

Ntakata Mountains REDD Project CCB & VCS Verification Report



Report ID	21025.53
Project title	Ntakata Mountains REDD Project
Project ID	1897
Verification period	19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024; 1 year
Crediting period	19 May 2017 – 18 May 2047; 30 years
Original date of issue	13 October 2025
Most recent date of issue	06-April-2026
Version	1.0
VCS Standard version	4.7
CCB Standards version	3.1
Project location	United Republic of Tanzania, Tanganyika District
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Summary:

Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc., (herein referred to as Aster Global or the VVB) was contracted by Carbon Tanzania on 14 May 2024, to conduct the fifth monitoring period verification (VCS and CCB: 19 May 2023 to 18 May 2024) of the Ntakata Mountains REDD Project [validated Project Description (PD) originally dated 05 June 2020 V3.0 but since updated to V5.0 and dated 23 August 2024; Monitoring Report (MR) dated 04 October 2025 V2.0]. The Project falls under the VCS sectoral scope 14: – Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU), under the category Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Specifically, the project falls under the REDD+ category Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (AUD).

The Ntakata Mountains REDD project encompasses approximately 204,807 hectares near Lake Tanganyika in the Tanganyika District, Western Tanzania. Through adherence and validation to VCS Methodology VM0007 REDD Methodology Framework and Climate, Community & Biodiversity (CCB) Standards (Third Edition, June 2017), Ntakata aims “to engage and support local communities in the protection of their village forest reserves in order to contribute to the conservation of important wildlife habitat and to mitigate climate change” as stated in the CCB & VCS Project Description.

The VCS verification assessed compliance with the VCS Version 4 Program Guide, Standard, the VM0007 Methodology, all associated updates, the validated Project Description, and implementation of the planned GHG project’s resulting GHG emission removal enhancements as stated by the Project Proponent (ISO 14064-3).

The CCB verification assessed that implementation of the planned GHG project has occurred, resulting in the GHG emission removal enhancements (climate), community, and biodiversity benefits as stated by the Project Proponent (ISO 14064-3:2019). The verification objective is to ensure the validated project design documentation has been implemented in compliance with CCB Standards (Third Edition).

The scope of the verification followed Section 5.1.6 of ISO 14064-3, and methods included assessment of the GHG project implementation; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHGs; and time periods covered. Ntakata Mountains REDD Project follows the framework of project activities listed above.

The criteria followed the verification guidance documents provided by Verra located at <https://verra.org>. This assessment was performed against the applicable version of the relevant VCS guidance documentation.

Verification to the VCS Program included 38 VCS findings. Verification to the CCB Standard included 16 CCB findings. VCS and CCB findings are included in Appendix 4.

A risk-based approach was used to guide the verification and reach a reasonable level of assurance that no errors, omissions, nor misrepresentations resulting in a material misstatement have occurred. The materiality threshold dictated by the project size was 1%. All findings were satisfied to a reasonable level of assurance.

After completion of a site visit and review of all project information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation, Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc., confirms the Project is accurate,

consistent, and complies with all VCS Version 4 criteria, CCB Third Edition criteria, the selected methodology (VM0007 v1.5), and the validated Project Description (PD). Aster Global confirms The Ntakata Mountains REDD project 5th Monitoring Report (Version 12.0, dated 04 October 2025) has been implemented in accordance with VCS Version 4 and CCB Third Edition criteria.

Aster Global confirms all verification activities – including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, and Project Description implementation adherence to VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates) and CCB Standards (Third Edition), as documented in this report – are complete. Aster Global concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions the Ntakata Mountains REDD Project Monitoring Report (04 October 2025 V2.0) meets the requirements of VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates), CCB Standards (Third Edition), and the validated PD. In addition, Aster Global asserts the project complies with the criteria for projects set out in the Third Edition of the CCB Standards to achieve Gold Level distinction for Community, Climate, and Biodiversity.

The GHG assertion provided by Carbon Tanzania and verified by Aster Global has resulted in the net emissions or removals of 512,934 tCO₂ equivalents (CO₂e) by the project during the verification period/reporting period (VCS and CCB: 19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024 – 1 year). This value is gross of the 27% (154,744 t CO₂e) buffer withholding based on the non-permanence risk assessment tool and uncertainty deduction. This results in 306,545 t CO₂e of credits eligible for issuance as VCUs.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.2)

The objective of this verification was to ensure implementation of project activities and project compliance with the VCS Program Guide, VCS Standard, CCB Standards, selected methodology, and the validated VCS & CCB Project Description. Aster Global assessed the GHG emission removals for the AFOLU project, specifically REDD.

1.2 Scope and Criteria (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.2)

The scope of a verification generally includes the GHG project and baseline scenarios; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHGs; time periods covered; evaluation of the sustainable development; and evaluation of the project's net climate, community, and biodiversity benefits. The geographic verification scope is defined by the project boundary, the carbon reservoir types, management activities, growth and yield models, inventory program, and contract periods. The scope of the project was outlined by the Project Proponent (PP) within the PD and is re-defined as follows for the GHG project:

Baseline Scenario	Continued migration to the area, deforestation, and agriculture expansion
Activities/Technologies /Processes	REDD activities utilizing VCS VM0007 and CCB Standard for Climate, Community and Biodiversity benefits (Third Edition)
Sources/Sinks/ Reservoirs	Above-Ground Merchantable Tree (included) Below-Ground Merchantable Tree (included) Deadwood (included) Litter (excluded) Soil Organic Carbon (excluded) Harvested Wood Products (excluded) Biomass Burning (included) Fossil Fuel Combustion (included) Use of Fertilizers (included)
GHG Type	CO ₂ , CH ₄ , N ₂ O
Time Period (start date, crediting period, monitoring period)	Project State Date: 19 May 2017 Fourth Monitoring Period: 19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024 (1 year) Crediting Period: 19 May 2017 – 18 May 2047 (30 years)
Project Boundary/ Size	Near Lake Tanganyika in the Tanganyika District in the United Republic of Tanzania (approximately 204,807 hectares)

The criteria followed the validation guidance documents provided by VCS located at: <https://verra.org/programs/verified-carbon-standard/vcs-program-details/>. These documents include the following:

- VCS Program Guide (v4.4. 29 August 2023)

- VCS Standard (v4.7, 16 April 2024)
- VCS Program Definitions (v4.5, 16 April 2024)
- AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (v4.2, 3 May 2024)
- Program Validation and Verification Manual (v3.2, 19 October 2016)
- VM0007 – REDD Methodology Modules (REDD-MF, v1.5)
- VCS and CCB Templates
- CCB Program Definitions (v3.0, June 2017)
- CCB Standards (Third Edition, v3.1, June 2017)
- CCB Program Rules (v 3.1 June 2017)
- Guidance for the Use of the CCB Standards (May 2014)
- Validated PD and previous monitoring reports (VCS and CCB)

1.3 Level of Assurance (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.2)

The level of assurance determines the depth of detail the VVB placed in the Audit Plan to determine if there are any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations (ISO 14064-3). Aster Global assessed the project's implementation of general principles, data collection and processing, sampling descriptions, documentation, ex post calculations, etc., to provide reasonable assurance to meet the Project Level requirements of the VCS Program. Based on the verification findings, a final evaluation statement reasonably assures the project's GHG representations are materially accurate. The evidence used to achieve a *reasonable level* of assurance is specified in subsequent sections of this report.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.2)

The project is located near Lake Tanganyika in the Tanganyika District in the United Republic of Tanzania. The project aims at reducing emissions related to Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation (AUD). According to the PD "The overall aim of the project is to engage and support local communities in the protection of their village forest reserves in order to contribute to the conservation of important wildlife habitat and to mitigate climate change." Carbon Tanzania (CT) and the District Governments are collaborating with 8 villages, and the Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs) of these villages form the basis for planned forest protection. The project also aims to improve community members' livelihoods. CT is working with Village Governments to improve existing governance structures. Village Game Scouts (VGS) are trained and compensated to conduct regular forest patrols. Additional livelihood interventions include training and demonstration of climate smart agriculture techniques and reproductive health services, among others.

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Audit Team Composition (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

For VCS/CCB verifications, Aster Global maintains an experienced internal staff of Lead Verifiers, in addition to Certified Foresters, Registered Professional Foresters, The Wildlife Society Biologists, M.S. Forest Biometricians, Remote Sensing/GIS Specialists, and VCS-approved AFOLU Experts in IFM, REDD, and WRC categories. Direct employees of Aster Global conducted all desktop verification activities. Aster Global completed all calculation/modelling review in-house with our team of forest biometricians, foresters, and GIS/remote sensing specialists. Aster Global has been involved in over 68 VCS verifications and 36 CCB verifications, including 27 methodology assessments. All Aster Global staff involved in the verification audit have ecological, biodiversity, natural resources, and forestry background to assess the requirements. During the site visit, the Aster Global team added a local translator to ensure that the project team was able to demonstrate proficiency in the relevant local language.

2.2 Method and Criteria (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

The verification assessed the Project's compliance with VCS Version 4; CCB Third Edition; all associated updates; the selected methodology (VM0007); and the validated PD, dated originally dated 05 June 2020 V3.0 but since updated to V5.0 and dated 23 August 2024. The VVB assessed the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emission removals for the monitoring period/verification period (19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024) through Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land-Use (AFOLU) criteria under the categories Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD). Specifically, the Project falls under the REDD+ category Avoided Unplanned Deforestation (AUD). The VVB assessed whether the PP adequately addressed project emissions, unplanned reductions in carbon stocks, and any possible leakage outside of the project boundary.

The non-permanence risk analysis was assessed for this verification. Further, following Section 2.1.2 of the VCS Validation and Verification Manual, V3.2, the objectives of the verification were to evaluate the monitoring report and assess: The extent to which methods and procedures, including monitoring procedures, have been implemented in accordance with the project description. This includes ensuring conformance with the monitoring plan. The extent to which GHG Emission Reductions or Removals reported in the monitoring report are materially accurate.

The criteria followed the verification guidance documents provided by Verra and CCBA. Unless otherwise indicated, the assessment was performed against the most recent version of the relevant VCS or CCB guidance document. Please also see Section 1.2 of this report.

In the verification process, there is a risk that potential errors, omissions, and misrepresentations will be found; therefore, a risk-based approach was used to guide the collection of appropriate and sufficient evidence to support a reasonable level of assurance. A risk-based approach means that

the VVB focused on items that might result in a material misstatement of the reported GHG assertion.

A project specific Audit Plan (AP) was developed to guide the verification auditing process to ensure efficiency and effectiveness. The purpose of the AP 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 AP methodology was derived from all items in our verification process stated above. Specifically, the AP utilized the VCS and CCB guidance documents and ISO 14064-3. Any modifications applied to the AP were made based upon the conditions observed for monitoring to detect the processes with highest risk of material discrepancy.

A detailed field plan was developed to guide the verification site visit and is embedded within the AP. For the field sampling effort, direct measurement, observation, interviews, and review of the monitoring period emission reductions in the key areas were determined to be the greatest risk, followed by ground-truthing and review of project activities. Field sampling and techniques were based on the project parameters/scope and best professional judgment of the VVB to meet a reasonable level of assurance as directed by the professional judgment of the Lead Verifier.

Schedule	Verification Activity
16 December 2024	Completed project documentation provided to Aster Global
20 December 2024	Opening Meeting (representatives from PP with authority to approve Audit Plan and Lead Verifier or designee)
Signed Verification Audit Plan received	Project verification begins
10 – 12 March 2025	Site Visit
30 May 2025	Official First Round of NCRs/CLs delivered to PP
20 June 2025	PP provides Aster Global with responses and updated materials
12 August 2025	Round 2 of NCRs/CLs delivered to PP
26 August 2025	PP provides Aster Global with responses and updated materials
16 September 2025	Round 3 of NCRs/CLs delivered to PP
18 September 2025	PP provides Aster Global with responses and updated materials
19 September 2025	Aster Global closes all findings
09 October 2025	Aster Global Completes Internal Review
10 October 2025	Aster Global submits draft Project Verification Report
10 October 2025	Aster Global conducts Closing Meeting
	PP responds with comments/edits/revisions
	Final Project Validation Report submitted to PP

2.3 Document Review (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

A detailed review of all project documentation was conducted as part of the desktop verification component to ensure consistency with, and identify any deviation from, VCS Program requirements, CCB program requirements, the methodology (VM0007), the validated PD and MR. Initial review focused on the validated PD and MR relative to the field conditions observed and interviews with project management staff. Project details, implementation status, data and parameters, and quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals were thoroughly examined. Key supporting documents were also reviewed. These included monitoring data (i.e., remote sensing/GIS data), Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), financial analyses, boundaries, maps and aerial images, biomass, and carbon calculation spreadsheets, CCB interview/survey results, and responses to Clarification Requests (CLs).

The VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool was used by the PP to assess overall project risk. The VVB reviewed the Non-Permanence Risk Report provided with the verification supporting documentation and confirmed that the Project adheres to the requirements set out in the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool. Each risk factor was thoroughly assessed for conformance. Any identified Non-conformance Request (NCR) and/or Clarification (CL) findings related to the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool/Report are presented in Appendix 4. The final score was calculated to be 27%.

For a listing of all documents received from the PP for this verification, please see Appendix 3.

2.4 Interviews (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

Interviews were performed during the verification site visit as part of the overall verification process. The interviews were conducted to confirm information provided in the project description, monitoring report, and supporting documents provided by the PP and to solicit additional information as needed. Aster Global provided the PP with a list prior to the site visit for requested interviews with targeted project management staff, project employees, community members and other stakeholders. The PP provided the arrangements for the interviews. On-site interviews and informal discussions were conducted during the site visit (10 – 12 March 2025). Interviewees were provided the option of communicating in either English or Swahili based on personal comfort and preference. To ensure formal stakeholder interviews were conducted and evidence collected during these interviews were free from bias and potential influence from the PP, the VVB requested that the PP not be present during the formal interviews conducted with the requested communities and community groups. The PP was present for a limited number of supplementary interviews held with other stakeholders in cases where their presence was identified as acceptable to or requested by the interviewee(s). Interviews were requested with, and held with, individuals representing the following groups of stakeholders:

Individual	Affiliation	Role
David Beroff	Carbon Tanzania	Director of Operations

Marc Baker	Carbon Tanzania	Founder, CIO
Ben Rifkin	TerraCarbon, LLC	Manager Forestry and Technical Services
Bruno Mwaisaka	Tanganyika District Government	District Natural Resource Officer
N/A ¹		COCOBA Member
		Village Chairman / Steering Committee
		Village Executive Officer (VEO) / Steering Committee
N/A ¹		Village Government Members
N/A ¹		Village Game Scout (VGS)
N/A ¹		Construction Committee
N/A ¹		Teacher
N/A ¹		Carbon Champions
N/A ¹		Village Government Members
N/A ¹		Village Game Scout (VGS)
N/A ¹		Teachers
N/A ¹		COCOBA Members
		Village Chairman / Steering Committee
		VEO / Steering Committee
N/A ¹		Natural Resource Committee
N/A ¹		COCOBA Member
		Village Chairman / Steering Committee
		VEO / Steering Committee

Interviews were requested with, and held with, individuals representing the following groups of stakeholders:

- Village Government
- Members of Executive Committee
- VGS (including any women)
- COCOBA members
- Carbon Champions
- Women who benefitted from project activities (access to health care, entrepreneurship training, etc.)
- Individuals who have benefitted from access to education
- Teachers
- Clinic employees
- Individuals who have benefitted from health insurance

¹ Individual participant sign-in sheets are available upon Verra's request

2.5 Site Visits (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

The verification site visit occurred from 10 to 12 March 2025. The verification field activities closely followed Aster Global's Audit Plan(AP). Sample size and techniques were based on the project parameters, scope, and best professional judgment of the Lead Verifier. During the site visit, the VVB visited different villages throughout the project area and as a result saw large parts of the project area and some areas in the leakage belt. The VVB conducted interviews with representatives from Community Groups identified in the PD, along with other groups of stakeholders who are considered leaders in the project such as Village Government and beneficiaries of village projects using carbon funding. A sampling approach is applied to how many villages were visited. The VVB has conducted site visits for 3 previous verifications, and so villages that had not been visited in previous years were selected for this site visit. The VVB did not collect forest inventory data, as the forest inventory plots were not remeasured during this monitoring period. Throughout the site visit, the VVB confirmed areas of deforestation in the project area that were reported in the MR.

For the CCB verification component of the site visit, the VVB performed on-site reviews for representative community-based project activities identified as implemented or ongoing during the monitoring period, collected evidence to cross check the monitoring results related to various project aspects as reported in the MR such as the implementation of the grievance redress mechanism, impacts of Project Activities on participating communities, etc. specific to the monitoring period undergoing verification. The interviews were conducted for the purpose of substantiating information provided in the project description, monitoring report, and supporting documents provided by the PP and to solicit additional information as needed. Aster Global provided the PP with a list prior to the site visit for requested interviews with targeted project management staff, project employees, community members and other stakeholders. The PP provided appropriate arrangements for the interviews. On-site interviews and informal discussions were conducted during the site visit. Interviewees were provided the option of communicating in either English or Swahili based on personal comfort and preference. Interviews were requested with, and held with, individuals representing different groups of stakeholders.

Site Visit Itinerary:

Date	Activity
9 March 2025 – evening	Interviews with Carbon Tanzania staff (Azaria and David) Interview with District Natural Resource Office (Bruno Mwaisaka)
10 March 2025 - morning	Community Interviews in Kagunga Village - Village Chairman - Village Land Use Plan (VLUP) Chairperson - Subvillage Government leaders - Village Secretary - Carbon Champions

	• COCOBA Members • COCOBA Trainer • Wildlife Resource Committee • Teachers • School chef • Secretary of Natural Resource Committee • VGS • VEO
10 March 2025 - afternoon	Observation evidence collected in Kagunga Village • Demonstration of VGS patrol app (Cluey) • Tour of clinic and dispensary • Saw new classrooms
11 March 2025 - morning	Community Interviews in Kapanga Village • Village Government • Village Chairman • VEO • Natural Resource Committee (VGS) • COCOBA members • Teachers • Doctors Observation evidence collected of project investments in community (COCOBAs, clinic classrooms, housing)
11 March 2025 - afternoon	Community Interviews in Mpembe Village • VEO • Village Chairman • Village Government • Natural Resource Committee (VGS) • Teachers • COCOBA Members • Health Clinic Staff • School chef Observational evidence collected of project investments in community (classrooms, clinic, housing)
12 March 2025 - morning	David, Ashley, and Caris leave Ntakata project area

Throughout the site visit the VVB collected observational evidence throughout the project area between villages of project activities being implemented including construction of classrooms, secondary schools, clinics, and restrooms. Additionally, during the site visit the VVB collected observational evidence through review of on-the-ground deforestation compared to the monitoring results of areas that were identified as being deforested during the monitoring period. Ultimately, this information was used by the VVB as part of the desktop review to assess the accuracy of the monitoring results.

2.6 Public Comments (VCS, 3.18; CCB Program Rules, 4.6)

Comments received	Actions taken by the PP	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
<u>Not applicable</u> – no comments received during public comment period or throughout verification process.	<u>Not applicable</u> – no comments received during public comment period or throughout validation/verification process.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the Verra Registry Page. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> Verra Registry <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB noted no public comments were provided to the VVB by Verra following the end of the public comment period. The VVB noted no public comments were available on the Verra Registry Page. The VVB is reasonably assured that no comments were received that would have required action by the PP.

2.7 Resolution of Findings (VCS, 4.1, CCB Program Rules, 4.3.1)

During the verification process, there was a risk that potential errors, omissions, and misrepresentations would be found. The actions taken when errors, omissions, and misrepresentations were found included: notifying the client of the issue(s) identified and expanding our review to the extent that satisfied the Lead Verifier's professional judgment.

The process of resolution of findings involved multiple rounds of findings issued by the VVB. Findings were resolved during the verification by the PP implementing corrective actions such as amending the Monitoring Report and calculations, as well as providing additional clarification and supporting documents/evidence. This resulted in project documentation that was in conformance with the requirements of the VCS Standard and CCB Third Edition for GHG projects. Findings were characterized in the following manner:

Non-Conformity Reports (NCRs) were issued as a response to material discrepancies in a part of the project and generally fell into one category:

- Non-conformity to a VCS or CCB guiding document listed in Sections 1.2 and 2.2 above

- Consistency among project documentation or calculations was lacking
- Mathematical formulae were incorrect
- Additional information was required by the VVB to confirm reasonable assurance for compliance

Clarifications (CL) were issued when language within a project document needed extra clarification to avoid ambiguity.

Opportunities for Improvement (OFI) were issued to the PP when an opportunity for improvement was identified.

During the verification, 38 VCS and 16 CCB findings were identified. Detailed summaries of each VCS and CCB finding, including the issue raised, responses, and final conclusions, are provided in Appendix 4 VCS/CCB NCRS/CLS/OFI Summary.

2.7.1 Forward Action Requests (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.3)

During the previous verification (RP4), 1 Forward Action Request (FAR) was raised related to CCB Indicator CM2.2. It was noted that the FARs were issued after the start of the current reporting period, making it challenging for the PP to address the FAR. Therefore, the VVB is re-issuing. During site visit interviews, the majority of community members interviewed stated that a lack of agricultural land was not an issue. However, the VVB did find evidence, based on interviews, that some community members are concerned about the lack of agriculture land. The VVB is issuing a FAR for the next VVB to review the actions taken by the PP to determine if concerns over lack of agricultural land is due to project activities or other factors. As discussed with the PP during the verification, the Village Land Use Plans serve as the basis for the Project and were developed independently by each village through a participatory process.

2.8 Eligibility for Validation Activities (VCS, 4.1; CCB Program Rules, 4.1)

The validation/verification body holds accreditation for validation under VCS sectoral scope 14:
– Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Uses (AFOLU) (ANAB Accreditation ID: 8919).

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Participation under Other GHG Programs (VCS, 3.23, Appendix 2; CCB Program Rules, 3.1)

The VVB notes that this Project is already registered as a VCS and CCB Project under Verra and was determined to be eligible to participate in the GHG Program at validation. The VVB reviewed various registries and found no evidence of project involvement in other forms of environmental

credits from its activities. This was also substantiated through interviews with the PP. The project has not been registered, and is not seeking registration, under any other GHG programs. The project currently only seeks carbon credits with the CCB label under the VCS program. This was confirmed through a risk-based internet review and interviews with the PPs. Therefore, the VVB deems the project eligible to participate under the VCS Program.

3.2 Methodology Deviations (VCS, 3.20)

The VVB confirms that no new methodology deviations have been applied during this monitoring period. There are eight (8) methodology deviations applied during the monitoring period that have been approved at validation and have been correctly reported in Section 2.2.3 of the MR.

Methodology Deviation as Reported in MR	Verification Team's Assessment
Parameter UP,SS,i,pool# will be monitored at least once every 10 years, on re-measurement of forest carbon stocks. While module X-UNC requires that monitoring of this parameter occur every < 5 years, this requirement is inconsistent with the VM0007 pools modules, which specify that stock estimates (from which uncertainty is calculated) are assumed valid for 10 years. Therefore, a deviation to module X-UNC is applied to permit parameter UP,SS,i,pool# to be monitored every 10 years, putting it into alignment with modules CP-AB and CP-D. This deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals because it addresses a discrepancy in the methodology.	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.
The parameter, ARRL, was last monitored in 2019, but as it does not drive project accounting, its omission during this monitoring period does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of GHG emission reductions or removals. The ARRL will be updated with the next baseline update.	This Methodology Deviation during a previous verification and has not been reassessed during this verification.
The similarities of the project boundaries were assessed using population density rather than settlement density. This methodological deviation is warranted due to inconsistencies in the available data on	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.

the location of settlements within Tanzania. Use of population density data still meets the intent of the methodology as both population and settlement density reflect the relative density of resident populations (and level of pressures associated with those populations). This deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals because it uses a more accurate data source.	
The parameter TOTFOR has not been "limited to forest areas within 5km of roads and rivers suitable for conversion to agriculture / livestock" as specified in the methodology, for lack of relevant data on suitability. As the resulting TOTFOR value is greater, the AVFOR value is also greater. The PROPLB parameter is therefore smaller thus resulting in more leakage outside the leakage belt and hence a conservative estimate. This deviation results in conservative accounting of leakage outside the leakage belt.	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.
The parameter COLB has not been "limited to areas demonstrated to be suitable for agriculture or livestock ranching" as specified in the methodology, for lack of relevant data on suitability. This deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals because the information required by the methodology is not practically available.	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.
Two deviations are employed in the treatment of wood products to correct errors in the methodology and improve accuracy. In eq. 4 of CP-W, an additional term (incorporating volume-weighted specific gravity of commercial volumes) is applied to convert volume in m ³ /ha (from application of 1/BCEF) back to t CO ₂ e/ha (units of output parameter CXB). Also, per current treatment in BL-UP, there is double counting of emissions from wood products because in eq. 24 the entirety of	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.

aboveground tree biomass is emitted at the time of deforestation, and in addition, the fraction of aboveground tree biomass entering the wood products pool is steadily emitted over 20 years. Eq. 24 of BL-UP was modified to subtract CWP (fraction of aboveground tree biomass extracted, not immediately emitted and entering wood product pool at time of harvest) from ΔCAB_{tree} to avoid double counting of emissions in the baseline.	
To calculate PROPCS for outside leakage belt leakage, mean live aboveground tree biomass t CO₂/ha was replaced with mean stem volume m³/ha. The available national data in the NAFORMA 2015 Report for Tanzania is inaccurate. The aboveground biomass in stem wood is overinflated when multiplied by the appropriate BCEF (selected from the IPCC 2006 Vol 4 Table 4.5), making it ineffective to compare mean live aboveground tree biomass within the project area from the inventory to the national data. Therefore, mean live stem volume was used in its place, dividing mean live aboveground stem volume within the project area by the area weighted average mean live aboveground stem volume in Tanzanian forests based on the provided volumes in the NAFORMA 2015 Report.	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.
In the baseline modeling scenario in section 3.2.1, the landscape factor of slope steepness ratio is not included because it is evident that all slope classes are subject to agricultural conversion. Therefore, the ratio of slope steepness between the PA and the LB/RRD is not important to the determination of the RRD and LB areas. Table 3.5b below illustrates comparable amounts of agricultural activity across all steepness classes in both the PA, RRD, and LB. This deviation does not negatively impact the conservativeness of the quantification of reductions or removals because it is a more accurate assessment of deforestation risk.	This Methodology Deviation was approved at validation and has not been reassessed during this verification.

3.3 Minor Changes to Project Description (CCB Program Rules, 3.5.6)

There were no new minor changes to the PD applied during the monitoring period. Previously applied minor changes to the PD are listed in Section 2.2.4 of the MR and repeated below for reporting consistency.

Minor Changes to the PD Previously Reported and Verified
The PD lists the Giant Ground Pangolin as a trigger species in Section 5.3.1, however, the actual species found in the Ntakata project area is a Temminck's Ground Pangolin. This change has been made in this MR.
Diospyros crassiflora is listed as an HCV species in the BMP, validated with the PD. This species of African Ebony was not actually documented in the forest inventory and was mixed up with a very similar species of African Ebony known as Diospyros mespilitorimis.
The PD incorrectly states an initial accounting period is 20 years long, however it is actually 30 years long, and will occur from May 19, 2017 to May 18, 2047.

3.4 Project Description Deviations (VCS, 3.21; CCB Program Rules, 3.5.7 – 3.5.10)

During the Monitoring Period four (4) previously verified Project Description Deviations continued to be applied. The Project Description Deviations do not impact the applicability of the methodology, additionality, nor the appropriateness of the baseline scenario. An assessment of the Project Deviations against CCB Version 3 and VCS Version 4 can be found below. In conclusion, the VVB is reasonably assured that all Project Deviations are valid.

Project Description Deviation	Verification Team's Assessment
Objective 3 in the Community Monitoring Plan has been implemented, but will no longer directly track female reproductive health, rather it will track provision of health insurance. The PDD has been revised to reflect this change. Health insurance creates access to a wide range of community health care options including reproductive health. Therefore, access to reproductive health is still being implemented as a part of this project activity, but as a part of a broader range of health care provisions. The number of women enrolled in health insurance will serve as an effective proxy for access to reproductive health care. In this, and future, monitoring periods, the project will track the number of people covered by health insurance based on household surveys conducted at least every 5 years.	This PD Deviation was assessed during the last verification and a full description of the VVB's assessment can be located in the previous verification report.
The PD and Carbon Tanzania grievance policy was updated in August 2024 to further specify the Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (2.3.12) and Accessibility of the	This PD Deviation was assessed during the last verification and a full description of the VVB's assessment can be located in the previous verification report.

Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (2.3.12).

Carbon Tanzania has a clear grievance redress mechanism which is outlined in the company grievance policy. The grievance policy is also part of the files kept at the Village Government office. The policy defines a grievance and its scope as a dispute, complaint or concern raised during project planning, implementation or evaluation by communities and other stakeholders about the project's impact on, but not limited to, free, prior and informed consent, rights to lands, territories and resources, benefit sharing, participation rights, wellbeing, and the environment, as well as complaints raised by employees against their employment, and by community members against individuals working for or on behalf of Carbon Tanzania.

The grievance policy outlines a sequence of steps for managing grievances (each step initiated if the previous step has not successfully resolved the grievance):

1. Informal process to amicably resolve grievances, whereby aggrieved parties submit grievances to Carbon Tanzania via direct contact, email or telephone, the grievance is received and recorded. Carbon Tanzania will work with the aggrieved to resolve the grievance amicably and report the findings of the investigation and the proposed resolution in five days.
2. Formal hearing administered by Carbon Tanzania, whereby a grievance is formally submitted in writing to the Carbon Tanzania CEO (or to a company board member if the grievance is against the CEO). An impartial investigating officer is assigned, and a hearing is conducted within ten days following investigation to seek resolution of the matter.
3. Mediation with a third party, in the event of an appeal or a resolution cannot be reached in the formal hearing,
4. Arbitration through the Tanzanian Commission for Mediation and Arbitration,

where a resolution cannot be secured through mediation with a neutral third party. Grievances will be handled as quickly and fairly as possible, and timelines are specified in the grievance policy. All grievances, and the outcomes of the grievance redress procedures, are documented in a grievance log and made public by reporting in annual meetings with communities and stakeholders. Additional details, including the contact numbers of the directors, are included in the grievance policy, available in both English and Swahili. The CT Grievance policy for employees, partners, and community members is available in both English and Swahili and a copy is available in each Village's Government office. In addition, the grievance policy is described briefly in the project summary that is disseminated throughout the project area. The carbon champions have disseminated information specifically on the grievance policy as part of their awareness raising efforts and they are available to help project participants raise grievances if needed. Project staff, permanently stationed in the project area are available to communicate any grievances to the village leadership and to Carbon Tanzania. Meetings are held annually where leadership representing all project stakeholders, can gather comments from community members and air grievances to Carbon Tanzania and/or the district government. The grievance mechanisms are explained, discussed, and updated as needed at these meetings. The outcomes of these meetings are shared at local meetings and/or the minutes are shared with the community. Carbon champions also serve as a point of contact for community members to express grievances about the project. Finally, the public comment period is well-publicized to stakeholders and provides an additional opportunity to lodge grievances about the project if they do not want to reach out directly to the project. All grievances, and the outcomes of the grievance redress procedures, are documented in a grievance log and made public by reporting in annual	
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meetings with communities and stakeholders.	
'Other entity' associated with the project, Tuungane, ceased operations with the project in 2020 when project staff were recalled due to the Covid Pandemic. Carbon Tanzania continued to operate the project without the assistance of Tuungane. They did not return to the project after leaving as the project was functioning well without their services. This deviation does not affect the applicability, additionality, or appropriateness of the baseline scenario because the project continues to function properly. Tuungane was integral to the establishment of the project, but is no longer needed for further implementation of project activities.	This PD Deviation was assessed during the last verification and a full description of the VVB's assessment can be located in the previous verification report.
The Mpanda District government, included in the PD as an 'other entity', transitioned to Tanganyika District in 2017, during the first years of the project. The transition, including name change and move to new offices took a few years to finalize. This change has no affect on the applicability, additionality, or appropriateness of the baseline scenario because this change was purely administrative.	This PD Deviation was assessed during the last verification and a full description of the VVB's assessment can be located in the previous verification report.

3.5 New Project Activity Instances in Grouped Projects (VCS, 3.6; CCB, G1.13 – G1.15)

The Ntakata Mountains REDD Project is not a grouped project. This section is not applicable.

3.6 Baseline Reassessment (VCS, 3.2.6, 3.2.7)

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 (VCS, 4.1)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the audit history of the Project and cross-checked with the history reported in the PD and information publicly available on the Verra Registry and conducted interviews with Project Staff. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Project Registry, MR Section 2.1.2 <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The MR includes the audit history for the project, including the monitoring period and VVB name for the initial validation/verification and subsequent monitoring periods. The VVB found no evidence to contradict these claims thus the VVB concluded this is appropriately reported in MR Section 2.1.2.
Double counting and participation under other GHG programs (VCS, 3.23; CCB, G5.9)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed assertions made by the PP, performed cross-checks against publicly available information, and conducted interviews with Project Staff. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.5.10, MR Section 2.1.10, web search of other GHG programs, and conducted interviews with Project Staff. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR Section 2.1.10 includes assertions that the project is not receiving or seeking credit for reductions and removals, or registration under other GHG programs, and that the project has not been rejected by other GHG programs. The VVB performed an independent check of other GHG registries and found no evidence that the project is listed in other GHG Programs. The VVB found no evidence to contradict these claims thus the VVB concluded the information within the MR is accurate.
No double claiming with emissions trading programs or binding	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed assertions made by the PP and cross-checked them through review of

emission limits (VCS, 3.24.3-3.24.4)	other GHG programs and conducted interviews with Project Staff. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, PD Section 2.5.11, MR Section 2.1.11, internet search for references to the project included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit, interviews with Project Staff. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR Section 2.1.11 includes an assertion that project reductions and removals or project activities are not included in an emissions trading program or binding emission limit. The VVB found no evidence to contradict these claims thus the VVB concluded the information within the MR is accurate.
No double claiming with other forms of environmental credit (VCS, 3.24.5-3.24.6)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed assertions made by the PP and cross-checked them through review of other GHG programs. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, PD Section 2.5.12, MR Section 2.1.11, internet search for references to the project participating in other forms of environmental credit <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR Section 2.1.11.2 includes an assertion that the project has not sought, received, or is planning to receive credit from another GHG-related environmental credit system. The VVB found no evidence to contradict these claims thus the VVB concluded the information within the MR is accurate.
Supply chain (scope 3) emissions double claiming (VCS, 3.24.7)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the project activities identified in the PD and MR against the assertion made by the PP regarding supply chain emissions. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, PD, MR Section 2.1.11 <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR Section 2.1.11.3 includes the assertion that the project activities do not affect the emission footprint of any product(s) that are part of a supply chain. The VVB found no evidence to contradict these claims thus the VVB concluded the information within the MR is accurate.
Sustainable development contributions (VCS, 3.17)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed supporting documentation provided to substantiate claims on the SDG contributions by the project.

Evidence Checked: VCS Standard v4.7, PD Section 2.1.12, MR Section 2.1.12 site visit observations, supporting documents

Assessment Conclusion: PD Section 2.1.12 includes information as to how the project activities will contribute to sustainable development in Tanzania. MR Section 2.1.12 states that while the project contributes directly to the goals of Tanzania's National Development Vision of 2025, the project does not have provisions for reporting and monitoring on national policies. MR Section 2.1.12 provides a demonstration of how the project contributes to six Sustainable Development Goals: SDG 2.3.1, SDG 1.4.2, SDG 8.3.1, SDG 13, SDG 15.1.1, and SDG 3.8.2. Supporting documents were provided and reviewed to substantiate contributions to these goals. The VVB is reasonably assured that the Project activity will contribute to these SDGs.

4.2 Summary of Project Benefits

Please see Section 1.4 of this report for a summary description of The Ntakata Mountains REDD Project. The project aims at reducing emissions related to Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation. The VVB confirmed Section 1 of the MR appropriately describes the unique project benefits, including climate, community and biodiversity, and standardized benefit metrics, including achievements specific to metrics. The VVB confirmed the achievements reported are substantiated with information provided in the body of the monitoring report, and were further substantiated through on-site interviews with project participants and a thorough review of supplemental documentation. The climate impacts described in the MR reduce emissions by reducing deforestation in the Project Area. The avoided emissions claimed for climate impacts are evaluated elsewhere in this review and allow the VVB to corroborate the claims.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Implementation Status (CCB, G1.9)

Assessment and conclusion	
Material misstatements	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the implementation schedule identified in the PD and MR and supporting evidence provided to substantiate the milestones reported. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.1.13, MR Section 2.2.1, supporting documents, site visit observations. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> A comparison of the implementation schedules in the MR and PD shows the project has met key milestones identified in the PD for the period from the Project start date through the monitoring period and has identified additional key dates and

	milestones for the monitoring periods, including continued operations. The VVB reviewed the PD and MR and determined there are no discrepancies between the stated project lifetime and its start and end dates. The VVB reviewed the MR and PD and determined the monitoring plan was implemented in full accordance with the validated project design. MR Section 2.2.1 includes project implementation activities related to the monitoring of climate, community & biodiversity that were undertaken during the current monitoring period. The VVB requested to visit examples of all activities during the site visit and subsequently confirmed the implementation of items related to climate, community, and biodiversity.
Monitoring plan implementation status	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed monitoring plan identified in the PD, the implementation status of the monitoring plan in the MR and supporting evidence provided to substantiate the monitoring plan implementation status. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.1.13, MR Section 2.2.1, supporting documents, site visit observations. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The implementation status of the monitoring plan and the completeness of monitoring, including the suitability of the implemented monitoring system was confirmed through review of VM0007 adopted procedures and comparison of monitoring results against the validated project design. The VVB reviewed the MR and PD and determined the monitoring plan was implemented in full accordance with the validated project design. The VVB requested to visit examples of all activities during the site visit and subsequently confirmed the implementation of items related to climate, community, and biodiversity.

See sections 3.2, 3.3, and 3.4 of this report for a complete list of previously validated methodology deviations, minor changes to the project description, and project description deviations, respectively.

Based on the project documents and supporting evidence reviewed, as described in the table above, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project has been implemented as described in the project description.

4.3.2 Stakeholder Identification (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G3.6)

MR Section 2.3.1 states that the stakeholders involved in the project activities have not changed since validation. The VVB reviewed the stakeholders identified in the PD and compared them with stakeholders included in the MR and did not note any differences. Based on site visit observations and supporting documentation, the VVB is reasonably assured that the stakeholder makeup has not changed since validation.

4.3.3 Stakeholder Consultation and Ongoing Communication (VCS, 3.18; CCB, G3.4)

The VVB notes that the Project has been granted an exemption from Verra from Section 3.18.6 of the VCS Standard v4.7 for the Monitoring Period as the Project initiated verification well before the effective date.

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Community groups and other stakeholders	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the community groups and other stakeholders described in the PD and cross-checked against the MR and supporting documentation, conducted site visit interviews with relevant stakeholders, community groups and Project staff. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the community groups and other stakeholders consulted during the reporting period and noted that they are in line with stakeholders and community groups identified in the PD.
Ongoing consultation	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> Site visit interviews with Village Government and village members substantiated that consultations and participatory processes have been undertaken directly with communities through legitimate representatives. The Village Government members are elected by their villages, and communication about the project primarily occurs through the Village Government representatives. Village members that were interviewed stated they felt comfortable talking to their village government about the project. The VVB also reviewed meeting minutes from the Bi-annual steering committee meetings. Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations and interviews during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured the project carried out ongoing community consultation.
Date(s) of stakeholder consultation	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews.

	<u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> In conclusion the VVB is reasonably assured that the ongoing stakeholder consultation as described throughout the MR has been implemented in accordance with the validated PD.
Communication of monitored results	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The MR states that letters were posted around the villages containing summary monitoring results. Additionally, monitoring results were shared in face-to-face meetings. During the site visit, the VVB noted examples of monitoring results posted in public places and were available to village government leaders. The VVB is reasonably assured that monitored results were communicated in line with the validated PD.
Consultation records	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> During the site visit, the VVB noted that there were letters posted in public places with project information. Additionally, the VVB reviewed meeting minutes provided for consultations that occurred during the reporting period. The VVB is reasonably assured that consultations are documented as described in the PD.
Stakeholder input	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations and stakeholder input described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The MR states that the project adopted village land use plans (VLUPs) created by each village as part of the overall project scheme. These VLUPs are created in a participatory nature, with input coming from representatives, including the sub-villages. The MR states that communities were also able to provide input during village meetings on how financial flow from carbon inputs

	could be used most effectively. The MR further states that village representatives then prioritized the activities to be funded by REDD project revenue and set their own priorities and spending plans. During site visit interviews and discussions over the VLUPs it was evident that they were created and developed in a participatory nature. Site visit interviews also supported the statement that decisions on how carbon revenue is used are made in a participatory manner. The steering committee of the village government is made up of the Village Executive Officer, Village Chairman, 1 VGS from each village, and 1 man, 1 woman from each village. This committee must come to a consensus on how carbon revenue is used. Attendance logs for good governance trainings were provided to the VVB, and the trainings were mentioned as being helpful during the site visit. The VVB also reviewed meeting minutes from the Bi-annual steering committee meetings. Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations and interviews during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured stakeholder input is utilized by the project.
Influence of stakeholder input	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the ongoing consultations and stakeholder input described in the MR and cross-checked against the continued consultation described in the PD along with supporting documentation and site visit observations/interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.8, MR Section 2.3.9, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR template instructions state: “Describe how due account was taken of all input received during the consultation. Include details on any updates to the project design or justify why updates were not necessary or appropriate.” The MR states that feedback from stakeholders about delays in project implementation has led to the creation of the Carbon Trading Advisory Committee, This is an advisory group made up of representatives from Carbon Tanzania, Tanganyika District Council, and other government representatives to reduce unnecessary conflicts and delays in project activities. This was the only update to the project design during the monitoring period.

4.3.4 Stakeholder Access to Information (VCS, 3.18; CCB, G3.1- G3.3)

The monitoring report states that full project documentation was provided to each district office and village committee to review and keep on file for public access. To overcome language/reading barriers, the project team planned face-to-face interactions using carbon champions to provide a summary of the PD to committees and other interested villagers. The MR states summaries of the last monitoring results were prepared and explained in regular bi-annual project meetings and that the same occurred for the present monitoring report.

During the site visit, the VVB noted the MR summary and information about the site visit were posted in public places throughout the villages that were visited. Copies of the PD and MR were available in village offices. During interviews with Carbon Champions, it was evident that the communities are aware of project activities and knowledgeable about the carbon project. The VVB reviewed the meeting minutes provided as well as translated summaries and confirms the bi-annual meetings were used to present information about the project to the communities.

Consistent with the PD, the MR states the PP started a “carbon champion program”, in which a champion from each village is trained on project information and is responsible for spreading key messages throughout the villages. Interviews conducted during the site visit determined that the community members were aware of the potential risks and benefits for joining the project. Decisions about project activities come from everybody, village leaders represent their villages and know what everyone wants and needs. When asked about potential risks for joining the project, individuals stated that there are only benefits. During interviews it was evident that community meetings occurred as described in the MR. The VVB reviewed meeting minutes and summary documents provided by the PP, further substantiating that community meetings were held as described in the MR.

During the site visit, the VVB noted announcements about the verification process and public comment period posted throughout the villages. When asked during interviews, individuals stated that they knew about the public comment period but would most likely use other methods to make a comment about the project, such as telling their village chairman, rather than submitting a comment online.

Most individuals stated that they were aware the verification was going to take place before the VVB arrived, and there were notices posted around the village offices about the two auditors coming. In each village visited, community members were ready and waiting to speak with the VVB.

Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations and interviews during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project provided appropriate access to information to communities and other stakeholders.

4.3.5 Grievances (VCS, 3.18.4; CCB, G3.8)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Grievance received and steps taken to resolve the grievance including the	<u>Evidence gathering activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the grievances reported in the MR and cross checked against the grievance redress procedure presented in the PD.

outcomes of the resolution	<u>Evidence checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.12, 2.3.13; MR Section 2.3.14; supporting evidence; site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> MR Section 2.3.14 states that there were no grievances logged during the reporting period, as reported by the grievance meeting and the district government. During site visit interviews no individuals stated they had any grievances with the project. Individuals interviewed said they had no issues with the project, and if they ever did, they would feel comfortable raising them with project staff. As there were no grievances logged during the monitoring period, the VVB is unable to determine if the process was implemented appropriately. However, based on site visit interviews and the grievance procedure in place the VVB is confident that any future grievances raised would be handled appropriately.
Grievance redress procedure	<u>Evidence gathering activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the grievances reported in the MR and cross checked against the grievance redress procedure presented in the PD. <u>Evidence checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD Section 2.3.12, 2.3.13; MR Section 2.3.14; supporting evidence; site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> As there were no grievances logged during the monitoring period, the VVB is unable to determine if the grievance redress procedure was implemented appropriately. However, based on site visit interviews and the grievance procedure in place the VVB is confident that any future grievances raised would be handled appropriately.

4.3.6 Stakeholder Participation in Decision-making and Implementation (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G3.6)

The MR describes the actions the PP has taken to enable effective participation of all communities in the project, including presenting opportunities to participate in the project through face-to-face meetings with community members. Based on the governance structures used in the villages, it is evident that there is effective participation of all community groups that want to be involved in the project. The village government structure is a cultural structure and democratic in nature, which helps ensure that there is participation within the villages. The project also encourages equal opportunities for all community members, which was demonstrated with female VGS officers. When interviewed, the female VGS stated that they think even more women should be VGS so that it is balanced. Site visit interviews substantiate that there is widespread knowledge, appreciation, and participation in the project across the villages.

4.3.7 Risks from the Project and No Net Harm (VCS, 3.18, 3.19)

The VVB reviewed the risks from the project identified in MR Appendix 3. See the Project Risks Table in Appendix 2 for the evidence gathering activities, evidence reviewed, and assessment conclusions for each of the risks identified by the project.

4.3.8 Community and Biodiversity Benefit Permanence (CCB, G1.11)

The VVB reviewed the PD for actions identified as needed for comparison to actions identified in the MR as having been taken to maintain and enhance CCB benefits beyond the project lifetime. The project has two principal strategies to ensure the maintenance and enhancement of project benefits beyond the project lifetime: capacity development and land-use planning. The MR states that during the monitoring period, progress was made towards this indicator through completing, implementing, and enforcing land use plans. Capacity was also increased around governance, scout training, environmental education, COCOBAs, and reproductive health.

Training logs for governance training, VGS training, lists of villagers who received training from Carbon Champions, and attendance lists of COCOBA meetings were provided to the VVB for review. Implementation of the Village Land Use Plans was demonstrated for the villages visited during the site visit. Those interviewed appeared to understand the VLUPs and their importance.

Site visit interviews substantiate that training occurred during the monitoring period and that knowledge and skills were transferred to the communities, helping to build the capacity of the local villages. Interactions with school children demonstrated that they are learning about the carbon project and the importance of protecting forests and conservation, helping to ensure the principles implemented by the project last for future generations. The VVB agrees that reasonable progress has been made towards enhancing project benefits beyond the project lifetime in accordance with the measures identified in the validated PD.

4.3.9 Risks to the Project (CCB, G1.10)

The VVB reviewed the monitoring report for information presented on the natural and human-induced risks that were identified during validation. The mitigation actions for each of the identified risks are included in Section 2.2.7 of the MR. Actions taken during the monitoring period include: implementation of VLUPs, cooperation between CT and the District Government; various meetings with village government; and VGS patrols and assessment of habitats.

Natural and human-induced risks to the expected project benefits are identified in 2.2.7 of the MR and are consistent with those identified in Section 2.1.18 and Appendix 2 of the PD. The natural risk identified is climate change resulting in species compositional shifts and negatively impacting conservation target species. Human-induced risks include increased mining, new major roads, change in national REDD+ policy, diminished village engagement, the project attracting new immigrants, and insufficient carbon revenue.

The MR identifies measures taken to mitigate these risks. To verify whether reasonable steps were taken to mitigate identified risks, the VVB assessed each identified risk through project and supplemental document review, clarifications from the PP, and site interviews and observations. Site visit interviews and observations substantiate that the PP continues to strengthen ties with the village, district, and national governments and that the PP is in active collaboration with these governments. The VVB determined the continued collaboration and participation with these governments were effective in mitigating identified human-induced risks, including increased mining, new major roads, change in national REDD+ policy, and diminished village engagement. The VVB substantiated through site visit interviews and observations that VLUPs were developed and implemented during this monitoring period and that the VLUPs were largely understood by local community members. The VVB determined the implementation and resulting widespread community understanding of the VLUPs was effective in mitigating the risk of the project attracting new immigrants. Through additional clarification and supplemental documentation provided by the PP, the VVB determined the risk of insufficient carbon revenue was successfully mitigated during the verification period.

The VVB substantiated through site visit interviews with VGS that regular forest patrols occurred during the verification period. Site visit interviews and observations with community members and review of the chimpanzee habitat suitability modelling in Appendix 1 substantiate that project activities are reducing the risk of habitat loss. The VVB determined these substantiations indicate the project was effective in mitigating the identified natural risk. Through the review and substantiation of the mitigations of each identified risk, the VVB determined that the project has been successful in mitigating natural and human-induced risks to expected project benefits during this verification period.

The risks described appear to be reasonable and complete based on the VVB's knowledge of the region from the site visit. Through the review and substantiation of the mitigations of each identified risk, the VVB determined that the project has been successful in mitigating the risks to expected project benefits during this verification period. The VVB concludes the risks are adequately addressed through these activities designed to mitigate them.

4.3.10 Anti-discrimination (VCS, 3.19; CCB, G3.7)

The monitoring report states that all company employees sign a code of conduct with CT that includes a statement on anti-discrimination. The VVB reviewed the CT code of conduct as well as photos from HR training that occurred at staff meetings during the monitoring period. Additionally, signed codes of conduct were provided for individuals hired during the monitoring period. These documents support the statements made in the MR that the project is not complicit in discrimination or sexual harassment, and the VVB found no evidence that the PP or other entities are complicit in any way.

4.3.11 Worker Relations (CCB, G3.9 – G3.12)

Opportunities for community members to participate in orientations and trainings as well as capacity building activities were available during the monitoring period. Site visit interviews and observations substantiate that there were multiple trainings through CT, and other project partners with village government, VGS officers, COCOBA members, and carbon champions that occurred during the monitoring period. Individuals stated that the trainings were helpful and taught them valuable information. COCOBA members stated that the trainings were very valuable to them and for their businesses, and that they would like even more trainings to continue to grow their businesses. VGS officers spoke of attending the Pasiensi Institute during previous monitoring periods, where they received military/ranger training from professionals. The MR states that the capacity building that is happening is occurring in exciting project-independent structures (i.e., the village governments), and therefore the benefits will last beyond the project lifetime. Based on the supporting evidence provided and observations made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that there is substantial capacity building occurring.

The MR states that all community members are encouraged to apply for open positions, and that all employees of the Ntakata REDD project area were employed from the project area during this period. The limited number of female employees is a result of cultural preferences and not unfair hiring practices. The VVB spoke with female VGS officers who said the hiring process was the same for women and men. The female VGS believe more women should apply so that there is a balanced number. The MR states that there a significant portion of village leadership are women, and the VVB spoke with several of these leaders. Most of the COCOBA members are also women. Site visit interviews substantiate that community members are given preference for employment within the project and that there is equal opportunity for individuals to apply for positions if desired.

MR Section 2.5.2 states the PP adheres to applicable labour laws and regulations and that employees are informed of their rights during employee orientation. Evidence of how CT ensures compliance with Tanzanian Law was provided to the VVB.

The MR states that no occupational safety incidents were reported during the monitoring period. Potential risks to workers include vehicle accidents, insect or snake bites, as well as conflict related violence during enforcement operations. Interviews with VGS substantiate that they are aware of the risks associated with their work and how to handle dangerous situations. Additionally, while this did not occur during the current monitoring period, VGS have previously attended the Pasiensi Wildlife Training Institute (PWIT) which covers a range of topics related to VGS work, including the risk of confrontations with illegal loggers and wildlife. The biggest danger they mentioned was the Secuma invaders. Site visit interviews substantiate that VGS officers received trainings during the monitoring period.

Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that the relationship between workers and the project upholds the intent and design presented in the validated project description.

4.3.12 Management Capacity (VCS, 3.19; CCB, G4.2 – G4.3)

Information presented in the MR and provided to the VVB through supplemental materials, such as resumes and CVs, substantiates the current project management team has demonstrated their expertise and ability to implement and manage this project over an extended period, and appropriate provisions exist to ensure the key technical and management skills are in place to continue to manage the project successfully over the project lifetime. Section 3.1.3 of the MR describes and demonstrates the project possesses the necessary technical and management skills required to implement the project successfully. The Project has a partnership with TerraCarbon LLC, that provide technical support. Furthermore, the PP describes that all work conducted goes through a review by senior management prior to submission. In conclusion, the VVB is reasonably assured the Project has appropriately described the responsibilities and competencies of the personnel (e.g. organization/s) that carried out the monitoring activities and appropriately describes the internal auditing procedures and non-conformities identified.

The VVB reviewed supplemental materials and conducted interviews with community leaders and members that substantiated the PP is taking appropriate steps to assist community groups to improve key technical, managerial, and governance skills that should help ensure continued local community involvement in project implementation over the project lifetime.

The PP is identified as the organization responsible for financial implementation. Section 2.4.4 of the MR states the PP is an established company with a sound financial basis for operations over the project lifetime. The VVB reviewed financial information provided by the PP and confirmed the information provided satisfactorily demonstrated the financial health of the implementing organization is adequate to support project implementation.

Section 2.4.5 of the MR attests the PP and its partners are not complicit in any form of corruption. Interviews and discussions with the PP, project management staff, Village and District Government representatives and community members did not identify any concerns that the project or project staff are complicit in any form of corruption. Community members interviewed confirmed that projects they have requested and prioritized to be funded through the REDD revenues are being delivered as anticipated, and the Villages receive postings about the project governance and what has been done with the money received. In conclusion, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project has the capacity to implement the project in accordance with the PD.

4.3.13 Commercially Sensitive Information (VCS, 3.5.2 – 3.5.4; CCB Program Rules, 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

The MR states that no commercially sensitive information is included in the MR document but supporting documents including commercially sensitive information will not be made publicly available. The VVB substantiates the PP's assessment that the monitoring report does not deliberately exclude commercially sensitive information.

4.3.14 Legal Status and Property Rights

4.3.14.1 National and Local Laws (VCS 3.1, 3.6-7, 3.14, 3.18-19; CCB, G5.6)

A list of laws and regulations considered relevant to the project are provided in Section 2.5.1 of the MR and are the same laws identified in the PD as well as the addition of the new 2022 Environmental Management Regulations. The MR and PD provide a summary for the relevance of each of these laws and regulations to the project, and several identify the applicable law or regulation as setting standards or basis for actions undertaken or followed by the project.

The VVB confirmed that the project continued to take steps during the monitoring period to ensure compliance with the new Tanzania Carbon Trading regulation. During the monitoring period, the project signed an updated contract with the Village Governments to represent the new 40-year contract length and updated revenue sharing, demonstrating that the implications from these regulatory changes have been communicated and agreed to by project stakeholders. Additionally, the project is listed on the National Carbon Monitoring Center website and received a Letter of Endorsement for the project from the government.

The MR contains a definitive statement that the project continues to be in compliance with all national and local laws and regulations that are relevant to the project activities. Site visit interviews with members of the district government substantiated that the project is not out of compliance with any laws.

4.3.14.2 Relevant Laws and Regulations Related to Worker's Rights (VCS, 3.18.2; CCB, G3.11)

MR Section 2.5.2 states the PP adheres to applicable labor laws and regulations and that employees are informed of their rights during employee orientation. Evidence of how CT ensures compliance with Tanzanian Law was provided to the VVB, including evidence of social security funds, employee contracts, and evidence of worker's comp funds. Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that the relationship between workers and the project upholds the intent and design presented in the validated project description and follows all relevant laws and regulations.

4.3.14.3 Human Rights (VCS, 3.19)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Human rights	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the MR and supporting evidence provided along with site visit observations and interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR section 2.5.3, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative provided in Section 2.5.3 of the MR which describes how the project has ensured that the rights of IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders have been protected in line with applicable international human rights law, UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples. This is supported by CT's continually renewed business license and CT company policies. Based on observations and interviews held during the site visit, the VVB found no evidence that human rights are not being protected.

4.3.14.4 Indigenous Peoples and Cultural Heritage (VCS, 3.18, 3.19)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Preservation and protection of cultural heritage	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the MR and supporting evidence provided along with site visit observations and interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> MR section 2.5.4, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative provided in MR Section 2.5.3 which demonstrates how the project has preserved and protected cultural heritage as part of project activities. CT has been recognized with several awards reflecting their commitment to environmental and cultural preservation. Additionally, the project has demonstrated there are no negative impacts on High Conservation Values (HCVs) related to the communities, including cultural heritage sites, as demonstrated by CCB Indicator CM2.4. Based on site visit observations and interviews, the VVB found no evidence to contradict the statements made in the MR on preservation of cultural heritage.

4.3.14.5 Recognition of Property Rights (VCS, 3.19, CCB, G5.1)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
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Disputes over rights to territories and resources	N/A. MR Section 2.5.5 states that there were no disputes over rights to territories and resources. Site visit observations and interviews support this statement as the VVB found no evidence of disputes over rights to territories or resources.
Respect for property rights	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the MR and supporting evidence provided along with site visit observations and interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> MR Section 2.5.5, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative provided in MR Section 2.5.5 which demonstrates how the project has preserved the property rights of stakeholders, IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders. The MR states that the Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs) are the basis for understanding tenure rights in the project zone, including both statutory and customary rights. It was evident during site visit interviews that the communities understand and recognize the VLUPs. The project has helped support the village governments by assisting with the implementation of VLUPs. During site visit interviews with project staff, Village Council representatives, and community members there was no evidence that property rights are not being recognized, respected, and supported. The VLUPs adequately secure statutory rights.

4.3.15 Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (VCS, 3.18, 3.19; CCB, G5.2)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Consent	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the PD and MR along with supporting evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> PD Section 2.5.3, MR Section 2.5.5, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative provided in MR Section 2.5.7 which demonstrates how consent was contained by meeting all contractual obligations with the Village and District Government through direct financial transfers. The VVB reviewed the signed contracts, included an updated 40-year contract that was

	signed outside of the monitoring period. Additionally, the VVB reviewed evidence of financial transfers made to the villages and district government during the monitoring period. Site visit observations and interviews support that the project has complied with the transparent agreement made during the project design.
Outcome of FPIC discussion	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the PD and MR along with supporting evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> PD Section 2.5.3, MR Section 2.5.5, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative provided in MR Section 2.5.7 which demonstrates the outcome of the FPIC discussion. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent was established by the validated PD through signing of project contracts by Village Governments as representatives of villagers. The MR states that the project has and will continue to provide appropriate compensation to the affected parties based on the contractual obligations with the Village and District Governments. The VVB reviewed the evidence of financial transfers provided which supports the statements made in the MR that the project compensates the affected villages. A breakdown of payments made was provided to the VVB, which is supported by the decisions made during the steering committee meetings about dispersing funds. MR Section 2.5.7 is consistent with PD Section 2.5.4 in stating that project activities did not involve any involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands. Site visit interviews with Village Government representatives and community members substantiated the participatory nature used in developing and implementing the VLUPs and that the project does not force them to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood. There was no evidence during the site visit that there was involuntary removal of property rights holders from their land.

4.3.16 Property Rights Protection (VCS, 3.19; CCB G5.1-G5.5)

The VVB reviewed the monitoring report and supplemental documentation for information on the actions taken and measures implemented by the PP to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities, and other stakeholders. The MR states that the Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs) are the basis for understanding tenure rights in the project zone, including both statutory and customary rights. It was evident during site visit interviews that the communities understand and recognize the VLUPs. The project has helped support the village governments by assisting with the implementation of VLUPs. During site visit interviews with project staff, Village Council representatives, and community members there was no evidence that property rights are not being recognized, respected, and supported. The VLUPs adequately secure statutory rights.

MR Section 2.5.8 is consistent with PD Section 2.5.4 in stating that project activities did not involve any involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands. Site visit interviews with Village Government representatives and community members substantiated the participatory nature used in developing and implementing the VLUPs and that the project does not force them to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood. There was no evidence during the site visit that there was involuntary removal of property rights holders from their land.

MR Section 2.5.9 identifies illegal activities that could have negative effects on the project that are the same as those identified in the PD. The MR states these issues were addressed through the employment and training of VGS, which was identified as the project's core activity. Site visit interviews with VGS staff and government representatives substantiate that training and deployment of VGS occurred during the monitoring period. A demonstration of the mobile devices used to document illegal activities found by VGS was shown to the VVB during the site visit. During interviews it was stated that now that the community better understands and is more aware of the VLUPs, most individuals caught doing illegal activities are invaders and not from the project area. The activities of the VGS are believed to be effective in reducing the threat of illegal activities that could affect the project's impacts.

The VLUP process has resolved any land disputes that previously affected the project area. Site visit interviews substantiated that the VLUPs were created in a participatory manner. During site visit interviews there was no evidence of any ongoing conflicts or disputes between community groups and the project, even when directly prompted. Based on the evidence reviewed and observations made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project has protected the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities and other stakeholders in accordance with CCB standards and the validated PD.

4.3.17 Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (VCS, 3.18, 3.19)

Item	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Process used to design the benefit sharing plan	<u>Evidence Gather Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the PD and MR along with supporting evidence provided and site visit observations. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> PD Section 4.5.6, MR Section 2.5.6, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, financial documents, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The process used to design the benefit sharing plan was evaluated during validation. The benefit sharing mechanism has not changed since validation and continues to be implemented based on the validated design.

Summary of the benefit sharing plan	<u>Evidence Gather Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the PD and MR along with supporting evidence provided and site visit observations. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> PD Section 4.5.6, MR Section 2.5.6, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, financial documents, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> Section 2.5.6 of the MR provides a summary of the benefit sharing mechanism, which is in line with the plan outlined in PD Section 4.5.6. The VVB reviewed the contract between CT and the Villages which outlines the benefit sharing mechanism. The mechanism is based on existing democratic governance structures and procedures. The VVB notes that the benefit sharing mechanism is now enshrined in the new 2022 national carbon regulations. The VVB concludes that the summary of the benefit sharing plan included in the MR is accurate.
Approval and dissemination of benefit sharing plan	<u>Evidence Gather Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the PD and MR along with supporting evidence provided and site visit observations. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> PD Section 4.5.6, MR Section 2.5.6, VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, financial documents, supporting evidence, site visit observations and interviews. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> Section 2.5.6 of the MR outlines the benefit sharing during the monitoring period. The VVB reviewed financial documents as well as evidence of payment transfers that occurred during the monitoring period. Additionally, during site visit interviews with village government there was no evidence that benefit sharing has not been disseminated in line with the validated plan. Based on interviews conducted during the site visit with village leadership and representatives from the Steering Committee along with the supporting documentation provided by the Project, the VVB is reasonably assured that the Benefit Sharing Plan as described in the validated PD and agreed to by the participating communities was followed.

4.3.18 Identification of Illegal Activities (VCS, 3.19; CCB G5.4)

MR Section 2.5.9 identifies illegal activities that could have negative effects on the project that are the same as those identified in the PD. The MR states these issues were addressed through the employment and training of VGS, which was identified as the project's core activity. Site visit interviews with VGS staff and government representatives substantiate that training and deployment of VGS occurred during the monitoring period. A demonstration of the mobile devices used to document illegal activities found by VGS was shown to the VVB during the site visit. During interviews it was stated that now that the community better understands and is more aware of the VLUPs, most individuals caught doing illegal activities are invaders and not from the project area. The activities of the VGS are believed by community participants to be effective in reducing the threat of illegal activities that could affect the project's impacts.

4.4 Climate

4.4.1 Accuracy of Reduction and Removal Calculations (VCS, 2.5, 3.2, 3.6, 3.15, 4.1, 4.3)

The VVB assessed the methods utilized in quantification of GHG emissions reductions and removals generated by the Project. In review, the VVB determined that all relevant assumptions and data are appropriately referenced and sourced, and appropriately described in the MR. Further the VVB determined that all data and parameter values used in the MR are considered reasonable in the context of the Project and the quantification of emission reductions/removals can be replicated by referencing the validated PD and MR.

For each monitored quantification aspect of the Project, the VVB conducted an intensive review of all input data, parameters, formulae, calculations, conversions, statistics and resulting uncertainties and output data to ensure consistency with the VCS Standard, the validated PD, MR, and selected methodology. Data with associated conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by the PP in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulae were accessible for review. The VVB recalculated the analyses to confirm correctness and assess if data transposition errors occurred through an independent set of data checks to achieve a reasonable level of assurance and to meet the materiality requirements of the project. The PP also provided answers to questions on calculations to ensure the VVB understood the approach and could confirm its consistency with the selected methodology, PD, and MR. Where applicable, references for analysis methods or default values were checked against relevant scientific literature for best practice and adherence to VCS program requirements. Specific assessments for the relevant quantification aspects are described below:

Quantification of baseline emissions

Data with associated conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by the PP in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulae were accessible for review. The VVB reviewed the validated PD against the selected MR and supporting calculation workbooks to assess if the validated parameter values were applied accurately in the context of the selected methodology and the validated PD. The VVB reached reasonable assurance that the PP has appropriately quantified and reported baseline emissions in the MR, including baseline emissions for the entire 10-year initial crediting period.

Quantification of project emissions

The PP provided calculation workbooks, inputs and outputs of remote sensing exercises, and supporting documentation to the VVB to ensure all aspects of the quantification were accessible for review. Through independent data checks, the VVB substantiated that project emissions reductions were quantified appropriately for emission sources included in the project boundary utilizing calculation procedures identified in selected methodology and associated modules. Furthermore, the VVB assessed the Project's adherence to monitoring requirements described

in the selected methodology and validated monitoring plan. The VVB applied the following evidence gathering technique in the VVB's assessment: a comprehensive set of independent data checks, review of previous validation/verification reports, review of validated PD, review of MR/previous MRs, calculation walkthrough calls with the Project, evidence collected during the site visit, review of supporting documentation, and cross-checking and recalculation of inputs and outputs utilized in remote sensing exercises.

The project continued to conduct their rolling Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) during the monitoring period, which was used to determine if forest degradation was occurring within the project area. PRA results indicated that further quantification of degradation was not necessary. The verification reached reasonable assurance regarding the results of the PRA through evidence collected during on-site interviews and a review of supporting documentation.

The VVB reached reasonable assurance that the PP has appropriately quantified and reported project emissions in the MR.

Quantification of leakage

VM007 requires the assessment of leakage through the use of the required leakage modules. Specifically, the PP has applied the LK-ASU module as required by the Project type. The Project provided calculation workbooks, inputs and outputs of remote sensing exercises, and supporting documentation to the VVB to ensure all aspects of the quantification were accessible for review. The VVB applied the following evidence gathering technique in the VVB's assessment: a comprehensive set of independent data checks, review of previous validation/verification reports, review of validated PD, review of MR/previous MRs, calculation walkthrough calls with the PP, evidence collected during the site visit, review of supporting documentation, and cross-checking and recalculation of inputs and outputs utilized in remote sensing exercises. The VVB reached reasonable assurance that the PP has appropriately quantified and reported leakage emissions in the MR.

Uncertainties Associated with the Calculations of Emissions:

Data with associated conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by the PP in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulae were accessible for review. The VVB reviewed the validated PD against the selected MR and supporting calculation workbooks to assess if the validated parameter values were applied accurately in the context of the selected methodology and the validated PD. Uncertainty calculations were reviewed in detail as prescribed by the methodology and confirmed. $NER_{REDDERROR,t}$ was confirmed to be 25.1% at validation and the VVB confirmed the PP appropriately applied an uncertainty deduction for this monitoring period.

Data and Parameters Assessed:

Aster Global conducted an intensive review of all input data, parameters, formulae, calculations, conversions, statistics and resulting uncertainties and output data to ensure consistency with the VCS Standard, the validated PD, and VM0007. Data with associated conversion factors,

formulae, and calculations were provided by the PP in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulae were accessible for review. The VVB recalculated subsets of the analyses to confirm correctness and assess if data transposition errors occurred to achieve a reasonable level of assurance and to meet the materiality requirements of the project, as required by the VCS Standard. The PP also provided answers to questions on calculations to ensure the VVB understood the approach and could confirm its consistency with VM0007 and the PD.

An overview of the data and parameters monitored, along with VVB findings, are included in the table below. This is not an exhaustive list of all monitored parameters that are available for verification, but all were data-checked as part of the comprehensive desktop review:

Data Unit / Parameter	Description	VVB Assessment and Conclusion
$\Delta C_{BSL,PA,unplanned}$ (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that the validated parameter value was applied during this monitoring period and that the baseline period has not expired. The validated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 627,509 tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.
$\Delta CP_{Def,i,t}$ (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that this parameter was appropriately calculated in-line with the VM0007 methodology and procedures described in the PD. The calculated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 80,779 tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	This parameter was calculated in-line with the validated PD and VM0007 methodology.
GHGP-E,i,t (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that this parameter was appropriately calculated in-line with the VM0007 methodology and procedures described in the PD. The calculated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 5,341	This parameter was calculated in-line with the validated PD and VM0007 methodology.

	tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	
ΔCP, LB (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that this parameter was appropriately calculated in-line with the VM0007 methodology and procedures described in the PD. The calculated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 58,134 tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	This parameter was calculated in-line with the validated PD and VM0007 methodology.
ΔCLK-ASU-OLB (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that this parameter was appropriately calculated in-line with the VM0007 methodology and procedures described in the PD. The calculated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 60,191 tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	This parameter was calculated in-line with the validated PD and VM0007 methodology.
ΔCLK-AS, unplanned (t CO ₂ -e)	The VVB confirmed that the validated parameter value was applied correctly during this monitoring period and that the baseline period has not expired. The calculated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is 60,191 tCO ₂ e. This is not a default value.	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.
NER _{REDDERROR,t}	The VVB confirmed that the validated parameter value was applied during this monitoring period and that the baseline period has not expired. The validated value of this parameter for the 1-year monitoring period is	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.

	25.1%. This is not a default value.	
Regional Forest Cover Benchmark Map – Project Area (At Start Date)	The VVB confirmed that the shapefiles submitted to the VVB from the original validation match the total Project Area list in the validated PD. This is not a default value.	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.
Regional Forest Cover Benchmark Map – Reference Region (At Start Date)	The VVB confirmed that the shapefiles submitted to the VVB from the original validation match the total Project Area list in the validated PD. This is not a default value.	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.
Regional Forest Cover Benchmark Map – Leakage Belt (At Start Date)	The VVB confirmed that the shapefiles submitted to the VVB from the original validation match the total Project Area list in the validated PD. This is not a default value.	This parameter was derived from the validated baseline as described in the PD.

For this monitoring period, the PP relied on the network of forest inventory plots and resulting analyses confirmed at validation and allowed by VCS Standard v4.7. To monitor deforestation in the project area and leakage belt, the PP conducted remote sensing analyses as described in Section 3.1.3 of the Monitoring Report with supplementary information described in Appendix 2 of the MR. The VVB acquired multispectral satellite imagery to review for disturbance and/or deforestation and held multiple virtual meetings with Project technical staff to review and discuss the remote sensing analyses conducted in addition to ground-truthing efforts from the site visit. As described in the MR various sensor data was downloaded for the beginning and end of the reporting period to monitor the project area and leakage belt and detect any land cover changes. The VVB performed a series of independent data checks to assess the inputs and outputs of the remote sensing exercises to assess the accuracy.

In conclusion, the quantification methods for GHG emission reductions and removals have been performed correctly and in accordance with the validated PD and VM0007.

4.4.2 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals (VCS, 2.5, 3.2, 3.6, 3.15, 4.1, 4.3)

During this verification assessment, the evidence provided by the PP was sufficient in both quantity and quality to support the determination of GHG emission removals reported by the project. Throughout the verification, the PP demonstrated a commitment toward conservativeness and transparency and took all measures appropriate to ensure the reliability of evidence provided. During the verification, the VVB held multiple calculation walkthrough calls to further understand the information flow from generation and aggregation, to recording, calculation and final transposition to the MR.

The threshold for materiality with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions and misrepresentations relative to the total reported GHG emission reductions and/or removals was met for this project as defined in the AP. Materiality is a concept that errors, omissions and misrepresentations could affect the GHG reduction assertion and influence the intended users (ISO 14064-3). As defined by VCS Version 4.7, the materiality was 1% for this large project.

The evidence provided to determine emission reductions reported in the MR included values, notations, units, and sources. This evidence has been cross-checked with supplied emission reduction calculation spreadsheets. The procedure for data recording, transfer, and final storage was also verified and found to be in compliance with the monitoring plan outlined in the PD. The VVB confirmed through cross checks that adequate monitoring mechanisms are in place, where the required parameters need to be monitored.

The VVB was provided access to the PP's series of monitoring worksheets, where monitoring data is compiled for quantification and reporting, and input and output datasets. These tools ensure accurate information flow for monitoring efforts. Section 3.1.3 of the MR provides additional detail on project data management methods and structure.

4.4.3 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis (VCS 2.4, 3.2, 3.5, 3.6, 3.15, 3.23, 4.1)

The PP utilized v4.2 of the VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Tool to assess internal, external and natural risk and mitigation measures for minimizing risk. The VVB was provided digital access to the risk assessment and all supporting documentation through Verra's Project Hub and additional supporting evidence/documents that were necessary for the VVB's assessment were provided directly to the VVB. The VVB evaluated the rationale, appropriateness, and justifications of risk ratings chosen by the Project Provided, assessing each risk factor and supporting evidence thoroughly for conformance. Any identified findings pertaining to the AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool/Report are presented in Appendix B. Please see the table below for the further information on the VVB's assessment:

Risk Rating	Rationale and Quality	Conclusion
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Internal Risks		
Project Management	Q1: The Project provided the VVB a copy of the adaptive management plan, which includes a monitoring plan.	The VVB reviewed the provided adaptive management plan and determined it to satisfy the requirements. The Report continues to Q2, as required.
	Q2: a: Not applicable: Planting is not a project activity. The VVB substantiates that the project does not include planting of non-native species (0). b: Ongoing enforcement is required to prevent encroachment by outside actors for the entire project area. Village game scouts (VGS) are trained and deployed to prevent the encroachment (2). c: The VVB reviewed CVs of relevant personnel on the project team and substantiated the management team has the requisite experience (0). d: The VVB substantiates that Carbon Tanzania maintains a presence in the country and is located less than one day of travel from the project site (0). e: Not applicable: No loss event has occurred (0). f: Not applicable: This is not an ALM project (0). g: Not applicable: This is not an ALM project (0).	The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided, that the Risk Ratings for all identified o are appropriately identified as 2.
	Q3: h: The VVB substantiated that election of this mitigation measure is appropriate. The VVB was provided the CV of relevant management staff to justify this mitigation (-2) i: Not applicable: This is not an ALM project (0).	The VVB substantiated that election of mitigation (h) associated with Q3 is appropriate. A Total Project Management Score of 0 is appropriate.
Financial Viability	Q1: The VVB was provided a confidential cash flow breakeven to substantiate the payback period is four	Election of a risk rating of 0 (e) was

	years or less from the current risk assessment e). Review of the analysis determined that all requisite information identified in Section 2.2.3 of the NPRT was included, and that assumptions were conservative and appropriately justified. Furthermore, the VVB notes that the breakeven point was reached prior to this monitoring period.	substantiated to be appropriate based on the VVB's review of the cash flow breakeven.
	Q2: The VVB was provided a confidential cash flow breakeven to substantiate that the project has secured 80 percent or more of the funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven (i). Review of the cashflow analysis determined that all requisite information in Section 2.2.2 of the NPRT was included, and that assumptions were conservative and appropriately justified. Furthermore, the VVB notes that the breakeven point was reached prior to this monitoring period.	Election of a risk score of 0 (i) was substantiated to be appropriate based on the VVB's review of the project cashflow analysis.
	Q3: This mitigation cannot be claimed as the Project has already reached the breakeven point.	The project does not select this mitigation (0). A total financial viability score of 0 is appropriate, as the score cannot be less than zero.
Opportunity Cost	Q1: The VVB substantiated the baseline activities are subsistence drive as this is an AUD Project where the primary driver of deforestation is conversion to subsistence based agriculture.	The Project appropriately proceeds to Q3.
	Q2: Not applicable. Answer to Q1 is yes.	Not applicable.
	Q3: h: The VVB substantiated that net positive community impacts of project activities are demonstrated. See CCB portions of this verification report.	Election of a risk score of (0) was substantiated based on the net positive community impacts of project activities demonstrated by the project.

	Q4: i) The project is protected by a legally binding agreement to continue management practices that project the credited carbon stocks over the duration of the project crediting period. j) Not applicable. The Project does not claim this mitigation. k) Not applicable. The Project does not claim this mitigation.	The VVB substantiated that a mitigation score of -2 (i) is appropriate based on the contracts reviewed between CT and the participating villages. A Total Opportunity Cost Score of 0 is appropriate.
Project Longevity	Q1: The Project is requesting registration after January 1, 2024.	"No" was appropriately elected.
	Q2: The Project does not have a legally binding agreement that covers at least a 100-year period from the project's start date.	The Project appropriately proceeds to Q3.
	Q3: As the Project requested registration before January 1, 2024, a Project Longevity of 30 years is required. However, the Project provided an updated 40-year contract that were signed outside of the monitoring period but represent the contract currently in place for the project. The contract term and revenue disbursement percentages were the main updates made to the previously verified contracts.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence of good quality in the form of contracts signed by Carbon Tanzania and the Village Governments substantiating a score of 40 (i.e. the Project Longevity).
	Q4: The VVB was provided management, financial, and monitoring plans for the entire project longevity. Additional supporting documentation provided to the VVB to substantiate the required framework of the plans.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence and is reasonably assured that the selection of "Yes" is appropriate based on evidence provided.

	Q5: Not applicable. The Project is not an ARR or IFM project with harvesting.	"No" is appropriately selected.
	Q6: Not applicable. The Project is not an ARR or IFM project with harvesting.	"No" is appropriately selected.
	Q7: a: Not applicable. b: The Project does have a legal agreement in place to continue management practices for 40 years (15).	The VVB substantiated that Option b was appropriately selected based on contracts between CT and the participating villages. A score of 15 was automatically calculated based on substantiated inputs.
	Q8: Not applicable. Not a grouped project.	Not applicable. A total Project Longevity score of 15 appropriate, based on evidence provided.
Total Internal Risk: PM (0) + FV (0) + OC (0) + PL (15) = 15 The VVB is reasonably assured a Total Internal Risk score of 15 is appropriate based on evidence provided.		
External Risks		
Land Tenure and Resource Access /Impacts	Q1: The VVB was provided evidence of land ownership of all lands in the initial project instance. No disputes over ownership, resource access, or use rights were discovered during this verification.	The VVB substantiated that due process was undertaken to discover any disputes over land ownership and land, resource access or

		user rights. "Yes" is appropriately selected.
	Q2: The VVB was provided legally binding evidence that substantiates the legal right for Carbon Tanzania to control and operate project activities within the project area.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence justifying the election of "Yes" for this question.
	Q3: a). No applicable. b). The government retains the right to ownership over the project area land, with user access rights granted to the 8 villages located within the project area through Village Land Use Plans (VLUPs), and PP has valid a valid legal contract with the participating villages.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating the election of Option b (2).
	Q4: c: Not applicable. Option e is selected. d: Not applicable. Option e is selected. e: The project area is state-owned land. No land disputes exist over land tenure, ownership or access/use rights among the villages in and around the project area.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating the election of option e (0).
	Q5: f) Not applicable, Option h is selected. g) Not applicable, Option h is selected. h) The project area is state-owned land. No land disputes exist over land tenure, ownership or access/use rights among the villages in and around the project area.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating the election Option h (0).
	Q6: i) Not applicable, Option k is selected. j) Not applicable, Option k is selected.	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating the election of Option k (0).

	k) The project area is state-owned land. No land disputes exist over land tenure, ownership or access/use rights among the villages in and around the project area.	
	Q7 l) Not applicable. Not a WRC project. m) Not applicable. Not a WRC project.	Not applicable.
	Q8: n) The VVB substantiated sufficient evidence was provided to claim this mitigation. There is a 40-year agreement (i.e. contract) in place between Carbon Tanzania and the participating villages. o) Not applicable. No disputes occur in the project area.	Election of Mitigation n) (-2) was substantiated to be appropriate based on the evidence provided.
Stakeholder Engagement	Q1: The 8 villages located within the project area are reliant on the project area.	The Project appropriately selects "Yes" and proceeds to Q2.
	Q2: a) Not applicable. b) The VVB substantiated that more than 50 percent of stakeholders living within the project area have been consulted. See relevant sections of this verification report.	The VVB substantiated through review of evidence of consultation with stakeholders that option b) 0 is appropriately selected.
	Q3: c) Not applicable. d) The VVB substantiated that only stakeholders living within the project area are reliant on the project area, and therefore all stakeholders reliant on the project area have been consulted.	The VVB substantiated through review of evidence of consultation with stakeholders that option d) 0 is appropriately selected.

Political Risk	Q1: The VVB independently recalculated the governance score for the United States using WGI data.	The VVB substantiated a governance score of -0.51 is appropriate. Option b (4) is appropriately selected.
	Q2: The VVB substantiated that Tanzania is party to the Paris Agreement and last submitted an NDC report to the UNFCCC Secretariat in July, 2021.	The project appropriate selects a mitigation score of -2.
Total External Risk: LT (0) + SE (0) + PC (2) = 2 The VVB is reasonably assured a Total External Risk score of 2 is appropriate based on evidence provided.		
Natural Risk		
Fire	The VVB was provided appropriate evidence documenting that historical significance of fire is likely to be minor (5% to less than 25% loss of carbon) and that the historical likelihood is likely to occur every 10 to less than 25 years. Village game scouts enforce fire mitigating activities.	Based on the evidence and rationale provided, the VVB substantiated the historical significance and historical likelihood. The VVB substantiated through supporting evidence and site visit observations that fire mitigation measures are in place. The VVB is reasonably assured that a Risk Rating of 2 is appropriate.

Pest and Disease Outbreaks	The VVB was provided appropriate evidence documenting that historical significance of pest and disease outbreaks are likely to be not applicable (no loss of carbon stocks). There is no history of catastrophic forest disturbance due to forest pests or diseases in the region	Based on the evidence and rationale provided, the VVB substantiated that pests and disease are not likely to have an impact on the project area. A Risk Rating of 0 is appropriate.
Extreme Weather	The VVB was provided sufficient information substantiating the election of drought occurring less than every 10 years and the historical likelihood of Insignificant ((less than 5 percent loss of carbon stocks) or transient (full recovery of lost carbon stocks expected within 10 years of any event).	Based on the evidence and rationale provided the VVB substantiated the historical significance and historical likelihood, the VVB is reasonably assured that a Risk Rating of 4 is appropriate.
Geological Risk	The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating the historical (insignificant, less than 5% loss of stocks) significance and historical likelihood of this risk (Every 10 to 25 years). No mitigation factors were selected, and this risk is identified as being affected by climate change.	Based on the evidence and rationale provided the VVB substantiated the historical significance and historical likelihood. The VVB is reasonably assured that Risk Rating of 3 is appropriate.

Other Natural Risk (ON1)	Not applicable. There were no other natural risks identified by the project.	Not applicable.
Other Natural Risk (ON2)	Not applicable. There were no other natural risks identified by the project.	Not applicable.
Future Climate Impact	The VVB substantiated that the model-validated region was uploaded to the Project Hub. The Project reference region is E. Southern-Africa. The VVB reviewed the Projects assessment of each CID category's impact on the project. Appropriate references were provided for CIDs expected to both positively and negatively impact the project. Appropriate rationale was provided to justify why categories were determined to not apply to the project.	Based on the evidence and rationale provided, the VVB is reasonably assured that the Future Climate Impact assessment was conducted in line with the requirements of the Non-Permanence Risk Tool.
Sea Level Risk	Not applicable. The VVB was provided sufficient evidence substantiating that coastal erosion and coastal flood are not applicable as they do not impact the project activities. As such, Sea Level Risk is appropriately zero.	The VVB substantiated this risk is not applicable.
Adaptive Capacity	The VVB substantiated that the project has demonstrated adaptive capacity for at least 5 of the risk factors identified by the risk tool. Appropriate references were provided for each demonstration.	Based on the evidence and rationale provided, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project meets the criteria for at least 5 adaptive capacity factors.

Total Natural Risk: Based on the evidence and justification provided, the VVB is reasonably assured a Total Natural Risk score of 9.72 is appropriate, noting this score was automatically computed based on project inputs.

Total Overall Risk Rating: 27%

In summary, the PP has accounted for risk factors in a reasonable manner and has reached an overall risk rating that encompasses all risks of non-permanence. During the verification, the VVB found that the Project provided documentation and data to support the risk score was appropriate and sufficient. The project has applied a Non-Permanence Risk Rating of 27% to the ex-post GHG Emission Reductions generated during this monitoring period as required by the selected methodology and VCS Standard.

4.4.4 Dissemination of Monitoring Plan and Results (VCS, 3.18; CCB, CL4.2)

The VVB reviewed the MR and PD to evaluate the actions taken to disseminate the results of the Monitoring Plan during this verification period against the actions described in the PD and CMP. The VVB confirmed the MR Summary in Swahili is available on the Verra project page. Site visit interviews with village government leaders, members, and WMA and Village Council representatives confirmed that copies of the MR summary were distributed, and the VVB saw a copy in some of the village government offices. Additionally, the VVB confirmed through interviews that the project documentation was distributed to the district governments. Review of supplemental support documents, along with site visit interviews and observations, confirm the results of the community monitoring for this verification were disseminated in accordance with the validated PD. The VVB is reasonably assured that the results of climate monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated PD.

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

The PD identifies the following measures as needed and designed for adaptation:

- Land tenure and planning to provide the most basic and useful adaptations to climate change.
- Diverse livelihoods, especially attained through education, which are not reliant on exploiting the local natural resource base.
- Investment in health facilities and interventions to protect communities against future health issues compounded by climate change.
- Climate smart and adaptive agriculture and grazing regimes.
- Investment and training in good governance and institutions.

Site visit interviews and observations substantiated that VLUPs were implemented during this monitoring period, trainings on good governance occurred, carbon champions engaged in educating the communities, and VGS officers worked to protect the forest reserves. New health facilities built or being built were observed during the site visit, and the VVB spoke with several individuals who spoke about the health insurance that is available to everyone within the communities. The activities identified and substantiated as having been implemented or initiated during the period covered by the verification have been determined to be delivering the intended results.

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

Site visit interviews and observations substantiated that VLUPs were implemented during this monitoring period, trainings on good governance occurred, carbon champions engaged in educating the communities, and VGS officers worked to protect the forest reserves. New health facilities built or being built were observed during the site visit, and the VVB spoke with several individuals who spoke about the health insurance that is available to everyone within the communities. The activities identified and summarized in GL1.3 (section 4.4.5 of this report) and substantiated as having been implemented or initiated during the period covered by the verification have been determined to be delivering the intended results. In conclusion, the VVB is reasonably assured that the project activities implemented during the monitoring period are appropriate measures for assisting the project communities and biodiversity adapt to the probable impacts of climate change.

4.5 Community

4.5.1 Community Impacts (CCB, CM2.1)

Section 4.1.1 of the MR outlines the impacts, type of benefit/risk, and change in well-being for each of the identified community groups, including all 8 villages, women and women's groups, and VGS. One change from the PD which has been included as a PD deviation is that the project no longer tracks improved reproductive health, but rather access to healthcare through health insurance.

Site visit interviews and observations substantiated these impacts, including health clinics under construction, school classrooms under construction and completed, demonstrations and conversations about the health insurance communities received, and conversations and patrols with VGS officers. All changes in well-being for community groups are positive.

Review of training logs, observations of clinics and schools, as well as conversations about VLUPs during the site visit all support the conclusion that impacts on community groups are being accurately assessed by the project.

4.5.2 Negative Community Impact Mitigation (VCS, 3.19; CCB, CM2.2)

The main negative impact mentioned in the MR is the availability of new agricultural land over time. The project has mitigated this through microfinancing and entrepreneurship through COCOBAs.

During site visit interviews, most individuals that were asked stated that they did not believe availability of agriculture land was an issue. However, the VVB did find evidence, based on interviews, that some community members are concerned about the lack of agriculture land. During the verification, the PP stated that they will look into these concerns to see if they can be addressed and if they are a result of the project or other factors. The VVB is re-issuing a Forward Action Request (FAR) (previously issued during the previous monitoring period) for the next monitoring period to review the actions taken by the PP to determine if concerns over lack of agricultural land is due to project activities or other factors.

Many of the VLUPs have areas designated for agriculture which includes room for growth. The VVB spoke with several members of COCOBAs and saw multiple examples of alternative livelihoods that are a result of project activities.

Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observation made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that mitigation actions were implemented in accordance with the validated PD.

4.5.3 Net Positive Community Well-being (VCS 3.19; CCB, GL1.4, CM2.3)

The MR states the net well-being impacts of the project are positive for all community groups with positive impacts including improved livelihoods through improved agriculture, employment, income, increased access to and quality of education, improved access to health care including reproductive health services, reduced land conflict, and increased resilience in response to environmental shocks.

Site visit interviews and observations substantiated the net positive benefits from project activities, including diversified income through COCOBAs, new and upgraded school classrooms, new and upgraded clinics, health care for all in the project area, and implementation of the VLUP through VGS patrols. Individuals that were asked stated that they believed their lives are better now compared to before the project because of all the benefits listed. The VVB reviewed supporting documentation including VGS patrol reports, lists of COCOBA members, and photos of clinics and classrooms being built in the project area.

The one potential negative impact is lack of access to new agriculture land; however, this would mostly impact new migrants. VGS officers stated that there had been no conflicts from not having enough land in the VLUPs.

With the positive impacts substantiated for the community groups and mitigation implemented for potential negative impacts, the overall net impact of project activities on community groups is positive.

4.5.4 Protection of High Conservation Values (CCB, CM2.4)

The High Conservation Values(HCV) identified in the PD related to community well-being are village water sources, “Matambiko” spiritual sites, and beekeeping/honey hunting areas. The MR states that HCVs related to community well-being are not negatively impacted by the project, but in fact protected as designations in VLUPs. During the site visit, one of the “Matambiko” spiritual sites was visited by the VVB. It was clear from site visit interviews and observations that HCVs related to community well-being are important to the communities and protected by project activities through implementation of the VLUPs and tracking of illegal activities. Based on the evidence reviewed and the site visit observations, the VVB is reasonably assured that no HCVs have been negatively affected by the project.

4.5.5 Other Stakeholder Impacts (VCS, 3.18; 3.19; CCB CM3.2-CM3.3)

Other stakeholders identified in Section 4.3.1 of the PD include the Tanganyika and Mpanda District Governments. The MR states there are no anticipated negative impacts to these stakeholders, so direct mitigation was not necessary. The VVB substantiated through site visit interviews with representatives of the District Governments that the project did not create any identified or known negative impacts on the District Government that would have required mitigation. Interviews with members of the district government confirm that the district believes the project has had positive impacts. There were no negative impacts identified, and therefore the VVB agrees the net impact of the project on other stakeholders is positive.

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

The monitoring plan results presented in the MR cover each of the activities identified by the Community Monitoring Framework presented in the validated PD and in the Community Monitoring Plan (CMP). The dates, frequency and sampling methods used match what was outlined in the PD. For activities that were monitored during the current monitoring period, supporting evidence was provided demonstrating how the activity was monitored and results of the monitoring. Evidence provided included training logs for good governance and VGS trainings; logs of individuals who interacted with carbon champions and their level of understanding; reports from VGS patrols documenting poaching incidents, wires and snares removed, agricultural clearing land incidents, and illegal timber harvesting; revenue balance sheets showing village payments; COCOBA membership lists and grants provided; and balance sheets for health insurance payments.

Site visit observations and interviews substantiated the supporting evidence provided for the community monitoring results presented in the MR.

The MR states that HCVs related to community well-being are all located within the forest, and therefore all data from forest monitoring, including deforestation analysis, forest by-law enforcement, patrol data, and reporting of illegal activity serve as direct indicators on the effectiveness of the improved forest management measures are having on maintaining or enhancing community well-being HCVs. Site visit observations substantiate that forest protection and monitoring contribute to the maintenance and enhancement of HCVs related to community well-being.

PD Section 4.5.3 identifies risks associated with participation in the project as: some villagers may dedicate an amount of time to the project that is not commensurate with the benefits they individually receive; and women will be excluded from participating in some activities due to cultural barriers and existing gender imbalances (such as in the Village Government for example). Community monitoring results presented in the MR along with observations from the site visit substantiate that the risks associated with participation in the project are effectively being managed and avoided. Meetings with village government ensure they understand that project benefits go to the community as a whole. The presence of women in some of the village governments and the percentage of COCOBAs that are female-led show that women are not being excluded from participating in project activities. Review of supplemental project documents, site visit observations, and site visit interviews substantiate that the project continues to utilize the participatory process, that community members are kept informed of the potential risks, and that the project has implemented or initiated appropriate measures to manage the identified risks.

The MR states that during the monitoring period, women continued to be employed as carbon champions which provided direct employment opportunities and allowed them to be seen in positions of leadership. Additionally, there are members of the village governments who are women and a significant number of COCOBAs are led by women. Site visit interviews and observations, including individuals with women in village governments, female VGS officers, and women who run COCOBAs support the assertions made by the project that the project generates net positive impacts on the well-being of women.

Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations made during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that community monitoring was carried out in accordance with the validated PD.

4.5.7 Community Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CCB, CM4.3)

The MR states that a summary of the monitoring plan was translated to Swahili and disseminated to the community groups at validation. During the site visit, the VVB observed copies of the MR available in village offices as well as results from monitoring posted in public places. The MR summaries are available on the Verra website. The VVB is reasonably assured communities have access to project information.

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

The MR states that increasing capacity and knowledge of community members in the short term will create long term benefits. Additionally, revenues from the sale of verified emissions reductions will provide funds for continued community development. Attendance logs were provided for good governance trainings, VGS trainings, and carbon champion interactions, all of which demonstrate that capacity building occurred during the monitoring period. In addition, health insurance was provided for over 3,000 households. Review of project documentation coupled with site visit interviews and observations substantiates an overall conclusion the project is on track to generate long-term, net positive well-being benefits for smallholders/community members.

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

PD Section 4.5.3 identifies risks associated with participation in the project as: some villagers may dedicate an amount of time to the project that is not commensurate with the benefits they individually receive; and women will be excluded from participating in some activities due to cultural barriers and existing gender imbalances (such as in the Village Government for example).

Community monitoring results presented in the MR along with observations from the site visit substantiate that the risks associated with participation in the project are effectively being managed and avoided. Meetings with village government ensure they understand that project benefits go to the community as a whole. The presence of women in some of the village governments and the percentage of COCOBAs that are female-led show that women are not being excluded from participating in project activities.

Review of supplemental project documents, site visit observations, and site visit interviews substantiate that the project continues to utilize the participatory process, that community members are kept informed of the potential risks, and that the project has implemented or initiated appropriate measures to manage the identified risks.

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

Two marginalized and/or vulnerable community groups were identified within the project zone: poor households and women in the village. The MR states there are no negative impacts anticipated for either community group, implying a net positive impact. The MR also identifies potential risks to the groups but offers a solution to mitigate risks, which involves the Village Government ensuring there is regular interaction with these identified groups.

Review of project documentation, site visit observations, and site visit interviews substantiate the project is generating net positive benefits on the well-being of poor households and women, has identified and has taken steps to address risks that might prevent benefits from going to

these groups. Appropriate mitigation measures outlined to address project risks in MR 4.4.2 were substantiated as providing benefits to poorer households and women.

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

The MR states that during the monitoring period, women continued to be employed as carbon champions which provided direct employment opportunities and allowed them to be seen in positions of leadership. Additionally, there are members of the village governments who are women and a significant number of COCOBAs are led by women. The VVB reviewed employment lists provided which substantiate that women are being employed in project activities. Site visit interviews and observations, including individuals with women in village governments, female VGS officers, and women who run COCOBAs support the assertions made by the project that the project generates net positive impacts on the well-being of women. The VVB reviewed employment lists provided which substantiate that women are being employed in project activities.

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

The VVB reviewed spreadsheets and supporting evidence with details demonstrating that funds were distributed to communities during the monitoring period. Based on interviews conducted during the site visit with village leadership and representatives from the Steering Committee along with the supporting documentation provided by the Project, the VVB is reasonably assured that the Benefit Sharing Plan as described in the validated PD and agreed to by the participating communities was followed.

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

MR Section 4.4.5 identifies the involvement of CT, District Governments, and Village Governments in the project governance and implementation. Site visit interviews substantiate the effective participation of community members in committees and participatory meetings for developing the VLUPs and for other community involvement in the project. Site visit interviews substantiate the project has used the existing democratic institutions in place within the communities to ensure smallholders/community members are represented by elected representatives for project decision making and implementation. The steering committee formed for the project was substantiated as including elected village leaders from each of the eight villages. Site visit interviews determined the prevalent belief in the communities that community members were able to actively participate politically with the governance structures that decide how to allocate the project funds.

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

Supplemental documentation provided to the VVB along with observations during the site visit substantiate that capacity development for the communities occurred during the monitoring period. Training logs were provided for the good governance trainings that occurred with village government during the monitoring period. When on the site visit, VGS officers demonstrated their use of the SMART system to collect data during patrols. Site visit interviews confirmed that other trainings occurred for COCOBA members and contributed to their businesses.

Site visit interviews, site observations, and review of supplemental documentation substantiate the PP is developing the capacity of community members, relevant local organizations, and local government institutions to participate effectively and actively in project design, implementation, and management.

4.6 Biodiversity

4.6.1 Biodiversity Changes (CCB, B2.1)

MR Section 5.1.1 presents information for four biodiversity parameters: maintenance of forest cover, maintenance of offsite forest cover, maintenance of native tree diversity, and eastern chimpanzee habitat suitability. PD Section 5.2.1 provides a summary of biodiversity indicators identified for monitoring along with monitoring and estimation procedures, and states that details are provided in the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan that accompanied the PD.

The VVB reviewed the forest change analysis conducted and did not find evidence that the analysis was inaccurate. The BMP did not require re-inventory of forest trees during the monitoring period, and so the assessment or areal coverage of forest is a reasonable method for estimating predicted change in native tree diversity. The VVB reviewed the Chimpanzee Suitability Model and confirmed the suitability ratings are appropriately reported. The VVB did not find evidence that the PP's assessment of changes in biodiversity resulting from activities in the project zone are not accurate.

4.6.2 Mitigation Actions (VCS, 3.19; CCB, B2.3)

The PD identifies the main threats to megafauna as habitat fragmentation and loss of landscape connectivity. The MR states that addressing habitat fragmentation and loss of landscape connectivity forms the fundamental design of the project. The implementation of the VLUPs helps to mitigate the main threats to biodiversity and HCVs in the project area by protecting the forest reserves and reducing illegal activity such as poaching and fires.

Site visit observations and interviews substantiated that there are no negative impacts on biodiversity as a result of project activities, and that the implementation of VLUPs effectively mitigate the main threats to biodiversity and HCVs.

4.6.3 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts (CCB, B2.2)

Section 5.1.2 of the PD lists different species that were identified at validation as listed under IUCN's Red List of Threatened Species. Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario. Site visit observations and interviews and review of remote sensing data substantiate that while some forest loss occurred during this verification period, the amount of forest lost is less than what would have occurred in the baseline scenario. The VVB substantiated through review of supplemental documentation and additional clarification from the PP that habitat suitability index for Eastern Chimpanzees increased through implementation of project activities during this verification period. The main threat to megafauna is identified as habitat fragmentation and loss of landscape connectivity, though this threat is not described as being caused by implementation of project activities. This threat has been reported to be mitigated through the design and implementation of VLUPs by the Village Governments during this verification period. Given the substantiated absence of any identified or anticipated negative biodiversity impacts, the VVB substantiated through site visit interviews and observations and review of supplemental documents that the actions taken during this verification period had positive impacts. The result is a net positive impact on biodiversity for this verification period.

Southern Ground-hornbill
(*Bucorvus leadbeateri*)

Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.

Evidence Gathering Activities: The VVB reviewed Project Activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants.

Evidence Checked: VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents.

Assessment Conclusion: The validated PD describes the Project Activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project Activities. During the verification, the VVB found no

		evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
White-backed Vulture (<i>Gyps africanus</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented Project Activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Rüppell's Vulture (<i>Gyps rueppelli</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants.

		<u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project A\activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Martial Eagle (<i>Polemaetus bellicosus</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely

		impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Secretarybird (<i>Sagittarius serpentarius</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the project activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
White-headed Vulture (<i>Trigonoceps occipitalis</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD,

		MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the Project Activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Red Colobus (<i>Piliocolobus tephrosceles</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented Project Activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.

Robust Chimpanzee (<i>Pan troglodytes</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Giraffe (<i>Giraffa camelopardalis</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents.

		<u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
African Elephant (<i>Loxodonta africana</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the project activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
African Wild Dog (<i>Lycaon pictus</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the

	are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
African Lion (<i>Panthera leo</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as

		the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented Project Activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Leopard (<i>Panthera pardus</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the project activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented Project Activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
Temminck's Ground Pangolin (<i>Smutsia temminckii</i>)	Section 5.1.3 of the MR states that net impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activities are positive through the current verification period when compared to the baseline scenario.	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed project activities described in the PD against the Project Activities implemented during the MR, reviewed supplemental documentation, conducted interviews with

		participating stakeholders/communities, conducted interviews with PP and supporting technical consultants. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, PD, MR, site visit observations and interviews, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The validated PD describes the project activities, none of which present threats to identified species as the objective of the Project is improved forest protection through the implementation of the project activities. During the verification, the VVB found no evidence that the implemented project activities adversely impacted the Species identified in the PD.
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4.6.4 Species Used (VCS, 3.19; CCB, B2.5, B2.6)

The PD and MR attest that no species are grown or introduced as part of project conservation activities. Site visit observations and interviews substantiate the project is focused on forest conservation activities and that no plant species are grown for introduction or planned to be introduced in the project area. The VVB is reasonably assured that no known invasive species have been introduced by the project or are expected to increase as a result of the project.

4.6.5 High Conservation Values Protected (CCB, B2.4)

The PD identifies eight threatened mammal species and seven threatened bird species as biodiversity HCVs and states that HCVs are not anticipated to be negatively affected. The PD states the absence of negative impacts will be demonstrated through monitoring and reporting of biodiversity indicators identified in the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (BMP). Section 5.1.4 of the MR states no biodiversity HCVs were negatively affected by the implementation of project activities during this verification period. Site visit interviews and observations substantiated the implementation of VLUPs to set aside forest reserves which contain the identified HCVs. The VVB substantiated that the project has been successful in protecting the forest reserves containing biodiversity HCVs during this verification period.

4.6.6 GMO Exclusion (CCB, B2.7)

The MR and PD attest the project uses no GMOs to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals and states that GMOs are illegal in Tanzania. Site visit observations and interviews substantiate GHG emissions reductions and removals are planned to be generated through conservation and protection of existing forests. The VVB is reasonably assured that these activities do not and will not use GMOs to generate GHG emission reductions or removals.

4.6.7 Inputs Justification (VCS, 3.19; CCB, B2.8)

The MR and PD list several fertilizers that are used by farmers in village agricultural areas. Through additional clarification from the PP, the VVB determined that these fertilizers are not used as a part of any project activities. Site visit interviews and observations substantiate that the project does not use fertilizers, chemical pesticides, or herbicides in project activities. No actual or planned use of agricultural inputs was identified during the site visit.

4.6.8 Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts (CCB, B3.1) and Mitigation Actions (VCS, 3.19; CCB, B3.2)

The MR identifies deforestation due to leakage outside the project area as a potential negative offsite biodiversity impact, consistent with the PD. Site visit interviews and observations did not identify any additional negative offsite biodiversity impacts and substantiate the project has adequately identified all potential offsite biodiversity impacts. Additional clarification from the PP and site visit observations and interviews substantiate the PP supported the development of VLUPs in neighboring regions/villages during this verification period. The VVB determined the PP's actions taken to mitigate the identified negative offsite biodiversity impact during this verification period were appropriate.

4.6.9 Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits (CCB, B3.3)

Section 5.2.2 of the MR states the net impacts on biodiversity from project activity are positive when compared to the baseline case and are dependent on effective protection of forest cover. The VVB substantiated through review of remote sensing imagery and supplemental documentation that the implementation of project activities has reduced the amount of deforestation when compared to the baseline case. Biodiversity impacts were appropriately identified and mitigated during this verification. The positive benefits associated with reduced forest loss and the mitigation of identified negative impacts result in net-positive offsite biodiversity impacts.

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

Section 5.4.1 of the PD states all biodiversity indicators are identified and addressed in the separate Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (BMP). Section 5.3.1 of the MR contains the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan which includes the anticipated impact, indicator, area monitored, sampling

method, frequency of monitoring, responsibility to monitor, and results. The dates, frequency, and sampling methods are in line with the validated PD. The MR presents the monitoring results from the anticipated impacts outlined in the PD and BMP. Several impacts are monitored through an assessment of forest cover change via satellite imagery. The maintenance of native tree diversity was not monitored during the reporting period. The Chimpanzee habitat suitability index was evaluated during the monitoring period. The remote sensing analyses were reviewed as part of the VCS review and reporting of results confirmed.

There are several HCV species identified in the PD that are tracked via the BMP. The MR states that forest cover is tied to the well-being of HCV species. The relatively low level of forest cover loss during the monitoring period indicates that habitat for HCV species within the project area is not being threatened and the project is protecting these species. The VVB reviewed and confirmed results of the forest cover change analysis conducted.

Based on the supporting evidence reviewed and observations during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that biodiversity monitoring was carried out in accordance with the validated project description.

4.6.11 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CCB, B4.3)

The MR states that a summary of the monitoring plan was translated to Swahili and disseminated to the community prior to validation. Monitoring results are communicated through meetings with the Village Governments, and copies of the monitoring results were presented to the district governments. During the site visit, the VVB noted that copies of the MR and project documents were available in the village offices. The VVB did not find evidence that biodiversity monitoring results were not disseminated in accordance with the validated PD.

4.6.12 Optional Gold Level: Trigger Species Population Trends (CCB, GL3.3)

The VVB reviewed Section 5.4.1, and with additional clarification from the PP determined the trigger species population trends identified are in accordance with those identified in the PD. Site visit interviews and observations and additional clarification and supplemental documentation provided by the PP substantiate the protection of forest areas needed to maintain or enhance trigger species population. The VVB determined the measures taken are appropriate and should maintain or enhance the population status of each trigger species in the project zone and reduce threats to them.

4.6.13 Optional Gold Level: Effectiveness of Threat Reduction Actions (CCB, GL3.4)

The BMP Section 7 identifies four indicators for monitoring focused on monitoring change in forest cover in the project area and inside the leakage belt, monitoring tree species richness, composition, and relative basal area, and monitoring habitat suitability modelled for chimpanzees. Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Section 3 provides justification for monitoring these indicators. MR Section 5.4.1 justifies use of the forest cover indicators for inferring impacts on

identified trigger species based on the CCBA v3 GL3. Review of criteria for GL3 in CCB Standards v3.1 confirms this is allowable under the CCB Standards. Site visit observations and interviews substantiate the implementation of the VLUPs and patrolling by the VGS to help enforce the protection of the areas set aside as forest reserves from encroachment, tree-cutting, and poaching. Based on the use of indicators focused on demonstrating reduction in rate of deforestation as the means for demonstrating the effectiveness of measures at maintaining or enhancing the population status of trigger species, it can be reasonably concluded that the actions taken by the project thus far are having the desired effect.

4.7 Additional Project Implementation Information

Not applicable.

4.8 Additional Project Impact Information

The project has been able to demonstrate impacts to all CCB indicators as mentioned throughout this report, in addition to achieving CCB Gold Level status. No further steps to verify additional monitoring were warranted. The reported project impact information was sufficient and suitable for the verification of the project's CCB impacts.

5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

5.1 Verification Summary

After a site visit and review of all project information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation, Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc., confirms the Ntakata Mountains REDD Project is accurate, consistent, and complies with all VCS Version 4 criteria, CCB Third Edition criteria, the selected methodology (VM0007), and the validated Project Description (PD). Aster Global confirms The Ntakata Mountains REDD Project 5th Monitoring Report (Version 2.0, dated 04 October 2025) has been implemented in accordance with VCS Version 4 and CCB Third Edition criteria.

Aster Global confirms all verification activities – including objectives, scope and criteria, reasonable level of assurance, and PD implementation adherence to VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates) and CCB Project Design Standards (Third Edition), as documented in this report – are complete. Aster Global concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions the Ntakata Mountains REDD Project 5th Monitoring Report (Version 2.0, dated 04 October 2025) meets the requirements of VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates), CCB Project Design Standards (Third Edition), and the validated PD. In addition, Aster Global asserts the project complies with the criteria for projects set out in the Third Edition of the CCB Standards to achieve Gold Level distinction for Climate, Community, and Biodiversity.

The GHG Statement is the responsibility of the PP. The GHG assertion provided by Carbon Tanzania and verified by Aster Global has resulted in the net emissions or removals of 512,934 tCO₂ equivalents (CO₂e) by the project during the verification period/reporting period (VCS and CCB: 19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024 – 1 year). This value is gross of the 27% (154,744 t CO₂e) buffer withholding based on the non-permanence risk assessment tool and uncertainty deduction. This results in 306,545 t CO₂e of credits eligible for issuance as VCU.

The verification of the GHG statement was conducted in accordance with ISO 14064-3; 2019.

5.2 Verification Conclusion

Aster Global confirms all verification activities – including objectives, scope and criteria, reasonable level of assurance, and PD implementation adherence to VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates) and CCB Project Design Standards (Third Edition), as documented in this report – are complete. Aster Global concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions the Ntakata Mountains REDD Project 5th Monitoring Report (Version 2.0, dated 04 October 2025) meets the requirements of VCS Version 4 (and all associated updates), CCB Project Design Standards (Third Edition), and the validated PD. In addition, Aster Global asserts the project complies with the criteria for projects set out in the Third Edition of the CCB Standards to achieve Gold Level distinction for Climate, Community, and Biodiversity.

The GHG Statement is the responsibility of the PP. The GHG assertion provided by Carbon Tanzania and verified by Aster Global has resulted in the net emissions or removals of 512,934 tCO₂ equivalents (CO₂e) by the project during the verification period/reporting period (VCS and CCB: 19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024 – 1 year). This value is gross of the 27% (154,744 tCO₂e) buffer withholding based on the non-permanence risk assessment tool and uncertainty deduction. This results in 306,545 t CO₂e of credits eligible for issuance as VCU. Aster Global's conclusion on the GHG statement and associated achievements for Gold Level distinction Climate, Community, and Biodiversity is a positive opinion. Aster Global declares this opinion was conducted in accordance with ISO 14064-3:2019).

Verification period: From [19 May 2023] to [18 May 2023]

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

The non-permanence risk rating (%)	27%
If applicable, the long-term average, whether it has been properly updated, and if it has been reached.	

Whether a loss has been appropriately accounted for, in accordance with the VCS Program rules, if applicable.

N/A – No loss event occurred

Vintage period	Baseline emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Buffer pool allocation (tCO ₂ e)	Reductions VCUs (tCO ₂ e)	Removals VCUs (tCO ₂ e)	Total VCU issuance (tCO ₂ e)
19-May-2023 to 31-Dec-2023	408,876	53,413	37,331	95,975	190,125	0	190,125
01-Jan-2024 to 18-May-2024	250,369	32,707	22,859	58,769	116,420	0	116,420
Total	659,244	86,120	60,190	154,744	306,545	0	306,545

5.3 Ex-ante vs. Ex-post ERR Comparison

Vintage period	Ex-ante estimated reductions/removals	Achieved reductions/removals	Percent difference	Explanation for the difference
19-May-2023 to 18-May-2024	448,462	512,934	13%	Less deforestation occurred during the reporting period than had been anticipated during this reporting year in the ex-ante estimates. Therefore, the ex-post credits exceeded the ex-ante estimates.
Total	4,384,608	5,343,662	18%	Project performance exceeded expectations, and forest loss was lower than expected.

APPENDIX 1: COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION

Section	Information	Justification	Assessment method and conclusion
NA	NA	NA	NA

APPENDIX 2: PROJECT RISKS TABLE

Item	Identified risk(s)	Evidence gathering activities, evidence checked, and assessment conclusion
Natural and human induced risks to stakeholders' wellbeing	Human conflict, wildlife encounters	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Risks to stakeholder participation	Exclusion of marginalized groups, lack of communication, misinformation, unequal distribution of benefits, discrimination of women	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Working conditions	Non-compliance with labor laws, inadequate safety measures, exploitation	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents.

		<u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Safety of women and girls	Gender-based violence, harassment, discrimination	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Safety of minority and marginalized groups including children	Discrimination, exploitation, lack of access to services	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Pollutants (air, noise, discharges to water, generation of waste, and release of hazardous materials and chemical pesticides and fertilizers)	Increased village economic activities could lead to generation of waste	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.

Discrimination	Inequality in hiring, promotion, and treatment of employees	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Sexual harassment	Inappropriate behavior or abuse in the workplace	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Equal pay for equal work	Pay disparities based on gender, ethnicity, or other discriminatory factors	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Gender equity in labor and work	Gender discrimination in employment opportunities and workplace practices	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members.

		<u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Forced labor ²	Coercion or exploitation of workers	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Child labor	Employment of underage workers	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Human trafficking	Involvement in or facilitation of trafficking activities	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members.

² The identified risks and commensurate mitigation or preventative measure(s) for forced labor, child labor, and human trafficking, must be inclusive of staff and contracted workers employed by third parties.

		<u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Recognition of, respect of, and promotion of the rights to IPs, LCs and customary rights holders	Ignoring or infringing on the rights of Indigenous Peoples (IPs) and Local Communities (LCs)	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Preserving and protecting cultural heritage	Destruction or neglect of cultural sites or practices	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Protecting and preserving property rights, customary rights, or protecting legal or customary tenure/access rights to territories, property, and resources, including	Violation of rights by project or adjacent stakeholders	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents.

collective and/or conflicting rights		<u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Soil degradation and soil erosion	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Water consumption and stress	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.

Habitats (and areas needed for habitat connectivity) for rare, threatened, and endangered species	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Areas needed for habitat connectivity	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Invasive species	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members. <u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
Ecosystem conversion	No risk identified	<u>Evidence Gathering Activities:</u> The VVB reviewed the narrative presented in the MR for identified risks and mitigation actions taken and conducted interviews with project staff and community members.

		<u>Evidence Checked:</u> VCS Standard v4.7, CCB Standards v3.1, MR Appendix 3, site visit observations, supporting documents. <u>Assessment Conclusion:</u> The VVB substantiated, based on the evidence provided and site visit observations and interviews, that the identified risks are being mitigated as reported in the MR.
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APPENDIX 3: DOCUMENTS LIST

Name	Received
Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx	12/16/2024
nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823.cpg	12/16/2024
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nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823.shp	12/16/2024
nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823.shx	12/16/2024
nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823_table.xlsx	12/16/2024
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Lwega villagers trained by Carbon Champions.pdf	12/16/2024
Kapanga villagers trained by Carbon Champions.pdf	12/16/2024
Mwese villagers trained by Carbon Champions .pdf	12/16/2024
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Training in Lwega.pdf	12/16/2024
Trainings attendance Mpembe.pdf	12/16/2024
Training attendances.pdf	12/16/2024
NT_2017_2024_PA_Chimp_Habitat_ALOD_20240822_WP.dbf	12/16/2024
NT_2017_2024_PA_Chimp_Habitat_ALOD_20240822_WP.prj	12/16/2024
LAND USE PLANNING GUIDELINE.pdf	12/16/2024
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Training in Mwese.pdf	12/16/2024
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CT_PRA_Protocols_Ntakata2017.pdf	12/16/2024
Ntakata Continued Participatory Rural Appraisal Log Sheet (2023).pdf	12/16/2024
CHIF cover letter.jpeg	12/16/2024
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Mpembe VNRC cluey training.pdf	12/16/2024
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CT_Bussiness_License 2023-2024.pdf	12/16/2024
Annouce Public Comment-Ntakata.pdf	12/16/2024
Verification #4 -Ntakata Monitoring Report - Swahili.docx	12/16/2024
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Validation and Verification Link.docx	12/16/2024
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Training attendance Katuma.pdf	12/16/2024

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CURRICULUM VITAE PROTAS JOSEPH_2024.pdf	12/16/2024
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CV_Hassani_Chikambu.pdf	12/16/2024
ELISANTE OCTAVIAN'S CV.pdf	12/16/2024
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_CT_Limited_WCF_Receipt_No_800938862.pdf	12/16/2024
Pay Slips-CH.pdf	12/16/2024
CT BUSINESS PLAN Final TCA_FINAL_17.07.2024 .pdf	12/16/2024
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CT_Bussiness_License 2023-2024.pdf	12/16/2024
Returns Ministry of Labor 2021-2024.pdf	12/16/2024
Tax Clearance - Jan - Dec 2024.pdf	12/16/2024
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NtakataControlNumber_2023.pdf	12/16/2024
RegFeeNtakaOct23.pdf	12/16/2024

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RegFeeNtakaOct23.pdf	12/16/2024
LAND USE PLANNING GUIDELINE.pdf	12/16/2024
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VGS-VNRC Employment.xlsx	12/16/2024
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Bujombe VLUP.png	12/16/2024
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Kapanga VLUP.pdf	12/16/2024
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Katuma LUP.jpg	12/16/2024
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Lugonesi COCOBA.pdf	12/16/2024
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Mpembe COCOBA .pdf	12/16/2024
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Kapanga budget Village Assembly .pdf	12/16/2024
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NT_2024_LB_FNF_ALOD_20240822.prj	12/16/2024
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PLUM MPEMBE FINAL.doc	5/21/2025
PLUM MWESE VILLAGE.doc	5/21/2025
Revised Contracts for Ntakata Project_20_202425919512579.pdf	5/21/2025
Revised Contracts for Ntakata Project_20_202425919532696.pdf	5/21/2025
Revised Contracts for Ntakata Project_20_202425919550921.pdf	5/21/2025
ryan2011_202421820123213.pdf	5/21/2025
TANZANIA_NDC_SUBMISSION_30 JULY 2021.pdf	5/21/2025
VGS employed list.pdf	5/21/2025
Ntakata_Financial_Mgmt_Plan_20240904_202406920465599.xlsx	5/21/2025
Ntakata_Financial_Viability_AJ160824_202421819554387.xlsx	5/21/2025
Ntakata V5 MR Writing Tracker Template - Joint VCS v4.7 & CCB v3.0.xlsx	12/20/2024
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_VCS_Round 1 Findings_20250527_TCresponse.xlsx	6/20/2025
AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1897_Ntakata_20250617.pdf	6/20/2025
Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2025-06-03.xlsx	6/20/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20250606.docx	6/20/2025
VCS_NPR_REP_Ntakata_20250617.pdf	6/20/2025
Carbon Champions employees trainings attendance, Lugonesi, Lwega, Mwese and Kapanga march 2024.pdf	6/20/2025
Carbon champions employees training attendance mwezi wa 3 vijiji vya Kagunga,Mpembe,Katuma na Bujombe .pdf	6/20/2025
CT LIMITED 2023 signed - Financial statements .pdf	6/20/2025
Confirmation_Payment_Letter_1249_Households_October 2022.pdf	6/20/2025
Payment_Letter_2300_Households_July 2022.pdf	6/20/2025
Cover_Letter_Payment_851_Households_July 2023.jpeg	6/20/2025
Summary_CHIF_Coverage_Cover_Letter.pdf	6/20/2025
Education_Classes_and_related_infrastructures.docx	6/20/2025
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_CCB_Round 1 Findings_20250606_TCresponses.xlsx	6/20/2025
NtakataV5_CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023- 18052024_20241007.docx	12/16/2024

AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1897_Ntakata_20250617.pdf	8/11/2025
Ntakata_NPRT_Supplemental_Info_20250611.docx	8/11/2025
VCS_NPR_REP_Ntakata_20250617.pdf	8/11/2025
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_CCB_Round 2 Findings_20250808_responses.xlsx	8/26/2025
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_VCS_Round 2 Findings_20250813_TCresponses.xlsx	8/26/2025
Cover_Letter_Payment_851_Households_July 2023.jpeg	8/26/2025
Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2025-08-26.xlsx	8/26/2025
Confirmation_Payment_Letter_1249_Households_October 2022.pdf	8/26/2025
Summary_CHIF_Coverage_Cover_Letter.pdf	8/26/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_202500818.docx	8/26/2025
Payment_Letter_2300_Households_July 2022.pdf	8/26/2025
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_VCS_Round 3 Findings_20250916_responses.xlsx	9/18/2025
21025.53_Ntakata Mountains_CCB_Round 3 Findings_20250916_response.xlsx	9/18/2025
Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2025-09-16.xlsx	9/18/2025
Endorsement-Ntakata Mountain.pdf	9/18/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_202500917.docx	9/18/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_202500917.docx	9/18/2025
Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2025-09-18.xlsx	9/18/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_202501006.docx	10/6/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_202501006_CLEAN.pdf	10/10/2025
CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023- 18052024_202501006_CLEAN.docx	10/10/2025

APPENDIX 4: CCB/VCS NCRS/CLS/OFI SUMMARY

VCS

Finding Number	1
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.1 General Requirements
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.1.2 Projects shall apply methodologies eligible under the VCS Program. Methodologies shall be applied in full, including the full application of any tools or modules referred to by a methodology, noting the exception set out in Section 3.14.1. The list of methodologies and their validity periods is available on the Verra website.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1.0
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The title, reference, and version number of modules and tools applied to the project included in section 2.1.9 of the MR.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please list all modules and tools (as applicable) in MR and specify the versions that were used.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	These have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Section 2.1.9 of the MR now includes the title, reference, and version number of modules and tools applied to the project. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	2
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.5 Project Documentation

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.5.5 The project proponent shall use the VCS Monitoring Report Template or an approved combined monitoring report template available on the Verra website, as appropriate, and adhere to all instructional text within the template.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes that the project is using MR Template CCB Version 3.0 and VCS Version 4.3. There is a more recent template available on the Verra website (CCB Version 3.0, VCS Version 4.4) with an effective date of 01 January 2025.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please update the MR to the most recent template version.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The template has been updated to version VCS 4.4
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	MR Template Version 4.4 is now used. This item is pending completion of verification to ensure there are no other typos/formatting errors found in the MR.

Finding Number	3
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.2 For the requirements in Section 3.19.4 – 3.19.10, the project proponent shall assess the risk of any negative environmental and socio-economic impacts as a result of project activities. Where the assessment identifies any such risks, the project proponent shall disclose the risks and design and implement steps to mitigate them. Any such impact and mitigation measures shall be reported in the applicable project document at validation and each verification. Update to 3.19.2 Effective for all project requests on or after 1 January 2025: 3.19.2 For the requirements in Section 3.19.4-3.19.29, the project proponent shall assess the risk of any negative environmental and socio-economic impacts as a result of project activities. Where the assessment identifies any such risks, the project proponent shall disclose the risks, and design and implement measures, commensurate with the identified risks, to mitigate them. Any such impact and mitigation measures shall be reported in the applicable project document at validation and each verification.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The MR does not include Appendix 2, which is required by the MR template.. This overarching finding is related to more detailed findings issued related to VCS Standard requirements 3.19.4 - 3.19.29.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please ensure MR Section 2.3.5 and Appendix 2 appropriately assess risks from the project and no net harm.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The project risks table has been added to the MR as Appendix 3. See findings in sections 3.19.4-3.19.24 for full review of project risks.

Finding Number	4
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.4 The project proponent shall identify likely natural and human-induced risks to stakeholders' well-being expected during the project lifetime as a result of project activities and outline measures needed and implemented to mitigate these risks.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Appendix 2 does not identify likely natural and human-induced risks to stakeholders' well-being, or outline measures needed and implemented to mitigate these risks.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Appendix 3 has identified risks to stakeholder well-being as human conflict, wildlife encounters. Mitigation efforts include Improved governance capacity to respond to hazards supported community awareness towards project risks, improved resource availability. These two risks are consistent with the two risks identified in PD Section 4.2.2. Support documentation and site visit interviews substantiated that training was provided to support improved governance capacity and also substantiated efforts were undertaken during the reporting period for updating the resource management plan. Support documentation and site visit interviews substantiated that community members responded positively that VGS supported efforts to reduce and resolve wildlife conflicts during the reporting period. This item is closed.

Finding Number	5
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.5 The project proponent shall identify the risks for stakeholders to participate in the project, including project design and consultation. Risks may include trade-offs with food security, land loss, loss of yields, negative impacts on livelihoods, and climate change adaptation. The project shall be designed and implemented to avoid trade-offs and mitigate the identified risks to local stakeholders.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y

Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes that this requirement is partially addressed by CCB indicator GL2.3 and MR Section 4.4. However, Appendix 2 does not identify risks for stakeholders to participate in the project.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Exclusion of marginalized groups, lack of communication, misinformation" as risks to stakeholders participation that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. However, these risks do not fully encompass the community participation risks identified in PD Section 4.5.3, or describe what measure were implemented during the reporting period to mitigate these identified risks to stakeholders.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	The risks described in Section 4.5.3 of the PD are added to the Appendix and mitigation measures have been described as well.
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Appendix 3 of the MR has been updated to address all risks identified in Section 4.5.3 of the MR. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	6
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.7 The project proponent shall identify any risks related to working conditions as a result of project activities and shall design and implement mitigation measures to provide safe and healthy working conditions for employees.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220

Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)		The VVB notes that this requirement is partially addressed by CCB indicator G3.12. However, Appendix 2 does not identify risks from working conditions.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)		Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)		The VVB confirmed Appendix 2 has been revised to include "Non-compliance with labor laws, inadequate safety measures, and exploitation" as risks to working conditions that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Review of support documentation and results of site visit interviews substantiated that training and gear was provided to VGS consistent with the described measures. Results of site visit interviews substantiated that workers engaged with project activities freely expressed beliefs that they were treated fairly and there were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that the project was in non-compliance with labor laws or that workers were being exploited as a result of project activities. This item is closed.

Finding Number	7
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.8 The project proponent shall identify any risks related to the safety of women and girls in the local community due to project activities and shall design and implement mitigation measures that protect and appropriately respond to harm to women and girls in the local community.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes this item is partially addressed by CCB indicator G3.2. Appendix 2 does not identify risks related to the safety of women and girls, or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Gender-based violence, harassment, discrimination " as risks to safety of women and girls that could result from project activities, and presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Results of site visit interviews substantiated that women with whom the VVB spoke separately without men or project staff present freely expressed beliefs that they had been treated appropriately by project staff and there were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that they or other women were known to have been subjected to gender-based violence, harassment, or discrimination by project staff or as a result of project activities. This item is closed.

Finding Number	8
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.9 The project proponent shall identify any risks as a result of project activities to children, and minority and marginalized groups in the local community, and shall design and implement mitigation measures to protect children, and minority and marginalized groups against and appropriately respond to harm in the local community.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes this item is partially addressed by CCB indicator G3.2. Appendix 2 does not identify risks related to children, minority and marginalized groups, or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 2 has been revised to include "Discrimination, exploitation, lack of access to services" as risks to safety of minority and marginalized groups, including children, that could result from project activities, and Appendix 2 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Results of site visit interviews substantiated that women from women's forums with whom the VVB spoke separately without men or project staff present freely expressed beliefs that they receive equal benefits from the project, and that are no negative impacts from the project. Results of site visit interviews and observations support that there are no negative impacts on other marginalized or vulnerable community groups. This item is closed.
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Finding Number	9
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.10 The project proponent shall identify and mitigate any impacts caused by pollutant emissions to air, discharges to water, noise and vibration, the generation of waste, or the release of hazardous materials as a result of project activities. Update to 3.19.10 Effective for all project requests on or after 1 January 2025: 3.19.10 The project proponent shall identify, minimize, and mitigate any impacts caused by pollutant emissions to air, discharges to water, noise and vibration, the generation of waste, and the release of hazardous materials and chemical pesticides and fertilizers as a result of project activities.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes this item is partially addressed by CCB indicator G3.2. Appendix 2 does not identify risks caused by pollutants, etc. or outline mitigation measures.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Increased village economic activities could lead to generation of waste" as risks of pollutants that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. The MR states that CT maintains internal policies related to waste and pollution to ensure all project partners are in compliance with Tanzanian law. Eco-friendly alternatives are used when possible. There were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that the project was out of compliance with environmental regulations. This item is closed.
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Finding Number	10
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.11 The project proponent shall ensure that no discrimination or sexual harassment occurs in the project design or implementation.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	As required by CCB Standard v3.1 Indicator G3.7 this requirement was assessed. However, Appendix 2 does not identify risks related to harassment and discrimination or identify mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Inequality in hiring, promotion, and treatment of employees" as a risk of discrimination that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Inappropriate behavior or abuse in the workplace" as a risk of sexual harassment that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Results of site visit interviews substantiated that women involved in project activities with whom the VVB spoke separately without men present freely expressed beliefs that they had been treated appropriately and there were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that they or other women were known to have been subjected to discrimination or sexual harassment by project staff or while engaged in project activities.
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Finding Number	11
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.13 The project proponent shall provide equal opportunities in the context of gender for employment and participation in consultation and project activities.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This item is partially addressed by CCB Indicator G3.10. However, Appendix 2 does not identify risks related to gender equality or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Gender discrimination in employment opportunities and workplace activities" as a risk to gender equity in labor and work that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Women with whom the VVB spoke separately during site visit interviews without men or project staff present freely expressed beliefs that women have been treated fairly and substantiated that women had been involved in project consultations in leadership roles as well as through womens' forums. There were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that either they or other women were known to have been subjected to gender discrimination in either employment or consultations associated with project activities. The evidence reviewed, including results of site visit interviews, provided reasonable assurance that the project has promoted gender equity in recruitment, provided leadership opportunities for women, enforced gender equity policies, and supported women in conservation roles within the projects. This item is closed.
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Finding Number	12
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.14 The proponent shall provide equal pay for equal work in project design and implementation.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	It is not clear how the project has demonstrated this requirement is met. Additionally, Appendix 2 does not identify risks related to equal pay or outline mitigation measures.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Pay disparities based on gender, ethnicity, or other discriminatory factors" as a risk to equal pay for equal work that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. Tanzanian labor regulations require equal pay for equal work, and the MR indicates regular pay audits were conducted and transparent pay policies were ensured and aligned with both local and international labor laws. Carbon Tanzania has provided a renewed business license demonstrating that all labor laws were followed. During site visit interviews, there were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB that either women or anyone else were known to have been subjected to unequal pay for equal work. The evidence reviewed, including results of site visit interviews, provided reasonable assurance that the project provided equal pay for equal work in project design and implementation.
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Finding Number	13
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.15 The project proponent shall prohibit the use of forced labor, child labor, or victims of human trafficking in project design and implementation. Update to 3.19.15 Effective for all project requests on or after 1 January 2025: 3.19.15 The project proponent shall prohibit the use of forced labor, child labor, and victims of human trafficking, and protect staff and contracted workers employed by third parties in project design and implementation.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This item is partially addressed by MR Section 2.5.9, however Appendix 2 does not identify risks from forced labor or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed Appendix 3 has been revised to include "Coercion or exploitation of workers" as a risk of forced labor that could result from project activities, and Appendix 3 presents a description of measures taken to mitigate or prevent these risks. During site visit interviews, there were no incidents or allegations reported to the VVB of forced labor, child labor, or human trafficking. The evidence reviewed, including results of site visit interviews, provided reasonable assurance that this requirement is met.
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Finding Number	14
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.17 The project proponent shall identify IPs, LCs, and customary rights holders as set out in Section 3.18.1 above, and recognize, respect, and promote the protection of the rights of said groups in line with applicable international human rights law, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous and Tribal Peoples, in project design and implementation.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This item is partially addressed by CCB indicator G5.1. However, appendix 2 does not identify risks related to IPs, LCs, customary rights holders or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB reviewed sections of the validated PD related to indicator G5.1 of the CCB Standard which identifies the property rights for the areas contained within the Project and explicitly addresses the land use rights of the participating villages and communities within the Project. The PD does not identify any of these groups has IPs, LCs, or customary rights holders. Appendix 3 has been updated to include information related to this item. During the site visit the VVB found no evidence to contradict project statements that in the Project Design and Project Implementation the Project has fails to recognize, respect, and promote the rights of the specific groups identified in criterion 3.19.17 of the VCS Standard. Additionally, the VVB reviewed the updated MR and considering the evidence collected during the site visit, the VVB is reasonably assured that this requirement is satisfied. This finding is closed.
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Finding Number	15
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.18 The project proponent shall preserve and protect cultural heritage consistent with IPs', LCs' and customary rights holders' practices or UNESCO Cultural Heritage conventions in project design and implementation.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This item is partially addressed by CCB indicator CM1.2, however appendix 2 does not identify risks to cultural heritage or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	As previously described, the PD does not identify any groups with legal or customary land use rights as IPs, LCs, or customary rights holders, therefore the VVB is reasonably assured this requirement is satisfied. Additionally, the VVB notes that the validated PD Section 4.1.3 identifies community HCVs as required by CCB indicator CM1.2. The validated PD describes the way the Project design has considered the preservation and protection of these HCVs. Appendix 3 has been updated to include information related to this item. During the monitoring period, the VVB reviewed the MR, PD, and based on interviews conducted during the site visit the VVB is reasonably assured that the implementation of the Project Activity increases the preservation and protection of the identified HCVs. Furthermore, the VVB found no evidence that the implementation of the Project Activity has jeopardized the preservation and protection of cultural heritage of the participating villages and village members. This finding is closed.
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Finding Number	16
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.19 The project proponent shall recognize, respect, and support IPs', LCs', and customary rights holders' property rights and where feasible, take measures to help secure rights.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This item is partially addressed by CCB indicator G5.1, however appendix 2 does not identify risks to Protecting and preserving property rights, customary rights, or protecting legal or customary tenure/access rights to territories, property, and resources, including collective and/or conflicting rights or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	As required by CCB Standard v3.1 Indicator G5.1 this requirement was assessed. This item has been added to Appendix 3. Item closed.

Finding Number	17
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.19 Safeguards
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	3.19.25 The project shall not have negative impacts on biodiversity and ecosystems. Projects shall identify any risks to ecosystems due to project activities and implement measures to ensure no negative impacts on ecosystems.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	As required by CCB Standard v3.1 Indicator B2.2 and B2.23. The project does not have negative impacts on biodiversity. However, Appendix 2 does not include risks from impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems or outline mitigation measures.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence that this requirement is met.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	Appendix 2 (as Appendix 3) has been added to the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Appendix 3 has been added to the MR. No risks to biodiversity or ecosystems have been identified, and appropriate justification of this was provided in the MR. Site visit interviews and observations substantiate that the project does not have negative impacts on biodiversity or ecosystems. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	18
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	3.21 Project Description Deviations

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	2) Where the deviation does not impact the applicability of the methodology, additionality or the appropriateness of the baseline scenario, and the project remains in conformance with the applied methodology, the deviation shall be described and justified in the monitoring report. This shall include a description of when the changes occurred and the reasons for the changes. The deviation shall also be described in all subsequent monitoring reports. Examples of such deviations include changes in the procedures for measurement and monitoring, or project design changes that do not have an impact on the applicability of the methodology, additionality, or the appropriateness of the baseline scenario.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.2.5
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes that there are 2 PD deviations that were included during the last monitoring report that are not included in this monitoring report.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please ensure all previously validated PD Deviations are included in all subsequent monitoring reports.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The PD deviations have been updated in the MR.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	All previously validated PD Deviations have now been included in the MR. There were no new PD Deviations during the monitoring period. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	19
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	Table 8 Political Risk
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	b) Governance score of -0.79 to less than -0.32.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1897 (2).pdf; VCS_NPR_REP_1897_5_18_2022_5_17_2023 (1)

Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes that the correct risk score is taken, however the WGI score does not appear to have been calculated using the most recent 5 years of data available.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please address in line with the finding.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The incorrect dates for the monitoring period were entered in the risk tool. The dates have been updated and now the WGI is correct.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed the WGI has been updated. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	20
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	Table 11: Natural Risk Assessment
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	c) Extreme Weather (W)
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1897 (2).pdf; VCS_NPR_REP_1897_5_18_2022_5_17_2023 (1)
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The project selects a significance of "insignificant" and likelihood of less than every 10 years for drought, which is the most relevant extreme weather risk. During the site visit, the VVB did not find evidence that this score is not appropriate. There are no mitigation measure being taken. A risk score of 4 is appropriate. The VVB notes that the risk score selected in the NPRT Notes and NPRT Report does not match the narrative provided in the Ntakata_NPRT_Supplemental_Info_20250521.docx document. It is unclear why this discrepancy exists.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify in line with the finding and update project documents as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The narrative provided has been updated to match the risk factors in the NPRT

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	An updated supplemental has been provided and now matches the risk scores that were selected. This item is addressed.
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Finding Number	21
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	Table 11: Natural Risk Assessment
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	d) Geological Risk (G)
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	AFOLU_NPRT_Notes_1897 (2).pdf; VCS_NPR_REP_1897_5_18_2022_5_17_2023 (1)
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The project selects a significance of "insignificant" and likelihood of every 10 to 25 years for geological risk. This is in line with previous reporting periods. The audit team agrees this score is appropriate as the likelihood and significance of earthquakes causing landslides in the areas of steep terrain within the project seems reasonable. The audit team did not find evidence by an online search of recorded earthquakes in Tanzania of earthquake disturbance in the project area. Further, no evidence was observed during the site visit of a geological disturbance in the project area. The VVB notes that the risk score selected in the NPRT Notes and NPRT Report does not match the narrative provided in the Ntakata_NPRT_Supplemental_Info_20250521.docx document. It is unclear why this discrepancy exists.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 CL: Please clarify in line with the finding and update project documents as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The narrative provided has been updated to match the risk factors in the NPRT
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	An updated supplemental has been provided and now matches the risk scores that were selected. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	22
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VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	8 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG...
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	To estimate the number of Verified Carbon Units (VCUs) for the monitoring period $T = t_2 - t_1$, this methodology uses the following equation: $VCU_t = (Adjusted_NERREDD_{+,t_2} - Adjusted_NERREDD_{+,t_1}) - BufferTotal$ (13) Where: VCU_t Number of Verified Carbon Units at year $t = t_2 - t_1$ (VCU) $Adjusted_NERREDD_{+,t_2}$ Total net GHG emission reductions of the REDD+ project activity up to year t_2 adjusted to account for uncertainty (t CO₂e) $Adjusted_NERREDD_{+,t_1}$ Total net GHG emission reductions of the REDD+ project activity up to year t_1 adjusted to account for uncertainty (t CO₂e) $BufferTotal$ Total permanence risk buffer withholding (t CO₂e)
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	VCUs for current monitoring period (2023) is estimated correctly using equation 13. However, the VVB noted an error in estimation of VCUs in vintage period. Incorrect cell is referenced in calculating vintage period "Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)".
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 NCR: Please correct the error noted in the finding and update the table in section 3.2.4 of MR.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	It is unclear what the cell reference error is. It appears to be correct.
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	While estimating Vintage period "Leakage emissions (tCO₂e)" in "Actual VCUs" tab of the original workbook "Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx", cell E14 and E15 references an incorrect cell E9 instead of F9. Accordingly, the values in Section 3.2.4 of the MR remain uncorrected. The VVB would also like to point out that clarification on this matter was communicated to ER team by email on 06/16/2025. Additionally, it is unclear to the VVB why vintage period calculation table does not exist in updated workbook (Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2025-06-03.xls).

Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	2	NCR: Please make sure vintage period calculations are included in the workbook with noted error corrected and update the table in section 3.2.4 of MR accordingly.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)		The cell reference error has been corrected, and the vintage table added back to the Actual VCU tab.
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)		The cell reference error has been corrected. This item is addressed. The VVB notes that the table directly above section 3.3 appears to have errors. The vintage calculation in Cells I14:J16 in the 'Reductions' Tab are not representative of the correct dates. The VVB notes that all summations in the monitoring workbook Def PA and Def LB Actual tabs do not include the year 2023. As these do not appear to impact any downstream quantification, the VVB is issuing an OFI.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	3	NCR: Please correct the quantification in line with the finding and update reporting documents as necessary. OFI: Please ensure all workbook summations are inclusive of all intended years.
Round 3 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)		The dates have been corrected and the values in the last row of the vintage breakdown table (one table above the table directly above section 3.3) has been updated.
Aster Global Final Findings (DD Month YYYY)		The vintage breakdown has been updated in the calc workbook and MR Section 3.2.4. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	23
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	<u>5 PROCEDURES</u>
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Equation 2 on page 6.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	"ΔCP, LB" is calculated inaccurately given "E-Biomass Burning LB (tCO ₂ e)" value for 2023 is incorrectly referenced in tab "DefLB Actual".

Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1	NCR: Please make sure correct value is referenced for “E-Biomass Burning LB (tCO ₂ e) to calculate “ΔCP,LB”. Please ensure that MR is updated accordingly.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)		The cell reference has been corrected
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)		Inaccurate reference of “E-Biomass Burning LB (tCO ₂ e)” in Cell F9 of “DefLB Actual” tab has been corrected and “ΔCP,LB” has been calculated correctly in Cell H9. However, it does not appear that the updated values are reflected in MR table 3.15 appropriately. Additionally, “ΔCBSL,LB,unplanned (t CO ₂ -e)” is written as “ΔCBSL,PA,unplanned (t CO ₂ -e)” in cell C2 of “DefLB Actual” tab and in table 3.15.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	2	NCR: Please revise the MR as needed to reflect the corrected values and with correct table column name.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)		Table 3.15 has been updated in the MR.
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)		Error noted in workbook has been updated and table 3.15 has been revised, accordingly. Item closed.

Finding Number	24
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	5.1.2 Post-processing and accuracy assessment
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	The overall classification accuracy of the outcome of the previous steps must be 90% or more.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx, NT_2024_PA_FNF_ALOD_20240822.shp, NT_2024_LB_FNF_ALOD_20240822.shp

Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes the overall classification accuracy of the forest cover map based on the accuracy analysis is 96.96%. Accuracy assessment analysis files (GIS, workbook) were provided to the VVB for review. The VVB reviewed the accuracy assessment points and confirmed the overall accuracy % reported.			
	However, an independent analysis of forest cover change identified several deforested areas within the project area and leakage belt during this reporting period that appear to have been missed in the forest cover change analysis. Please see the identified locations below.			
	AG_ID	POINT_X	POINT_Y	
	1	30.311647	-6.488477	
	2	30.268602	-6.490472	
	3	30.265024	-6.494011	
	5	30.57885	-6.312905	
	6	30.475718	-6.212815	
	7	30.479037	-6.196972	
	8	30.488101	-6.188193	
	9	30.473822	-6.222327	
	10	30.498711	-6.203037	
	11	30.808515	-6.220171	
	13	30.422812	-6.12257	
	14	30.404538	-6.066411	
	15	30.511198	-6.134793	
	16	30.486978	-6.123191	
	21	30.161109	-6.144447	
	22	30.16927	-6.139855	
	23	30.160747	-6.118784	
	24	30.13111	-6.073555	
	25	30.152314	-6.061454	
	26	30.608212	-6.060633	
	27	30.561563	-5.976268	
	Additionally, VVB also noted areas where deforestation has occurred outside of the monitoring period. Please see the identified locations below:			
	AG_ID	POINT_X	POINT_Y	AG_def_date
	4	30.368832	-5.972525	Jul-24
	12	30.754104	-5.967284	Jul-24
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1	CL: Please provide clarification on how the listed areas were identified as forests, along with verifiable supporting evidence. Please clarify how it is appropriate to include areas identified deforested outside of this monitoring period.		
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	As the VVB observes, the overall accuracy of the map is well above the 90% threshold required for the methodology. Despite this observation, differences can arise in classifications based on both the techniques and data used. Having reviewed the plots provided by the VVB, the majority of the non-forested plots shared appear either to meet the 10% canopy cover threshold as of June 2024 (1, 6, 7, 8,9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22) or are outside of the Project Area and Leakage Belt (21,23,24, and 27). Of the two deforested points, 4 is in the forest class as of 2024 and 12 is outside of the Project Area/Leakage Belt. The remaining 7 points can easily represent the ~3% of overall error present in the map.			

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB acknowledges the clarification provided. The VVB notes even though the overall accuracy of the land cover map meets the 90% requirement, independent checks identified some differences, and these are likely due to differences in techniques and data sources used during the independent assessment and some of the errors found in the independent check may overlap with those already reflected in the overall error estimate. The VVB also notes that identified points are all within the Project and Leakage belt boundary. Moreover, since the accuracy threshold of 90 %has been met, the VVB determined the landcover map is accepted as compliant. Item closed.
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Finding Number	24a
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	STEP 2: Interpretation and analyses
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Equation 3 ($\Delta CP, DefPA, i, t$)
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	

Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The parameter is reported incorrectly in Table 3.7 of the MR.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	3 CL: Please clarify in line with the finding and update reporting documents as necessary.
Round 3 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	The value has been corrected in table 3.7 of the MR.
Aster Global Final Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed the parameter has been updated in the MR. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	25
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	STEP 2: Interpretation and analyses
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	The first step in addressing forest degradation is to complete a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) of the communities inside and surrounding the project area to determine if there is the potential for illegal extraction of trees to occur. If this assessment finds no potential pressure for these activities then degradation ($\Delta CP, DegW, i, t$) can be assumed to be zero and no monitoring is needed. The PRA must to be repeated every 2 years.
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Ntakata Continued Participatory Rural Appraisal Log Sheet (2023).pdf
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	PRA log sheet (Ntakata Continued Participatory Rural Appraisal Log Sheet (2023).pdf) is provided. According to the survey that took place in November 2023 in villages: Mwese, Kagunga and Kapanga, the VVB noted 4 out of 69 (6%) were affirmative on degradation/illegal logging which is below 10% threshold. Based on this survey the VVB noted no potential for illegal logging was identified. An incorrect reference to “Ntakata Continued Participatory Rural Appraisal Log Sheet.pdf”) is noted in section 3.1.3 of MR. The VVB notes the correct file name is referenced in table located in section 3.2.2.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 CL: Please ensure consistency in file name references.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The file name of the PRA has been updated in Section 3.1.3

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB notes PRA doc reference has been corrected. Item closed.
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Finding Number	26
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.2 Data and Parameters Monitored for Verification
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	<i>Data / Parameter: Project Forest Cover Monitoring Map</i> <i>Unit:</i> <i>Description: Map showing the location of forest land within the project area at the beginning of each monitoring period. If within the Project Area some forest land is cleared, the benchmark map must show the deforested areas at each monitoring event</i> <i>Source of data: Remote sensing in combination with GPS data collected during ground truthing</i> <i>Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied: The minimum map accuracy must be 90% for the classification of forest/non-forest in the remote sensing imagery. If the classification accuracy is less than 90% then the map is not acceptable for further analysis. More remote sensing data and ground truthing data will be needed to produce a product that reaches the 90% minimum mapping accuracy.</i> <i>Frequency: Must be monitored at least every 5 years or if verification occurs on a frequency of less than every 5 years examination must occur prior to any verification event</i> <i>Any comment: Where forest land contains more than one forest class, the map must be stratified into forest classes using module X-STR. Used in equations: 3</i>
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1 ,NT_2024_PA_FNF_ALOD_20240822.shp, nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823.shp
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Project Forest Cover Monitoring Map is produced where the deforested areas and remaining forested areas are shown. However, this parameter is not reported in the MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter under MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in the MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”. Item closed.
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Finding Number	27
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.2 Data and Parameters Monitored for Verification
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	<i>Data / Parameter: Leakage Belt Forest Cover Monitoring Map</i> <i>Unit:</i> <i>Description: Map showing the location of forest land within the leakage belt area at the beginning of each monitoring period. Only applicable where leakage is to be monitored in a leakage belt</i> <i>Source of data: Remote sensing in combination with GPS data collected during ground truthing</i> <i>Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied: The minimum map accuracy must be 90% for the classification of forest/non-forest in the remote sensing imagery. If the classification accuracy is less than 90% then the map is not acceptable for further analysis. More remote sensing data and ground truthing data will be needed to produce a product that reaches the 90% minimum mapping accuracy.</i> <i>Frequency: Must be monitored at least every 5 years or if verification occurs on a frequency of less than every 5 years examination must occur prior to any verification event</i> <i>Any comment: Where forest land contains more than one forest class, the map must be stratified into forest classes using module X-STR. Used in equations: 3, 8</i>
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1 ,NT_2024_PA_FNF_ALOD_20240822.shp, nt_2024_aa_pts_ALOD_20240823.shp
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Leakage Belt Forest Cover Monitoring Map is produced where the deforested areas and remaining forested areas are shown. However, this parameter is not reported in the MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter under MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in the MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”. Item closed.
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Finding Number	28
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	5.2 Step 2: Estimation of the Proportions of Area Deforested by Immigrant and Local Deforestation Agents in the Baseline
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Using a participatory rural appraisal (PRA) approach, existing studies and other verifiable sources of information, determine the proportion of area deforested by the population that has been resident in and around the leakage belt and project area for ≥ 5 years (PROPRES) and the proportion of area deforested by population that has migrated into the area in the last 5 years (PROPIMM).
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	As noted in the MR, the proportion of baseline deforestation caused by population that has been resident for ≥ 5 years (PROPIMM) is assumed to be equal to the percentage of the local population residing in the area longer than 5 years with potential access to the project area. PROPIMM is 0.290, derived based on the 2022 Tanzanian Census data. As noted in the MR, the proportion of area deforested by population that has migrated into the area in the last 5 years (PROPRES) is assumed to be equal to the percentage of recent immigrants among local population with potential access to the project area and was derived based on the 2022 Tanzanian Census data. However, PROPRES does not appear to be reported anywhere in MR.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	1 CL: Please address in line with the finding.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	PROPRES has been added to Table 3.19
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	PROPRES is reported in MR. Item closed.

Finding Number	29
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VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	CLB
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Validated PDD, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Validated “CLB” value is correctly applied. However, it is not reported in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation” section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	This parameter is described in Section 3.2.3. It has now also been added to section 3.1.1 in the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is reported in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”. Item closed.

Finding Number	30
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	COLB
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Validated PDD, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx

Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Validated “COLB” value is correctly applied. However, it is not reported in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation” section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	This parameter is described in Section 3.2.3. It has now also been added to section 3.1.1 in the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is reported in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”. Item closed.

Finding Number	31
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	ABSL,PA-unplanned,t
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Validated PDD, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Validated “ABSL,PA-unplanned,t” value is correctly applied. However, it is not reported in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation” section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	This parameter is described in Section 3.2.3. It has now also been added to section 3.1.1 in the MR

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	“ABSL,PA-unplanned,t” value is included in the MR section “3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation”. However, “ABSL,PA-UNPLANNED,t” value reported is incorrect. The reported values for “ABSL,PA-UNPLANNED,t” and “ΔCBSL,PA,unplanned” are incorrectly assigned to each other. Additionally, the VVB notes inconsistency in decimal places of values reported. For example, in MR section 3.2.1, ADefPA,u,i,t (ha) value is reported as a whole number whereas same parameter value in Section 3.1.2 is reported as number of one decimal place. Similar issues appear in the reporting of other numbers throughout the MR.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	CL: Please make sure correct values are reported values for “ABSL,PA-UNPLANNED,t” and “ΔCBSL,PA,unplanned” in MR. Please ensure consistency in reporting values to the same number of decimal places.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	"The values in section 3.1 have been corrected in the MR. The values reported in the MR have been updated for consistency."
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The “ABSL,PA-UNPLANNED,t” and “ΔCBSL,PA,unplanned” values have been corrected in the MR and match the validated values. Additionally, the values are reported to a consistent decimal place. This item is addressed.

Finding Number	32
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.2 Data and Parameters Monitored
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	PROPRES
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	MR v1, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	PROPRES is not reported in the MR section “3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please report the parameter in section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored”.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	This parameter is described in Section 3.2.3. It has now also been added to section 3.1.1 in the MR

Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is reported in the MR section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored". Item closed.
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Finding Number	33
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	5.1 PROCEDURES
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Equation 1
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed that Ebiomassburn,l,t is appropriately calculated for N20 and CH4 in the project area and leakage belt. However, "E-Biomass Burning LB (tCO2e)" value for 2023 is incorrectly referenced in tab "DefLB Actual". Consequently, incorrect value is reported in MR.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please address the error noted and update MR accordingly.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The cell reference has been corrected
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Inaccurate reference of "E-Biomass Burning LB (tCO2e)" in Cell F9 of "DefLB Actual" tab has been corrected and "ΔCP, LB" has been calculated correctly in Cell H9. However, it does not appear that the updated values are reflected in MR table 3.15 appropriately.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	CL: : Please revise the MR as needed to reflect the corrected values.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	Table 3.15 has been updated in the MR.
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	Table 3.15 has been corrected with updated values. Item closed.

Finding Number	34
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 DATA AND PARAMETERS
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Data / Parameter: COMFi Data unit: dimensionless Description: Combustion factor for stratum i (vegetation type) Equations: 1 Source of Data: IPCC Value applied: N/A Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied: Default values in Table 2.6 of IPCC, 2006 (Appendix 2). The combustion factor is a measure of the proportion of the fuel that is actually combusted, which varies as a function of the size and architecture of the fuel load (ie, a smaller proportion of large, coarse fuel such as tree stems will be burnt compared to fine fuels, such as grass leaves), the moisture content of the fuel and the type of fire (ie, intensity and rate of spread). Default values must be updated whenever new guidelines are produced by the IPCC. Purpose of Data: Calculation of baseline emissions, Calculation of project emissions Comments: N/A
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed that the value for COMFi (0.45) established at validation is appropriately used for calculations in this monitoring period and reported in MR section 3.1.3. However, this parameter does not appear to be listed in MR section "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation".
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section. Item closed.

Finding Number	35
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VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 DATA AND PARAMETERS
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Data / Parameter: Ggi Data unit: g kg-1 dry matter burnt Description: Emission factor for stratum i for gas g Equations: 1 Source of data: IPCC Value applied: N/A Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied: Defaults can be found in Volume 4, Chapter 2, of the IPCC 2006 Inventory Guidelines in table 2.5 (see Appendix 2: emission factors for various types of burning for CH4 and N2O). Default values must be updated whenever new guidelines are produced by the IPCC. Purpose of Data: Calculation of baseline emissions, Calculation of project emissions Comments: N/A
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The VVB confirmed the value for Gg,i (GCH4=6.8kg-1, GN20=0.2kg-1) established at validation is appropriately used for calculations in this monitoring period and reported in MR section 3.1.3. However, this parameter does not appear to be listed in MR section "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation".
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section. Item closed.

Finding Number	36
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.1 DATA AND PARAMETERS

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Data / Parameter: GWPg Data unit: dimensionless Description: Global warming potential for gas g Equations 2, 4 Source of data: Default factor from the latest IPCC Assessment Report Value applied: N/A Justification of choice of data or description of measurement methods and procedures applied: N/A Purpose of Data: Calculation of baseline emissions, Calculation of project emissions Comments: N/A
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The project uses the AR5 GWP values for CH4 (28) and N2O (265) for calculations in this monitoring period. Values are reported in MR section 3.1.3. However, this parameter does not appear to be listed in MR section "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation".
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter has been included in MR "3.1.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation" section. However, reported GWP values are incorrect.
Round NCR/CL/OFI (DD Month YYYY)	CL: Please report correct GWP values.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DD Month YYYY)	These values have been corrected in the MR
Aster Global Round 3 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	GWP values have been corrected. Item closed.

Finding Number	37
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.2 DATA AND PARAMETERS

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Data / Parameter: CAB,tree,i Data unit: t CO2e ha-1 Description: Carbon stock in aboveground biomass in trees in stratum i Equations: $\frac{CAB_{tree,i}}{2}$ Source of data: Module CP-AB Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied: See module CP-AB Frequency of monitoring/recording: See module CP-AB QA/QC procedures to be applied: See Section 9.3 of REDD-MF or other VCS methodology that uses this module. Purpose of data: Calculation of baseline emissions, Calculation of project emissions Calculation method: N/A Comments: To be determined ex ante when accounting of Epeatburn,i,t is included in the baseline scenario. To be monitored when accounting of Epeatburn,i,t is included in the project scenario
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The values for CAB_tree,i (118.3) were confirmed at validation and appropriately used in calculations for this monitoring period. However, this parameter is not reported in the MR section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored".
Round NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter under MR section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored".
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in MR "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored" section. Item closed.

Finding Number	38
VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Section)	6.2 DATA AND PARAMETERS

VCS Standard VCS Version 4.7 Requirements Document 16 April 2024 (Description)	Data / Parameter: CDW,i Data unit: t CO2e ha-1 Description: Carbon stock in dead wood in the baseline in stratum i Equations: $\frac{CDW_{i,t} - CDW_{i,t-1}}{t}$ Source of data: Module CP-D Description of measurement methods and procedures to be applied: See Module CP-D Frequency of monitoring/recording: See Module CP-D QA/QC procedures to be applied: See Section 9.3 of REDD-MF or other VCS methodology that uses this module. Purpose of data: Calculation of baseline emissions, Calculation of project emissions Calculation method: N/A Comments: To be determined ex ante when accounting of Epeatburn,i,t is included in the baseline scenario. To be monitored when accounting of Epeatburn,i,t is included in the project scenario
Requirement Met (Y, N or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD/MR or Supporting Documents)	Validated PDD, MR v1.0, Ntakata_2024_VCS-Monitoring-Calcs_2024-08-14.xlsx
Aster Global Initial Findings (DD Month YYYY)	The values for CDW,i (1.1) were confirmed at validation and appropriately used in calculations for this monitoring period. However, this parameter is not reported in the MR section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored".
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please include this parameter under MR section "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored".
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (30 June 2025)	The parameters have been added to the MR
Aster Global Round 2 Findings (DD Month YYYY)	This parameter is included in MR "3.1.2 Data and Parameters Monitored" section. Item closed.

CCB

Findings Number	1
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	Other Monitoring Report Template Requirements (additional items not attributed to specific CCB Indicators)

CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Instructions from Monitoring Report Template: 1.2 Standardized Benefit Metrics - For each metric, quantify the net benefit the project has achieved during the monitoring period covered by this report and since the project start date (if this is the project's first verification report, the two columns will be the same). Insert "not applicable" where the metric does not apply and "data not available" where the metric does apply but there are no means of quantification. Data included in the monitoring period column shall be substantiated in this document as denoted by the corresponding section reference.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 1.2
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	Instructions for the Monitoring Report Template (CCB Version 3.0, VCS Version 4.3) requires: "Data included in the monitoring period column shall be substantiated in this document as denoted by the corresponding section reference." The VVB reviewed the achievements reported in the updated Table in Section 1.2 against the information presented in Sections referenced by the Table. 1. Previous versions of the MR have included subsection references in Table 1.2. It is unclear why subsections are not included in this MR. 2. It is unclear how MR Section 2.1 substantiates the Net estimated emission reductions in the project area, measured against the without-project scenario and Number of hectares of reduced forest loss in the project area measured against the without-project scenario reported in Table 1.2. 3. The VVB was unable to locate information to substantiate the number of individuals reported for whom health services were improved as a result of project activities, measured against the without-project scenario, for either the monitoring period or achieved during the project lifetime. 4. The VVB noted the MR and supporting documentation appear to indicate that fewer households were covered by Health Insurance during this monitoring period compared to the last monitoring period. The VVB noted neither the MR nor supporting documentation provides an explanation for this change. 5. It is unclear how the numbers reported in the Education category were determined. The VVB was unable to locate the source for these numbers in the referenced MR Section (4.3).
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address findings 1-5, update project documents, and provide supporting documents as appropriate.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	1. Subsection references have been added in Table 1.2 2. Net emission reductions are reported in table 3.25 in Section 3.2.4. A line has been added to Section 3.2.1 for the number of hectares of forest loss prevented by the project. 3. CHIKAMBU TO PROVIDE 4. The number of households provided was the number of household re-enrolled during the MP, but this was an error. The correct number has been provided. 5. Evidence has been provided to substantiate these numbers. See "Education_Classes_and_related_infrastructures.xlsx"
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	1. Table 1.2 now includes subsection references. This item is addressed. 2. The number of hectares of forest loss prevented by the project now matches the value reported in section 3.2.1. The net emission reductions reported in Table 1.2 now match the ERs reported in Section 3.2.4. The VVB noted that the value reported in the Achievements During the Project Lifetime column does not align with previous monitoring reports. Previous MR reports a value of 5,278,929 tCO₂e, and adding the total ERs for this monitoring period does not equal the value reported. It is unclear why this discrepancy exists. 3. No response provided. The VVB is re-issuing this finding. The VVB was unable to locate information to substantiate the number of individuals reported for whom health services were improved as a result of project activities, measured against the without-project scenario, for either the monitoring period or achieved during the project lifetime. 4. Thank you for the clarification on the number of households enrolled in health insurance. Supporting evidence was provided demonstrating that the 851 households that were not enrolled at the end of 2022 were re-enrolled in 2023. This item is addressed. 5. Photos of classrooms completed during the monitoring period and a breakdown of how many students/teachers will benefit from these classrooms was provided to the VVB. This item is addressed.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DATE)	CL: Please clarify in line with items 2 and 3 and update project documents as needed.

Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DATE)	"The number of individuals is derived as follows: Each ICHIF household covers 6 people. Calculations: Refer Date: 12/07/2022 – 2,300 households were renewed= $6 \times 2,300 = 13,800$ people Refer Date: 24/10/2022 – 1,249 households were renewed = $6 \times 1,249 = 7,494$ people Refer Date: 10/07/2023 – 851 households were renewed = $6 \times 851 = 5,106$ people Total: $13,800 + 7,494 + 5,106 = 26,400$ Hence, 26,400 represents the total number of people for whom health services were improved as a result of project activities, measured against the without-project scenario. Half of the total is the estimation of women/girls: $26,400 \div 2 = 13,200$ Number of women for whom health services were improved as a result of project activities, measured against the without-project scenario 3"
Aster Global Findings Round 3 (DATE)	2. The VVB notes that the ERRs reported in the Achievements During the Project Lifetime have not been updated. Previous MR reports a value of 5,278,929 tCO₂e, and adding the total ERs for this monitoring period does not equal the value reported. It is unclear why this discrepancy exists. 3. The VVB notes that the breakdown for number of people who benefitted from health services provided in the finding response does not match the values reported in the MR. It is unclear why this discrepancy exists. 6. The VVB notes that the values reported in Section 1.2 for "Livelihoods" and "Well-being" (57,189 people benefitting, 28,594 women) are not substantiated by the referenced MR Section (4.3.1). The VVB understands that these values represent Census data for the total number of people living in the villages impacted by the project, however MR Template instructions state: "Achievements included in the monitoring period column shall be substantiated in this document as denoted by the corresponding section reference."
Round 3 NCR/CL/OFI (DATE)	CL: Please clarify in line with items 2,3,6 and update the MR as needed.

Round 3 Response from Project Proponent (DATE)	2. The total reported in the previous reporting period is incorrect. The discrepancy exists because the validated baseline calculations were updated in the previous reporting period, and the change in the underlying values were live in the previous RP workbook, which ultimately revised the previous years' estimates, thus effecting the reported cumulative total. The error does not flow through to any other calculations or credit issuances, but it did effect the reported cumulative total. If you add last year's incorrect value to the ERs that were produced in this reporting period you will get a discrepant value. The values from previous years were updated on the Actual VCUs tab to align with the finalized reported values from each RP. The cumulative total has been revised to line up with the correct previous reporting period values. 3. The value in section 1.2 has been updated to match the values provided in the response to the VVB. The discrepancy came from a misunderstanding about how to count people who had re-enrolled in the program, and not the number of people who have been continuously enrolled in the program. 6. The reference has been updated to section 4.1.3, which now specifies the Tanzanian Census data.
Aster Global Findings Final (DATE)	2. Thank you for the additional clarification. The VVB confirmed the cumulative value in section 1.2 matches the calculation workbook. This item is addressed. 3. Thank you for the additional clarification. The MR now matches the explanation provided to the VVB. This item is addressed. 6. A statement has been added to Section 4.1.3 to clarify the population estimate. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	2
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G1 - Project Goals, Design and Long-term Viability
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G1.9 - Define the project start date and lifetime, and GHG accounting period and biodiversity and community benefits assessment period if relevant, and explain and justify any differences between them. Define an implementation schedule, indicating key dates and milestones in the project's development.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.2.1

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	The VVB notes that MR Section 2.2.1 does not include the implementation status of all activities related to the climate, community and biodiversity benefits, specific related to climate. Separate findings have been issued on Section 2.2.5 Minor Changes to the PD.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please ensure MR Section 2.2.1 includes key dates and milestones for project activities related to all project benefits.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	The implementation schedule has been updated to include indicators and additional relevant events.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	The VVB confirmed MR Section 2.2.1 has been updated to include key dates and milestones for activities as well as which project benefit the activity contributes to. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	3
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.1 - Describe how full project documentation has been made accessible to communities and other stakeholders, how summary project documentation (including how to access full documentation) has been actively disseminated to communities in relevant local or regional languages, and how widely publicized information meetings have been held with communities and other stakeholders.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.2, 2.3.3, 2.3.4

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	Section 2.3.2 of the MR states that a copy of the full “project document” was provided to each district office and village committee to review and keep on file for public access. The MR also states that summaries were prepared in Swahili, and that CT spoke at regular meetings to convey the relevant information. MR Section 2.3.3 states that to overcome language/reading barriers, the project team planned face-to-face interactions using carbon champions to provide a summary of the PD to committees and other interested villagers. The MR states summaries of the last monitoring results were prepared and explained in regular bi-annual project meetings and that the same will occur for the present monitoring report. MR Section 2.3.4 provides a summary of the general frequency, attendees, agenda, and publicization of the informational meetings with communities and stakeholders. During the site visit, the verification team noted the MR summary and information about the site visit were posted in public places throughout the villages that were visited. Copies of the PD and MR were available in village offices. During interviews with Carbon Champions and community members, it was evident that the communities are aware of project activities and very knowledgeable about the carbon project. While reviewing the relevant sections of the MR, the VVB noted the following: 1. MR Section 2.3.4 states the table in Section 2.5.2 summarizes the informational meetings and consultations that have been conducted. MR Section 2.5.2 does not include a table of meetings. Therefore, it is unclear from the MR which meetings occurred during the monitoring period.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify in line with the finding and update project documents as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	The section reference was incorrect and has been corrected in the MR.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 2.3.4 has been updated to clarify that the summary of meetings is included in Section 2.2.1 of the MR. Section 2.2.1 includes a list of meetings that occurred during the monitoring period, which supports the narrative included in 2.3.4. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	4
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement

CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.4 - Describe how communities including all the community groups and other stakeholders have influenced project design and <i>implementation</i> through effective consultation, ⁴⁴ particularly with a view to optimizing community and other stakeholder benefits, respecting local customs, values and institutions and maintaining high conservation values. Project proponents must document consultations and indicate if and how the project design and implementation has been revised based on such input. A plan must be developed and <i>implemented</i> to continue communication and consultation between the project proponents and communities, including all the community groups, and other stakeholders about the project and its impacts to facilitate adaptive management throughout the life of the project.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.9, 2.3.10

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	The MR states that the project adopted village land use plans (VLUPs) created by each village as part of the overall project scheme. These VLUPs are created in a participatory nature, with input coming from representatives, including the sub-villages. The MR states that communities were also able to provide input during village meetings on how financial flow from carbon inputs could be used most effectively. The MR further states that village representatives then prioritized the activities to be funded by REDD project revenue and set their own priorities and spending plans. During site visit interviews and discussions over the VLUPs it was evident that they were created and developed in a participatory nature. Several villages completed their VLUPs before the project started and have been better equipped to implement and enforce them with help from the project. During site visit interviews, it was evident that communities and stakeholders have control over project implementation. After funds are provided to the villages, Carbon Tanzania does not have influence over how funds are used in the villages. CT may provide suggestions, but village government members stated that the decisions are made based on the needs of the community. Additionally, during meetings with members of the Steering Committee, it was stated that CT does not have influence over how revenue funds are split between villages and disperses the funds based on what the Steering Committee decides. Attendance logs for good governance trainings were provided to the verification team, and the trainings were mentioned as being helpful during the site visit. In addition, agendas and attendance logs from Village Council meetings and general meetings were provided to the VVB. While reviewing the relevant sections of the MR, the VVB noted the following: 1. The VVB notes that MR Section 2.3.9 includes a meeting with the Carbon Trading Advisory Committee meeting (also known as "Executive Committee") on 22 July 2024, which is outside of the monitoring period covered by the MR. It is unclear why this information is included. 2. MR Section 2.3.10 states that the creation of the Carbon Trading Advisory Committee was created in response to feedback received from stakeholders. The VVB is requesting clarification on the timeline and implementation of this new committee along with any relevant supporting evidence, especially as it relates to the current monitoring period.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify in line with the findings and update project documents as needed.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	1. The meeting has been removed from the MR 2. The CTAC was not yet created during the MP and the MR has been updated to reflect this.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	Thank you for the clarification on the timeline of the Carbon Trading Advisory Committee. The VVB confirmed that MR Sections 2.3.9 and 2.3.10 have been updated to clarify that the idea of the CTAC was initiated during the monitoring period, and planning stages had begun to form the committee. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	5
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CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.6 - Describe the measures needed and <i>taken</i> to enable effective participation, as appropriate, of all communities, including all the community groups, that want and need to be involved in project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation throughout the project lifetime, and describe how they have been implemented in a culturally appropriate and gender sensitive manner.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.12
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	The MR states that the PP has organized face-to-face meetings with community members to present opportunities to participate in the project. Additionally, PP has suggested women be allowed to be VGS to Villages governments. Based on the governance structures used in the villages, it is evident that that there is effective participation of all community groups that want to be involved in the project. The village government structure is a cultural structure and democratic in nature, which helps ensure that there is participation within the villages. During site visit interviews, the community members stated that even the sub villages are experiencing equal benefits from the project. The MR states that Carbon Champions act as door-to-door educators, which was confirmed during site visit interviews with several Carbon Champions. Additionally, records of individuals who spoke with Carbon Champions during the monitoring period were provided to the VVB. The VVB noted that MR section 2.3.12 states that CT encouraged equal opportunities for all members, with an example being 2 female VGS officers. However, the list of VGS provided to the VVB appears to include significantly more than 2 female VGS.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please ensure the number of female VGS is reported consistently throughout the MR.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	There were 18 female VGS employed during the MP. This has been corrected in the MR.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	The number of female VGS reported in MR Section 2.3.12 now matches the supporting documentation provided (18 VGS). This item is addressed.

Findings Number	6
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CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.8 - Demonstrate that a clear grievance redress procedure has been formalized to address disputes with communities and other stakeholders that may arise during project planning, implementation and evaluation with respect but not limited to, free, prior and informed consent, rights to lands, territories and resources, benefit sharing, and participation. The project shall include a process for receiving, hearing, responding to and attempting to resolve Grievances within a reasonable time period. The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall take into account traditional methods that communities and other stakeholders use to resolve conflicts. The feedback and grievance redress procedure shall have three stages with reasonable time limits for each of the following stages. First, the project proponent shall attempt to amicably resolve all grievances, and provide a written response to the grievances in a manner that is culturally appropriate. Second, any grievances that are not resolved by amicable negotiations shall be referred to mediation by a neutral third party. Third, any grievances that are not resolved through mediation shall be referred either to a) arbitration, to the extent allowed by the laws of the relevant jurisdiction or b) competent courts in the relevant jurisdiction, without prejudice to a party's ability to submit the grievance to a competent supranational adjudicatory body, if any. The feedback and grievance redress procedure must be publicized and accessible to communities and other stakeholders. Grievances and project responses, including any redress, must be documented and made publicly available.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.14, 2.2.5

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR Section 2.3.14 states that no grievances were raised during this monitoring period. Carbon Tanzania has a clear grievance policy that is outlined in the PD and was evaluated during validation. The MR states that there were no grievances raised during the monitoring period, and during site visit interviews no individuals stated they had any grievances with the project. Individuals interviewed said they had no issues with the project, and if they ever did, they would feel comfortable raising them with project staff. Additionally, VGS staff members interviewed stated that they were aware of the formal grievance process as it is a part of their training. As there were no grievances logged during the monitoring period the verification team is unable to determine if the process was implemented appropriately. However, based on site visit interviews and the grievance procedure in place the verification team is confident that any future grievances raised would be handled appropriately. The VVB notes that updates were made to the Grievance Policy during the previous verification and documented as a Project Description Deviation. The PD deviation related to the grievance policy found in MR Section 2.2.5 does not appear to match the PD deviation reported in previous MRs.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please ensure the PD deviation related to the grievance policy is in line with previous MRs.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	The PD deviation has been updated to match the deviation in the previous MR. The previous MR had been updated after this MR was submitted, which caused the discrepancy.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 2.2.5 now includes the PD Deviation related to the grievance procedure that was applied during the previous verification. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	7
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.9 - Describe measures needed and <i>taken</i> to provide orientation and training for the project's workers and relevant people from the communities with an objective of building locally useful skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. These capacity building efforts should target a wide range of people in the communities, with special attention to women and vulnerable and/or marginalized people. Identify how training is passed on to new workers when there is staff turnover, so that local capacity will not be lost.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y

Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.15
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	The MR section 2.3.15 states that there were opportunities for community members to participate in orientations and trainings to gain new knowledge and skills. Capacity has also been built through employment and job training, good governance training, increased project awareness, and carbon champions. Site visit interviews and observations substantiate that there were multiple trainings through CT and other project partners with village government, VGS officers, COCOBA members, and carbon champions that occurred during the monitoring period. Individuals stated that the trainings were helpful and taught them valuable information. COCOBA members stated that the trainings were very valuable to them and for their businesses, and that they would like even more trainings to continue to grow their businesses. VGS officers spoke of attending the Pasiansi Institute in previous years, where they received military/ranger training from professionals. The MR states that 16 carbon champions participated in the environment education program during this period. While supporting evidence that 16 carbon champions were employed during the monitoring period was provided to the VVB, it is unclear if the carbon champions received training during the monitoring period.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify if carbon champions received training during the monitoring period and provide supporting evidence as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	Evidence has been added to the dropbox folder. See Carbon Champion Employees Training attendances folder.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	Attendance logs for Carbon Champion training sessions were provided to the VVB, and demonstrate that 16 Carbon Champions received training during the monitoring period. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	8
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G3-Stakeholder Engagement
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G3.10 - <i>Demonstrate</i> that people from the communities are given an equal opportunity to fill all work positions (including management) if the job requirements are met. Explain how workers are selected for positions and where relevant, describe the measures needed and taken to ensure community members, including women and vulnerable and/or marginalized people, are given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y

Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.3.16 (CCB_VCS_2024_MR_1897_19052023-18052024_20241220)
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	The VVB reviewed MR Section 2.3.16, however the information does not appear to be up to date for the current monitoring period (i.e. "Lastly, as noted during the project visit, CT's most recent direct hire (the second one in the project) is a female community member in the position of community finance officer.")
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please ensure the MR is up to date with information for the current monitoring period.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	Section 2.3.16 has been revised.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 2.3.16 has been updated with information current to the monitoring period. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	9
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G4 - Management Capacity
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G4.2 - Document key technical skills required to implement the project successfully, including community engagement, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills. Document the management team's expertise and prior experience implementing land management and carbon projects at the scale of this project. If relevant experience is lacking, the proponents must either demonstrate how other organizations are partnered with to support the project or have a recruitment strategy to fill the gaps.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.4.2
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR Section 2.4.2 does not appear to be up to date for the current monitoring period (i.e. mentions of Frank and Faraja).
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please ensure the MR includes up to date information for the current monitoring period.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	Section 2.4.2 has been revised

Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 2.4.2 has been updated to remove information that is no longer relevant to the project. The current management team's technical skills and expertise is documented, demonstrating that the team has the skills required to successfully implement the project. This item is addressed.
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Findings Number	10
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G4 - Management Capacity
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G4.3 - Document the financial health of the implementing organization(s). Provide assurance that the project proponent and any of the other entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in or are not complicit in any form of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favoritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion, and describe any measures needed and taken to be able to provide this assurance.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.4.4; 2.4.5; CT BUSINESS PLAN Final TCA_FINAL_17.07.2024.pdf
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	There is a clear statement in the MR that all forms of bribery and corruption are prohibited. Interviews and discussions with CT, project management staff, Village Council representatives, District Government representatives, and community members did not identify any concerns or indications that the project is complicit in any form of corruption. The VVB reviewed the Carbon Tanzania Business Plan referenced in Section 2.4.4 of the MR, however annual audit reports were not provided.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please provide the supporting documents mentioned in MR Section 2.4.4.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	The audit reports have been provided in the dropbox folder. See Annual Audit Folder.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	Audited financial reports were provided to the VVB, which conclude that the "financial statements give a true and fair view of the financial position of CT Limited (the Company) as at 31 December 2023, and of its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance IFRS Accounting Standards and the requirements of the Companies Act, No 12 of 2002." The VVB is reasonably assured that the financial health of CT is in good standing. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	11
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G5 - Legal Status and Property Rights

CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G5.5 - Identify any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over rights to lands, territories and resources and also any disputes that were resolved during the last twenty years where such records exist, or at least during the last ten years. If applicable, describe measures <i>needed</i> and <i>taken</i> to resolve conflicts or disputes. <i>Demonstrate</i> that no activity is undertaken by the project that could prejudice the outcome of an unresolved dispute relevant to the project over lands, territories and resources in the project zone.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.5.10; site visit interviews, observations
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR Section 2.5.10 states the VLUP process has resolved previous land disputes involving the village forest reserves through participatory planning and mapping with stakeholders and that the plans are now widely recognized and legally enforceable. PD Section 2.5.6 states that there were no ongoing or historical disputes between stakeholders over land ownership or resource use within the project area, and further states that stakeholders were engaged in the planning of all land and resource ownership. The MR states that the VLUP process has resolved any land disputes that previously affected the project area. Site visit interviews substantiated that the VLUP were created in a participatory manner. During site visit interviews there was no evidence that there are ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes over land rights. MR Section 2.5.10 implies that only 3 villages have Village Land Committees for resolving disputes. It is unclear if this statement is accurate.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify in line with the findings and update project documents as needed.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	Section 2.5.10 has been updated to clarify that these are ward-level councils.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	Thank you for the additional clarification. MR Section 2.3.10 now clearly states that all villages have a Land Use Committee, and that Katuma, Mwese, and Mpembe have ward level Land Councils. These statements match the information gathered during site visit interviews. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	12
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	G5 - Legal Status and Property Rights

CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator G5.6 - Submit a list of all national and local laws and regulations in the host country that are relevant to the project activities. Provide assurance that the project is complying with these and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 2.5.1
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR section 2.5.1 includes a list of national and local laws and regulations that are relevant to the project activity. The 2023 Tanzania Carbon Trading Regulation came into effect during the monitoring period. Section 48 of the regulations states ""48.-(1) Any person engaged in carbon trading project before coming into operation of these Regulations shall be required to comply with the provision these Regulations after coming into operation of the regulations.. (2) Without prejudice to the of subregulation (1), the Designated National Authority or National Focal Point may grant to the Proponent a transition period of not more than one year to allow the proponent to comply with the requirement of these Regulations."" The project proponent provided details of the regulation to the VVB for review. It is unclear from MR section 2.5.1 what actions were taken to ensure the project complies with the new regulation and if supporting evidence has been provided to the VVB. Additionally, the regulation appears to have been adopted into law on 28 October 2022. The monitoring period for this verification is 19 May 2023 – 18 May 2024, and 1 year from the date of the regulation would be 29th of October 2023. Accordingly, it is unclear how the project is not currently out of compliance. Please clarify and provide any related supporting documentation.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	A description of the government proceedings to allow the continued transition of the new carbon trading framework has been added to Section 2.5.1 of the MR along with a supporting letter that allows CT to continue the transition.

Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	The VVB acknowledges revisions to MR Section 2.5.1 made to provide clarification and context for the status of the project's conformance with the Environmental Management (Control and Management of Carbon Trading) Regulations, 2022 (as amended 2023) (Carbon Trading Regulations). The VVB assessed the revised description along with supporting documentation against requirements under Indicator G5.6 for demonstrating how compliance was achieved for the reporting period. 1. MR Section 2.5.1 states that "Projects are both still registered on the national registry by NCMC / the DNA." On 5 August 2025 the VVB reviewed the Carbon Registry maintained by The United Republic of Tanzania National Carbon Monitoring Centre (NCMC). The VVB confirmed that on the date reviewed, the Ntakata project is listed with a status of "LoE proceed with project implementation", indicating the project has received the appropriate Letter of Endorsement as required under the Carbon Trading Regulations. The Carbon Registry indicates the date of application for the Ntakata project as "05-June-23", which falls within the reporting period for the project's 5th CCB/VCS verification. The VVB was unable to determine from the Carbon Registry review the date of the LoE issuance or whether the listing on the Carbon Registry would constitute confirmation the project was in conformance with the Carbon Trading Regulations for the full reporting period. The LoE has not been provided for VVB review and relevant information on this status was not able to be located within the MR. 2. MR Section 2.5.1 states that on 5 June 2023 the project proponent met with the NCMC and came to an agreement that pre-existing validated contracts and verified credits for carbon credit sales would be honored under the original terms, and the transitional period would apply to allow the project to align with the new regulatory framework. MR Section 2.5.1 also states that on 13 November 2023 the Minister of Environment "confirmed project figures and formally approved revenue allocation at a public event, after validation with NCMC". The VVB has not been provided with documentation supporting meeting agreements reached in the 5 June 2023 meeting, or documentation for the MoE approval provided on 13 November 2023. 3. MR Section 2.5.7 states "Additionally, during the monitoring period, a revised contract was signed with the villages to comply with updated Tanzania carbon trading regulations." Feedback provided to the VVB during site visit interviews indicated that a new contract had been signed with the Villages, with the contract updated based on the new Carbon Trading Regulations, including the new required percentage allocations, and also extending the contract from the original 30 years for an additional 10 years. The VVB reviewed a copy of the updated forest carbon project implementation agreement, carbon rights transfer and revenue sharing document ("Revised Contracts for Ntakata Project_20.pdf"), and confirmed the document has an execution date of 5 March 2024, demonstrating the new contract was executed during the reporting period.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DATE)	CL: Please provide appropriate clarification in line with findings 1 and 2 and provide supporting evidence as requested.

Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DATE)	"1. The LOE has been provided to the VVB. Please note that this document is confidential. 2. No meeting minutes exist from the NCMC meeting, but a photograph of the MoE at the described event provides proof that the MoE attended the event discussed in the MR and that the MoE approved of the ongoing carbon projects, both of which were discussed at the event."
Aster Global Findings Round 3 (DATE)	1. An LOE was provided for the Makame project, however a letter of endorsement referencing the Ntakata project was not provided. 2. The project provided a photo of the Minister of Environment presenting a check to the project, which provides further assurance that the project is in compliance with all national laws and regulations. This item is addressed.
Round 3 NCR/CL/OFI (DATE)	NCR: Please provide the LOE for the Ntakata project.
Round 3 Response from Project Proponent (DATE)	1. The LOE has been provided to the VVB. See "Endorsement-Ntakata Mountain.pdf"
Aster Global Findings Final (DATE)	The Letter of Endorsement (LoE) was provided to the VVB and dated 31 October 2023, stating the Makame project is in compliance with Tanzania's national priorities, strategies, and plans, and that the government endorses the project. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	13
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	CM2 - Net Positive Community Impacts
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator CM2.2 - Describe measures needed and <i>taken</i> to mitigate any negative well-being impacts on community groups and for maintenance or enhancement of the high conservation value attributes (identified in CM1.2) consistent with the precautionary principle.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	N
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 4.1.2, site visit observations

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR section 4.1.2 outlines the negative community impact mitigation measures taken during the monitoring period. The main negative impact mentioned in the MR is the availability of new agricultural land over time. Mitigation efforts that took place during the reporting period include microfinancing and entrepreneurship through COCOBAs. The VVB notes that a Forward Action Request (FAR) was issued during the previous verification period to determine if concerns over lack of agriculture land is due to project activities or other factors. This FAR was issued on June 10 2024, and therefore it would not have been possible for the project proponent to address this FAR for the current monitoring period. The VVB is re-issuing the FAR.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	FAR: During the next monitoring period, the VVB will review the actions taken by the project proponent to determine if concerns over lack of agricultural land is due to project activities or other factors.

Findings Number	14
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	CM4 - Community Impact Monitoring
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator CM4.1 - Develop and implement a monitoring plan that identifies community variables to be monitored, communities, community groups and other stakeholders to be monitored, the types of measurements, the sampling methods, and the frequency of monitoring and reporting. Monitoring variables must be directly linked to the project's objectives for communities and community groups and to predicted outputs, outcomes and impacts identified in the project's causal model related to the well-being of communities (described in G1.8). Monitoring must assess differentiated impacts, including and benefits, costs and risks, for each of the community groups and must include an evaluation by the affected community groups.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 4.3.1; evidence in folders 2.2.7 Risks to the Project, 2.3.15 Worker training, 2.5.6 Benefit sharing mechanism, 2.2.8 Benefit Permanence

Aster Global Findings (DATE)	MR Section 4.3.1 provides a table listing monitored activities and provides a summary of results. PD Appendix 5 outlines the Community Monitoring Framework including objectives, activities, terms, indicator/outputs, and frequency of monitoring. The monitoring plan results presented in the MR cover each of the activities identified by the Community Monitoring Framework presented in the validated PD and in the Community Monitoring Plan (CMP). For activities that were monitored during the current monitoring period, supporting evidence was provided demonstrating how the activity was monitored. Evidence provided included training logs for good governance; logs of individuals who interacted with carbon champions and their level of understanding; reports from VGS patrols documenting poaching incidents, wires and snares removed, agricultural clearing land incidents, and illegal timber harvesting; COCOBA membership lists; payment disbursement plans and receipts. Site visit observations and interviews substantiated the supporting evidence provided for the community monitoring results presented in the MR. While reviewing Section 4.3.1 of the MR, the VVB noted the following: 1. The table in section 4.3.1 states that 36 VGS were trained at the Pasiansi Institute. This training is not mentioned in other sections of the MR, and the VVB was unable to locate supporting evidence of this training in the documents provided. It is unclear if the Pasiansi training occurred during the monitoring period.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify in line with the finding and provide supporting evidence as available.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	The training did not occur during this MP. The MR has been updated to clarify that the 36 VGS have been trained at Pasiansi at some point.
Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 4.3.1 has been updated to clarify that VGS have been trained at the Pasiansi institute, but no longer implies it occurred during the monitoring period. This item is addressed.

Findings Number	15
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	GL2 - Exceptional Community Benefits

CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator GL2.4 - Identify community groups that are marginalized and/or vulnerable. <i>Demonstrate</i> that the project generates net positive impacts on the well-being of all identified marginalized and/or vulnerable community groups. <i>Demonstrate</i> that any barriers or risks that might prevent benefits going to marginalized and/or vulnerable smallholder/community members have been identified and addressed. <i>Demonstrate</i> that measures are taken to identify any marginalized and/or vulnerable smallholders/community members, whose well-being may be negatively affected by the project, and that measures are taken to avoid, or when unavoidable to mitigate, any such impacts.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 4.4.2
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	PD Section 4.5.4 identifies two marginalized and/or vulnerable community groups within the project zone: poor households, and women in the villages. The MR provides positive impacts for two identified potentially marginalized or vulnerable community groups. The MR states there are no negative impacts anticipated for either community group, implying a net positive impact. The MR also identifies potential risks to the groups but offers a solution to mitigate risks. During site visit interviews, members of the village government stated that they purposely sought out the poor and vulnerable in their village to ask what they needed. Review of project documentation, site visit observations, and site visit interviews substantiate the project is generating net positive benefits on the well-being of poor households and women, has identified and has taken steps to address risks that might prevent benefits from going to these groups. MR section 4.4.2 states that the project relies on verbal communication and door to door meetings through carbon champions and reproductive health officers. It is unclear if there are still reproductive health officers making door to door visits throughout the project area. The VVB notes that this statement was removed from previous MRs. Please clarify if reproductive health officers made door to door visits to women during the reporting period and provide supporting evidence or update the MR as appropriate.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	CL: Please clarify if reproductive health officers made door to door visits to women during the reporting period and provide supporting evidence or update the MR as appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	This was corrected in a previous MR and has been corrected here because reproductive health is no longer being directly monitored.

Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	MR Section 4.4.2 no longer states that reproductive health officers made door-to-door visits. This item is addressed.
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Findings Number	16
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Section)	GL2 - Exceptional Community Benefits
CCB Standards v3.1 21 June 2017 (Description)	Indicator GL2.6 - Describe the design and implementation of a benefit sharing mechanism, demonstrating that smallholders/community members have fully and effectively participated in defining the decision-making process and the distribution mechanism for benefit sharing; and demonstrating transparency, including on project funding and costs as well as on benefit distribution.
Requirement Met (Y, N, or Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess (Location in PD, MR or Supporting Documents)	MR Section 4.4.4, 2.5.6
Aster Global Findings (DATE)	Section 4.4.4 of the MR presents the information required for this indicator. During the site visit the audit team spoke with community members who are part of the Steering Committee that determines how much of the carbon revenue each village will get and through interviews the audit team confirmed that the benefit sharing mechanism is being implemented as described in the validated PD. The Steering Committee confirmed that revenue disbursements are agreed upon by the communities and Carbon Tanzania does not have influence over how funds are split but does execute payments based on what the Committee decides. Evidence of payments made to the villages was provided to the VVB, along with steering committee meeting minutes. The VVB notes that MR Sections 2.5.6 and 4.4.4 state that "Together all eight villages receive 50% of the net revenues from sales with 50% remaining with CT to cover its operating costs and invest in new projects." It is unclear if this statement is still accurate after the implementation of the new Carbon Regulation in Tanzania and implementation of new contracts with the villages.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI (30 May 2025)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and update project documents (in all relevant sections) as needed.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent (20 June 2025)	See response to finding 12.

Aster Global Findings Round 2 (DATE)	The VVB reviewed the response to Finding 12, as well as the updated contracts between the 8 villages and CT signed in March 2024. Section 11a of the updated contract states that the forest owner will receive 51% of the gross revenue from the sale of certified carbon credits. Since the new contracts were signed during the monitoring period, it is unclear why the MR (sections 2.5.6 and 4.4.4) does not reflect or mention this update to the benefit sharing splits as a result of the new carbon regulation.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI (DATE)	NCR: Please address in line with the finding and update project documents (in all relevant sections) as needed.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent (DATE)	The MR has been updated to reflect the actual revenue split between CT and the communities.
Aster Global Findings Round 3 (DATE)	Sections 2.5.6 and 4.4.4 of the MR have been updated to reflect the current revenue split. This item is addressed.