. Msoro.pdf xvi. mwateshi IMG-20230929-WA0020(1).jpg xvii. mwateshi PHOTO-2023-12-06-15-21-43.jpg - xviii. ncheke Screenshot_20230918-091507.jpg xix. Nsefu.pdf e. Trainings.folder i. Chinyunyu ZLF training ii. Luangazi and chinambi chiefdom iii. Luembe and Sandwe chiefdoms iv. Lumimba and Chitungulu chiefdom v. Mburuma and Mpuka Chiefdoms
28	4. Biodiversity Monitoring a. 2023_LCFP_TransectSurvey_ActivityReport.pdf b. Abundance estimates of large mammals in Mwanya and Nsefu_report2022-2023.pdf c. AerialSurvey_LowerLuangwa_2023_Report-Final.pdf d. Vulture Monitoring summary report 2022-2023.pdf e. Giraffe Count 2023.folder i. Nyakolwe.folder 1. Nyakolwe_Photo.folder 2. Nyakolwe_DataSheets.folder 3. Nyakolwe_GIS.folder 4. Nyakolwe_SMART-data.folder ii. Sandwe.folder

	1. LCFP_Sandwe_GC_L0_202311_000483.folder 2. Sandwe_GIS.folder
29	5. Carbon stock Assessment a. 20230310_LCFP_Field Raw Data_Biomass_M5_BK.xlsx b. 20241014_LCFP_leakage_calculations_M6_BK.xlsx
30	6. Community Social Services a. Community_Projects_Trackers.folder i. 20241017_Lundazi_Community Project Tracker_V2023.xlsx ii. 20241017_Mfuwe_Community Project Tracker_V2023.xlsx iii. 20241017_Nyimba_Community Project Tracker_V2023.xlsx iv. 20241017_Chinyunyu_Community Project Tracker_V2023.xlsx b. Projects_Docs i. Mw2_ Drill & install Borehole in Chifudzi.folder (x3 folder) ii. Mw2_ Drill & install Borehole in Kalongo Mwape VAG.folder (x3 folder) iii. Mw2_Construction of Hammer-mill Shelter.folder (x10 folder) iv. Mw2_Drill & install Borehole in Chinsimbwe VAG.folder (x3 folder) v. Mw3_ Drill & install Borehole in Misebe VAG.folder (x4 folder) vi. Mw4_ Drill & install Borehole in Misebe VAG.folder (x2 folder) vii. Mw5_ Drill & install Borehole in Misebe VAG.folder (x4 folder) viii. Shi_Community teacher support.folder (x1 folder) ix. Shi_Extension of water reticulation.folder (x1 folder) x. Shi_Iron Sheets, Shimunguwo,Mwateshi, Chomba and Lusemfwa.folder (x4 folder) xi. Shi_School Sponsorship.folder (x1 folder) xii. kaz_kazembe_Mbuzi_Road clearing.folder (x14 folder) xiii. Lu_Complet of 1X2 Classroom Block at Malopa P School.folder (x22 files) xiv. Lu_Complet Staff House at Chikwasha Health Post.folder (x11 files) xv. Lu_Construct of Community Storage Shed in Simalama.folder (x19 files) xvi. Lu_Construct of Staff House at Mbilisao School.folder (x18 files) xvii. Lu_Install water supply to CFMG Office & Housing Unit.folder (x8 files) xviii. Lu_Install Solar Fence Chisanga.folder (x118 files) xix. Lu_Procurement of CFMG Motor Bike.folder (x8 files) xx. Mbu1_ Chitope Village_ Kaulungu VAG.folder (x11 files) xxi. Mbu2_ Kapwapwa Village_ Mwalilia VAG.folder (x3 files) xxii. Mw_ Drill & install Borehole in Chifukudzi.folder (x3 files) xxiii. Mw_Construction of CFMG Office.folder (x11 files) xxiv. Mw1_ Drill & install Borehole in Chifudzi.folder (x4 files) xxv. Mw1_ Drill & install Borehole in Kalongo Mwape VAG.folder (x2 files) xxvi. Mw1_Construction of hammer-mill shelter.folder (x9 files) xxvii. Mw1_Drill & install Borehole in Chinsimbwe VAG.folder (x2 files)
31	7. Conservation Farming a. GRZ Training.folder i. CEO Training Report_July 2023.pdf b. Inputs_Distribution.folder i. Bycycles.folder

	1. Chiawa Bicycle Register.pdf 2. Mburuma Bicycle Register.pdf 3. Mphuka Bicycle Register.pdf ii. Ferlitizer and seed.folder 1. 20231118_LUN_ CSA_Distribution list _AM.pdf 2. 20231204_Mwanya_Input_Distribution_List.pdf 3. 20231212_InputDistribution_Mukungule.pdf 4. 20231212_InputDistribution_Nabwalya.pdf 5. Chiawa Input Distribution List.pdf 6. Mburuma Input Distribution list.pdf 7. Mphanshya Input Distribution List.pdf 8. Mphuka Input Distribution List.pdf 9. Shikabeta Input Distribution List.pdf iii. PPE_Work gear.folder 1. Chiawa Bicycle Agreement and PPE Registrar.pdf 2. Mphuka & Mburuma Bicycle Agreements and PPE Registrar.pdf c. Signed Terms of Reference.folder i. ToR_Mpika.pdf d. Crop assesment report.folder i. Final BCP 2023 Harvest Report-1.pdf e. CSA_Trainings.folder i. FF 1. 20231008_follower farmer training jumbe mnkhanya nsefu.pdf 2. 20231101_FF MALAMA MSORO 2023.pdf 3. Field Activity Report - FFs trng Kambombo & Lundu.pdf 4. Follower Farmer Training Chikwa Chifunda Tembwe chama.pdf 5. Mphanshya,Shikabeta,Bundabunda FFT Training report & attendance list.pdf 6. Nyimba 2023 Follower Farmer Training Report.pdf ii. Lead_Farmers 1. 20230903_NYI Lwembe Nyalugwe lead farmer traing Meged RKB.pdf 2. 20230914_San_Mwa_Lead_Farmer_Training_Expense_Report.AM-21-35.pdf 3. 20231104_Chifunda_LeadFarmerTraining_AM.pdf 4. Bundabunda Leadfarmer Attendance list and report..pdf 5. Chiawa LeadFarmer Attendance List and Training Report.pdf 6. Kambombo & Tembwe_Lead Farmer Training_Report_KS-2023.pdf 7. Lead Farmer Training (Kazembe & Chitungulu)_KS-16-28 2023.pdf 8. Leadfarmer training Chikwa.pdf 9. LUNDU LEAD FARMER TRAINING REPORT.pdf 10. Mburuma Lead Farmer Attendance List and Training Report.pdf 11. Mpanshya Lead Farmer Attendance List and Report..pdf 12. Mphuka Lead Farmer Attendance List and Training Report.pdf 13. Mpuka & Mburuma Lead farmer Training Report & attendance List.pdf 14. MSORO, MALAMA AND MNKANYA LEAD FARMER TRANING REPORT 2023.pdf 15. Mukungule and Nabwalya.pdf 16. Nsefu Jumbe Mwanya Lead Farmer Training Report & attendance sheet.pdf
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	17. Shikabeta Lead Farmer Training Attendance List and Report.pdf
32	8. Conservation Patrols a. CSSMART7_Training report.pdf b. LCFP_2023_Annual Spatial Monitoring and Reporting Tool (SMART) Reports.pdf c. SMARTtraining Report.pdf
33	9. Conservation_fire_management a. 2023 Fire Management Implementation Report_GRZ.docx 2.pdf b. 20231408_GRZ fmgmt report.pdf c. Fire Management report_traning and implementation of early burning LUN14.pdf
34	10. Finance a. Finance Livelihood data.xlsx
35	11. FPIC_Consultative_Meetings- Instance4 a. Lundu_Chiefdom.folder i. 20220701_Nj_anjo VAG community Meeting_Lundu CRB _ Chama_F51_M57.pdf ii. 20220702_Mwinichipeta VAG Meeting_Lundu Chiefdom_Chama.pdf iii. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf iv. 20220717_LCFP_Mfuwe_Lundu_FPIC Report.docx v. 20220704_Mwakana VAG Community Meeting_ Lundu Chiefdom_Chama_M30_F17.pdf vi. 20230919_FPIC Sensitization In Liteta and Chimika VAG of Chembe Chiefdom.pdf vii. ACTIVITY REPRT FOR BID CARBOD PARTNERS SENTISATION MEETING IN LND MEETN.docx viii. IMG-20220701-WA0020.jpg ix. IMG-20220701-WA0021.jpg x. LUNDU BRIEF REPORT - HAMOONGA.DOCX xi. Lundu Community Proposed Map for Community Forest.jpg xii. Lundu Potential Forest.jpg xiii. 20220628_143402.jpg xiv. 20220628_CRB meeting_ Lundu _ Chama.pdf b. Mukungule.folder i. 20230910_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko community CFMPA_Mpika_Mukungule.pdf ii. 20231010_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko CFMG General assembly_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf iii. 20231102_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko proposed REDD+ Zone_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf iv. 20231102_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko Boundary meeting_Mukungule_Mpika.pdf v. Head giving the remarks.jpg vi. IMG_20230910_154051_700.jpg vii. Women inclusiveness in the discussions.jpg viii. 20230301_LCFP_Lundazi_kakoko application letter.pdf c. 20220419_Tubuluma Vag_CN.pdf d. 20220420_Tumbwe Vag_CN.pdf e. 20220929_Map Verification and signing .pdf f. 20220929_Map verification meeting.pdf g. 20221028_Chisomo_Ground truthing summary Report.pdf h. Mpetauke Manda VAG.pdf
36	12. Water and Sanitation (Boreholes)

	a. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Mattias Village (x9 files) b. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Saili (x9 files) c. 2023_Installing Borehole at Guest house (x7 files) d. 2023_Kamitowo Borehole_Chitengele VAG (x3 files) e. 2023_Kashika Borehole_Rufunsa VAG (x3 files) f. 2023_Kweleko Borehole_Rufunsa VAG (x3 files) g. 2023_Nkoloma Borehole_Chitengele VAG (x3 files) h. 2023_Steven Borehole_Rufunsa VAG (x3 files) i. 2023_Borehole_Rufunsa VAG (x2 files) j. 2023_Chakufola Borehole_Chitengele VAG (x3 files) k. 2023_Chipindani Borehole_Rufunsa VAG (x3 files) l. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Chilengu_Mileka (x8 files) m. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Palace (x8 files) n. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Mutelemuka_Chiwale (x13 files) o. 2023_installation of Borehole in Misebe VAG (x3 files) p. 2023_installation of Borehole in Misebe VAG_2 (x4 files) q. 2023_installation of Borehole in Misebe VAG_3 (x4 files) r. 2023_installation of Borehole in Chifudzi (x4 files) s. 2023_installation of Borehole in Chifudzi_2 (x4 files) t. 2023_Installation of Borehole in Chifukudzi (x3 files) u. 2023_installation of borehole in Chinsimbwe VAG (x3 files) v. 2023_installation of borehole in Chinsimbwe VAG_2 (x1 file) w. 2023_installation of Borehole in Kalongo Mwape VAG (x3 files) x. 2023_installation of Borehole in Kalongo Mwape VAG_2 (x2 files) y. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Fati Village (x14 files) z. 2023_Installation of Borehole at Kapalila (x10 files)
	Appendix C Proxy Soil Sampling
37	20200721_LCFP_SoilProxySamplePolygons.shp
38	proxy soil sampling protocol.docx
39	200820_bcp.cn0001_soc.results_batch5.xlsx
40	200820_bcp.cn0001_soc.results_batch6.xlsx
41	200820_bcp.cn0001_soc.results_batch7.xlsx
42	20200721_LCFP_SoilProxyPlots.shp
	AppendixE_CommSOP
43	2018_BCP Grievance SOP _ Mechanism.pdf
44	20180709_Beyond Subsistence Livelihoods Strategy.pdf
45	20180808 FPIC SOP_D6.pdf
46	20200731_FPIC SOP_V7.pdf
47	20240305_Manual_Deforestation_Mapping_V2.pdf
48	Social Monitoring SOP V4_Community Engagement Strategy_2013.03.pdf
49	Verification Notices.folder: 1. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_DNPW_Chongwe_Signed.pdf 2. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_FD_Kafue_Signed.pdf 3. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_FD_Rufunsa_Signed.pdf

	4. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_HRH Chiawa_Signed.pdf 5. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_HRH_Shikabeta_Signed.pdf 6. 20241002_VCS-CCB 2024 VerifAudits-LCFP.pdf 7. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_CFMG_Chiawa_Signed.pdf 8. Stakeholder Notification Letter _LCFP_2024_CFMG_Shikabeta_Signed.pdf
50	Engagement Trackers.folder: 1. 2023 Lundazi Engagement tracker.xlsx 2. 2023 Mfuwe Site engagement Tracker.xlsx 3. 2023_Chinyunyu_Engagement Tracker.xlsx 4. 2023_Nyimba_Engagement Tracker.xlsx
51	Grievance Registers.folder: 1. LCFP_Grievance Register_2023.xlsx
	Appendix G ERC
52	20241017_LCFP_Master_Biomass_Dataset_Updated (2019-2023).xlsx
53	20241018_Master_Biomass_Summary_Project_Updated_With_Soil_M5_(updated New EF).xlsx
54	20250224_Master_Biomass_Summary_Project_Updated_With_Soil_M6_Individual
55	Chidumayo_2013_allometry_paper.pdf
56	Chidumayo_Estimating AG and BG biomass after clearing miombo EnviroLet 2013.pdf
57	Mugasha_Miombo_Allometry.pdf
58	M5.folder (old spreadsheets, previous biomass model): 1. 20240417_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_ThirdActivityInstance_BK.xlsm 2. Copy of Mugasha_et_al_2013_species_comparison.xlsx 3. Mugasha_et_al_2013_species_comparison.xlsx 4. 20220120_LCFP_leakage_calculations_BK.xlsx 5. 20230320_master_biomass_summary_project_updated_with_soil_M4_V3.xlsx 6. 20230320_master_biomass_summary_project_updated_with_soil_M5.xlsx 7. 20230322_LCFP_groups_cumulative_deforestation.xlsx 8. 20230417_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_FirstActivityInstance_BK.xlsm 9. 20230417_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_NumericOutput_Combined_BK.xlsx 10. 20240406_lcfp_Instance2&3_BiomassData.xlsx 11. 20240417_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_SecondActivityInstance_BK.xlsm 12. 20230317_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_ThirdActivityInstance_LP_BK.xlsm 13. 20230317_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_ThirdActivityInstance_LP_BK_EDP.xlsm 14. 20230320_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_FirstActivityInstance_LP_BK.xlsm 15. 20230320_LCFP_ER_Calc_M5_SecondActivityInstance_LP_BK.xlsm 16. 20230322_LCFP_ER_numeric_All_instances_M5.xlsx
59	NER_Calc_M6.folder 1. 20241012_LCFP_ER_Calc_M6_FirstActivityInstance_BK 2. 20241012_LCFP_ER_Calc_M6_Fourth_ActivityInstance_BK 3. 20241012_LCFP_ER_Calc_M6_NumericOutput_Combined_BK_23052025 4. 20241012_LCFP_ER_Calc_M6_SecondActivityInstance_BK

	5. 20241012_LCFP_ER_Calc_M6_ThirdActivityInstance_BK 6. 20250224_Master_Biomass_Summary_Project_Updated_With_Soil_M6_Individual
	Appendix H – Non-Permanence Risk
60	20180730_BioCarbon Partners - LCFP 30-year financial projection confirmation letter (signed).pdf
61	20190626_CFP Finance_30.xlsx
62	AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1775.pdf
63	LCFP_NPRR_Supporting_Narrative_MR6.docx
64	The Zambia Wildlife Act - 2015.pdf
65	VCS_NPR_REP_1775_1_1_2023_12_31_2023.pdf
66	20171030 CFP EMMP REVISION CLEAN and FINAL.docx
	Appendix I – Spatial
67	20220324_LCFP_ProjectAreaInstances.shp
68	20230215_LCFP_Leakage_Area_M5.shp
69	2021_LCFP_Leakage_Plots_Replacements.shp
70	20190610_LCFP_Proxy_area.shp
71	20190612_LCFP_Instance1_Project_Area.shp
72	20190612_LCFP_Proxy_plots.shp
73	20190708_Instance1_AccountingArea.shp
74	20190724_LCFP_soil_proxy_plots.shp
75	20190809_Accounting_Area_Plots.shp
76	20211114_LCFP_LeakageArea_M4.shp
77	20211121_LCFP_Instance2_ProjectAreas.shp
78	20220324_LCFP_ProjectAreaInstance1.shp
79	20220324_LCFP_ProjectAreaInstance2.shp
80	2007_2017_forest_loss.folder: 1. DEF_2007-2017_sieve_shift_11102018.tif.ovr.aux.xml 2. DEF_2007-2017_sieve_shift_11102018_readme.doc 3. DEF_2007-2017_sieve_shift_11102018.tif.aux.xml
81	2016-2022_deforestation.folder: 1. LCFP_defM4_clipped.shp 2. 02032023_LCFP_Def_2022.shp 3. Clearing_2016-2020_by_Chiefdom.shp
82	2022_Def_accuracy_assessment.folder: 1. 20230601_LCFP_deforestation_GRIDS.shp 2. Deforestation Monitoring Spreadsheet v1_LCFP_2022.xlsx 3. 20220605_Acc_Assessment_def.shp 4. 20230302_LCFP_deforestation.shp
83	Instance3.folder: 1. 20230317_LCFP_Instance3_ThreatenedBoundaries.shp

	2. 20230324_LCFP_Instance3_Forest_Areas_2022.shp 3. 20230317_LCFP_Instance3_Accounting_Areas.shp 4. 20230317_LCFP_Instance3_Project_Areas.shp
84	Instance4.folder: 1. 20241016_LCFP_Project_Area_Threatened_Boundary_Instance_4.shp 2. 20241008_LCFP_Project_Area_Instance_4.shp 3. 20241012_LCFP_Instance4_Project_Accounting_Area.shp 4. 20241014_LCFP_Instance4_Project_Accounting_Area_General.shp 5. 20241016_LCFP_Project_Area_Converted_Boundary_Instance_4.shp
	Appendix K Drivers of deforestation
85	Copy of 20180319_BCP_CFP_Drivers_study_report_final.pdf
	Appendix O CDM
86	Initial_CDM.folder: 1. 20200515_CDM_image_interpretation.xlsx 2. Copy of 20190708_CDM_image_interpretation.xlsx 3. Copy of 20190708_R-Model_Input_CDM_Points.csv 4. Copy of 20200515_CDM_image_interpretation.xlsx 5. Copy of LCFP CDM Point Interpretation SOP.docx 6. Copy of LCFP_Annex_cdm_v2.0.R 7. Copy of logistic model summary_after_recode.txt 8. Copy of Phased_logistic.curve_after_recode.png 9. Copy of proportion.deforestation_after_recode.txt
87	M5_CDM_Update.folder: 1. 20240214_LCFP CDM Point Interpretation SOP .docx 2. 20240410__BCP_LCFP_M5_CDM_Update_Accuracy_Assessment_BK.xlsx 3. 20240410_LCFP_M5_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK.xlsx 4. 20240410_R_Model_Input_CDM_points.csv 5. LCFP_Annex_cdm_v2.0.R 6. logistic model summary_after_recode.txt 7. Phased_logistic.curve_after_recode .png 8. proportion.deforestation_after_recode.txt 9. Reference_Area_Selection.folder a. Population_Data.folder i. Copy of 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Agriculture - Volume 10 Part B(1).pdf ii. Copy of 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Agriculture - Volume 10 Part B.pdf iii. Copy of 2000-Census-of-population-and-housing-report.pdf iv. Copy of 2010-Census-of-Population-Summary-Report.pdf v. Copy of 2022-Census-of-Population-and-Housing-Preliminary.pdf vi. 20240411_Population_Data_1980_1990_2000_2010_2022_BK.xlsx b. Spatial_Data.folder i. 20240402_SEDAN_1980_2010_Roads.shp ii. 20240214_LCFP_Initial_Ref_CDM_image_interpretation_pixel_Grids.shp

	iii. 20240214_LCFP_Initial_Ref_CDM_image_interpretation_Points.shp iv. 20240326_LCFP_New_RA_CDM_image_interpretation_Points.shp v. 20240326_LCFP_Reference_Area.shp vi. 20240327_LCFP_New_RA_CDM_image_interpretation_Grids.shp vii. 20240327_LCFP_Project_Reference_Administrative_Wards.shp viii. 20240327_LCFP_Reference_Area_Administrative_Wards.shp ix. 20240402_LCFP_Roads_Updated2021.shp x. groads-v1-africa-shp.folder 1. gROADS-v1-africa.shp 2. gROADSv1_documentation.pdf 3. gROADSv1_ReadMe.txt xi. popward.folder 1. popward.shp
88	M6_CDM_Update.folder: 11. 20241016__LCFP_CDM_Point_Interpretation_SOP.docx 12. 20241017_LCFP_M6_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK_1.xlsx 13. LCFP_Annex_cdm_v2.0.R 14. logistic model summary_after_recode.txt 15. proportion.deforestation_after_recode.txt 16. R_Code.csv 17. Rplot.png 18. 20240918_LCFP_M6_CDM_Update_Image_Interpretation_BK.xlsx 19. Reference_Area_Selection a. 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Agriculture - Volume 10 Part B(1).pdf b. 1990 Census of Population and Housing, Agriculture - Volume 10 Part B.pdf c. 1990 Census of Population and Housing, and Agriculture - volume 10 Part A.pdf d. 2000-Census-of-population-and-housing-report.pdf e. 2000-Census-of-population-and-housing-summary-report (2).pdf f. 2010-Census-of-Population-Summary-Report.pdf g. 2022-Census-of-Population-and-Housing-Preliminary.pdf h. 20241015_Population_Data_1980_1990_2000_2010_2022_BK .xlsx i. 26082024_UPDATED_RA_Ward_Selection_Similarity_Parameters_Carbon_BK2.xlsx 20. Spatial_Data a. 20240919_LCFP_LCFP_RA_CDM_Image_Interpretation_Points_Combined.shp b. 20240925_LCFP_LCFP_RA_CDM_Image_Interpretation_Points_Combined_Grids.shp c. 20241017_LCFP_Reference_Area.shp d. zmb_roads.shp
	Appendix P Biomass Plots
89	Chidumayo_2013_allometry_paper.pdf
90	Copy of 20160426_BCP_Biomass_Sampling_SOP_V2.pdf
91	Copy of BCP_Biomass_SpotError_Protocol_Jan_2014.pdf
92	Copy of Copy of BCP_Biomass_Sampling_SOP_June_2019_V3.pdf
93	Copy of LCFP_Annex_N-BCP_Biomass_Sampling_AllometryValidation_May_2013_V1.2.pdf

94	Copy of Mugasha_et_al_2013_Miombo_Allometry.pdf
95	20211122_master_biomass_summary_project_updated_with_soil_M4.xlsx
96	20241017_LCFP_Master_Biomass_Dataset_Updated (2019-2023).xlsx
	Appendix R Leakage Plots
97	LCFP_Annex_M_BCP_Biomass_Sampling_LeakageMon_8June_2013.pdf
98	LCFP_Annex_M_BCP_Biomass_Sampling_LeakageMon_8June_Addendum2013.pdf
	FPIC Authorization Support Docs
99	Authorization Letter_Chief Mpanshya_REDD feasibility__20120215.pdf
	SDGs
100	2015 IE_CFP BR_31 March 2016.pdf
101	20210416_Final Perception Survey Report _ LCFP_Formatted.pdf
102	20221005_LCFP Final Income Perception Survey Report.pdf
103	SDG_1: 1. 20221214_Beneficiary_List_LCFP-LCFP.xlsx 2. BCP 2021 Harvest Report_Crop Yield Estimate.pdf 3. BCP_Zambia_dataSharing_2022_MGHP.pdf 4. BCP-LL_Agreement.pdf 5. CFMG - AWP-Needs Assessment Status.docx 6. Community project and livelihood trackers and summary.xlsx 7. Confirmation of EMT_SMT_Carbon.-signed.pdf 8. FD_GIS_Equipment_Delivery_Note.pdf 9. Final BCP 2022 Harvest Report2_Final.pdf 10. HR monthly IM reporting tool_October_2024_CEO.XLSX 11. HR_P014_Employee Emergency Loan Policy.pdf 12. LCFP Carbon Fees Summary 2020_2022.xlsx 13. MOU_BCP-DNPW 2020-2025.pdf 14. Number Hectares under Sustainable Agriculture_LCFP_2020_2021.xlsx 15. Number Hectares under Sustainable Agriculture_LCFP_2022.xlsx 16. Panthera_BCP MoU_V4_BCP final-clean 04.09.2021 -FL_KY_Signed.pdf 17. Training summary LCFP_2015_2022.xlsx 18. 20200316_MOU_LL_BCP_Fully Executed (1).pdf 19. 20200421_Firearms Donation to DNPW.pdf 20. 20210818_MoU BioCarbon Partners and Panthera Wil.pdf 21. 20210826_CRB 2022 AWP roll out phases_V1_ZL.docx 22. 20220223_BioDiversity Monitoring_DNPW approval.pdf 23. 20220530_Final MoU_BCP-BWZ_for signed22.pdf 24. 20220902_Beneficiaries per chiefdom_HH.xlsx 25. 20220906_Deed of donation.pdf
104	2020 Cons Certificates.folder (D2, D3, D4 and D5 signed certificates)
105	2021 Cons Certificates.folder (D1, D2 and D3 signed certificates, etc.)
106	2022 Cons Certificates.folder (Mfuewe, Niymba, Lundazi and Rufunsa)
107	Livelihood.folder (x21 files)
108	SDG_16:

	1. 11 - CFMG AWP and FCF Disbursement Certificates of CFMGs.folder a. CFMG - AWP-Needs Assessment Status.docx b. 20210826_CRB 2022 AWP roll out phases_V1_ZL.docx c. 3 - Lundazi.folder (Chitungulu, Mwanya, Kazembe and Forest Carbon Disbursement Certificates) d. 4 - Rufunsa.folder (Shikabeta, Bunda Bunda, Mburuma, Mpuka and Forest Carbon Disbursement Certificates)
	Meetings for communication and results monitoring, FPIC and others
109	20230301_Cover note_Shikabeta CFMG.PDF
110	20230301_Cover Sheet Muburuma CFMG_FIN.pdf
111	20230301_Senior Chief Mburuma Cover Sheet_FIN.pdf
112	20230303_Mpanshya CFMG Cover Sheet_FIN.pdf
113	20230317_Document Distribution_Luembe CFMG.pdf
114	20240112_LCFP_FPIC PROCESS 4th INSTANCES.docx
115	Chitungulu_300323.pdf
116	Kazembe_240323 (1).pdf
117	Stakeholder Analysis LCFP M6.docx
	Benefit Sharing Plan
118	2018.03.19_BCP Nsefu CFMA.pdf
119	20230530_LCFP_Lundazi_Kambombo Nature park CFMG.pdf
120	20230530_LCFP_Lundazi_Katenya CFMG Agreement_ Tembwe.pdf
121	20230903_LCFP_Lundazi_Nabwalaya CFMPA_Mpika_Nabwalya chiefdom.pdf
122	20230906_LCFP_Chifunda_Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement.pdf
123	20230909_LCFP_Lundazi_Mukungule CFMPA_Mpika_Mukungule Chiefdom.pdf
124	20230922_LCFP_Chikwa_Luvila Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement (CFMPA).pdf
125	20230924_LCFP_Mulilo_Tiyeseke Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement.pdf
126	Chibulika agreement files.pdf
127	Lundu agreement all files.pdf
128	20241126_Mwanya CFMG_2022 Carbon Fee Certificate_sign-1.pdf
129	Disbursement Certificate _Sandwe.pdf
130	Jumbe forest carbon fee certificate.PDF
131	Luembe_Carbon_Fee_Certificate.pdf
132	Malama Carbon certificate.PDF
133	mnkhanya carbon fee certificate.PDF
134	Nsefu forest carbon fee certificate.PDF
135	2023 D2 Carbon Certificate Msoro (2).PDF
136	20241114_Kazembe CFMG_2022 Carbon Fee Certificate_signed.PDF
137	20241115_Chitungulu CFMG_2022 Carbon fee Certificate_signed.PDF
138	20241115_Mburuma Carbon Certificate.PDF
139	20241118_2023 Carbon Certificate_Chiawa.PDF
140	20241119_Mphuka Carbon Certificate.PDF

141	20241120_Mpanshya Carbon Certificate.PDF
	CVs
142	2020 CV2 Nicholas Mudaly.pdf
143	20211104_CV_NNL_BCP.pdf
144	20230723_CV_Kalinda_Besa_pdf.pdf
145	Charles_CV.pdf
146	Cv_2022_Da_Ponte. .pdf
147	CV_Mike Mailloux_12122022.pdf
148	Gundaza, Christopher -Curriculum Vitae (4).pdf
149	Marius_CV.pdf
150	Morris Chanda CV BCP.pdf
151	Staff Profile Information Pack 22 January 2022 (2).pdf
152	20210722_LCFP_Lundazi_Kakoko form IV
153	20220520_LCFP_Chama_Tiyeseke CFMG_Form IV
154	20221012_kambombo Approved Recognition
155	20221012_Lundu CFMG Approved Recognition
156	20221230_Chifunda Approved Recognition
157	20221230_Luvila CFMG Approved Recognition
158	20230105_LCFP_Chama_Chibulika files
159	20231012_katenya[CFMG Approved Recognition
160	Approved Chembe Form I
161	Approved Form 1_ Chisomo
162	Chembe Approved Form I
163	CHIBULIKA CFMG FORM I_APPROVED
164	Community Forest Management Group Recognition_Approval Dates_ PAI#4.xlsx
165	Kasumba _Approved Form I
166	Mboroma_ Approved Form I
167	Mboshya Form 1_Approved
168	Mukungule CFMG FORM I_APPROVED
169	NABWALYA CFMG FORM I _ APPROVED
170	20210317_Summary report on Kasumba CFMG engagement meeting_MC (002)
171	20220418_Summary Report_Mboshya Chiefdom_CN
172	20220924_Chilima VAG_Nabwalya FPIC
173	20220926_Pelembe VAG meeting_ FPIC
174	20220928_Kalimba VAG Meeting_Nabwalya
175	20220930_Kazembe VAG_Nabwalya
176	20221001_Nabwalya VAG meeting
177	20230918_ FPIC sensitization meeting in Kanangwe Muubo and Bwali of Chembe Chiefdom (2)
178	20230921_LCFP_Chikwa_Chasato VAG Form 1 FPIC Minutes
179	20230921_LCFP_Chikwa_Kanga VAG Form 1 FPIC Minutes
180	20231024_LCFP_Mulilo_Tiyeseke_FPIC Report _Form Vii

181	EP-JSLP_Communication_Letter_Bio Carbon Partners
182	Indep.TradingApplic_20241127_FD
183	20241101_LCFP_Instance4_Biomass_Dataset
184	20250224_Master_Biomass_Summary_Project_Updated_With_Soil_M6
185	Comparative_Analysis_BK; Consolidated_EF; Individual_EF
186	LCFP_Instance3_RawData
187	Chembe Sketched Map
188	Chembe_SketchMap_CamScanner 08-04-2022 09.58
189	Chembe-SketchMap_CamScanner 07-27-2022 17.53
190	CRBs Natural_Resources_Good_Governance_Capacity Building
191	Final MBOLOMA CRB Elections Report- Nov, 2022 B.
192	Letter of interest _Mboroma
193	SCOUTS TRAINING RPORT
194	2022.09.20_Activity Summary Report_Mboshya Due Diligence Form I Meetings.pdf
195	20220702_Mwinichipeta VAG Meeting_Lundu Chiefdom_Chama.pdf
196	20220726_Mboroma_FPIC Meetings_Form I_report.pdf
197	20220915_LCFP_Chama_Tembwe_Due Diligence Meeting.pdf
198	20220919_LCFP_Chama_Chifunda_Luelo East FPIC Report.pdf
199	20220920_LCFP_Chama_Chifunda_Zebe FPIC Report.pdf
200	20220921_LCFP_Chama_Chifunda_Chingozi FPIC Report.pdf
201	20220928_Kalimba VAG Meeting_Nabwalya.pdf
202	20221213_LCFP_Chama_Kambombo_CFMP Planning Minutes.pdf
203	20221215_LCFP_Chama_Kambombo CFMP Minutes.pdf
204	20221219_LCFP_Chama_Lundu_CFMP Minutes.pdf
205	20221221_LCFP_Mpika_Mukungule_Nkomba VAG.pdf
206	20221222_LCFP_Mfuwe_Mpika_Nabwalya CRB minutes.pdf
207	20230921_LCFP_Chikwa_Chasato VAG Form 1 FPIC Minutes.pdf
208	Chisomo Center VAG.pdf
209	Chisomo_Chimbaya VAG.pdf
210	IMG_20221222_105051_317.jpg
211	Tembwe meeting.pdf

8 APPENDIX 3: CARS, CLS & FARS

Corrective Action Requests (CARs)

CAR ID	01	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		
The VCS MR Template instructions in the Head Page clearly indicates what can be and cannot be done with the document. The PP is not following Template requirements. This template is for the monitoring of projects using the VCS Program. Instructions for completing the monitoring report template: FILE NAME: Use the following format for the file name of the completed document: - VCS MR Project ID DDMMYYYY-DDMMYYYY 'DDMMYYYY-DDMMYYYY' should be the start and end dates of the monitoring period. If revised documents are submitted, add '<u>_round#_track</u>' or '<u>_round#_clean</u>' to indicate the review round (1-3) and if it is the clean or track changes version of the document. FILE TYPE: Submit the document as a non-editable PDF. TITLE PAGE FORMATTING: This document may feature the monitoring report title and the preparers' logo using size 24, regular (non-italic) Century Gothic font. Fill in and complete each row of the table using size 10.5, black, regular (non-italic) Arial or Franklin Gothic Book font. GENERAL FORMATTING: Complete all sections using size 10.5, black, regular (non-italic) Arial or Franklin Gothic Book font. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS: Specific instructions for completing each section of the monitoring report template are located under the section headings in this template. Instructions relate back to the rules and requirements set out in the VCS <i>Standard</i> and accompanying program documents. The preparer will need to refer to these documents to complete the template. Note: The instructions in this template are to serve as a guide and do not necessarily represent an exhaustive list of the information the preparer must provide under each section of the template. Where a section is not applicable, explain why the section is not applicable (i.e., do not delete the section from the final document and do <u>not only write</u> "not applicable"). Delete all instructions, including this introductory text, from the final document. The PP changed the numbering format, the tables size, the table and Section's title fonts, indentation, italics or else. The PP, in accordance with Template instructions, shall only fill out the blank cells where the Template requires you to do it, using the format indicated in the attached image above. Such issues have been identified mostly in all the MR Sections. The PP shall make sure to comply with the Template requirements: - Use the indicated FILE NAME: VCS MR Project ID DDMMYYYY-DDMMYYYY - Clearly indicate alongside the documentation what VCS Standard version are you using. Different figures are provided alongside the text. VCS Standard v4.6 is applicable until 1st of January 2025. VCS Standard v4.7 will be required since 1st of January 2025. - Double check and review that all the used Tables are the ones indicated by Template instructions without any format modifications.		

• Double check that all Table of Contents Sections are as those indicated by Template instructions (i.e., Section 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4). • Others.	
Project Proponent's Response	Date: 28/11/2024
1. The File Name for the MR has been modified to meet the requirement 2. The VCS Standard version used for MR6 has been corrected. 3. All the used Tables are the ones indicated by Template instructions without any format modifications. 4. The table of content have been double checked.	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 09/12/2024
The file name, the correct VCS Standard version, the up-to-date Tables, and table of contents have been properly updated, as reviewed by AENOR's audit team. Thus, CAR01 is closed.	

CAR ID	02	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		
The following issues are not in accordance with VCS and/or VCS MR Template requirements: 1. Section 1.12 does not identify which SD contributions described in Table 1 of the VCS MR Template contribute to achieving any nationally stated sustainable development priorities, including any provisions for monitoring, and reporting. 2. Section 1.13 states that the LCFP VCS MR does not contain any commercially sensitive information. However, Section 3.5.2 of the VCS standard v4.7 states: “All information in <u>project documents</u> shall be presumed to be public. Commercially sensitive information may be protected, as set out in the Registration and Issuance Process, where it can be demonstrated, to Verra’s satisfaction, that such information is commercially sensitive. The VVB shall confirm that any information designated by the project proponent as commercially sensitive meets the VCS Program definition of commercially sensitive information. “ AENOR’s audit team presumes that many “project documents” from LCFP are confidential, such as commercial agreements with carbon credits’ buyers, agreements with community members, the carbon model and calculations, SOPs, proprietary intellectual property, etc. Likewise, Appendix 1 has been removed.		
Project Proponent’s Response		Date: 28/11/2024
1. Section 1.12 of the MR has been edited to include a statement and identify SDGs the project is contributing to achieving nationally stated sustainable development priorities(A link to the Sustainable Development Goals and priorities for Zambia has also been included). Furthermore, the contribution to each specific goal is detailed in the column labeled “SDG Target.” Evidence of “current project” contributions was already provided in Appendix B, while supporting documentation for “Contributions over project lifetime” is available in the file path: 2024_M6\VCS_Audit_1st_round_of_findings_AENOR\CAR#2. 2. The project stresses again that none of its provided documents are considered confidential, demonstrating a strong commitment to transparency, particularly in light of heightened scrutiny toward REDD+ projects. While acknowledging the sensitivity of certain documents—such as commercial agreements, community contracts, carbon models, and proprietary SOPs—the project maintains that documents shared <u>specifically for this verification process</u> should remain accessible to the public.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
VVB’s evaluation		Date: 09/12/2024
1. Section 1.12 has been properly updated, and Appendix B now includes new sources of information, which have been reviewed by AENOR’s audit team, deeming them as correct. 2. Section 1.13, the PP indicates that all the information shared for this verification process is deemed public, which is in accordance with VCS Standard requirements.		

Thus, CAR02 is closed.

CAR ID	03	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		
The following issues are not in accordance with VCS and/or VCS MR Template requirements: - Section 2.1.1 of the VCS MR provides an incomplete description of Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication. The PP shall consider that is requesting VAL-VER for the added fourth PAI, for which it includes an area of approximately 900k ha, probably one of the biggest standalone VCM projects in all the VCM around the world if counted individually. As such, the following issues have been identified: - For Stakeholder Identification sub-section, it does not describe the process(es) used to identify stakeholders likely impacted by the project and list the stakeholders identified within PAI 4 (Template Instructions and VCS Standard v4.7 Section 3.18.1.1). For instance, what procedures did the PP use to identify these groups? Did the PP go there and said “Hi, we want to do a carbon project” or did you contact first with traditional authorities or governmental authorities? Did you perform preliminary feasibility meetings first? In summary, how did you do it clearly explained. Regarding listing stakeholders, the VVB visited the PA and met different groups (CFMG, public authorities, working groups, traditional authorities and else). All of these and more shall be reported. - For Stakeholder diversity and changes over time, it does not describe the social, economic, and cultural diversity within stakeholder groups, the differences and interactions between the stakeholder groups, and any changes in the make-up of each group over time. and it does not provide a description of the social, economic and cultural diversity within stakeholders and the differences and interactions between the stakeholders; (Section 3.18.1.3). Adding 900k ha, with thousands of stakeholders and saying that the social economic and cultural diversity has remained the same is not acceptable in terms of reporting. - The same issue applies for expected changes in well-being, location of stakeholders and location of resources. See VCS Template requirements and VCS Standard requirements. For instance, Figure 6 of the VCS-MR includes the map of the 4 instances and a little bit more of information. However, it is not clear the location of stakeholders, local communities and others, including traditional authorities, CFMG and else. The 4th instance is 900k ha, so this information shall be complemented. - Section 2.1.2 of the VCS MR provides an incomplete description of Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication, including Ongoing Consultation, Dates of stakeholder Consultation, Communication of Monitored Results, Consultation Records and Stakeholder Input. See Sections 3.18.2 and 3.18.3 of the VCS Standard v4.7, regarding all the topics that consultations over the 4th instance shall include. The VVB is not stating that those consultations have not been performed but need to be properly disclosed. See also requirements from Template instructions. - Section 2.1.3 of the VCS MR provides an incomplete description of Free, Prior and Informed Consent. See Sections 3.18.7 and 3.18.8 of the VCS Standard v4.7 for more information. The PP shall demonstrate compliance with the two requirements and stated sub-requirements, including the kind of information disclosed in the meetings, and else.		

Project Proponent's Response	Date: 28/11/2024
1.1 Section 2.1 has been updated to include additional information on process(es) used to identify stakeholders likely impacted by the project and list the stakeholders identified within PAI 4 and a comprehensive write up has been provided in CAR#03 folder as an appendix. 1.2 Section 2.1.1 of the MR has been edited to include additional information on stakeholder diversity and change over time. 1.3 Section 3.1 of this MR has been modified to replace the previous figure 6 with a map that presents the spatial distribution of stakeholders, Local stakeholder households Palaces/Traditional Leadership, CFMGs etc. Furthermore section 2.1.1 of the MR has been modified to include additional narrative for Expected Changes in Well-being. 2. Section 2.1.2 of the MR has been modified to include additional narrative pertaining to Communication of monitored results ,along with examples of meetings conducted to facilitate communication and monitor results in the current monitoring period. Furthermore, additional supporting documentation has been provided in the folder CAR#3. 3. Section 2.1.3 has been modified to include additional narrative explanation of how the project meets the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) requirements.	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
1. 20240112_LCFP_FPIC PROCESS 4th INSTANCES 2. 20230301_Cover note_Shikabeta CFMG 3. 20230301_Cover Sheet Muburuma CFMG_FIN 4. 20230301_Senior Chief Mburuma Cover Sheet_FIN 5. 20230303_Mpanshya CFMG Cover Sheet_FIN 6. Chitungulu_300323 7. Kazembe_240323 8. 20230317_Document Distribution_Luembe CFMG	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 09/12/2024
1.1/ Section 2.1 now includes additional information and input on how the PP identified stakeholder likely impacted by the project, clearly listing many stakeholders identified. Moreover, several sources of evidence have been provided. 1.2/ Broader and clear information has been provided regarding stakeholder diversity and change over time. 1.3/ Section 3.6, Figure 6 now includes more consisting information regarding spatial distribution of stakeholders and others.	

2/ Communication of monitored results have been properly updated, including those topics required by Template instructions.

3/ Section 2.1.3 has been properly updated.

Thus, CAR03 is closed.

CAR ID	04	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		
The following issues are not in accordance with VCS and/or VCS MR Template requirements: 1. Section 2.3.5 of the VCS MR does not completely describe the benefit sharing plan. The VCS MR Template states that in case affected stakeholders' groups wish to keep elements of the plan private, the full plan shall be considered a commercially sensitive document, and the PP shall demonstrate that the communities are the ones wishing to keep the plan private. For instance, the audit team cannot see the percentages of shared benefits, and many other topics disclosed in the accessed files by AENOR's audit team. 2. Section 2.3.5, Benefit Sharing during the MP, states that the project did not disburse any funds to communities in 2023 as 2022 MP was not verified yet. However, on the 1st of August 2024 AENOR got confirmation from Verra that 2022 MP (1st of January to the 31st of December 2022) was finally verified and approved. It has been almost 4 months since that moment, so the VVB would presume that those benefits have already been shared with eligible stakeholders within PAIs 1, 2 and 3. Thus, AENOR's audit team believes that the implementation of the benefit sharing plan, including a summary of the outcomes that resulted from the benefit sharing plan, is feasible to be shared. 3. FAR number 1 of the VCS Verification Report for the 2022 MP drafted by the same audit team required the PP to demonstrate in this verification (2023 MP) that PAI-1 did not overestimate carbon stock values for PAI-2 and PAI-3 biomass plots, as the audit team could not visit these PAI 2 and 3 plots in the previous verification, for which the PP requested to use PAI-1 carbon stocks for the three PAIs ERs. During the 2023 MP AENOR's site visit, performed a few weeks ago, AENOR's audit team visited plots from PAIs 2 and 3, obtaining similar figures to those inventoried by the PP. Nonetheless, as much as the audit team could identify it within this verification, the 2023 MP VCS MR does not include explanations and justifications that demonstrate that the use of PAI-1 for ERs accounted in PAIs 1 to 3 did not overestimate ERs in the previous verification. Even though the audit team acknowledges that the inventory performed to PAIs 1 to 3 is correct (figures have been crosschecked, sampled and compared), the PP shall demonstrate that PAIs 2 and 3 have a larger carbon stock than PAI 1, or must discount any ERs overestimated in the previous verification within this 2023 MP VCS MR, as required by FAR number 1 of the VCS Verification Report for the 2022 MP. Moreover, as the audit team could not visit PAI-4 biomass plots, a similar FAR as the one drafted in the VCS Verification Report for the 2022 MP has been included at the end of this document, applying to the next verification report.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 28/11/2024
1. Section 2.3.5 has been updated with additional information i.e percentages of the shared benefits in the benefit sharing plan/mechanism. A sample of these Agreements between communities and BCP that have these benefit sharing plans were already shared in appendixA. We have also shared a sample of the agreements with new instance Chiefdoms in CAR#4		

2. We believe that benefit sharing from the 2022 monitoring period cannot be included in the current monitoring report (M6) because it happened outside the monitoring period, specifically in 2024. The appropriate monitoring period for its inclusion is the next one, i.e., 2024 (M7). However, we have provided the disbursement documents/ Proof of Payments and a summary of the benefit-sharing outcomes in CAR#4
3. Section 5.4 of the MR has been edited to include a foot note explaining that In the previous monitoring period (M5), a FAR was raised to ensure that any overestimation of emission reductions (ERs) resulting from the use of the PAI-1 carbon stock value for the three active PAIs would be addressed during the next verification (i.e., the current verification). The VVB conducting the current verification demonstrated that the potential overestimation risk would need to be compensated by the PP once the carbon stock values for the three PAIs are updated. However, no compensation was applied to the final ER numbers. This is because the VVB conducted a site visit during the current monitoring period, during which the audit team assessed plots from PAIs 2 and 3, obtaining figures consistent with those inventoried by the PP

Documentation provided by the project proponent

1. 20230530_LCFP_Lundazi_Kambombo Nature park CFMG.pdf
2. 20230530_LCFP_Lundazi_Katenya CFMG Agreement_ Tembwe.pdf
3. 20230903_LCFP_Lundazi_Nabwalaya CFMPA_Mpika_Nabwalya chiefdom.pdf
4. 20230906_LCFP_Chifunda_Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement.pdf
5. 20230909_LCFP_Lundazi_Mukungule CFMPA_Mpika_Mukungule Chiefdom.pdf
6. 20230922_LCFP_Chikwa_Luvila Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement (CFMPA).pdf
7. 20230924_LCFP_Mulilo_Tiyeseke Community Forest Management Partnership Agreement.pdf
8. Chibulika agreement files.pdf
9. Lundu agreement all files.pdf
10. Jumbe Admin.pdf
11. Jumbe Comm Share.pdf
12. Jumbe CRB.pdf
13. Jumbe HRH.pdf
14. Malama Admin.pdf
15. Malama Comm Share.pdf

16. Malama CRB.pdf
17. Malama HRH.pdf
18. Malama Induna.pdf
19. Mnkhanya Admin.pdf
20. Mnkhanya Comm Share.pdf
21. Mnkhanya CRB.pdf
22. Msoro Admin.pdf
23. Msoro Community Project Share.pdf
24. Msoro CRB.pdf
25. Msoro HRH.pdf
26. Msoro Induna.pdf
27. Nsefu Chiefs Share
28. Chitungulu Admin.pdf
29. Chitungulu Comm Share.pdf
30. Chitungulu HRH.pdf
31. Kazembe Admin.pdf
32. Kazembe Comm Share.pdf
33. Kazembe HRH.pdf
34. Kazembe Indunas
35. Mwanya Admin.pdf
36. Mwanya CRB Fees.pdf
37. Mwanya HRH.pdf
38. Nyalugwe Admin.pdf
39. Nyalugwe Comm Share.pdf
40. Nyalugwe CRB.pdf
41. Nyalugwe HRH.pdf
42. Sandwe Admin.pdf

43. Sandwe Comm Share.pdf
44. Sandwe CRB.pdf
45. Sandwe HRH.pdf
46. Chiawa Admin.pdf
47. Chiawa Comm Share.pdf
48. Chiawa CRB.pdf
49. Chiawa HRH.pdf
50. Mburuma Admin.pdf
51. Mburuma Comm Share.pdf
52. Mburuma HRH Share.pdf
53. Mpanshya Admin.pdf
54. Mpanshya Comm Share.pdf
55. Mpanshya CRB.pdf
56. Mpuka Admin.pdf
57. Mpuka Comm Share.pdf
58. Mpuka HRH.pdf
59. Shikabeta Admin.pdf
60. Shikabeta Comm Share.pdf
61. Shikabeta CRB.pdf
62. Shikabeta HRH.pdf
63. 20241114_Kazembe CFMG_2022 Carbon Fee Certificate_signed.pdf
64. 20241115_Chitungulu CFMG_2022 Carbon fee Certificate_signed.pdf
65. 20241115_Mburuma Carbon Certificate.pdf
66. 20241118_2023 Carbon Certificate_Chiawa.pdf
67. 20241119_Mphuka Carbon Certificate.pdf
68. 20241120_Mpanshya Carbon Certificate.pdf
69. 20241126_Mwanya CFMG_2022 Carbon Fee Certificate_sign-1.pdf

70. Luembe_Carbon_Fee_Certificate.pdf	
VVB's evaluation	Date: 09/12/2024
1/ Section 2.3.5 of the VCS MR has been updated, including up-to-date percentages of the shared benefits. Moreover, AENOR's audit team have accessed several documents that provides agreements between BCP and the communities for the 4 PAIs, which have been sampled by the VVB, observing full compliance and alignment with the reported information. The information is also aligned with the data gathered by the VVB during the site visit. 2/ AENOR's audit team have accessed and sampled disbursement of benefits in Chinyunyu (Chiawa, Mburuma, Mpanshya, Mpuka and Shikabeta), Lundazi (Chitungulu, Kazembe and Mwanya), Mfuwe (Jumbe, Malama, Mnkanya, Msoro and Nsefu) and Nyimba (Nyalugwe and Sadwe) Sectors, which include several proof of payments. 3/ Section 5.4 has been properly updated. Thus, CAR04 is closed.	

CAR ID	05	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		
The following issues are not in accordance with VCS and/or VCS MR Template requirements: 1. Sections 1.4 and 1.5 have been updated between 2022 MP and 2023 MP, adding new Project Proponents and Other Entities Involved in the Project, but these significant modifications have not been highlighted as PD deviations. The same applies to Project Location, as the Summary of the Project Area by REDD+ Project Zones has been updated including now the new areas from PAI 4. 2. Section 1.9 of the VCS MR states that the NPRR Version tool used is the 4.0, but the one to be used is 4.2. 3. Section 3.2.2, Reference Area methodology deviation, Figure 9 indicates that a map with the new Reference Area and the 4 PAIs has been included. However, within the legend the audit team cannot see any reference area listed.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 03/12/2024
1. Section 3.2.2 of the MR has been modified to include an Addition of new project activity instances and new project proponents PD deviation. 2. This was a typo mistake and the correct version of the NPRR tool has been updated to 4.2 in the MR 3. Section 3.2.2 has been modified to include an updated map that shows the reference area in the legend in figure 9.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 09/12/2024
1/ The VVB has reviewed Section 3.2.2 of the VCS MR and now includes a new PD deviation for addition of new PAIs and new PPs. 2/ The NPRR typo has been corrected. 3/ Section 3.2.2 has been updated, and now Figure 9 includes the Reference Area. Thus, CAR05 is closed.		
CAR ID	06	Date: 27/11/2024
CAR description		

The following issues are not in accordance with VCS and/or VCS MR Template requirements:

1. Section 3.3 of the VCS MR does not properly demonstrate compliance with PD grouped project addition requirements, even though similar arguments were provided for M5 2022. See some examples below:
 - 1.1. Criterion 1, all the PAIs shall be within the project boundaries identified in the PD, the PD has only indicated to review Figure 9 and 10 and Tables 6 to 8 of the PD, but that is not a demonstration. The VVB shall see the original project boundaries attached on this VCS MR, with an overlapping of the PAI4, to clearly assess if the new chiefdoms fall within the eligible area.
 - 1.2. Criterion 2, the PP justifies that the end land use in the baseline scenario must be non-forest within the new PAI 4 through Figure 10 of the PD, stating that the baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality was performed for the entire geographic project area. However, that is not a demonstration, especially considering that the new PA is close to 1 million ha. The PP shall demonstrate compliance with this eligibility criterion within Section 3.3.
 - 1.3. Criterion 3 quotes the drivers and agents study made by the PP for validation as evidence that PAI-4, almost 1 million ha, complies with “baseline drivers and agents of deforestation in future PAI must be the same type (...)”. However, that is not sufficient demonstration. The PP is quoting an entire report to justify something that requires evidence and substantiation.
 - 1.4. Criterion 4 indicates that “all second instance project areas meet the definition of forest and accounting areas (...)”. However, such statement is not clear for AENOR’s audit team. Section 3.3 requires the PP to demonstrate compliance, not to quote “see the PD to demonstrate that this +700k forest ha are under compliance of this requirement”. A proper assessment shall be provided to the audit team, and a substantiation must be included as well.
 - 1.5. The same criteria applied above applies to the rest of criteria described in Section 3.3.

Project Proponent’s Response

Date: 03/12/2024

1.1 Section 3.3 has been modified to include figure 16.1 which shows an overlap between areas identified at validation as potential expansion and all the new instances i.e. second ,third and fourth instances.

1.2 Section 3.3 has been modified to include Additional narrative to support eligibility criteria.Modifications have been made in table 25.

1.3 Section 3.3 has been modified to include Additional narrative to demonstrate the similarity of agents and drivers across all project instances. Supporting documentation have been provided

1.4 The definition of forest as per zambia has been incorporated in the delineation of the accounting area , i.e all pixels less than 8 connected pixels are sieved from the forest classification to meet the 0.5ha minimum requirement. Additional narrative has been included in section 3.2.2 of the MR and supporting documentation provided in folder CAR# 06.The final Instance 4

accounting area shapefiles(Accounting areas are forested at project start) have been provided in Appendix I. 1.5 Additional narrative has been included in the rest of the criterions.	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
WB's evaluation	Date: 09/12/2024
1/ Section 3.3 now includes Figure 16.1 with target areas for potential expansion and PAs. 2-4/ Criterion 2 to 4 now include new explanations, quoted evidence and else. AENOR has been able to confirm full compliance with Template instructions, in accordance with the information collected during the site visit. 5/ Other criterion now includes further explanations, narrative and evidence to demonstrate full compliance. Thus, CAR06 is closed.	

Clarification Requests (CLs)

CL ID	01	Date: 27/11/2024
CL description		
The following issues have been identified in the 2023 MP VCS MR: 1. Section 1.1, when referring to project activity instances (PAIs), the PP has quoted the PA area for each of them, but in most cases the PAA (the forest eligible area) is not clear alongside the text. Moreover, as per the audit team understanding of the VCS MR reported information, the PP distinguishes between PA, forest area and accounting area. Although is not specifically required by the Template or VCS Standard v4.7, include this information for disclosure and clarifying purposes. 2. Section 1.1, when referring to ERs, the PP has quoted the combined gross ERs for the 4 PAIs for the 2023 MP, but there is no information about the net ERs or NPRR discount factor. Although is not specifically required by the Template or VCS Standard v4.7, include this information for disclosure and clarifying purposes. 3. Section 1.2, the PP has not included within the summary of the audit history the 2023 MP active verification process, even though the VVB recognizes that per Template requirements is not clear if the verification under process shall include it. 4. Section 1.12, Table 4 does not quote the evidence of the project's SD contributions in the form of appendices, as indicated by Template instructions. Adding this information can facilitate review experience. 5. Section 2.2.1 Management Experience, it is not clear if the PP has shared the CVs of the management team with the VVB. 6. Section 2.3.4 does not clearly clarify some of the relevant contents of the agreements signed between BCP and communities. 7. Section 3.2.1, Methodology Deviation number 5, it is not clear if the VVB has received the raw data for the forest inventory performed by the PP over PAI 4 biomass plots.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 02/12/2024
Section 1.1 of the MR has been edited to include extents of the Accounting Areas for each of the respective Instances and the totals. Section 1.1 has been edited to include ERs or NPRR discount factor. Section 1.2 of the MR has been edited to include the 2023 Active Verification in table As in the CAR#2 and response 1 Evidence of "current project" contributions can be found in Appendix B, while supporting documentation for "Contributions over project lifetime" is available in the file path: 2024_M6\VCS_Audit_1st_round_of_findings_AENOR\CAR#2. We have provided the CV's as supporting documentation for Management Experience in the 2024_M6\VCS_Audit_1st_round_of_findings_AENOR\CL#1		

Section 3.2.4 has been modified to include additional narrative and more detailed pertaining to agreement between the CFMG and BCP.

The Carbon stock data for the fourth PAI has been provided in Appendix P

Documentation provided by the project proponent

1. 2020 CV2 Nicholas Mudaly.pdf
2. 20211104_CV_NNL_BCP.pdf
3. 20230723_CV_Kalinda_Besa_.pdf.pdf
4. Charles_CV.pdf
5. Cv_2022_Da_Ponte .pdf
6. CV_Mike Mailloux_12122022.pdf
7. Marius_CV.pdf
8. Morris Chanda CV BCP.pdf
9. Gundaza, Christopher -Curriculum Vitae (4).pdf
10. Staff Profile Information Pack 22 January 2022 (2)
11. MRV_LCFP_Biomass20230921_Instance4.xlsx

VVB's evaluation

Date: 09/12/2024

- 1/ Section 1.1 now includes the PAAs for each respective PAI and the total PAA for the four PAIs.
- 2/ Section 1.1 now includes net ERs and NPRR discount factor.
- 3/ Section 1.2 now includes in the Audit History table the current verification process.
- 4/ The current project contributions have been shared in Appendix B.
- 5/ The VVB has received the CVs for the BCP team, and has sampled the information included.
- 6/ Section 3.2.4 has been properly updated.
- 7/ AENOR's audit team have accessed and sampled the carbon stock data for the fourth PAI, accepting that the mean carbon stock value for PAIs 1 to 3 is below the expected carbon stock value for PAI 4, which will be assessed by the next VVB in the next verification.

Thus, CL01 is closed.

CL ID	02	Date: 27/11/2024
CL description		
The following issues have been identified in the 2023 MP VCS MR regarding the update of the Reference Area as per FAR 2 of the 2022 MP VCS Verification Report: 1. Section 3.2.2, the PP informed the VVB that the reference area (RA) was created considering administrative wards within PAIs 1 to 3. However, in this same verification, 2023 MP VCS MR, the PP is requesting validation and verification of a new PAI 4 (per grouped project addition requirements). It is not clear if the VM0009 has any requirements for similarity analysis when updating the reference area so that it refers to all the eligible PA (PAIs 1 to 4), instead of part of it (PAIs 1 to 3). The PP informed that Verra provided their green light on the final version that was shared with them, to make sure all the parties were aligned. However, the VVB must make sure that the similarity analysis complies with VM0009. 2. Section 3.2.2, during one of the technical sessions received by the VVB regarding Reference Area update, the PP indicated that the forested area in the Reference Area during the Historical Reference Period (HRP) was (still) shorter than the forested area of the PA. However, VM0009 does not allow it, which is the first reason that triggered the need of updating the Reference Area in 2022 MP Verification. Nonetheless, in these technical sessions, the PP indicated that there is data they could provide using Landsat 5 to demonstrate that at some moment, the forest area in the Reference Area during the HRP was equal or a little bit larger than the forested area in the Project Area in 2022. Such demonstration shall be provided to the audit team, and shall be substantiated in the VCS MR. 3. Section 3.2.2, regarding Road Density, it states that using the same dataset, the road density in the Reference Area at the beginning of the HRP (1986) is larger than the road density in the Project Area in 2022 (0.078 against 0.020 km/km²). However, to demonstrate the risk of deforestation, the road density data used in the project misrepresents the reference area in 1986 due to a 2020 dataset. A proxy parameter, population density, was used due to its strong correlation with road density. The proxy for road density 2022 indicates the RA was more threatened in 1986 than the PAA in 2022, making the reference area conservative. Nonetheless, it is not clear if VM0009 allows for the use of a proxy to avoid using road density. Moreover, it is not clear if any other source of evidence can be provided to the audit team to demonstrate that the used of such a proxy is conservative. Finally, it is not clear if such a deviation would require a methodology deviation, in compliance with VCS Standard v4.7 requirements. 4. Section 3.2.2, regarding landscape configuration, Slope and Elevation, it states that “(...) in terms of elevation, the maximum elevation in AA is only 7.9% higher than in RA, while the mean and median elevation values differ by 11.4% and 12.7%, respectively. These differences fall well within the 20% margin, indicating that both regions share similar altitudinal characteristics despite RA being slightly higher on average (...)”. The PP informed us that Verra preferred the use of median values instead of mean values. However, it is not clear the criteria used by the PP to define the 20% threshold. Is it considered best practice available? Have you obtained that criterion from the VM0009, a paper or elsewhere? 5. FAR 2 required the PP to update the Reference Area again in this verification, requiring a discount of 30% for the ERs claimed in the previous verification for MP 2022 VCS MR, as per		

Verra and VVB suggestions. Such discount was for the purpose of making sure the ERs claimed by the PP were conservative based on a real risk of deforestation. As such, the audit team would like to see comparisons of the original alpha and beta, and the updated ones (M5 2022 MP and M6 2023 MP), as they are the ones that provide for baseline emissions as per avoided deforestation. 6. Section 3.2.2, Number of CDM Sample Points, page 116 states that “(...) 6,290 points randomly distributed within the 1,316,116 ha (...)”. However, in other sections the PP indicated 6,190 points instead of 6,290 points.	
Project Proponent’s Response	Date: 02/12/2024
1. The project confirms that the delineation of the new reference area was conducted using instances 1, 2, and 3, primarily because the delineation was carried forward from the previous monitoring period which only had, instance 1,2 and 3. However, instance 4 was put into consideration to ensure compliance with the project area/reference area size requirements during the delineation process. It should also be noted that VM0009 does not mandate the use of administrative wards for reference area delineation. This approach was a preference adopted by the project for both the initial reference area and the new reference area. Verra has agreed to this approach. Furthermore, while the delineation focused on instances 1, 2, and 3, the similarity analysis presented in Section 3.2.2 of this MR evaluated the new reference area against the project area across all project activity instances (i.e., instances 1, 2, 3, and 4). (Note: The final reference area was approved by Verra prior to the commencement of CDM points data collection. 2. Section 3.2.1 of the MR has been edited with information to demonstrate that the reference had more forested area at some point in the historical reference area compared to the accounting area in M6, therefore meeting the size requirement as per the VM0009. 3. The requirements for delineating a Reference Area (RA) in Section 6.8.11 and Appendix D of the Methodology do not explicitly mandate a comparative analysis of road density between the RA and Project Area (PA). The project opted to use road density as a proxy because the Luangwa Community Forest Project’s (LCFP) independent study of deforestation drivers identified population density and accessibility to forests—measured through variables such as distance to roads, settlements, and slope—as the primary determinants of deforestation quantity and spatial distribution. Road density thus serves as a scientifically valid proxy for forest access and correlates directly with threat levels in the area. Per VCS Standard Section 3.20.1, deviations are permitted where they involve adjustments to monitoring or measurement procedures without altering the underlying methodology. The use of population density as a proxy to road density does not constitute a procedural change or introduce new parameters. Instead, it retains the conceptual role of road density	

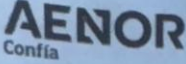
in assessing deforestation risk while employing a dataset that is correct, scientifically valid and better aligned with observed local conditions. This approach is both conservative and methodologically sound. This is because population density data inherently encapsulates broader socio-economic variables, including infrastructure development ,road access, water ways, provision of electricity, and other access points), offering a more comprehensive representation of deforestation pressures compared to road density alone. Additionally, population density data is more reliable and precise, avoiding inaccuracies associated with road density data, which misrepresented conditions in the areas under consideration at two points in time. 4. The methodology does not prescribe the 20%,however this threshold was proposed by Verra as a good practice. 5. Section 3.2.2 has been updated to include alpha and beta values for the M5 reference area 9 see table : Table 21a: M5 Logistic function fitting results from R. 6. This was a typo; the correct number of cdm points is 6190 , and Section 3.2.2 has been corrected.	
Documentation provided by the project proponent	
WB's evaluation	Date: 09/12/2024
1/ The explanations provided are accepted by the audit team. 2/ Section 3.2.1 of the MR now includes sufficient information regarding the forest area in 2000 (HRP) in the reference region, using Hansen Global Forest Change data and GEE, showing a forested area of 1,246,812 ha in 2000 against the 1,172,092 ha of the PAA forested area in M6. AENOR's audit team sampled the provided information and made its own calculations and tests, deeming the information as correct. 3/ Explanations provided regarding the RA delineation using population density as a proxy are accepted by the VVB. 4/ As per information collected in previous meetings with Verra, the shared information is accepted. 5/ The PP has added the previous alpha and beta values for M5 to do a comparison of previous an current logistic function. 6/ The number of CDM points have been standardized alongside the MR correctly, as assessed by AENOR's audit team. Thus, CL02 is closed.	

CL ID	03	Date: 27/11/2024
CL description		
The following issues have been identified in the 2023 MP VCS MR: 1. Monitored Parameters, “Change in baseline emissions from below-ground biomass during monitoring period”, it states a value monitored of 41,017,554 tCO₂e. This figure seems to be wrong. 2. Monitored Parameters, “Baseline emissions from soil carbon in monitoring period I”, it states a value monitored of 9,885,543 tCO₂e. This figure seems to be wrong. 3. Monitored Parameters, “Time from the project start date to beginning of monitoring period I”, it states a value monitored of 0. Does it make sense?		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 28/11/2024
1. Section 4.2 of the MR has been edited, Change in baseline emissions from below-ground biomass during monitoring period i value has been changed from 41,017,554 tCO₂e to 5,898,121 tCO₂e 2. Section 4.2 of the MR has been edited, Baseline emissions from soil carbon in monitoring period I has been changed from 9,885,543 tCO₂e to 1,363,694 tCO₂e. 3. Section 4.2 of the MR has been edited, “Time from the project start date to beginning of monitoring period I” has been edited from 0 to 2800.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 09/12/2024
1-3/ Section 4.2 monitored parameters have been properly reviewed. Thus, CL03 is closed.		

Forward Action Request (FAR)

FAR ID	01	Date: 27/11/2024
FAR description		
In line with methodology deviation number 5, this FAR has been raised to provide assurance that any overestimation of emission reductions (ERs) due to the use of PAIs 1 to 3 carbon stock value for the four active PAIs is compensated during the next verification. This (risk of) overestimation, in the case demonstrated by the VVB in charge of the next verification, will have to be compensated by the PP in the following verification period as soon as the PP updates the carbon stock values for the four PAIs based on remote sensing and ground-truthing monitoring. Although the audit team has received assurance from the PP's forest inventory raw data for PAI 4, the VVB has access to the updated forest inventory data for PAIs 1 to 3, and have visited plots among the three PAIs on different site visits, which should clearly identify an underestimation of emission reductions (nothing related to an overestimation), as carbon stock values for PAIs 1 to 3 are significantly lower than those reported for PAI-4. However, as the VVB has not (yet) visited biomass plots for PAI 4, which will have to be pursued in the next verification, this FAR is requested to comply with Section 2.2 of the VCS Standard v4.7, which states that the principles taken from ISO 14064-2, among others, are Accuracy, Transparency and Conservativeness.		
Project Proponent's Response		Date: 2/12/202
Section 3.2.1 of the MR has been edited to include a statement providing assurance that in an instance that complete data for Instance 4 becomes available and the updated carbon stock value for Instance 1,2 and 3, applied in Instance 4 areas, during the current monitoring period, reveals an overestimation, the project is prepared to provide compensation during the next verification.		
Documentation provided by the project proponent		
VVB's evaluation		Date: 09/12/2024
Nothing to report. FAR 01 remains open.		

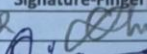
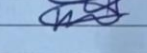
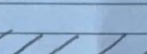
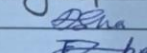
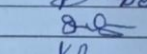
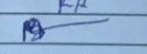
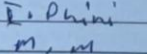
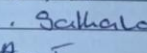
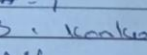
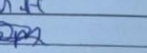
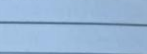
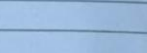
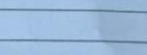
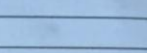
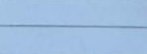
9 APPENDIX 4: ATTENDANCE SHEET

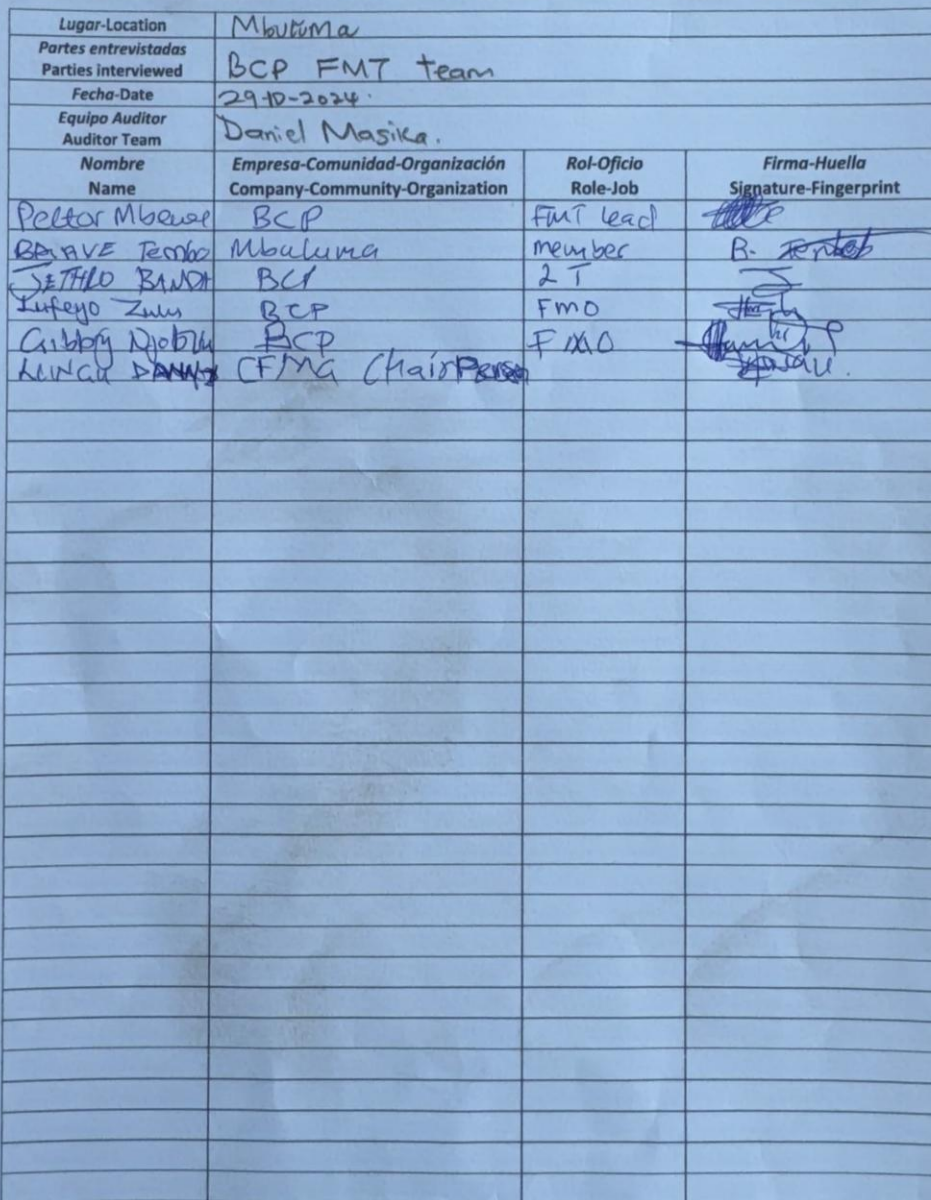


HOJA DE PRESENCIA/PRESENCE SHEET

Por la presente firmo que he respondido a las preguntas del equipo auditor de manera libre, verdadera y de la mejor manera posible de acuerdo a mis habilidades y conocimientos. Las respuestas fueron proporcionadas imparcialmente sin la influencia o la presión de partes interesadas. Autorizo consentimiento para compartir esta información en el reporte del equipo auditor, que será público.

I hereby sign that I have answered the auditor team's questions freely and truly to the best of my abilities. The answers were provided unbiasedly without the influence or pressure of parties. I authorize consent to share this information in the audit team's report, which will be public.

Lugar-Location	Zambia - Chingonyu		
Partes entrevistadas Parties interviewed	BCP staff for opening meeting/Kasumba CFMG.		
Fecha-Date	28/10/2024		
Equipo Auditor Auditor Team	Daniel Masika.		
Nombre Name	Empresa-Comunidad-Organización Company-Community-Organization	Rol-Oficio Role-Job	Firma-Huella Signature-Fingerprint
1 CHRISTOPHER GINDUZA	BCP	TECHNICAL ADVISOR	
2 Francis Ngona	BCP	CHIEF OF MOUNTAIN	
3 BESA KALINDA	BCP	FINANCIAL	
4 Muswene Chande	BCP	Chief of land	
Kasumba Community Forest Management group.			
1 Austin Mwanjala	Kasumba CFMG	Chairperson	
2 Emmanuel Tembo	Kc	Secretary	
3 GERALD Mwanjala	"	headman	
4 Crydon Hwakalaka	"	rs Chairperson	
5 Moses Mwachindato	"	member	
6 ALiet Phiri	"	Treasurer	
7 Mary musumali	"	member	
8 Royce Sathaka	"	H.O.F.S	
9 Agnes Tembo	"	member	
10 Betty Konkvasi	"	H.O.F.S	
11 Matinda hawakala	"	rs Secretary	
12 Susan Matefeta	"	H.O.F.S	



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HOJA DE PRESENCIA/PRESENCE SHEET

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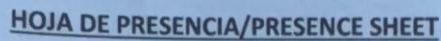


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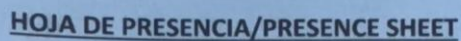
Nyalugwe Rural
Hc.



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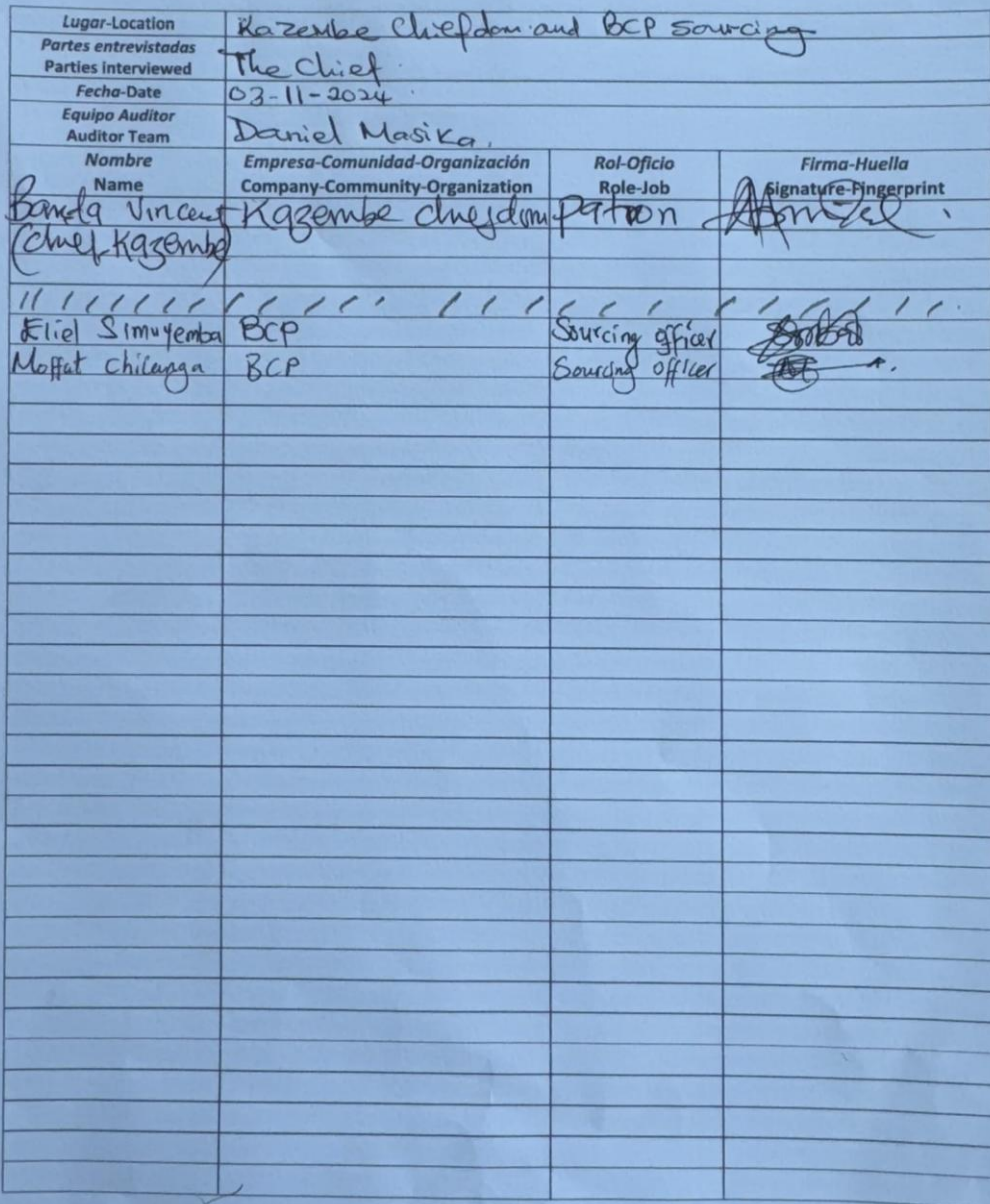
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Lugar-Location	Lundazi BCP Field office		
Partes entrevistadas Parties interviewed	Community Scouts		
Fecha-Date	21/1/2024		
Equipo Auditor Auditor Team	Daniel Masika		
Nombre Name	Empresa-Comunidad-Organización Company-Community-Organization	Rol-Oficio Role-Job	Firma-Huella Signature-Fingerprint
Mutale Mwila	Biocarbon Partners ~~Conservation~~	Conservation ~~Coordinator~~	~~PS~~
FRIDAY NGUMBE	CHITUNGULU CFMG	Community scout	F. Ngumbe
METHIAS BANDA	CHITUNGULU CFMG	Community scout	~~PS~~
DAVIDSON BANDA	CHITUNGULU CFMG	Community scout	~~PS~~
ALICE NKHATA	Chitungulu CFMG	Community scout	A. Nkhata
DOUGLAS LUNGU	Chitungulu CFMG	Community scout	D. Igur
NELSON MWA	Chitungulu CFMG	Community scout	Nelson
GILIAS ZULU	Chitungulu CFMG	Community scout	G. Zulu
LANGSON PHIRI	Chitungulu CFMG	Community	~~PS~~
Branchion ~~PS~~	Chitungulu CFMG	Community	~~PS~~
PEPHIAS ~~PS~~	Chitungulu CFMG	Community	~~PS~~
ALFRED PHIRI	CHITUNGULU CFMG	Community	~~PS~~
Beyard NYUMU	Biocarbon partners	Diver	~~PS~~
Chilekeni Bafwa	Biocarbon partners	Community Scout	~~PS~~



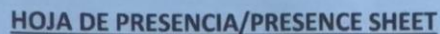
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HOJA DE PRESENCIA/PRESENCE SHEET

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[illegible]



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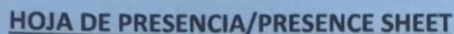
Lugar-Location	Lundu Chiefdom		
Partes entrevistadas Parties interviewed	Chiefdom Head & Representatives / CRB		
Fecha-Date	16/11/2024		
Equipo Auditor Auditor Team	Daniel Masika		
Nombre Name	Empresa-Comunidad-Organización Company-Community-Organization	Rol-Oficio Role-Job	Firma-Huella Signature-Fingerprint
Vag enBula	Lundu Chiefdom	Chief Rep	Mbulu J.
Chibags			
Lead Farmers from Different VAGs in LUNDU Chiefdom.			
ANDREW SABI CHIKONTA	VAG	LEAD FARMER	A. SABI
CHRISTINE Mvula Muzatama	VAG	LEAD FARMER	C. Mvula
GRACE Nsofwa CHIKONTA	VAG	LEAD FARMER	G. Nsofwa
Bauby Mbulu CHIKONTA	VAG	Lead Farmer	B. Mbulu
Mercy Mbulu ng'ajo	VAG	Lead Farmer	Mbulu
Jennifer Chisupa Muzatama	VAG	Lead Farmer	J. Chisupa
Josephine Bwili Muzatama	VAG	Lead Farmer	J. Bwili
ISAAC Nkomo CHIKONTA	VAG	Lead Farmer	I. Nkomo
SEANCIA Mvula CHIKONTA	VAG	Lead Farmer	S. Mvula
Aphel Mumbi Chikontha	VAG	Lead Farmer	A. Mumbi
Christin Njende Chikontha	VAG	Lead Farmer	C. Njende
APRONIA WIMWELI NG'ANJO	VAG	Lead Farmer	A. Wimweli
Chander Chalos Muzatama	VAG	Lead Farmer	C. Chalos
Kaluba James Nkomo	VAG	Lead Farmer	K. James
Beyd Chape CHIKONTA	VAG	Lead Farmer	B. Chape
Peter Bwili Ng'ango	VAG	Lead Farmer	P. Bwili
MONDAY Bwili NG'ANGO	VAG	Lead Farmer	M. Bwili
STEPHEN H. KALE NG'ANGO	VAG	Lead Farmer	S. Kale
SUNDAY Mvula NG'ANGO	VAG	Lead Farmer	S. Mvula
Ruth Mvula NG'ANGO	VAG	Lead Farmer	R. Mvula

HOJA DE PRESENCIA/PRESENCE SHEET

Por la presente firmo que he respondido a las preguntas del equipo auditor de manera libre, verdadera y de la mejor manera posible de acuerdo a mis habilidades y conocimientos. Las respuestas fueron proporcionadas imparcialmente sin la influencia o la presión de partes interesadas. Autorizo consentimiento para compartir esta información en el reporte del equipo auditor, que será pública.

I hereby sign that I have answered the auditor team's questions freely and truly to the best of my abilities. The answers were provided unbiasedly without the influence or pressure of parties. I authorize consent to share this information in the audit team's report, which will be public.

Lugar-Location	Lundu chiefdom		
Partes entrevistadas Parties interviewed	CFMG and FZS		
Fecha-Date	06/11/2024		
Equipo Auditor Auditor Team	Daniel Masika		
Nombre Name	Empresa-Comunidad-Organización Company-Community-Organization	Rol-Oficio Role-Job	Firma-Huella Signature-Fingerprint
Amos Bwaki	CFMG / CRB	B/secretary	Amos
Nkonde Rumbwa	CFMG / CRB	B/member	Nkonde
Chirwa Isaac	FZS	Chair	Chirwa
BOWA MARRON	Lundu/CFG	CFG chair	Bowa
MBULO WESON	LUNDU CFMG	FM C CHAIR	MBULO
CHISUPANE PHAS	LUNDU CFMG	B/CHAIRPERSON	CHISUPANE
MVULA PETER Z	LUNDU CFMG	CDC/SECR	MVULA
MUMOH. mbyulu	LUNDU CFMG	F. m. C SECA	MUMOH
Mwemba Chirwa	FZS	CEO	Mwemba



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HOJA DE PRESENCIA/PRESENCE SHEET

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Lugar-Location	Mukungula Chiefdom.		
Partes entrevistadas Parties interviewed	Chief, CRB/CFMG.		
Fecha-Date	07/11/2024		
Equipo Auditor Auditor Team	Daniel Masika.		
Nombre Name	Empresa-Comunidad-Organización Company-Community-Organization	Rol-Oficio Role-Job	Firma-Huella Signature-Fingerprint
1 RICHMOND MBOLDI	CHIEF MUKUNGULE	CHIEF	
2 HENRY CHUBA	CHIEF RETAINER	CHIEF'S ATT	
3 CHIRUFIA LEWIS	C.R.B CHAIRPERSON	CHOREBA	
4 Chisaupe Andrew	Chief Rep	Mukungule	
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I hereby sign that I have answered the auditor team's questions freely and truly to the best of my abilities. The answers were provided unbiasedly without the influence or pressure of parties. I authorize consent to share this information in the audit team's report, which will be public.

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AENOR

Confidential

TRANSLATOR IMPARTIALITY SHEET

I hereby sign that I have translated the auditor team's questions and project stakeholder answers freely and truly to the best of my abilities. The translated questions and answers were provided unbiassedly without the influence or pressure of parties. I authorize consent to share this information in the audit team's report, which will be public.

Name of the translator	Date and time of translation	Location	Company-Community-Organization	Role-job	Signature
KARAIKUNDA	28/10/2024 14:15	KARAIKUNDA	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
MURUNGULE	24/10/2024 10:11	MURUNGULE	DEVELOPED CIVIL SOCIETY	TRANSLATION	ASIN
COSENAS NGULUKE	30/10/2024 10:11	MURUNGULE	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
JAMES NGULUKE	31/10/2024 10:11	MURUNGULE	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
NEPHEUS NGULUKE	06/11/2024 9:30	KARAIKUNDA	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
BIRINDI NGULUKE	06/11/2024 11:12	KARAIKUNDA	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
BIRINDI NGULUKE	12-12-2024	KARAIKUNDA	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
KARAIKUNDA	07/11/2024	MURUNGULE	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
"	11:50-11:50	MURUNGULE	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN
"	15:00-13:30	MURUNGULE	MINISTRY OF HEALTH	TRANSLATION	ASIN

10 APPENDIX 5: ON-SITE VISIT IMAGES



Figure 1. The Kasumba CFMG under LCFP (PAI4)



Figure 2. Mbuluma CFMG



Figure 3. Mbuluma MBU10 biomass plot visit



Figure 4. Mpanshya Mpa12 biomass plot



Figure 5. Nyalugwe CFMG (PAI-1)



Figure 6. Prx27 Nyalugwe proxy plot



Figure 7. Luembe CFMG in Nyimba



Figure 8. Lkg 48 Nyimba Leakage Plot



Figure 9. Meeting with community scouts at BCP office



Figure 10. Meeting with Kazembe CFMG (PAI-3)



Figure 11. Meeting with Lead Farmers in Lundu Chiefdom



Figure 12. Meeting with Lundu CFMG



Figure 13. Meeting with Mukungule CFMG