



CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION OF THE MANGROVE ECOSYSTEM IN THE GAMBIA THROUGH THE REDD+ MECHANISM

Document Prepared by Ørsted with significant support from Department of Parks and Wildlife Management Gambia (DPWM), Sahel Wetlands Concern (SWC), Kombo Foni Forestry Association (KOMFFORA), West African Bird Study Association (WABSA), S2 Services Limited (S2 Services) and Forests & Wetlands Consulting (FWC),

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1 PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Description of the Project

The project is initiated by the Government of The Gambia to secure the long-term sustainability and maintenance of the mangrove reforestation and avoided degradation activities through the certification and selling of carbon credits. The main project proponent is the Government of Gambia through the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) who also holds the Project Ownership. The project is implemented by DPWM and the three Gambian NGO's Sahel Wetlands Concern (SWC), West African Bird Study Association (WABSA) and Kombo Foni Forestry Association (KOMFFORA). Ørsted Nature Based Solutions (Ørsted) is also a project proponent and is responsible for the development of the VCS and CCB project documentation processes together with the Gambian and Cameroon based partners.

The project is a grouped project that aims to generate greenhouse gas emission removals and reductions through mangrove reforestation and avoided degradation, including wetland restoration and conservation activities. The project area covers the entire mangrove landscape (both intact and degraded areas) of The Gambia, covering more than 100,000 ha, and project activities will be included gradually on the basis of appropriateness for rehabilitation and avoided degradation of mangrove, community involvement and financial resources available. The reforestation and restoration project activities are estimated to have an average annual amount of emission reductions (ER's) of 68,032 assuming that 10,000 hectares will be restored over five years and accounting for 30 years. The First project activity instance is expected to generate approximately 1392 ERs on average/year over a 30 year period.

Reforestation will as a start be the main component of the project. Reforestation of degraded mangrove areas will take place in selected locations considering the ecological conditions and with the involvement of local communities, government, departments and NGO's. The project is designed to actively engage communities in rehabilitation and maintenance activities to ensure ownership and alignment with community preferences as well as contributing to community development. The project also seeks to improve biodiversity.

The project area is illustrated in figure 1 and the project area covers all mangrove regions of The Gambia. The regions are;

- West Coast Region (WCR)
- Lower River Region (LRR)
- Greater Banjul Area (GBA)
- North Bank Region (NBR)
- Central River Region (CRR)

Currently, and thus prior to project implementation, the project area is overall comprised by areas characterized by both degraded mangroves with tidal barriers, natural intact giant and short mangroves and newly planted mangrove areas. Within this project's first project activity instance (PAI#1), the project zone is characterized as degraded mangrove area with tidal barriers, and project activities will thus entail hydrological connection of the impounded water and reforestation of approximately 150 ha mangrove in the area around Joreng/Bitang Bolong. The exact area will be mapped in July 2022. Communities within this area is and will be actively engaged in the project activities such as stakeholder meetings, selection of reforestation sites, hydrological engineering and planting of the mangrove.

Generally, the mangrove dependent communities (Approximately 80% of Gambia's population) and those living adjacent to mangroves are characterized by a rural environment where the most common land use activities are traditional forms of land use, livestock, and agricultural activities (mainly rice cultivation). Human activities such as collection of wood for fuels, infrastructural changes and other anthropogenic activities are important drivers of mangrove degradation in The Gambia, and mangrove restoration activities should and will therefore be addressed in a manner that both contribute to mitigation of climate change, improving livelihoods of the mangrove-dependent communities and increasing the biodiversity conditions.

The project's climate, community and biodiversity objectives therefore are:

- 1) To contribute to mitigation of climate change through removal of carbon from the atmosphere through mangrove growth and avoidance of emissions through avoided deforestation and degradation of mangrove habitats.
- 2) To improve livelihoods in the mangrove-dependent communities in the Gambia through increased job opportunities, improvement and increase of available natural resources and overall increase in well-being.
- 3) Improve environmental conditions, restore ecological services and enhancing biodiversity through restoration of wetlands including mangrove planting and avoided mangrove degradation and deforestation.

1.2 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

This project is a grouped project that falls within sectoral scope 14; Agriculture, Forestry and Land Use.

The project category applied in the project instance included in this Project Description (PAI#1) is the combined category of RWE (Wetland restoration activities) + ARR (Afforestation, reforestation, and revegetation activities). For future added instances, the combined category of CIW (Conservation of intact wetlands) + REDD (Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation) may be applied, with the REDD component consisting of the project activity type AD (avoiding forest degradation) and/or AUDD (Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and forest Degradation), and the CIW component consisting of the project activity type AUWD (avoiding unplanned wetland degradation).

1.3 Project Eligibility

In the VCS standard V4.2 in section 2.1 “Scope of VCS program”, the scope of the VCS program is defined. As justified in table 1 below, this grouped project falls within the scope.

Table 1: Justification of project eligibility under the VCS program

Scope of the VCS program, as stated in the VCS standard V4.2	Justification that the project is within the scope
The six Kyoto Protocol greenhouse gases.	The project takes into consideration the emission reductions of CO ₂ , N ₂ O and CH ₄ . All three gasses are counted as a Kyoto protocol greenhouse gas.
Ozone-depleting substances.	Not part of the project scope.
Project activities supported by a methodology approved under the VCS Program through the methodology approval process.	All applied project activities are supported under the chosen Verra methodology VM0007 V1.6.
Project activities supported by a methodology approved under an approved GHG program, unless explicitly excluded (see the Verra website for exclusions).	Not part of the project scope, as all applied project activities are supported under the chosen Verra methodology VM0007 V1.6.
Jurisdictional REDD+ programs and nested REDD+ projects as set out in the VCS Program document Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) Requirements.	If REDD project instances are applied in the future, they are to be implemented as set out in the VCS Program document Jurisdictional and Nested REDD+ (JNR) Requirements.
The project does include any of the following project activities: 1) <i>Activities that reduce hydrofluorocarbon-23 (HFC-23) emissions</i> 2) <i>Grid-connected electricity generation using hydro power plants/units</i>	The project does not include any of the listed project activities.

- 3) *Grid-connected electricity generation using wind, geothermal, or solar power plants/units*
- 4) *Utilization of recovered waste heat for, inter alia, combined cycle electricity generation and the provision of heat for residential, commercial or industrial use*
- 5) *Generation of electricity and/or thermal energy using biomass. This does not include efficiency improvements in thermal applications (e.g., cook stoves).*
- 6) *Generation of electricity and/or thermal energy using fossil fuels, including activities that involve switching from a higher carbon content fuel to a lower carbon content fuel*
- 7) *Replacement of electric lighting with more energy efficient electric lighting, such as the replacement of incandescent electrical bulbs with CFLs or LEDs*
- 8) *Installation and/or replacement of electricity transmission lines and/or energy efficient transformers*

1.4 Project Design

- ☐ The project includes a single location or installation only
- ☐ The project includes multiple locations or project activity instances, but is not being developed as a grouped project

- ☒ The project is a grouped project

Eligibility Criteria

As this project is a grouped project, any instance implemented after validation must comply with section 3.5.15 of the VCS standard 4.2. Therefore, a set of eligibility criteria is defined for each project activity category combination. Any future instances shall meet the applicable set of eligibility criteria. As the project instance covered by this Project Description consists of only one combined project activity category of ARR+RWE, one set of eligibility is defined in this Project Description. However, if future instances of the category REDD+CIW are added, an additional set of eligibility criteria are to be defined and validated.

Eligibility criteria of the combined project activity category ARR+RWE:

- 1) Meet the applicability conditions set out in the VM0007 Methodology version 1.6.
- 2) Use technologies or measures similar to the specified in this project description for the first instance and apply them in the same manner. New instances will consist of mangrove restoration through planting and/or alteration of hydrology to restore the original mangrove ecosystem and its physical attributes.
- 3) Be subject to the baseline scenario determined in section 3.4 of this Project Description, covering the project activity ARR+RWE within the geographical boundaries of this grouped project.
- 4) Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with that of the first instance, as described in section 3.5 "additionality".

Criteria for inclusion of all new project activities:

- 1) Occur within the designated geographic area of this grouped project.
- 2) Comply with at least one complete set of eligibility criteria for the inclusion of new project activity instances. Partial compliance with multiple sets of eligibility criteria is insufficient.
- 3) Be included in the monitoring report with sufficient technical, financial, geographic and other relevant information to demonstrate compliance with the applicable set of eligibility criteria and enable sampling by the validation/verification body.
- 4) Be validated at the time of verification against the applicable set of eligibility criteria.

- 5) Have evidence of project ownership, in respect of each project activity instance, held by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance.
- 6) Have a start date that is the same as or later than the grouped project start date.
- 7) Be eligible for crediting from the start date of the instance through to the end of the project crediting period only.

1.5 Project Proponent

Organization name	Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM), Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources (MECCNR)
Contact person	Mohamed Lamin Kassama
Title	Director
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Organization name	Ørsted Nature Based Solutions A/S (Ørsted)
Contact person	Morten Pedersen
Title	Lead Climate Advisor
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Email	Mrped@orsted.com

1.6 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	Sahel Wetlands Concern (SWC)
Role in the project	Support to project development and implementing partner

Contact person	Kawsu Jammeh
Title	Chairman Board of Director
Address	Abuko Nature Reserve, West Coast Region, The Gambia
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Email	biodiversity.peace@gmail.com ; sahelwet2007@gmail.com ; jammeh.kawsu@gmail.com

Organization name	Kombo Foni Forestry Association (KOMFFORA)
Role in the project	Support to project development and implementing partner
Contact person	Seeku JANKO
Title	Project Coordinator
Address	Kafuta village, Kombo East, West Coast Region, The Gambia
Telephone	(+220) 515 4197
Email	komffora@yahoo.com

Organization name	West African Bird Study Association (WABSA)
Role in the project	Support to project development and implementing partner
Contact person	Lamin Jobaate
Title	Executive Director
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Organization name	S2 Services Limited (S2 Services)
Role in the project	Support to project development
Contact person	Durando Ndongsok

Title	Managing Director
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Organization name	Forests & Wetlands Consulting (FWC)
Role in the project	Support to project development
Contact person	Dr. Gordon Ajonina
Title	Managing Director
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1.7 Project Ownership

The project ownership, defined as the legal right to control and operate the program activities, belongs to The Government Of The Gambia, represented by The Ministry Of Environment, Climate Change And Natural Resources. This is by virtue of The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources' (MECCNAR) overall responsibility of overseeing and coordinating the development and implementation of policies and programs relevant to the environment, climate change, and natural resources management in the Gambia.

Project ownership thus belongs to the ministry by virtue of the ministry's statutory right in the implementation process, land right and vegetation, conservational and management process that generates the project's GHG emission reductions^{1, 2}.

Additionally, a Voluntary Carbon Unit Purchase Agreement (VCUPA) has been signed between The Government of Gambia and Ørsted covering the selling of all Carbon Credits generated by the project to Ørsted over the entire project crediting period.

1 [pdf-view.pdf \(rmpportal.net\)](https://pdf-view.pdf(rmpportal.net))

2 [Mandate | Ministry of Environment, Climate Change & Natural Resources Republic of The Gambia \(gov.gm\)](#)

1.8 Project Start Date

The project start date, equivalent to the first project crediting period start date, will be the first day where the planting of mangrove propagules will take place, which is expected to be July 01, 2022, as this is the date when the project starts generating GHG emission removals.

1.9 Project Crediting Period

The project crediting period is the same as the assessment period is expected to run from July 01, 2022 to July 01, 2052 with an initial lifetime of 30 years. However, in the VCUPA (verified carbon unit purchase agreement) between the two project proponents, the possibility of extending the crediting period to 100 years in total has been agreed.

1.10 Project Scale and Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

The estimated annual GHG emission reductions/removals of the project are:

- ☐ <20,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☒ 20,000 – 100,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☐ 100,001 – 1,000,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☐ >1,000,000 tCO₂e/year

The 20,000-100,000 tCO₂e/year is the expected interval of reductions/removals from the grouped project as a whole.

Project Scale	
Project	x
Large project	

Table 2: Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals from PAI#1 and the grouped project.

Year	Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e) from PAI#1	Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e) from the grouped project (in this estimate only including ARR+RWE project activities)
2022	0	0
2023	1	1

2024	6	13
2025	828	908
2026	862	11159
2027	894	22651
2028	950	34585
2029	1091	47263
2030	1222	50761
2031	1363	55566
2032	1503	61818
2033	1634	69182
2034	1748	76410
2035	1840	83408
2036	1908	89753
2037	1952	95127
2038	1972	99338
2039	1972	102306
2040	1954	104045
2041	1922	104643
2042	1878	104230
2043	1826	102962
2044	1768	101003
2045	1706	98513
2046	1643	95639
2047	1580	92511
2048	1518	89240
2049	1459	85919

2050	1402	82620
2051	1348	79399
Total estimated ERs	<i>41.751</i>	<i>2.040.972</i>
Total number of crediting years	30	30
Average annual ERs	1.392	68.032

1.11 Description of the Project Activity

Project activity ARR

In the Grouped project, the ARR project activity consists of planting mangrove trees in degraded mangrove habitat where the mangrove ecosystem is either partly damaged or completely deforested. The species of mangrove trees to be planted depends on availability and the ecological conditions in the specific PAI area (salinity, tidal regime, mangrove species already present and so forth). The species chosen will always consist of species native to The Gambia. Potential species to be planted include Rhizophora Mangle, Rhizophora Racemosa, Rhizophora Harisonii, Avicennia Germinans, Avicennia Africana and Laguncularia racemosa)

In PAI#1, the whole area is completely deforested, and the species planted is Rhizophora Mangle. In most of the area of PAI#1, the trees will be planted with a density of 10.000 trees per hectare, as such density in previous mangrove restoration initiatives within The Gambia of the same species has proven successful. However, to test whether a smaller planting density would as well prove successful, a smaller area of PAI#1 is planted with a density of 5000 trees per hectare. Areas planted with 10.000 trees per hectare and areas planted with 5000 trees per hectare is in PAI#1 classified as separate stratas. The planting regime of future PAI's will depend on the success of the two different strata in PAI#1. See figure xx for map showing the different strata and table xx for additional information regarding the strata's (figure xx and table xx are to be added in the final Project Description).

Project activity RWE

In the grouped project, the RWE project activity consists of re-establishing the natural vegetation of the areas (covered by the ARR activity) and, where necessary, altering the hydrology to re-establish the hydrology of the once intact mangrove ecosystem. This can include activities such as digging canals and altering roads and dams.

In PAI#1, digging of canals will be performed in some of the areas, where necessary. Areas of PAI#1 where the hydrology has been altered and areas where it was not deemed necessary are

divided into two different strata. See figure xx for map showing the different strata and table xx for additional information regarding the strata's (figure xx and table xx are to be added in the final Project Description).

Project activity AUDD

In this project, the Avoiding Unplanned Deforestation and/or Degradation (AUDD) category includes activities that reduce net GHG emissions by stopping mangrove deforestation and/or degradation of degraded to mature mangrove forests that would have occurred in the mangrove forest configuration. Project activities could include the development of alternative activities such as the improvement of agricultural practices, promotion of sustainable agriculture and fisheries and strengthening of technical, financial and material capacities of conservation services. More exact information regarding which measures are applied in this project are to be provided if a PAI with such category is added in the future.

Project activity AD

In this project, the Avoiding degradation (Fuelwood/Charcoal) category includes activities that reduce the net GHG emissions by stopping unsustainable fuelwood collection in the mangrove ecosystem. More exact information regarding which measures are applied in this project are to be provided if a PAI with such category is added in the future.

Project activity CIW

Overall, project activities conserving tidal wetlands are to protect at-risk wetlands, maintain or improve water quality, improve water management on drained wetlands, recharge sediment to avoid drowning of coastal wetlands and creating accommodation space for wetlands migrating with sea-level rise. These activities can be carried out by establishing conservation easements, community supported management agreements, establishing protective government regulations, and preventing disruption of water and/ or sediment supply to wetland areas. More exact information regarding which measures are applied in this project are to be provided if a PAI with such category is added in the future.

1.12 Project Location

The grouped project geographic boundary corresponds to all intact, degraded and deforested mangrove areas within The Gambia. The following are the regions that will be considered as project boundary:

West Coast Region (WCR)

Lower River Region (LRR)

Greater Banjul Area (GBA)

North Bank Region (NBR)

Central River Region (CRR)

In figure 1, the above regions are illustrated.

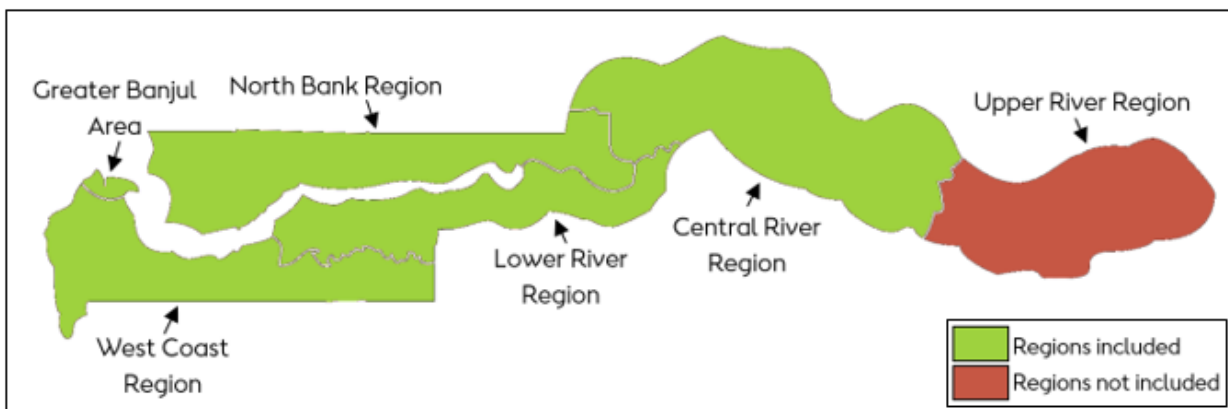


Figure 1: Grouped Project boundary

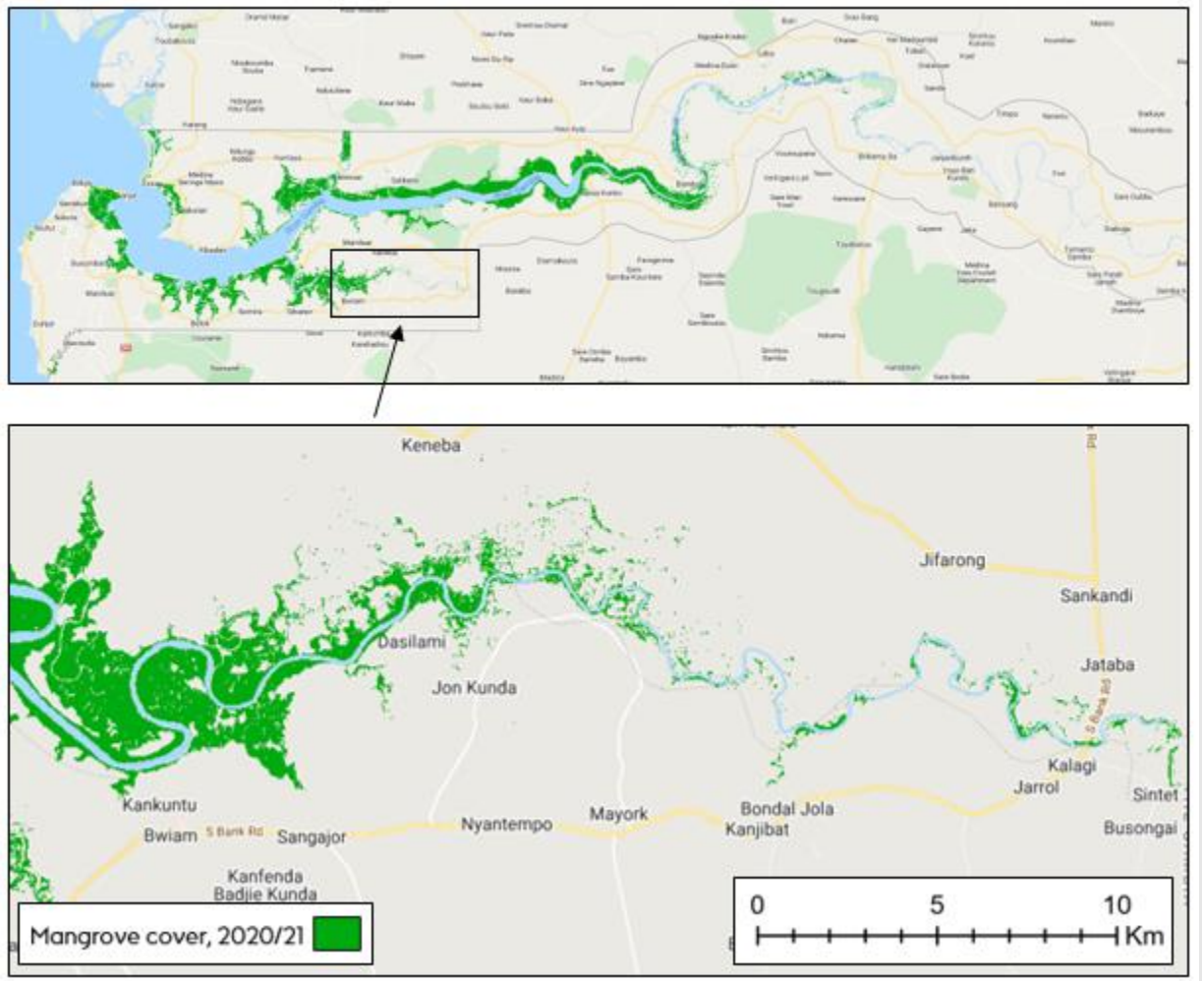
Geodetic coordinates of each region included in the grouped project boundary will be available in in the final Project Description.

See table 3 and figure x for the exact location of the first project instance (PAI#1). The figure and finished table will be available and finalized in the final Project Description. See figure 2 for a map showing the current mangrove distribution along the Bintang Bolong river where PAI#1 are located.

Table 3: Location of the first project instance (PAI#1)

Region	Rural community	Area (ha)
Lower River Region (LRR)	To be added in the final Project Description	To be added in the final Project Description
	To be added in the final Project Description	To be added in the final Project Description
West Coast Region (WCR)	To be added in the final Project Description	To be added in the final Project Description
	To be added in the final Project Description	To be added in the final Project Description

Figure 2: Map showing the mangrove distribution in 2020/21 in the five regions included in the grouped project, and a detailed map showing the mangrove distribution in 2020/21 along the Bintang Bolon river where the first project instance PAI#1 is located. Clearly defined polygons and geographical coordinates defining the exact spatial boundaries of PAI#1 are to be added in the final project description.



Eligibility assessment of the first project instance (PAI#1) according to the requirements set out in the applied methodology VM0007:

ARR: The project area has not been cleared of native ecosystems to create GHG emissions reductions/removals. The reasons behind the degradation of the mangrove in the project area are presented in section 1.13.

WRC: The project area meets the definition as provided in the VCS standard, as the area meets the internationally accepted definition of wetland defined in the Ramsar Convention on wetlands. In article 1.1 of the convention, wetlands are defined as follows: "For the purpose of this Convention wetlands are areas of marsh, fen, peatland or water, whether natural or artificial, permanent or temporary, with water that is static or flowing,

fresh, brackish or salt, including areas of marine water the depth of which at low tide does not exceed six metres.” As the project area is an area that in its natural state was temporarily covered by saline water that does not exceed six metres of depth, the area is classified as wetland.

The intact wetland area was not converted to create GHG emissions reductions/removals.

In section 4, It is through the appliance of the Module X-STR confirmed that the difference between the remaining SOC stock in the project and baseline scenarios after 100 years is significant.

The effects of sea-level rise on project boundaries are considered through the appliance of the Module X-STR in section 4.

1.13 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

Has the land been cleared of native ecosystems within 10 years of the project start date?

☐ Yes

☒ No

Ecosystem type

Prior to project initiation the project ecosystem type covered by the group project is characterized as degraded mangrove habitat areas, intact mangrove or newly planted mangrove. For PAI#1 specifically, the ecosystem type is degraded mangrove areas that are practically bare land with only few adjacent mangrove habitats surrounding it.

Current and historical land use

The historic land use in the project area of PAI#1 can be found in the below figure 3, illustrating that the project area is wetlands that has historically been covered by mangrove habitats. Prior to the implementation of project activities in PAI#1, the area was characterised as very degraded mangrove habitat with practically all mangrove trees having disappeared. The area was abandoned and not used for any kind of agricultural activities. See picture 1 for picture of the land use prior to mangrove planting in PAI#1.

The land has not been cleared of its native ecosystems within 10 years of the project start date. The main reason behind the degradation is identified as the construction of a dam in Senegal

that severely altered the hydrology of the area. In 2005/2006, the blockade was removed, but the mangrove habitat has not been able to recover naturally.

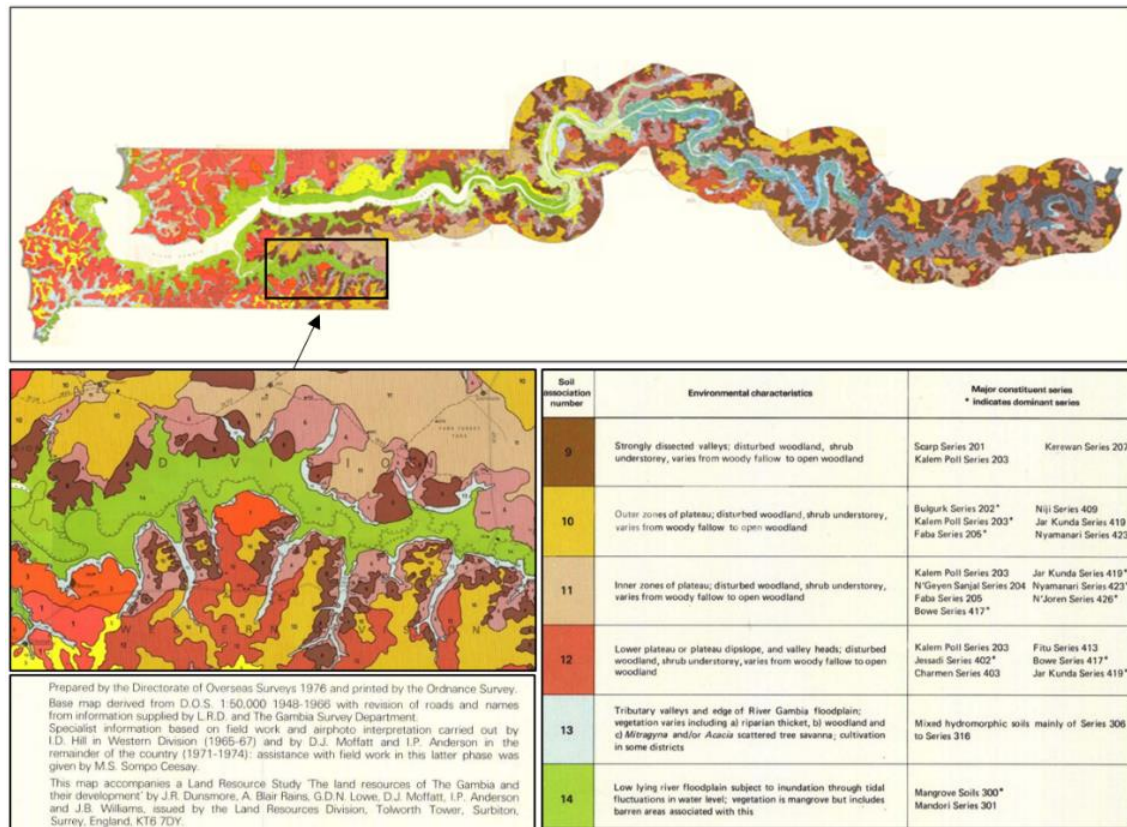


Figure 3: Historical land cover of The Gambia (map published in 1976)



Picture 1: Land use prior to mangrove planting in PAI#1, but after hydroengineering has been performed

1.14 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

Several policies and acts are in place in The Gambia to regulate the use and management of natural resources in The Gambia³. Two of the main environmental acts and regulations in place that are especially relevant for this project is The Biodiversity Act (2003) and The Forest Act (1998)

The Biodiversity Act 2003 concerns the preservation of flora and fauna and have related regulations in place to implement the act. It established the National Biodiversity and Wildlife Trust Fund to promote the protection, development and sustainable use of biological resources and established procedures for management and establishment of protected areas. The Act also designates the responsibility to The Department of Parks and Wildlife to manage national protected areas and encourage community participation^{4, 5}.

The Forest Act (1998) sets out the maintenance and development of the forest resources of The Gambia to enhance the contribution of forestry sector to socio-economic development. The Forest

³ [UNEP FP011 Gambia Environmental and Social Impact Assessment \(1\).pdf](#)

⁴ [4 \(gov.gm\)](#)

⁵ [FOSA Country Report - The Gambia \(fao.org\)](#)

Act remains the most recent and relevant piece of legislation detailing how community forests are formed and managed (Part VII: Declaration of reserved forest. Creation of community forest. Designation of community-controlled state forest)⁶.

The National Environment Act 1994 is the legal framework for the control and management of the environment and for the related matters. It states with The Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations (2014) that all development projects must undergo an Environmental Impact Assessment.

Additional acts such as The Lands Act (1990) and (1995), The Labour Act (2007), The Local Government Act (1990) and Environmental Discharge Permitting Regulations (2001) also cover the spheres of this project but will not be elaborated further⁷.

Supplementary, a list of environmental policies and frameworks are in place, including:

The Supplementary Agricultural and Natural Resource (ANR)⁸ Policy Final Validated Policy from December 2017 which is supplementary and aligned to the Agriculture and Natural Resource Policy (2017-2026). The ANR aims to address the policy guidelines for decision making and implementation within agriculture and natural resources. It is scoped towards the needs and aspirations of resource-users through implementing long-term natural resource protection, development, and inclusion programmes. It is closely aligned with the national development and poverty reductions frameworks and focuses on building capabilities of citizens and capacities of the sub-sectors.

The Forestry sub-sector policy (2010–2019) aims to reserve, maintain and develop forest resources to provide environmental protection through a list of means, and for instance through ensuring that 75% of forest lands are managed and protected according to forest management principles and plans. This for instance includes engaging local communities in forest resource management, strengthening local structures such as community forest committees, devolving authority and management responsibilities to local communities and introducing participatory techniques for local empowerment. Further, it encourages the involvement of the local communities and the private sector in the management and development of forest.

Additionally, The Agriculture and Natural Resources (ANR) policy document (2009-2015), The Nationally Determined Contributions, The National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP) and the National Action Plan (NAP for UNCCD) are relevant policies in place. Gambia has also signed several relevant regional and international conventions and treaties related to environmental issues that offer protection to the forest ecosystems. These include among others the Convention on Biological Diversity, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, Convention on International Trade Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), Convention on Water of International Importance Especially as Water Fowl Habitat (RAMSAR),

6 [UNEP FP011 Gambia Environmental and Social Impact Assessment \(1\).pdf](#)

7 [UNEP FP011 Gambia Environmental and Social Impact Assessment \(1\).pdf](#)

8 [Final Validated Supplementary ANR Policy V1.pdf \(gov.gm\)](#)

Convention Coverage the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage, United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the West and Central African Region (WACAF), Protocol Concerning Co-operation in Combating Marine Pollution in cases of Emergency in West and Central African Region (WACAF).

On the Community side, a list of women and children acts are also in place, including for instance The Women's Act 2010 that sets out the frameworks for the protection of Women's rights in additions to what is stated in Gambia's Constitution, The Child Protection Strategy (2016-2020), National Children Policy (2004-2008) and Programme for Accelerated Growth and Employment (PAGE) (2017-2020) that focuses on sustainable forest management and achieving food security for the country.

As such the project is fully aligned with the local, national and international laws as listed above.

Additionally, the Government of The Gambia through the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources have signed the Verified Carbon Unit Purchase Agreement with Ørsted and is aware of its execution. The ministry has delegated the responsibility for implementation to the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management, who, as stated above, is responsible for the management of national protected areas and encouragement of community participation. According to this agreement, The Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Natural Resources through the Department of Parks and Wildlife has an obligation to comply with Ørsted's code of conducts, human rights standards and environmental and safety matters. Additionally, as a safeguard for this legal compliance Ørsted has the right to make site visits for the purpose of reviewing the compliance with the above. Additionally, according to the contract, The Gambia has an obligation to report any violation of any Environmental Laws, Human Rights Standards or Safety Noncompliance, and the DPWM and all other project proponents have signed to implement project activities in accordance with all relevant laws.

Above will be a safeguard for legal compliance, and considering the absence of clear climate, biodiversity laws and acts for the protection and improvement of natural resources, the project will contribute to enhancing the natural resources of The Gambia. An additional mean for demonstration of legal compliance is evident in the monitoring plan where indicators have been chosen to illustrate and ensure compliance with the above stated objectives that are in alignment with the law.

1.15 Participation under Other GHG Programs

1.15.1 Projects Registered (or seeking registration) under Other GHG Program(s)

The project has neither been registered nor is seeking registration under any other GHG programs.

1.15.2 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

The project has not been rejected by any other GHG programs.

1.16 Other Forms of Credit

1.16.1 Emissions Trading Programs and Other Binding Limits

Does the project reduce GHG emissions from activities that are included in an emissions trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading?

☐ Yes

☒ No

1.16.2 Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Has the project sought or received another form of GHG-related credit, including renewable energy certificates?

☐ Yes

☒ No

1.17 Sustainable Development Contributions

Table 4: Overview of the SDGs that the project contributes to

Goals that the project positively contributes to	How does the project contribute?	Specific targets that the project contributes to
Goal 2 – Zero Hunger	The project contributes to ending hunger in developing countries by restoring severely degraded mangrove habitats that as a result of its degradation has lost many of their ecosystem service properties related to food production. The intact mangrove ecosystem is vital for the overall ecosystem function of the river, amongst other things by acting as	Target 2.4: By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

	nursing areas for numerable fish species and acting as habitat for oysters and mangrove crabs. Without the mangrove, these food producing ecosystem services, of which the locals are dependent, are lost. By restoring the habitat, the ecosystem services are over time expected to recover and provide additional food sources and potential income for the locals living off the system.	
Goal 13 – Climate Action	The project contributes to climate action by enhancing the carbon stocks of the mangrove ecosystem (mitigation) and by restoring an ecosystem that protects against extreme events such as floods (adaptation). The project enhances carbon stocks by restoring the degraded mangrove ecosystem through the restoration of the hydrological connectivity and through the replanting mangrove trees. The project contributes to adaptation as the mangrove habitats contributes to the protection from tropical storms, sea-level rise, floods and erosion due to its ability to absorb wave energy and stabilize coastal land.	Target 13.1: Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. Target 13.2: Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning. Target 13.3: Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. Target 13.b: Promote mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities.
Goal 14 – Life below water	By restoring the degraded mangrove habitats back to its natural state pre-degradation, the	Target 14.2: By 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid

	project is simultaneously restoring the below-water biodiversity dependent of and/or benefitting from the mangrove ecosystem. Amongst many things, the mangrove habitat acts as nesting, nursing, and living grounds for an abundance of species of fish, mollusks, crabs and other mangrove dependent underwater species of the area.	significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration in order to achieve healthy and productive oceans.
Goal 15 – Life on land	By restoring the degraded mangrove habitats back to its natural state pre-degradation, the project is simultaneously restoring the above-water biodiversity dependent of and/or benefitting from the mangrove ecosystem. The mangrove habitat supports an abundance of species of birds, mollusks, fungi, insects and lizards amongst many.	Target 15.2: By 2020, promote the implementation of sustainable management of all types of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and substantially increase afforestation and reforestation globally.
		Target 15.3: By 2030, combat desertification, restore degraded land and soil, including land affected by desertification, drought and floods, and strive to achieve a land degradation-neutral world.
		Target 15.5: Take urgent and significant action to reduce the degradation of natural habitats, halt the loss of biodiversity and, by 2020, protect and prevent the extinction of threatened species.

		Target 15.9: By 2020, integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning, development processes, poverty reduction strategies and accounts. Target 15.a: Mobilize and significantly increase financial resources from all sources to conserve and sustainably use biodiversity and ecosystems.
Goal 17 - Partnerships	The project consists of a broad range of partners, contributing to strengthening both the cross-sectoral partnership within the Gambia and West Africa and to strengthen the cross-country public-private north-south partnership. The main project proponent is the Government of Gambia through the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management (DPWM) who also holds the Project Ownership. The project is implemented by DPWM and the three Gambian NGO's Sahel Wetlands Concern (SWC), West African Bird Study Association (WABSA) and Kombo Foni Forestry Association (KOMFFORA). Ørsted Nature Based Solutions (Ørsted) is also a project proponent and is responsible for the development of the VCS and CCB project documentation processes together with the Gambian and Cameroon based partners and for contributing to the implementation of the project.	Target 17.3: Mobilize additional financial resources for developing countries from multiple sources. Target 17.6: Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge-sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism. Target 17.16: Enhance the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, complemented by multi-stakeholder partnerships that mobilize and share knowledge, expertise, technology and financial resources, to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in all countries, in particular developing countries

		Target 17.17: Encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.
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1.18 Additional Information Relevant to the Project

Leakage Management

To be completed in the final PD.

Commercially Sensitive Information

To be completed in the final PD.

Further Information

To be completed in the final PD.

2 SAFEGUARDS

2.1 No Net Harm

To be completed in the final PD.

2.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

To be completed in the final PD.

2.3 Environmental Impact

To be completed in the final PD.

2.4 Public Comments

To be completed in the final PD.

2.5 AFOLU-Specific Safeguards

To be completed in the final PD.

3 APPLICATION OF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Title and Reference of Methodology

The methodology to be applied in this project is the VM0007 REDD+ Methodology Framework (REDD+ MF), version 1.6.

The following methodological tools and modules (see table 5), to which the selected methodology refers to, are used in this Project Description covering the ARR+RWE combined project activity on mineral soils. If the combined project activity of REDD+CIW are to be applied for future instances, the applicable tools and modules are to be added in a future updated Project Description. If areas covering peat soils are to be part of future PAI's, tools and modules relevant for such are as well to be added in a future updated Project Description.

Table 5: Applied tools and modules

Module	Full name	Version
M-ARR	VMD0045 Methods for monitoring greenhouse gas emissions and removals in ARR project activities	Version 1.1. Approved 09/03-2015. Latest revision 08/09-2020
T-ADD	CDM Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities	Version 1. Valid from 19/10-2007
T-BAR	AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool	Version 4.0. Valid from 19/09-2019
X-UNC	VMD0017 Estimation of uncertainty for REDD project activities	Version 2.2. Approved 03/12-2010. Latest revision 08/09-2020
X-STR	VMD0016 Methods for stratification of the project area	Version 1.2. Approved 03/12-2010. Latest revision 08/09-2020
BL-ARR	VMD0041 Estimation of baseline carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas emissions in ARR project activities	Version 1.1. Approved 09/03-2015. Latest revision 08/09-2020
LK-ARR	VMD0043 Estimation of emissions from displacement of pre-project agricultural activities	Version 1.0. Approved 09/03-2015

Module	Full name	Version
M-TW	VMD0051 Methods for Monitoring of Carbon Stock Changes and Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Removals in Tidal Wetland Restoration and Conservation Project Activities	Version 1.0. Approved 08/09-2020
ADD-AM	VMD0052 Demonstration of additionality of tidal wetland restoration and conservation project activities	Version 2.0. Approved 30/09-2021
BL-TW	VMD0050 Estimation of Baseline Carbon Stock Changes and Greenhouse Gas Emissions in Tidal Wetland Restoration and Conservation Project Activities	Version 1.0. Approved 08/09-2020
LK-ECO	VMD0044 Estimation of emissions from ecological leakage	Version 1.1. Approved 09/03-2015. Latest revision 08/09-2020
E-BPB	VMD0013 Estimation of greenhouse gas emissions from biomass and peat burning	Version 1.2. Approved 03/12-2010. Latest revision 08/09-2020
E-FFC	VMD0014 Estimation of emissions from fossil fuel combustion	Version 1.0. Approved 03/12-2010

3.2 Applicability of Methodology

In this section, the applicability conditions of the applied project activities of PAI#1 (ARR+RWE) listed in the methodology VM0007, including applicability of used modules and tools referred to through the methodology, are presented and justified. The applicability conditions of potentially future added project categories of REDD+CIW listed in the methodology VM0007 is as well presented, but not justified. If project instances of the category REDD+CIW are added in the future, their applicability conditions in the methodology and used tools and modules will be justified accordingly.

Table 6: Applicability conditions of project activities included in PAI#1 and of potential future project activities of future PAI's of the applied methodology VM0007. The applicability conditions for project activities included in PAI#1 has as well been justified.

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
Afforestation, reforestation and revegetation (ARR)	<i>ARR activities are applicable under the following conditions:</i>	
	1) The project area is non-forest land or land with degraded forest.	1) PAI#1 is non-forest land (see figure xx for map showing the geographic boundaries of PAI#1 and the land cover as of 2021. The map is to be provided in the final Project Description).
	2) In strata with drained organic soil, ARR activities must be combined with rewetting.	2) The soil of PAI#1 does neither classify as organic nor drained (See xx for table showing soil type and section 1.3 for description of the environmental conditions of PAI#1. The table is to be provided in the final Project Description).
	<i>ARR activities are not eligible under the following conditions:</i>	
	1) The project scenario involves the application of nitrogen fertilizers.	1) No nitrogen fertilizers are applied in the project scenario of PAI#1.
	2) If ARR activities enhance peat oxidation. Therefore, on peatland, the project must include at least some degree of rewetting. In a tidal system where the tidal regime is restored or continues to be in place, ARR activities are considered not to enhance peat oxidation.	2) In PAI#1, the tidal regime is as part of the project activities being restored. Therefore, the ARR activities are considered not to enhance peat oxidation. Furthermore, the soil of PAI#1 is not classified as organic.
	Where project activities on wetlands are excluded by the applicability conditions of applied modules or tools, such applicability conditions can be disregarded for the purpose of their use within this methodology, as quantification procedures for	The relevant listed applicable soil modules are applied in this project.

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	peat and tidal wetland soils are provided in Modules BL-PEAT, M-PEAT, BL-TW and M-TW. Therefore, ARR activities on wetlands are regarded as combined ARR-RWE activities.	
All Wetland Restoration and Conservation (WRC) Activity types	<i>WRC activities are not eligible under the following conditions:</i>	
	1) Project activities lower the water table, unless the project converts open water to tidal wetlands, or improves the hydrological connection to impounded waters.	1) Justification: in PAI#1, part of the project activities is to improve the hydrological connection of impounded waters. Besides of such, no alteration of the water table is part of the project activities.
	2) Changes in hydrology do not result in the accumulation or maintenance of SOC stock, noting that a) this pertains to projects that intend to sequester carbon through sedimentation and/or vegetation development and b) this does not pertain to projects that increase salinity to reduce CH ₄ emissions. Projects that aim to decrease CH ₄ emissions through increased salinity must account for any changes in SOC stocks.	2) in PAI#1, the changes in hydrology due to the applied project activities will result in a net-accumulation of SOC compared with the baseline scenario. This can be justified for two reasons: 1) As mangrove trees are planted, additional organic material is added to the area in the project scenario compared with the baseline scenario, and 2) As the project area through the hydrological changes induced by project activities will become wetter compared to the baseline scenario, the SOC will, due to the more anaerobic environment, have better conditions for accumulating.
	3) Hydrological connectivity of the project area with adjacent areas leads to a significant increase in	3) The alteration of the hydrology in the project area will not result in a lowered water table in areas

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	GHG emissions outside the project area.	outside of the project area as the altered hydrology is connected to the ocean, ensuring a constant water table in areas where the hydrology is not altered.
	4) Project activities include the burning of organic soil.	4) In PAI#1, none of the project activities include the burning of organic soil. Furthermore, no organic soil is present (see xx for table showing soil types of PAI#1. The table is to be provided in the final Project Description).
	5) Nitrogen fertilizer(s), such as chemical fertilizer or manure, are applied in the project area during the project crediting period.	5) in PAI#1, none of the project activities include the application of any type of nitrogen fertilizers.
Wetland restoration activities (RWE)	<i>For RWE project activities, prior to the project start date, the project area must meet the following conditions:</i>	
	a) The area is free of any land use that could be displaced outside the project area, as demonstrated by at least one of the following, where relevant: - The project area has been abandoned for two or more years prior to the project start date; or - Use of the project area for commercial purposes (i.e., trade) is not profitable as a result of salinity intrusion, market forces, or other factors. In addition, timber	PAI#1 lives up to the conditions set in option a) as the project area has been abandoned for at least two years prior to the project start date. See appendix xx for confirmation of such by the Gambian ministry of Environment and the chiefs of villagers relevant for the project area. The appendix is to be provided in the final Project Description).

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	harvesting in the baseline scenario within the project area does not occur; or - Degradation of additional wetlands for new agricultural/aquacultural sites within the country will not occur or is prohibited by enforced law. OR b) The area is under a land use that could be displaced outside the project area, although in such case, baseline emissions from this land use must not be accounted for, and where degradation of additional wetlands for new agricultural/aquacultural sites within the country will not occur or is prohibited by enforced law. OR c) The area is under a land use that will continue at a similar or greater level of service or production during the project crediting period (e.g., reed or hay harvesting, collection of fuelwood, subsistence harvesting, commercial fishing). The project proponent must demonstrate (a), (b) or (c) above, based on verifiable information such as laws and bylaws, management plans, annual reports, annual accounts, market studies, government studies or	

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	land use planning reports and documents.	
	<i>Project activities restoring tidal wetlands may include any of the following, or combinations of the following:</i>	
	1) Creating, restoring and/or managing hydrological conditions (e.g., removing tidal barriers, improving hydrological connectivity, restoring tidal flow to wetlands or lowering water levels on impounded wetlands)	All activities presented in this subsection is optional, why PAI#1 shall not live up to anything here to be applicable. However, the activities described in point 1, 3 and 5 are applied in the project.
	2) Altering sediment supply (e.g., beneficial use of dredge material or diverting river sediments to sediment-starved areas)	
	3) Changing salinity characteristics (e.g., restoring tidal flow to tidally-restricted areas)	
	4) Improving water quality (e.g., reducing nutrient loads leading to improved water clarity to expand seagrass meadows, recovering tidal and other hydrologic flushing and exchange or reducing nutrient residence time)	
	5) (Re-)introducing native plant communities (e.g., reseedling or replanting)	
	6) Improving management practice(s) (e.g., removing invasive species, reduced grazing)	
	7) In RWE-ARR project activities, the prescribed burning of herbaceous and shrub	

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	aboveground biomass (cover burns) may occur	
All Reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD) activity types	<i>REDD activity types are applicable under the following conditions:</i>	
	1) Land in the project area has qualified as forest (following the definition used by VCS) for at least the 10 years prior to the project start date. Mangrove forests are excluded from any tree height requirement in a forest definition, as they consist of (close to) 100% mangrove species, which often do not reach the same height as other tree species and occupy contiguous areas and their functioning as a forest is independent of tree height. 2) If land within the project area is peatland or tidal wetlands and emissions from the SOC pool are deemed significant, the relevant WRC modules must be applied alongside other relevant modules. 3) Baseline deforestation and forest degradation in the project area fall within one or more of the following categories: - Unplanned deforestation (VCS category AUDD) - Planned deforestation/degradation (VCS category APD) - Degradation through extraction of wood for fuel (fuelwood and charcoal	To be justified in an updated Project Description if future PAI's of such category are to be added.

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	production) (VCS category AUDD) 4) Leakage avoidance activities must not include: - Agricultural lands that are flooded to increase production (e.g., rice paddy) - Intensifying livestock production through use of feed-lots and/or manure lagoons	
Avoiding forest degradation (AD) activity types	Avoiding forest degradation activities are applicable under the following conditions:	
	1) Fuelwood collection and charcoal production must be non-renewable in the baseline period. 2) If degradation is caused by either illegal or legal tree extraction for timber, this methodology cannot be used.	To be justified in an updated Project Description if future PAL's of such category are to be added.
Conservation of intact wetlands (CIW) Project Activities	Project activities conserving tidal wetlands may include:	
	1) Protecting at-risk wetlands (e.g., establishing conservation easements, establishing community supported management agreements, establishing protective government regulations, and preventing disruption of water and/ or sediment supply to wetland areas) 2) Improving water management on drained wetlands	To be justified in an updated Project Description if future PAL's of such category are to be added.

Project activity	Applicability conditions	Justification
	3) Maintaining or improving water quality for seagrass meadows 4) Recharging sediment to avoid drowning of coastal wetlands 5) Creating accommodation space for wetlands migrating with sea-level rise	
Avoiding unplanned wetland degradation (AUWD) Project Activities	<i>Avoiding unplanned wetland degradation activities are eligible under the following condition:</i> Baseline agents of wetland degradation (i) cause an alteration in the hydrology of the project area (involving drainage, interrupted sediment supply, or both) and/or a loss of soil organic carbon; (ii) have no documented and uncontested legal right to degrade the wetland; and (iii) are either residents in the reference region for wetland degradation or immigrants. Under any other condition, this methodology must not be used.	To be justified in an updated Project Description if future PAI's of such category are to be added.

Table 7: Applicability conditions and justification of tools and modules applied in PAI#1

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
M-ARR	The applicability conditions are provided in AR-ACM0003. Applicability conditions included in AR-ACM0003 and corresponding tools that exclude project activities on wetlands can be neglected for the purpose of their use in this module, as accounting	

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	procedures for the peat soil are provided in Modules M-PEAT and M-TW. A project activity applying the methodology AR-ACM0003 shall also comply with the applicability conditions of the tools contained within the methodology and applied by the project activity.	
	<i>The methodology AR-ACM0003 is applicable under the following conditions:</i>	
	(a) The land subject to the project activity does not fall in wetland category	Applicability condition (a) of AR-ACM0003: Can be discarded as M-ARR allows for the inclusion of wetland areas.
	(b) Soil disturbance attributable to the project activity does not cover more than 10 per cent of area in each of the following types of land, when these lands are included within the project boundary: (i) Land containing organic soils; (ii) Land which, in the baseline, is subjected to land-use and management practices and receives inputs listed in appendices 1 and 2 to this methodology.	Applicability condition (b) of AR-ACM0003: Soil disturbances will not cover more than 10% of the area of PAI#1. Furthermore, the soil within PAI#1 does not classify as organic, and the baseline is not subjected to any land-use and/or management practices.
	<i>Applicability conditions of tools contained within the methodology AR-ACM-0003</i>	
	<i>c) Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities</i>	c) See module T-ADD within this table for justification.
	<i>d) Estimation of non-CO2 GHG emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity:</i> - The tool is applicable to all occurrence of fire within the project boundary.	d) No fire is expected to occur as burning of biomass is not part of the project activities.

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	- Non-CO2 GHG emissions resulting from any occurrence of fire within the project boundary shall be accounted for each incidence of fire which affects an area greater than the minimum threshold area reported by the host Party for the purpose of defining forest, provided that the accumulated area affected by such fires in a given year is $\geq 5\%$ of the project area.	
	e) <i>Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities</i>	e) The tool has no internal applicability conditions.
	f) <i>Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities.</i>	f) The tool has no internal applicability conditions.
	g) <i>Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities</i>	g) The tool has no internal applicability conditions.
	h) <i>Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity</i> - This tool is not applicable if the displacement of agricultural activities is expected to cause, directly or indirectly, any drainage of wetlands or peat lands.	h) The project activities will not result in any displacement of agricultural activities as agricultural activities are not present in the baseline of PAI#1.
	i) <i>Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities</i>	i) This tool is not used for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks in this project (module M-TW and BL-TW is used instead, as demanded in the applied methodology), why the

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
		applicability conditions are not relevant.
T-ADD	1) Forestation of the land within the proposed project boundary performed with or without being registered as the A/R CDM project activity shall not lead to violation of any applicable law even if the law is not enforced.	1) No violation of any applicable law (even when not enforced) is taking place because of the project.
	2) This tool is not applicable to small - scale afforestation and reforestation project activities.	2) The grouped project has a scope of reforesting 10.000 hectares of forest, classifying it as a large - scale reforestation project in CDM terminology.
T-BAR	This tool has no applicability conditions	This tool has no applicability conditions
X-UNC	1) Where an uncertainty value is not known or cannot be simply calculated, a project must justify that it is using an indisputably conservative number and an uncertainty of 0% may be used for this component.	1) When uncertainty values were not known or couldn't be simply calculated, indisputably conservative numbers have been applied. Justification for such is to be provided in the final Project Description.
	2) Guidance on uncertainty – a precision target of a 95% confidence interval half-width equal to or less than 15% of the recorded value must be targeted. This is especially important in terms of project planning for measurement of carbon stocks; sufficient measurement plots should be included to achieve this precision level across the measured stocks.	2) A precision target of a 95% confidence interval half-width equal to or less than 15% of the recorded value has been targeted. Justification for such is to be provided in the final Project Description.
X-STR	1) Any module referencing strata <i>i</i> must be used in combination with this module.	1) Any module referencing strata <i>i</i> has been used in combination with module X-STR.
	2) In case of REDD, aboveground biomass stratification is only used for	2) REDD is not part of the initial project instance PAI#1. If future

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	pre-deforestation forest classes, and strata are the same in the baseline and the project scenario. Post-deforestation land uses are not stratified. Instead, average post-deforestation stock values (e.g., simple or historical area-weighted approaches are used, as per Module BL-UP).	project instances of REDD are to be added, this point will be justified in an updated Project Description.
	3) For peatland rewetting and conservation project activities this module must be used to delineate nonpeat versus peat and to stratify the peat according to peat depth and soil emission characteristics, unless it can be demonstrated that the expected emissions from the soil organic carbon pool or change in the soil organic carbon pool in the project scenario is <i>de minimis</i> .	3) peatland rewetting and conservation is not part of the initial project instance PAI#1. If future project instances including such activities are to be added, this point will be justified in an updated Project Description.
	4) In the case of WRC project activities, the project boundary must be designed such that the negative effect of drainage activities that occur outside the project area on the project GHG benefits are minimized.	4) No drainage activities outside the project area that would negatively affect the GHG benefits within the project area are projected to occur.
	<i>This module is applicable under the following conditions:</i>	
BL-ARR	1) The applicability conditions set out in AR-ACM0003 Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands must be met.	1) See module M-ARR in this table for justification.
	2) Applicability conditions included in AR-ACM0003 Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands and corresponding tools that exclude project activities on wetlands can be disregarded for the purpose of their use in this module, as accounting	2) The relevant listed applicable soil modules are applied in this project.

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	procedures for the peat soil are provided in Modules BL-PEAT and BL-TW.	
	3) Where the ARR project activity is implemented on peatland, the peatland must be degraded in the baseline scenario as identified by the presence of drainage infrastructure (ditches, canals) and associated lowered water tables below the surface. In the case of forested peatland, degradation may be identified by the removal or degradation of the tree cover before the project start date.	3) The soil in PAI#1 is not classified as peatland. If future project activity instances are to be implemented on peatland, this point will be justified once relevant in an updated Project Description.
	4) Where the ARR project activity is implemented on tidal wetlands, the wetland must be degraded, as defined in REDD+ MF.	4) The area within PAI#1 classify as degraded wetland.
LK-ARR	<i>This module is applicable under the following conditions:</i>	
	1) Applicability conditions set out in AR-ACM0003 must be met. Applicability conditions in AR-ACM0003 that exclude project activities on wetlands can be disregarded in the context of this module.	1) See module M-ARR in this table for justification.
M-TW	This module applies to tidal wetland restoration and conservation project activities, as defined in REDD+ MF. This module is applicable under the same applicability conditions outlined in REDD+ MF for WRC project activities.	See table 6 for listing and justification of applicability conditions for WRC project activities in the REDD+MF methodology VM0007.
ADD-AM	This module is applicable to tidal wetland restoration and conservation project activities as defined below.	
	<i>Project activities restoring tidal wetlands may include any of the following, or combinations of the following:</i>	
	1) Creating, restoring and/or managing hydrological conditions (e.g., removing tidal barriers, improving hydrological connectivity, restoring tidal flow to	The project activities applied in PAI#1 includes the activities described in point 1), 3) and 5).

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	wetlands or lowering water levels on impounded wetlands) 2) Altering sediment supply (e.g., beneficial use of dredge material or diverting river sediments to sediment-starved areas) 3) Changing salinity characteristics (e.g., restoring tidal flow to tidally-restricted areas) 4) Improving water quality (e.g., reducing nutrient loads leading to improved water clarity to expand seagrass meadows, recovering tidal and other hydrologic flushing and exchange or reducing nutrient residence time) 5) (Re-)introducing native plant communities (e.g., reseeding or replanting) 6) Improving management practice(s) (e.g., removing invasive species, reduced grazing) 7) In RWE-ARR project activities, the prescribed burning of herbaceous and shrub aboveground biomass (cover burns) may occur.	
	<i>Project activities conserving tidal wetlands may include:</i>	
	1) Protecting at-risk wetlands (e.g., establishing conservation easements, establishing community supported management agreements, establishing protective government regulations, and preventing disruption of water and/ or sediment supply to wetland areas). 2) Improving water management on drained wetlands.	This applicability condition is to be justified in the future if CIW project activity instances are to be added.

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	3) Maintaining or improving water quality for seagrass meadows. 4) Recharging sediment to avoid drowning of coastal wetlands. 5) Creating accommodation space for wetlands migrating with sea-level rise.	
BL-TW	This module applies to tidal wetland restoration and conservation project activities, as defined in REDD+ MF. This module is applicable under the same applicability conditions outlined in REDD+ MF for WRC project activities.	See table 6 for listing and justification of applicability conditions for WRC project activities in the REDD+MF methodology VM0007.
LK-ECO	This module is applicable under the following condition: Leakage caused by hydrological connectivity is avoided by project design and site selection.	Leakage caused by hydrological connectivity is avoided. Justification for such is to be provided in section 4.3 in the final Project Description.
E-BPB	This module is applicable to REDD project activities with emissions from biomass burning and REDD-WRC project activities with emissions from biomass and/or peat burning. This module is also applicable to RWE and ARR-RWE project activities with emissions from peat burning.	The module is applicable to ARR+RWE project activities with emissions from peat burning. Neither peat burning or biomass burning is expected in the baseline and neither is part of the project activities. However, should such occur or new information regarding such emerge, the module will be applied for estimation of GHG emissions related to such.
E-FFC	All fossil fuel combustion associated with a project may be accounted, including fossil fuel combustion of subcontractors that are conducting (parts of the) work to implement the project. Fossil fuel combustion in all situations is an optional emission source. Project proponents may, however, elect to include fossil fuel combustion if emissions are higher in the baseline than in the project case thus generating emission reductions through project activities. Where emissions from fossil fuel combustion are estimated in the	In the applied methodology VM0007, it is stated that fossil fuel combustion related to the implementation of RWE activities must be included in the GHG estimations (See table 9 in VM0007). Therefore, combustion of fossil fuels in the project scenario are included in the GHG estimations of this Project Description.

Module	Applicability conditions	Justification
	baseline, monitoring and estimation must also occur in the with-project scenario1.	

3.3 Project Boundary

Geographic boundaries

See section 1.12 for Geographic boundaries.

Temporal boundaries

As described in section 1.9, The project contemplates a crediting period of 30 years from 01/08/2022 to 01/08/2052, with the possibility of prolonging the crediting period for up to 100 years.

According to the methodology, the duration of the monitoring period can be from 1 – 10 years. The actual duration of the monitoring period of PAI#1 will be defined in the final Project Description and updated as new project instances are added.

Carbon pools

No significant decreases in carbon stocks will take place in the project scenario because of project activities. Potential further decreases of carbon stocks in the baseline scenario are conservatively not accounted for. Therefore, the only carbon stock changes accounted for in this project are the increases in the below listed (table 8) carbon pools in the project scenario.

Table 8: Carbon pools in the Baseline and Project Scenario

Carbon pool		Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	Aboveground biomass (tree and non-tree biomass)	Included	Major carbon pool subject to the project activities. Covered under ARR.
	Belowground biomass	Included	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to the implementation of the project activities. Covered under ARR.

Carbon pool		Included?	Justification/Explanation
	Litter	Excluded	This carbon pool is excluded. It is a conservative choice to exclude the pool as the project activities will not decrease the rate of accumulation of the litter.
	Dead wood	Included	Even though stock changes in SOC in the baseline are not expected to increase, this carbon pool has been considered because the project activities are expected to lead to an increase of SOC. Covered under ARR.
	Soil Organic Carbon	Included	Even though stock changes in SOC in the baseline are not expected to increase, this carbon pool has been considered because the project activities are expected to lead to an increase of SOC. Covered under RWE.
	Wood products	Excluded	This pool is optional as per VCS rules.
Project	Aboveground biomass (tree and non-tree biomass)	Included	Major carbon pool subject to the project activities. Covered under ARR.
	Belowground biomass	Included	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to the implementation of the project activities. Covered under ARR.
	Litter	Excluded	This carbon pool is excluded. It is a conservative choice to exclude the pool as the project activities will not decrease the rate of accumulation of the litter.
	Dead wood	Included	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to implementation of the project activities. The methodology provides a conservative default approach for accounting of increase in carbon stock in this pool. Covered under ARR.
	Soil Organic Carbon	Included	The applied methodology allows in module BL-TW and M-TW for the use of a default value to account for the increase in carbon stock in the SOC. Covered under RWE.
	Wood products	Excluded	This pool is optional as per VCS rules.

Sources of GHG emissions

Table 9: Project GHG emission sources

Source		Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	Burning of biomass	CO2	Excluded	Carbon stock decreases due to burning are accounted as a carbon stock change. However, burning of biomass is not expected.
		CH4	Excluded	Conservatively excluded. Furthermore, burning of biomass is not expected.
		N2O	Excluded	Conservatively excluded. Furthermore, burning of biomass is not expected.
	Combustion of fossil fuels	CO2	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		CH4	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		N2O	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
	Emissions from tidal wetlands mineral soil	CO2	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		CH4	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		N2O	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
	Peat or biomass combustion	CO2	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		CH4	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
		N2O	Excluded	Conservatively excluded.
Project	Burning of biomass	CO2	Included	Carbon stock decreases due to burning of biomass is accounted as a carbon stock change. However, no burning of biomass is expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.
		CH4	Included	Burning of biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed. However, no burning of biomass is expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.
		N2O	Included	Burning of biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed. However, no burning of biomass is expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.
	Combustion of fossil fuels	CO2	Included	This source may result in emissions. However, it is expected to be <i>de minimis</i> .
		CH4	Included	This source may result in emissions. However, it is expected to be <i>de minimis</i> .

Source		Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
	Emissions from tidal wetlands mineral soil	N2O	Included	This source may result in emissions. However, it is expected to be <i>de minimis</i> .
		CO2	Included	Considered under carbon pools.
		CH4	Included	This emission source is accounted for. However, it is expected to be <i>de minimis</i> .
		N2O	Included	This emission source is accounted for. However, it is expected to be <i>de minimis</i> .
	Peat or biomass combustion	CO2	Included	This emission source is accounted for. However, no combustion of biomass or peat are expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.
		CH4	Included	This emission source is accounted for. However, no combustion of biomass or peat are expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.
		N2O	Included	This emission source is accounted for. However, no combustion of biomass or peat are expected in the grouped project, and it does not occur in the first project instance PAI#1.

3.4 Baseline Scenario

As set out in the applied methodology VM0007, the CDM combined tool T-ADD should be applied for the determination of the most plausible baseline scenario for each or the included categories. In this project description, the module is applied to the project activity category of RWE+ARR. If project instances of the project activity category of REDD+CIW are to be added in the future, the project description will be updated and validated to include a baseline determination of such category.

Determination of the most plausible baseline scenario for project activity category RWE+ARR:

STEP 0 Preliminary screening based on the starting date of the A/R project activity:

- The start date of the project is 1st of July 2022, and therefore being after 31st of December 1999.

- in April 2022, hydrological alteration (excavation of canals for improvement of water flow) was performed in some locations of the first project instance (PAI#1), representing the start of the implementation of the project activity RWE. This activity was performed as a direct cause of the implementation of the project. All expenses related to the activity is financed by Ørsted and DPWM as they are part of the implementation of the RWE and ARR activities.

STEP 1 Identification of alternative land use scenarios to the proposed project activity:

Sub-step 1a: Identify credible alternative land use scenarios to the proposed project activity

- Baseline scenario 1: Status Quo: Continuation of the pre-project land-use, remaining as degraded wetlands.
- Baseline scenario 2: Reforestation of the land within the boundaries of the project activities performed without being registered as a VCS project activity.

Sub-step 1b: Consistency of credible alternative land use scenarios with enforced mandatory applicable laws and regulations

As described in section 1.14, the project will be implemented in compliance with all relevant local, state and national, applicable legal and regulatory requirements (local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks). This will be enforced by the Department of Parks and Wildlife Management.

STEP 2 Barrier analysis:

Sub-step 2a: Identification of barriers that would prevent the implementation of baseline scenario two:

a) Investment barriers

All ARR+RWE activities are to be implemented on degraded mangrove habitat areas with the purpose of restoring well-functioning natural mangrove ecosystems. No direct income is expected because of the restoration as neither thinning or harvesting activities (and therefore no timber harvest) are part of the project activities within the project areas. However, the communities are expected to benefit indirectly as the project activities are expected to result in an increased ecosystem productivity of fish, oyster and the like.

As the ecosystem restoration does not result in a direct product that can be sold to create a profit, the economic incentive for investing in the restoration would be lacking if not for the carbon sequestration benefits that can be utilized through the carbon project.

Smaller mangrove restoration activities funded by other entities has previously taken place in the Gambia, but the scope of these projects have been local, and the funding provided not sufficient for funding a larger scale restoration of mangrove habitats in The Gambia as those proposed by this project. Furthermore, the proposed project covers the financing and support related to the entire project period, guaranteeing full implementation and long-term management of the restored areas.

b) Technological barriers

Without the proposed carbon project, sufficient funding related to acquiring the necessary materials (boats, shovels, cars, equipment related to monitoring the health of the ecosystem, laboratories for analysis of soil etc.) for a successful implementation of the restoration and the continued monitoring securing long-term success is lacking.

c) Barriers due to social conditions

Local communities are very committed to restoring degraded mangrove habitat, but if not for the proposed carbon project, local communities would not have access to sufficient technical and organizational guidance for establishing and managing large scale mangrove restoration projects. For example, technical knowledge is required to successfully alter the hydrology in areas where the degradation has resulted in alterations of the previous natural hydrology, and technical knowledge is required for choosing species that thrive in the particular ecological conditions.

Sub-step 2b: Elimination of land use scenarios that are prevented by the identified barriers:

Baseline scenario 1 does not face any of the barriers described in sub-step 2a, while baseline scenario 2 faces all of the above listed barriers. As a result of such, it is unlikely that a successful larger scale mangrove restoration project and continued monitoring for long-term success would be implemented if not for the proposed carbon project.

Sub-step 2c: Determination of baseline scenario

By applying the decision tree presented in the applicable tool, The baseline scenario is identified as baseline scenario 1: Status Quo: Continuation of the pre-project land-use, remaining as degraded wetlands.

STEP 4 Common practice analysis

As required in the applicable tool, the baseline analysis shall be complemented by an analysis of the extent to which forestation activities has already been implemented within the project area.

As required by the tool, a list of ongoing and finalized larger mangrove restoration projects within the project area is presented:

GCF project FP011 “Large-scale Ecosystem-based Adaptation in The Gambia: developing a climate-resilient, natural resource-based economy: Implementing Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA)”

The goal of the EbA project is to restore degraded forests and agricultural landscapes in The Gambia with climate-resilient plants, establishing natural resource-based businesses, and strengthening capacity and policies to implement ecobased adaptation systems. The duration of the project is 6 years. As part of the project indicated by EbA, the West African Bird Study Association (WABSA) has planted 34.3 ha of degraded mangrove areas identified for the 2021 mangrove restoration action plan. This includes mangrove areas of the Central River Region (CRR) North bank and Lower River Region (LRR) South bank of the River Gambia.

Project “National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project” (NEMA-CHOSSO)⁹

The programme development objective was to reduce poverty of rural women and youth by increasing incomes from improved productivity based on sustainable land and water management practices. The programme was funded by various grants and loans (primarily through IFAD) and lasted from 2013 to 2019. As part of the programme, mangrove was to be restored in various areas in The Gambia. According to plan, approx. 1800 hectares were restored, though exact areas and shapefiles are not available.

“Resilience of Organizations for Transformative Smallholder Agriculture Project” (ROOTS)

The programme, a successor of the NEMA-CHOSSO project, was launched on 09 February 2021 and will run until 2025, with funding from the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the OPEC Fund for International Development (OFID), the GEF Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF), the French Development Agency (AFD), the Government of the Gambia and the Project’s beneficiaries. The main goal of ROOTS is to improve food security, nutrition and resilience of smallholder farmers to climate change

⁹ Some documents name the project: “Strengthening Climate Resilience of the National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project” to mean the same project “National Agricultural Land and Water Management Development Project”

in The Gambia, and as part of achieving such, it is the ambition to restore 1,300 hectares of mangroves.

Project of Mangrove Ecosystem Restoration in The Gambia

On 17 February 2022, the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs and French Development Agency has signed agreement to support the mangrove restoration in the Gambia with a total amount of 6.9 million EURO as a five year programme.

The global objective of the project is to provide a strategic, scientific and technical support to Gambia for the large-scale restoration of the mangrove ecosystems, and the improvement of the coastal communities' conditions, in a context of climate change. The project's framework corresponds to the four following specific objectives: 1) Strengthen the national legal and policy framework for enhanced climate adaptation and coastal resilience, 2) Test restoration techniques on 800 ha of mangrove in different contexts and develop a national strategy and action plans for large-scale restoration of mangrove ecosystems in The Gambia. 3) Improve governance and management effectiveness of marine protected areas in key mangrove areas and 4) Support the development of sustainable value chains and alternative income for grassroots women's and youth organizations in the project's pilot sites.

There are several essential distinctions between the above listed restoration initiatives and the proposed carbon project;

Overall, the above listed restoration activities differ fundamentally from the proposed carbon project as they are based on different financing strategies, with the existing restoration projects being based primarily on funds being donated no matter the success of the restoration outcome, and the proposed carbon project being based on the generation of verified carbon credits. As the number of credits to be verified and therefore the economic success of the proposed project is dependent on the success of the restoration activities, there is an essential incentive to implement the best possible restoration practices and to secure the long-term success of the project.

Because of such, the restoration activities of the carbon project are based on relevant scientific literature and studies, and the PAI#1 consists of (as described in section 1.11) a strategic trial of different planting strategies to create knowledge on best possible planting strategies to use for the implementation of future PAI's. The long-term monitoring of the PAI's is assured by using the revenue from the sales of the carbon credits, contributing to the assurance of the long-term project success. Furthermore, the management of the carbon project is very well organized, with the MECCNAR overseeing the implementation of activities through the director of the DPWM who is chairing the project steering committee. Then, a consortium of local NGOs experienced with

mangrove planting and supported by international experts actively conduct and supervise all activities.

As the existing restoration activities are not financially dependent on the success of the restoration outcome, the above-mentioned initiatives for securing restoration success have not been implemented to the same extent. As a result, previous and ongoing restoration activities fail to reach their restoration goals, resulting in fewer hectares planted and fewer hectares of planted mangrove growing as desired.

Lastly, the existing restoration activities differ from the carbon project as their scope is limited by the available amount of funds being directed towards the restoration. Even though all the above-mentioned existing restoration activities succeeded with reaching their restoration goals (of which they do not), vast areas of degraded mangrove habitat would still be present in The Gambia. With the carbon project, degraded mangrove areas within The Gambia that has not been restored are targeted and restored by utilizing additional finance generated through the issuance of carbon credits.

3.5 **Additionality**

As the project activity in PAI#1 is of the combined category ARR+RWE, additionality is determined through both the project method (as required for all project activities other than tidal wetland restoration and conservation) and the activity method (as required for all tidal wetlands conservation and restoration project activities).

Project method additionality

According to the applied methodology, the latest version of the tool “CDM Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities” (T-ADD) must be used to determine additionality. This has already been done in section 3.4 above, why the demonstration of additionality according to the project method is completed.

Activity method additionality

According to the applied methodology, the module ADD-AM (Demonstration of Additionality of Tidal Wetland Restoration and Conservation Project Activities) must be used to determine additionality:

STEP 1: Regulatory surplus

To live up to the regulatory surplus, the project shall:

“not be mandated by any law, statute or other regulatory framework, or for UNFCCC non-Annex I countries, any systematically enforced law, statute or other regulatory framework.”

As the project are not mandated by any law, statute or other regulatory framework, and neither any systematically enforced law, statute or other regulatory framework, the project passes STEP 1.

STEP 2: Positive list

The applicability conditions of the module ADD-AM represents the positive list. The project must demonstrate that it lives up to all of the applicability conditions to comply with the positive list and be deemed additional.

As this project complies with all applicability conditions listed in the module (see table 7), the project is deemed additional.

3.6 Methodology Deviations

In this project, the initial project activity (PAI#1) consists of the combined category RWE+ARR. For future added instances, it is a possibility that some would consist of the project activity combined category REDD+CIW.

However, it is not clear whether adding future instances with an activity category not represented in the initial instances is currently allowed according to the Verra standard version 4.2 document. In section 3.5.9 in the VCS standard V4.2, it is stated that the *“Determination of baseline scenario and demonstration of additionality are based upon the initial project activity instances”*, and in section 3.5.15 *“Eligibility criteria”* in the VCS standard V4.2, eligibility criteria number 5 states that new instances shall *“Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with the initial instances for the specified project activity and geographic area”*.

As stated above, it is not a possibility to meet the above criteria as the project activity category REDD+CIW is not part of the initial instances.

Therefore, as justified in the VCS standard version 4.2 section 3.19, a project description deviation is applied that allows for the expansion of the grouped project to include REDD+CIW activities after the initial validation, should such become relevant. As the addition of future project instances of the category REDD+CIW requires a new additionality demonstration and determination of baseline scenario, a new project description including the REDD+CIW category

and all the methodology requirements related to such are to be validated, should such become relevant.

4 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

4.1 Baseline Emissions

To be completed in the final PD.

4.2 Project Emissions

To be completed in the final PD.

4.3 Leakage

To be completed in the final PD.

4.4 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

To be completed in the final PD.

5 MONITORING

5.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

To be completed in the final PD.

5.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

To be completed in the final PD.

5.3 Monitoring Plan

To be completed in the final PD.

APPENDIX

To be completed in the final PD.