

VERIFICATION REPORT FOR THE PROJECT

NATURAL HIGH FOREST REHABILITATION PROJECT ON DEGRADED LAND OF KIBALE NATIONAL PARK



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Summary

The Natural Forest Rehabilitation Project on Degraded Land of Kibale National Park is an Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use (AFOLU) project. The AFOLU category is Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR), and the ARR project activity type is Reforestation.

AENOR started the verification under VCS Standard version 4 and CCB Standard second Edition in October 2019 when the Project Proponent submitted the monitoring reports for VCS and CCB and other supporting documents, such as the calculation spreadsheet, GIS package, the non-permanence risk assessment, etc.

A remote audit process by telematic interviews took place from 17th, 18th and 21st of September 2020 in which the auditor interviewed key stakeholders, staff and other related experts and verified the implemented activities.

The purpose of the verification was to determine the conformance of the project with respect to the VCS Standard version 4, the CCB Project Design Standards Third Edition and the validated VCS Project Description and CCB Project Design Document.

The implementation period covered by this verification reports is for VCS & CCB from 01-March-2017 to 29-February-2020.

This is the fourth verification event for VCS and the third for CCB. The project is well managed, and results are well supported. Monitor plans are effective, and the Project Proponent developed enough procedures and tools to manage data. Documents are well detailed. In this regard, this is a verification report that contains the findings of the verification 4 CARs and 11 CLs. These issues rose during the verification process and were resolved.

Thus, AENOR has carried out this verification report and deems with reasonable level of assurance that the project implementation complies with all verification requirements of the VCS+CCB Standard. The assessment team has no restrictions or uncertainties with respect to the compliance of the project with the verification criteria; hence, the audit team concludes that the net GHG emissions reductions or removals 221,716 tCO₂e over the monitoring period has been quantified in accordance with VCS rules.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

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

- The extent to which methods and procedures, including monitoring procedures, have been implemented in accordance with the validated project description, including the monitoring plan.
- The extent to which GHG emission reductions and removals reported in the monitoring report are materially accurate.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

Verification Scope: The scope of the verification audit is to verify the emissions reductions and/or removals of the project, against the Verified Carbon Standard, the identified methodology and the validated PD throughout the monitoring period for VCS & CCB from 01-March-2017 to 29-February-2020.

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

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

- VCS Program Guide v.4
- VCS Standard v.4
- CCB Rules v 3.1
- Third edition CCB Standard
- VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool v.4
- Consolidated afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-ACM0001: Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land", Version 05.0.0.

Unless otherwise indicated, the assessment was performed against the most recent version of the relevant VCS guidance document. Describe the scope and criteria of the verification.

In addition, the following documents were used as references during the audit process

- 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories
- 2019 Refinement of the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National GHG Inventories
- 2013 Supplement to the 2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories: Wetlands
- Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry (2003).
- Good Practice Guidance and Uncertainty Management in National GHG Inventories (2000).
- ISO 14064:2019

- Part 2: Specification with guidance, at the project level for quantification, monitoring and reporting of reductions in emissions or enhancements of removals of greenhouse gases
- Part 3: Specification with guidance for verification and validation of greenhouse gas reporting (2019)
- ISO 14065:2013 (EN) Greenhouse gases - Requirements for bodies undertaking validation and verification of greenhouse gases, for use in accreditation or other forms of recognition.

1.3 Level of Assurance

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

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

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

The project activity is developed in Kibale National Park (KNP) and is located in the western part of Uganda near the base of Rwenzori Mountain and is implemented by Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA) in cooperation with Face the Future.

The Forest Rehabilitation Project In Kibale contributes to climate change mitigation by sequestering GHGs in sinks through assisted natural regeneration activities that aim to promote regeneration of natural vegetation in the forest interior areas by creating a forested zone around the edge of the park which will act as a buffer to relieve the interior areas of pressure from agents of deforestation and degradation (i.e. anthropogenically caused fires).

The purpose of the project activity is to realize multiple socio-economic and environmental benefits (local community development, climate change mitigation, biodiversity conservation and soil erosion control) through restoring forest vegetation on degraded lands.

Since the start of the ARR project activities 4,195 hectares have been replanted and 2,593 hectares have naturally regenerated. However, a part of the reforested area is not included for this carbon monitoring campaign since the reforestation activities in these areas were done through 3rd party investments. Thus, this monitoring campaign includes 2,755 ha of replanted area and 2,593 ha of regeneration area.

The results of the 2020 carbon monitoring campaign show that since the beginning of the project in 1994 a total of 1,413,161 tCO₂e have been sequestered in living tree biomass within the project area. 673,493 tCO₂e (244 tCO₂e/ha) have been captured in the replanted area and 739,669 tCO₂e (285 tCO₂e/ha) in the regeneration area. The tree growth during the monitoring period, between the 1st of March 2017 to the 29th of February 2020, resulted in a net emission removal of 221,716 tCO₂e.

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Audit Team Composition (*Rules 4.3.1*)

Name	Position in the team
Miguel López Delgado	Lead Verifier
Juan Carlos Gómez Martín	Verifier
Elena Llorente Pérez	Technical Reviewer
José Luis Fuentes Pérez	Project Coordinator

Miguel López is a Forestry Engineer with more than 7 years of experience working in and with developing countries in fields related to community development; natural resources conservation-use; forest management, audit processes and REDD+ monitoring and reporting. He has large experience developing and managing programs for rural/indigenous development onsite.

Juan Carlos Gómez has more than 5 years of professional experience in climate change. He is a Forestry Engineer and holds Master in Sustainable Development and Corporate. He is an expert in the development of climate change mitigation and adaptation policies and has worked in LATAM countries and Africa, auditing REDD+ under VCS and CCB, and forestry projects under the CDM and JI.

Elena Llorente has a degree in Environmental Sciences and has more than 14 years experience in sustainable development projects, having worked as a validator/ leading verifier in the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) and other schemes volunteers. She is an expert in climate, community and biodiversity issues.

José Luis Fuentes is the manager of the Climate Change Unit of AENOR. He is a Forestry Engineer and has a master's in Business Administration and a Post-Graduate in Environmental Management. He has more than 15 years of experience in auditing, consulting and training activities related to environmental and carbon management projects. Jose Luis has actively participated in the audit of international sustainable development projects in several carbon schemes, such as the Clean Development Mechanisms (CDM), Verified Carbon Standard (VCS), Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standards (CCB), Gold Standard (GS) and carbon footprints (ISO 14067 and ISO 14064). Jose Luis has extensive technical knowledge about the regulatory framework, policies and technical provisions emanating from the Paris Agreement, the Kyoto Protocol and the Conferences of the Parties.

2.2 Method and Criteria

The verification was performed through a combination of document review, interviews and communications with relevant personnel and on-site inspections. The project was assessed for conformance to the criteria described in Section 1.2 of this report. As discussed in this report, findings were issued to ensure that the project was in full conformance to all requirements.

AENOR carried out this final verification report and deems with reasonable level of assurance that the project complies with all verification criteria.

The verification has been performed through a deep desk review and a remote on-site inspection including telematic interviews with relevant personnel.

AENOR took into consideration that this verification event is a periodic verification, not the first one, as well as AENOR carried out the before verification process to the one involved in this assessment and that consultants and project participants have a large knowledge in forestry projects, monitoring activities and VCS requirements for AFOLU projects, then, risks are few. However, AENOR carried out the following sampling:

The verification activities in which risks were assessed were the evaluations of the monitoring system (data flow, data control procedures, etc.) but mainly the quality of raw data as well as sources and the spreadsheet calculations. AENOR reproduced and verified 100% of sheets in the MR and the other spreadsheets for the monitoring period for the project area crosschecking with used methodology requirements (*Consolidated afforestation and reforestation baseline and monitoring methodology AR-ACM0001: Afforestation and reforestation of degraded land*”, Version 05.0.0).

The project boundary and land cover changes in the project area for the monitoring period were 100% checked, as well, using the GIS online database.

AENOR carried out a deep and meticulous review of the spreadsheets in order to verify the correct application of the methodology (formulae, equations.) and checked that data required for calculating the GHG removals and reductions were appropriately provided.

Based on the assessment carried out, AENOR confirms with a reasonable level of assurance that the claimed emission reductions and removals are free from material errors, omissions, or misstatements.

In addition, AENOR confirms that sufficient evidence was presented for the reported net anthropogenic GHG emission reductions and removals and that there is a clear audit trail that contains the evidence and records that validate the stated figure in this verification report since:

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

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

2.3 Document Review

The monitoring report, project description, and supporting documentation were carefully reviewed for conformance to the verification criteria and consistency with the Project Description. The audit team examined the baseline data gathered from the baseline determined for this Region, spreadsheets used to enter, and compile information required by the methodology and reproduced the GHG emissions reductions calculations presented in the spreadsheet models to obtain same results than those appearing in the Monitoring report. The Non-Permanence Risks Reports for this monitoring period were assessed, as well.

Appendix 1 to this report details the list of documents provided by PP and reviewed by AENOR during the process.

2.4 Interviews

The list of the interviewed people is following detailed. The people interviewed were those directly affected or involved in the project activity, and in some cases were just indirectly affected.

Date	Issue/topic	Stakeholder Group	Representative from Entity/Group	Name
17/09/2020	Project implementation	Project Proponent Collaborators	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	Edward Asalu* (Chief Warden KNP) or the Person in office: Patrick Tushabe
	Project participation	Communities involved in the project	Local Govt representatives	Magdalena Namusisi *
				Charles Kananura*
				Sabiti Monday
			Representatives from the main parish or villages	Monday Everest*
			Representative of community	Kwesiga Julius
			Representative of Bakiga community.	Akampulira Odomel
			Face Warden Community	Joan Nimusima
	Project Development & implementation	Local project staff	Project manager / Head warden UWA-FACE	Richard Kigenyi
			Forest warden	Patrick Kamra
			Accountant	Amos Muhindo
			Head Ranger	Sahirwe Silver
			Field Assistant	Cheptoyek Christine
18/09/2020	Project communication	Local project staff	Project manager / Head warden UWA-FACE	Richard Kigenyi, Patrick, Joan, Jastus & Mesach
			Warden Communities (UWA and/or UWA-FACE?)	
	Project monitoring/ inventory training/ data management & control	A complete carbon monitoring team	Operator	Richard Kigenyi
			Backup operator	Patrick
			Pole-woman	Cheptoyek Christine
			Caliper-man	Mwesigwa Polycarp
			Ranger	Mubangizi Patrick
			Slasher	Abigaba Fred
			Data Control FACETHEFUTURE	Kars Riemer
	Restoration activities	Local workers /community	Richard& Kamara mobilise Workers for explanation	Mwesigwa Polycarp, Katama Salim, Abigaba Fred, Christine Cheptoyek
	Fire prevention	Local workers /community		

21/09/2020	Elephant trenches	Local workers /community	Community members employed in trench digging	Mwesige David, Basaliza Patrick, Saturday Henry
	Nursery operations	Local workers /community	Nursery farmer	Sunday Francis
	Beekeeping along the park boundary	Local community	Community beneficiaries of income generating activities": Kachwamakaito Group	Alinaitwe Enock, Twesigye Benon
	Agroforestry training and (motorcycle for transportation and griding mill for community use)	Local community	Beneficiaries farmers: Ngeza beneficiaries or Kakooga beneficiaries	Chatarugamba Matiya, Tumurame Moureen, Twijukye Dick (motorcycle), Assimwe Swaibu (griding mill)
	Unpalatable crops (i.e. tea)	Local community	Farmers that planted tea (or other unpalatable crops): Kato Innocent & Kyalikunda	Sahirwe Silvernus

* Due to pre-election situation in the country and mobility restrictions because of COVID, 2 from the 3 local authorities could not attend to the interviews. Additionally, the Chief warden of KNP was not able to attend the meeting, thus a KNP's officer replace him. Besides, one of the representors from the communities involved in the project could not attend either.

2.5 Site Inspections

Due to the exceptional situation caused by the COVID-19 crisis and the travel restrictions established by governments for safety reasons, it was not feasible to carry out a site visit to verify the implementation of projects' activities and monitoring plans.

In accordance with VERRA's COVID-19 Travel Guidance for Projects (dated 18 March 2020). An exemption of the site visit required by the CCB standards, on the ground of the current crisis situation and considering that a reasonable level of assurance is achievable by other means. AENOR as VVB carried out a remote audit that ensured the achievement of the assurance level required by both the VCS and CCB programs.

The remote audit was based on the following auditing techniques:

- Document review and cross checks between the information provided in the MR, the PD and supporting information and evidence provided by the PP.
- Review, based on the selected methodologies, tools and the other applied methodological regulatory documents, of the appropriateness of formulae and accuracy of calculations.
- Telephone, teleconference and/or e-mail interviews with relevant stakeholders and personal responsible for the implementation of project activities and the elaboration of project's documents.
- Cross checks between information provided by interviewees to ensure that not relevant information has been omitted.

The remote audit procedure will be agreed with the PP on the basis of available means and safety procedures. Key stakeholders interviewed and project activities information reviewed during the remote process are shown in Appendix 2 of this report.

2.6 Resolution of Findings

All documentation provided by the Project Proponent was assessed against the most recent version of the relevant VCS guidance document. Several clarification requests (CL) and corrective action requests (CAR) were raised and submitted to the Project Proponent, which addressed them either by providing to the audit team the requested information or by making the appropriate corrections. Updated versions of the documentation were submitted by the Project Proponent and the audit team reassessed them against the guidance documentation. This process was repeated iteratively until all CLs and CARs were fully resolved. Specifically, 2 CARs and 7 CLs were reported.

All findings issued by the AENOR audit team during the verification process have been closed for both VCS and CCB Standards. In accordance with Section 5.3.6 of the VCS Standard, all findings issued during the validation process, and the inputs for their closure, are described in Appendix 3 of this report.

2.6.1 Forward Action Requests

No FARs were raised to the PP during the verification process.

2.7 Eligibility for Validation Activities

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

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Participation under Other GHG Programs

The project has not sought or received any other form of GHG-related environmental credit other than under the VCS Program. Also, it has not been registered, and is not seeking registration, with any GHG program other than the VCS.

The project does not generate any other form of GHG-related environmental credit other than under the VCS Programme. The project has not been registered with any GHG programme other than the VCS. The project has not been submitted to any other GHG programme.

3.2 Methodology Deviations

AENOR deems that there were no methodology deviations.

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

There was a change in project proponents during this monitoring period. The primary project proponent was Face the Future. This has been changed to Greenchoice. However, Face the Future still manages the

project on behalf of Greenchoice, and Face the Future still works together with the Uganda Wildlife Authority on the implementation of the project activities.

Other than the change in PP, there are no deviations to the description of the project.

Thus, the Project remains in compliance with the VCS & CCB rules. It is completely implemented and discrepancies between the Project and the PD have been clearly commented in the MR and suitability assessed by AENOR.

3.4 Minor Changes to Project Description (*Rules 3.5.6*)

Additional CCB activities were initiated based on experiences from past project implementation. These concern activities regarding the focal issues:

Human Wildlife Conflict:

The objective of the project is to have an effective elephant deterrent trench to contain animals in the Protected Area along 70% of the park boundary, where people are living along the project area, by 2024. At the same time, the project aims 10% of the households along the park boundary near the project area would have planted unpalatable crops.

The project has already managed to establish 80% of total trenches (excluding the areas where a trench cannot be established, e.g. due to the presence of solid rock, river or swamp). The remaining trenches are expected to be dug within the following monitoring period. Difficult to stimulate the planting of unpalatable crops along the park boundary was proved (mainly due to poor market conditions for tea, the main crop planted). Only in 2019 a group of local farmers have been found interested to plant tea along the project boundary. Areas where no trenches can be established were therefor mainly targeted for beekeeping. Beekeeping was promoted along the boundary of the park, where beekeeping groups were supported with equipment through the revenue sharing fund and MoUs were made with these beekeeping groups allowing them to access the outer boundary of the national Park to place their beehives.

Wildfires:

The objective of the project is to support establishment of woodlots at household in the 12 neighbouring Parishes by 2024. However, only in 2019, two households were supported in the establishment of woodlots. Due to low interest in woodlot establishment with indigenous species, often associated with the small size of an average field, the project impact has been low till date. In 2018 a pilot was started, training farmers to take up agroforestry and, besides improving sustainable land use, integrate more trees in their field.

This activity also ties in with the other project impacts identified, where the project aims to provide skills and build capacity to increase community resilience and local business development. The monitoring results can be found in section 4.3.1. of the CCB MR.

Additionally, it was included an additional indicator under the focal issue wildfires. This indicator is the number of fire patrolmen employed by the project. This number provides additional insight in the project's effort to control wildfires. The indicator type is 'output'. The indicator and the monitoring results can be found in section 4.3.1. of the CCB MR

AENOR deems that these minor changes of the project description do not affect the conservativeness of the stated emissions reductions and the Project remains in compliance with the VCS & CCB rules and requirements.

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

Not applicable

4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Public Comments (*Rules 4.6*)

The project documents were published on the CCB website for a public consultation process from 12th October 2020 to 11th November 2020 then comments by stakeholders were invited. No comments were received for this project during the public comment period.

4.2 Summary of Project Benefits

Section 1 of the monitoring report provides information about the project benefits. Section 1.1 provide information related to the achievements for the current monitoring period and for the project lifetime, detailed with specific data by the following categories.

- Native Forest planted and maintained
- Created and protected habitat for a variety of threatened wildlife species (such as red colobus, chimpanzee, African golden cat, etc.)
- Protection of forest ecosystem from exotic species in the park
- Reduced Human Wildlife conflicts
- Protection of the park against poaching and over extraction of NTFP's

Data are supported with evidence and records checked during the remote interviewing process and desk review. The section has been completed appropriately with data from the sources provided such as GIS package, records of trainings activities, employees etc.

As specific and remarkable achievements for the current monitoring period, the monitoring report in its section 1.2 states the net emission reduction of 221,716 tCO₂e for the monitoring period. Other benefits in community and biodiversity components are the number of training actions for local people and employments generated as a result of the project implementation, or the number of income-generating livelihood projects implemented with community groups. The climate targets directly affect to the biodiversity due to the conservation of forests.

In opinion of AENOR, the project benefits are credible based on the supporting documents provided by PPs and evidence received during the AENOR on site visit from stakeholders interviewed, records checked and field records.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Implementation Status (G1.9)

Tables in sections 1.1 and 1.2 of the CCB MR provide complete information of activities carried out and impacts of these activities. Project objectives and activities to reach them are analyzed with their outputs and outcomes for the present monitoring period.

In addition, Section 2.1.1 of the CCB MR provides a few relevant milestones occurred from the beginning of the project activities. These milestones are directly linked with the success to implement and achieve the goals established by the project in the community and biodiversity areas.

Section 3.1 of the VCS MR summarizes the results of the ARR project activities since the start of the project activities. This section also clarifies the differences between the VCS PD, where it was initially planned to realize the reforestation of a total of 6.000 ha by the end of 2016, and the MR results whereby the end of 2019 only 4,159 ha were planted (differing 1,805 ha).

During this verification process, AENOR has not detected project changes in regards of the project title, its purposes and objectives. As such, the project activity accurately reflects the proposed project which mainly consists of protecting the park, to improve the quality of life of population in the area and strengthen relationships with government agencies to insure the proper long-term management of the Project Proponent. Through interviews with key staff and evidence provided, the auditor's team verified the main objectives of the project activity.

AENOR checked the monitoring plans contained in the project documents and supporting documents and compared it with the monitoring report to verify whether there was any difference that would cause an increase in estimates of the GHG emission reductions in the current monitoring period or that would prevent the implementation of any project activity to achieve the goals for the community and biodiversity. AENOR has confirmed that there are no material discrepancies between the actual monitoring system, and the monitoring plan set out in the project description and the applied methodology. The project implementation is in accordance with the project description, there's no discrepancies.

Also, as required by the monitoring plan, the applicable methodology and the VCS and CCB requirements the project proponent effectively monitors the required parameters to determine the project's removals by sinks and emissions by sources and parameters for biodiversity and community monitoring, hence, AENOR deems monitoring plan is complete and suitability.

The parameters reported, including source, frequency and review criteria as indicated in the monitoring plan were verified to be correct and in line with the validated monitoring plan. Necessary management system procedures including responsibility and authority of monitoring activities have been verified to be consistent with the PD. Knowledge of personnel associated with the project activity was also found to be satisfactory. For this monitoring period there are no remaining issues from the previous verification.

The project has not participated nor been rejected under any other GHG programs other than VCS. GHG emission reductions or removals generated by the project are not included in an emission trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading. The project has not received or sought any other form of environmental credit.

The sustainable development contributions of the project are intrinsically related to the design of the project. As states the VCS monitoring report in its section 1.11 Uganda submitted its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) in 2015. This INDC describes the national stated development goals and objectives. Although the NDC is not finalized yet, it is only the Intended NDC. Looking at Uganda's long-term goals described in the INDC, the reforestation project in Kibale National Park makes a significant contribution to the Forestry Priority Sector

There were no methodology deviations. On the other hand, minor changes to the project description were described in section 3.4 of this report and do not affect the conservativeness of the stated emissions reductions and the Project remains in compliance with the VCS & CCB rules and requirements.

Hence, after a complete review of the different documents provided and the on-site visit, AENOR is able to confirm that the project implementation is in accordance with the project description contained in the PD. There are not material discrepancies between project implementation and the project description.

4.3.2 Risk to the Project (G3.5)

Non-permanence risk assessment was carried out in accordance with the VCS AFOLU Non- Permanence risk tool v.4.0. According to the assessment the project falls into an overall risk rating of 4,5% buffer requirement. Internal risk, external risk and natural risk have been evaluated.

The project has a system in place to identify risks and established targets to reduce any non-permanent risks. Procedures have been developed and responsibilities are well assigned with internal auditing, reviews and training in place. The project also has a well-qualified, experienced local management team in place to ensure that the project activities are implemented effectively.

The information provided in the non-permanence risk assessment was cross-checked with the documents provided by the PP. Natural, external and internal risks and their support documentation were reviewed and found to be consistent with the VCS & CCB standards requirements.

In general terms, risks to biodiversity benefits run parallel to the risks for climate benefits, which are covered in the VCS NPRR. Additional risks to the biodiversity benefits are poaching and the unsustainable extraction of park resources (over exploitation). These risks are addressed by the project proponent by creating support among the community members for the park and by organizing awareness meetings.

One risk to community benefits is the elephants affecting the farmer's crops. In this regard, AENOR verified the huge efforts communities are doing to open trenches in the parishes more affected by elephants. A risk to employment is envisaged if the project is not achieving its planting targets and in case of scaling down.

AENOR held telematic meetings with the local authorities and legal representatives of the communities and checked that communication with them has been clear and direct in most of the cases. On the other hand, the verification did not detect any form of discrimination or sexual harassment.

AENOR deems that the Project Proponent identified correctly the risks to the project's benefits and it is implementing actions to reduce or diminish the negative impacts of these risks in the benefits on the Climate, Community and Biodiversity.

4.3.3 Enhancement of High Conservation Values (G3.6)

The project aims to establish native forests, of which already parts have been realized in varying stages of regeneration, thus, it is expected to further increase the High Conservation Values considerably.

The management of the HCV was managed in accordance with the management strategy for identified HCV in the KNP, outside of the project area, as described in the General Management Plan KNP 2014 – 2024, section 2.1.

The activities carried out to protect the HCV forests are the removal of alien plants, prevention of illegal activities such as poaching through a system of ranger patrols, prevention of timber cutting, minimize illegal grazing in forests, and the management of the sustainable utilization of NTFPs from the forests.

Five management programs have been defined to guide management activities for the national park and the HCV forests in specific. These programs are extensively described in section 2.5 of the general management plan 2014 – 2024 and also form to a great degree the basis for organizational structure of the management of KNP. They are grouped under:

1. Resources conservation: boundary management, control of illegal resource use, fire management, exotic species control, forest restoration and regional environmental management issues.
2. Ecological Monitoring and Research: The Ecological Monitoring and Research Program aims at undertaking activities that enhance the welfare of wild animals, their habitats and the ecosystem in general and to provide scientific information to assist management decisions.
3. Climate change: This section describes the preliminary identified impacts of climate change on the (micro-) climate and environment in and around the park. It lists specific management actions to assess the impact, create awareness and design adaptation strategies.
4. Community Conservation: Revenue sharing, collaborative management and resource access, wildlife use rights program, problem animal management / human-wildlife conflict, conservation education and awareness, and community-based tourism among others.
5. Park operations and maintenance: including aspects such as auxiliary services, staff training, capital projects, improving infrastructure.

The main actions to ensure maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity as a whole and HCVs in specific are:

- Planting of trees
- Removal of exotics
- Prevention of fire
- Patrolling
- Research and monitoring

As described in section B 2.1 of the PDD, with specific regards to elephant abundance, the project is expected to have no positive effect. However, there was no evidence found that suggests that they are

necessarily negatively impacted by the project. In addition, current observation data shows an increase in elephant abundance.

During this monitoring period HCV were ensured as the forest habitat is protected. Biodiversity monitoring allowed to track any changes or impacts to HCV, and none have been identified.

In opinion of the Audit team the project has implemented sufficient measures to maintain the HCVs in the project area and the results of the deforested areas during the monitoring period confirm the success of the strategies proposed. These measures are planned with reasonableness to be consistent with the precautionary principles.

4.3.4 Benefit Permanence (G3.7)

Section 2.1.5 of the CCB MR lists the main measures taken to maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime. Measures described in the section 5.3 of the CCB MR. The measures taken were:

- Fire management and exotics eradication
- Decreasing human wildlife conflicts and promoting local community development (i.e. through funding income generating activities, local business development, access to resources, capacity building)

AENOR has verified these activities through the desk review and during the remote audit process and verified that the project has implemented sufficient measures to maintain its benefits.

4.3.5 Stakeholder Engagement (G3.8 -G3.9)

The stakeholder involvement in project design as well as the stakeholder communication system is described in the CCB PD Section G3. During the remote audit process the audit team was able to verify the stakeholder's involvement through the different interviews and meetings conducted and through records of different meetings and workshops. Community members demonstrated awareness and consent of the project's activities. In opinion of AENOR, the communication and consultation plan are being implemented as described in the project design document.

PDs and other documents related to REDD+ activities were published for the communities and other stakeholders to participate. Generally, project documents have been made accessible to communities through socialization events, workshops, and/or community participation spaces, and have been delivered via printed, digital, and audiovisual materials created specifically for communities and other interested stakeholders.

Project documentation is available on the office at Mainaro, and on the head office at Isunga. However, any information can be given out if asked for. In most cases local community members that wish to have information about an issue asked for a meeting so that things could be explained, and they had the possibility to give feedback.

A stakeholder consultation plan was made in which the VCS and CCB monitoring results were presented, as well as the change in project proponents. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the meetings target village Chairmen and Parish Chiefs who are at the frontline to guide the Community on the projects to be

undertaken within the Parish. The District Local Council and Chairpersons were invited for the meetings (Section 2.2.7 CCB MR). Project updates are also distributed through radio and newspapers. Hardcopies of the VCS and CCB Monitoring reports summaries were distributed to the main stakeholders' groups through main local offices.

AENOR took the opportunity to hold several meetings and interviews with representatives of main stakeholders' groups that confirmed the participation of them in the consultation process. The audit team was able to verify the documentation of the project was made accessible to stakeholders.

During the remote audit process the audit team found the communication between the beneficiaries and the implementer generated more confidence in the project and influenced positively its implementation, encouraging the participation of the beneficiaries in the monitoring, increasing environmental awareness, promoting behavioral changes and establishing associations in pursuit of common goals.

Documentation assessed during the desk review and observations made during the remote audit process provide and justify an overall conclusion as to whether the project provided appropriate access to information to communities and other stakeholders.

The veracity of the local stakeholder consultation was also verified during the remote audit process. AENOR checked the evidence of the different meetings about the project as well as the monitoring reports, the communication plan, etc. Evidence confirms that information provided by the PP is credible and consistent.

Project proponents have a continue communication with the local communities to implement and monitor goals of the project. Likewise, AENOR during the remote audit process held numerous interviews with a broad range of stakeholders and confirmed the assertions made within the PD and MR in these regards.

4.3.6 Stakeholder Grievance Redress Procedure (G3.10)

The project's grievance redress procedure was defined in the Project Design Document for validation under Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project Design (CCB Standards Third Edition, December. 2013) dated 03-July-2015.

No complaints were filed during the period of the reported project implementation. Thus, the grievance redress procedure was not implemented. AENOR held numerous telematic interviews with a broad range of stakeholders and confirmed the assertions made within the project's validated design and MR in these regards.

4.3.7 Worker Relations (G4.3 – G4.6)

The CCB PDD in its section G3.9 describes the training initiative and the skills provided. These skills basically enable community members to plant trees on their own lands and to establish nurseries for the sale of seedlings. With regards to equal opportunities, as described in said section, both women and men are offered training and job opportunities as well as people with different level of status and income.

In other hand, before every monitoring campaign starts with a training to refresh knowledge. In this monitoring period said training was held during the last week of January 2020. The 4 field teams were trained in the hardware maintenance and software operation using Field-Map technology. Team leaders

were also trained in backing up of the data. IFER, represented by Petr Blazek, led the training of the data collection.

AENOR did not detect incompliance checking the CCB validated PD and interviewing to the workers. They have been informed about risks of the works and they received training about safety matters. Then, the project fulfils with CCB requirements related to worker relations.

4.3.8 Technical and Management Capacity (G4.2, G4.7)

The CCB MR report states in its section 2.3.1 that skills and capacities of the key personnel for implementing and monitoring the project have been maintained, since PP change has not involved any change in the project management team or the implementation local partner.

The project has not required making new alliances with other institutions for the management or administration of it, since it is being executed under the same validated technical proposal, according to PDD. The validation report under the CCB standard and the first verification under the CCB and VCS standards of the project shows the project fulfilled of the requirements.

They have the suitable and appropriate technical and management capacity to develop the project, as it was checked by AENOR during the remote audit process.

4.3.9 Legal Status (G5.1)

Section G5.6 of the CCB PD provides information related to the compliance with the applicable laws, statues and other regulatory frameworks.

Current laws and/or regulations that allow the reforestation on degrade lands are: (i) The constitution of the Republic of Uganda; (ii) the National Environmental Act of 1996; (iii) the National Forestry and Tree Planting Act 8/2003; (iv) the Uganda wildlife Act Cap 200.

No changes to the information provided in the PD were found in this monitoring period.

According to the information provided and assessed during the remote audit process, the main and relevant laws were described, and their enforcement analyzed in the PD.

Thus, AENOR deems that project complies with applicable laws, statues, and other regulatory frameworks.

4.3.10 Rights Protection and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (G5.3-G5.5)

According to information provided in the PDs, MRs and gathered from authorities and the project proponent, the project does not encroach on private property or community property, in fact, the project areas is located on land owned by the Government of Uganda. In addition, the Kibale National Park is managed by the Uganda Wildlife Authority a governmental organization.

In the zone surrounding the project area the local communities have customary land rights. The natural resources from the Park as firewood, wild coffee, medicinal plants, fish, honey and rattan cane are extracted by the local community since the Government permits communities to access resources from the Park with permission from the Executive Director.

During the remote audit process AENOR could confirm that the project protects the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities and other stakeholders in accordance to the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards and the validated project design.

4.3.11 Identification of Illegal Activities (G5.5)

Poaching and illegal NTFP extraction were identified as the illegal activities represented in the project area. Section 5.3 of the CCB MR describes mitigation measures and indicators.

AENOR could check during the remote audit process how actions lead by the project developer and project implementer as stated in the section 5.3. of the MR mitigate the effects of the illegal activities. AENOR did not detect incompliance checking the documents provided and interviewing to the stakeholders and project participants.

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

According to information and evidence provided, during the period of the reported project implementation, no complaints have been filed.

AENOR checked through desk review and during the on-site visit the Conflicts, Grievance and Redress mechanism and there were no grievances or complaints that have passed through, or have been recorded and or resolved, via the established grievance mechanism.

4.3.13 Commercially Sensitive Information (Rules 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

No information was excluded from the public version of the monitoring reports.

4.4 Climate

4.4.1 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

Procedures for quantifying the baseline emissions were conducted in accordance with the methodology. The verification team performed an intensive review of all input data, parameters, formulas, calculations, conversions, statistics and resulting uncertainties and output data to ensure consistency with the VCS documentation, methodology and associated tools, and the PD.

Further, the verification team reproduced calculations for selected samples to ensure accuracy of the results. Conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by project proponents in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulas were accessible for review. The verification team recalculated subsets of the analysis to confirm correctness. Where applicable, references for analysis methods or default values were checked against relevant scientific literature for best practice.

The formulas used to estimate project GHG emissions are taken directly from the approved CDM methodology AR-ACM0001 v 5.0. The emission reduction calculation provided in the spreadsheet has been reproduced and verified to reach the same results than the project proponent.

According to the applied methodology the emission reductions are calculated as following the formulae:

$$C_{AR-CDM} = \Delta C_{ACTUAL} - \Delta C_{BSL} - LK$$

Where:

- ΔC_{ACTUAL} : Actual net GHG removals by sinks since the start of the ARR project activity; t CO₂ e
- ΔC_{BSL} : Baseline net GHG removals by sinks; t CO₂ e
- LK: Total GHG emissions due to leakage; t CO₂ e

Baseline Scenario Emissions:

Section 5.1 of the VCS Monitoring Report and the calculation spreadsheet submitted to AENOR provide information related to the baseline emissions calculations.

AENOR has checked the calculations and confirms that emissions in the baseline scenario are consistent with assumptions in the validated PD. Data are correctly applied in formulas to calculate the emissions reductions of the project according to the applicable methodology.

The baseline scenario continues being the same. As described in the PD (section 2.5 and 4.2), the baseline is in a steady state. There is no increase in GHG removal, therefore: $\Delta C_{BSL}=0$.

The baseline GHG removals by sinks is the sum of the changes in carbon stocks in the selected carbon pools within the project boundary that would have occurred in the absence of the AR project activity. As per the registered VCS PD the initial baseline carbon stock in three biomass is conservatively determined to be 5.2 tC/ha or 19.1 tCO₂/ha and the value is used as the initial carbon stock value in the project area before the implementation or the AR project activity.

Under the applicability conditions of AR-ACM0001 methodology, the baseline net GHG removals by sinks is determined as:

AENOR has checked the calculations provided and confirmed that this amount of baseline emissions is in conformance and have followed the methodology in the validated P.D.

Calculation of Project Emissions:

To calculate the project emissions, AENOR verified that PPs are using the correct formula in calculations as defined by the applicable methodology.

$$\Delta C_{ACTUAL} = \Delta C_P - GHG_E$$

where:

- ΔC_{ACTUAL} Actual net GHG removals by sinks since the start of the ARR project activity; tCO₂e
- ΔC_P Sum of the changes the carbon stock in the selected carbon pools within the project boundary since the start of the ARR project activity; tCO₂e
- GHG_E Increase in non-CO₂ GHG emissions within the project boundary as a result of the implementation of the ARR VCS project activity; tCO₂e

Under the applicability conditions of this methodology, there is no quantification of project emissions because all the labour force used for the proposed ARR VCS project activity is from local villages; hence transportation for workers is not needed.

All seedlings were raised on or near the site and will be transported to the project sites by manpower and project vehicles, whose emissions are insignificant. No harvesting or thinning of the forest expected to take place as the project area wholly contained within the National park. Emissions from burning of woody biomass is also not accounted for since this burning does not take place in the project area (PD section 2.4). Therefore, the increase in GHG emissions as a result of the implementation of the proposed ARR VCS project activity within the project boundary is set to zero: $GHG_E = 0$

As described in the PD (section 2.3), only the above-ground and below-ground biomass of tree vegetation is selected as carbon pool for the project activity. Dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon are conservatively excluded as carbon sink. Furthermore, changes in carbon stock of above-ground and below-ground biomass of non-tree vegetation is conservatively set to be zero for all strata in the project scenario.

Table 10 in the VCS monitoring report provides the data of the carbon stocks in the selected pools per stratum for the current monitoring period adding up 1,413,161 tCO₂e (*detailed elaboration of the results can be found in the excel spreadsheet attached to the VCS Monitoring Report as Appendix 4*).

Calculation of Leakage:

According to the applicable methodology and the assumptions and justifications in the validated VCS PD (section 4.4), leakage is not applicable to the project. Therefore, leakage is not monitored and set to zero: $LK = 0$

Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Calculation of removals has been provided. The audit team has found the calculation traceable and in accordance with the applied methodology.

The net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks is the actual net GHG removals by sinks minus the baseline net GHG removals by sinks minus leakage, therefore, the following general formula is used to calculate the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks of the ARR VCS project activity:

$$C_{AR-CDM} = \Delta C_{ACTUAL} - \Delta C_{BSL} - LK$$

The results in t4, date of verification 2020, for the net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks since the start of the ARR project activity, is presented in table 11. **Error! No se encuentra el origen de la referencia.** of the VCS MR and accounts to 1,413,161 tCO₂e (*detailed elaboration of the results can be found in the excel spreadsheet attached as separate file attached to this VCS Monitoring Report as Appendix 4*).

To estimate the net change in GHG emission removals over the monitoring period $T = t_4 - t_3$, the CDM methodology AR-ACM0001/Version 05.0.0 uses the equation as the follows:

$$\Delta C_{AR,VCS,T} = C_{AR,VCS,t_4} - C_{AR,VCS,t_3}$$

The results for the net change in GHG emission removals over for the monitoring period $T = t_4 - t_3$ (2017-2020) are presented per stratum i in Table 12 of the VCS MR and for the total monitoring period T in Table 13. A detailed elaboration of these results can be found in the excel spreadsheet attached as separate file (Appendix 4). The Net GHG emission reductions or removals over the monitoring period $T = t_4 - t_3$ (2017 - 2020) is: $\Delta C_{AR_VCS, t_4 - t_3} = 221,716 \text{ tCO}_2\text{e}$

In addition, non-permanence risks were assessed and the percentage of VCU's to be deposited in the AFOLU Pooled buffer account is 10%, i.e. 22,172 tCO₂e that were subtracted to the net removal resulting in a final amount of NET VCUs after buffer subtraction = 199,544 VCUs

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

Assumptions used by PP at verification were appropriately cross-checked and assessed with requested evidence. New approaches or assumptions used at verification are detailed in the methodology or project deviation section. In opinion of AENOR they are appropriately treated by PPs in the monitoring report. They are correct and fulfil with VCS requirements.

In order to calculate the above terms, the VCS monitoring report details the data and parameters used during the verification process in section 4. Data and parameters available at validation are the ones stated in section 4.1. of the VCS MR.

Data and parameters available at validation were: T (years of the monitoring period $T=t_4-t_3$, 2020-2017); t_3 (date of verification in 2017); t_4 (date of verification in 2020); i (stratum, planting year, regeneration area); A_i (total area monitored for GHG sinks, i.e, 2,755 ha (compartment area) and 2,593 ha (natural regeneration area); $a_{i,p}$ (Area of permanent sampling plot p); $A_{p,i}$ (Total area of all sample plots in stratum i); Plot position; a, b, c, d (Parameters used in the allometric equation to calculate the fresh weight of above-ground tree biomass (W_{wet}) from NBS study); CF_a (Conversion Factor for the conversion of fresh weight to air dry weight of woody biomass. If a factor for particular species is unknown, a default value of 0.54 is applied.); CF_b (Conversion Factor for the conversion of air-dry weight to oven-dry weight of woody biomass, a value of 0.853 is applied); CF_c (Conversion factor for conversion of oven-dry weight to carbon stock in above-ground tree biomass, a value of 0,50 is applied); CF_r (Conversion Factor for calculating root biomass, a value of 0.16 is used); 44/12; ΔC_{BSL} (Baseline net GHG removals by sinks); $CTREE_BSL$ (Baseline net GHG removals by sink); GHG_e (value 0); LK (value 0).

AENOR cross-checked with the validated PDD and spreadsheet calculations that these data values and parameters used in the monitoring report are correct and match with values determined at validation, except the changes explained for CF_a . They are appropriately used in equations.

Likewise, data and parameters monitored to calculate the VCUs to be issued were DBH (Diameter at breast height of tree – measured at 1.3 m height); H (Tree height); CW (Tree crown width); Trees species (name of the tree species identified at both genus and species level); W_{wet} (Fresh weight of above ground tree biomass); W_{airdry} (Air dry weight of AGB); $W_{ovendry}$ (oven dry weight of AGB); C_{stag} (carbon stock in the AGB of trees); C_{stbg} (carbon stocks in the below ground biomass of trees), C_{tree} (GHG sinks in above- and below-ground tree biomass); ΔC_p (Sum of the changes the carbon stock in the selected carbon pools within the project boundary since the start of the ARR project activity) ; ΔC_{actual} (actual net GHG removals

by sinks since the start of the project); CAR_{VCS} (Net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks and $\Delta CAR_{VCS,T}$ (Net change in anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks over the monitoring $T = t_4 - t_3$).

These ones match with the PDD validated. AENOR verified that data values detailed in the monitoring report for the monitoring parameters are correct and consistent with data in spreadsheet calculations, assumptions and approaches used by PP.

The verification team checked how data collection of the most of these parameters is being implemented in order to check the knowledge of field workers with the devices, equipment, etc. Due to the exceptional COVID-19 situation and the audit site visit exemption, demonstrative videos of a monitoring crew in a sample of plot, proceeding with the monitoring activities were requested to the project developer and produced for verification purposes.

AENOR checked that the list of parameters to be monitored was complete and consistent with information in the monitoring plan of the P.D.

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

For all these parameters reported in the monitoring report, AENOR cross-checked with the PD and the spreadsheet calculations that values/calculations/methods match and are free of mistakes and errors. AENOR did not find inconsistencies between the PD, technical annex, monitoring report and spreadsheet calculation.

In order to verify the accuracy and consistency of parameters monitored and used to calculate the removals achieved for the monitoring period, the AENOR verification team reproduced the calculations checking the correctness of the formulae applied and assumptions used, when applicable and that values used matched with data sources.

4.4.2 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

The carbon monitoring campaign in Kibale NP used the same plot design and methodology as were applied in Kibale NP during previous campaigns.

The assessment suggested that the data used to determine emissions reductions are of high quality and had been collected in a manner that is consistent with the VCS standard, CDM methodology, and monitoring plan. Processing steps could be traced to the corresponding sections of the methodology and monitoring plan with transparency.

As described in the PD (section 2.3), only the above-ground and below-ground biomass of tree vegetation is included as carbon pool for the project activity. Dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon are conservatively excluded as carbon sink. Tree regeneration, ground vegetation, shrubs and stumps were also not included in the total carbon stock calculation. The carbon calculation only concerns the tree biomass. The sources, sinks and reservoirs selected are consistent with VCS guidelines and the

requirements of the selected methodology. Every three years a monitoring campaign is carried out, the latest one during the beginning of 2020.

The carbon monitoring campaign uses plot design and a regular sampling grid is applied to all the compartment areas using clusters of four permanent sampling plots at a spacing of 500x500 meters. In total there were 215 plots in 54 clusters measured in the compartment area. All these 54 clusters were re-measured, meaning that these clusters were already measured in the previous campaign in 2017. In the naturally regenerated areas 66 plots within 22 clusters were measured. Out of these 22 clusters in the regeneration area 2 clusters had to be re-established since they were misplaced during the 2017 campaign (cluster 909 and cluster 956). The other 20 clusters in the regeneration area were established on the correct location and were therefore re-measured. The practices were checked during the verification process for the sample assessment measurement.

AENOR has verified that the monitoring crews implemented the monitoring plan as it is established in the validated PD. AENOR also found evidence during the remote audit process that field team members are suitably qualified and trained. Besides, key workers are fully involved in monitoring events (training, measuring, archiving, reporting, quality control, etc.).

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

In this regard, AENOR paid close attention to the knowledge of field teams about procedures for measuring, the frequency of measurements and the quality of metering equipment including maintenance/calibration requirements.

During the telematic interviews with the key Face-UWA staff, AENOR could check the processes of onsite data collection with checks, reporting project progress and the monitored data. Besides, it was demonstrated that the project proponents possess all of the competencies required for reporting of GHG emissions reductions in an accurate way.

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

The monitoring plan provides means for internal data review and quality control, and the data presented by the project proponent included the results of these internal assessments. Evidence provided by the PP supporting the determination of GHG removals is listed in Appendix 1.

AENOR considers that information and evidences provided were enough to reproduce calculations in quantity and quality. Thus, they were found appropriate and reliable to determine the GHG removals.

4.4.3 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The Project Proponent has elaborated the project VCS Non-permanence Risk Report version 2, for the monitoring event according to the latest AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (v4.0). According to this tool, the project activity was rated at a low risk after yielding a 4.5% buffer requirement.

Below, it is explained the assessment of the non-permanence risk rating determined by the project participant and issues raised to them in this regard.

Internal Risks			
Risk factor	Risk Rating	Findings and mitigation activities	Corrective Actions/ Clarifications
Project Management: It is assessed using table 1 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	-4	a) Just indigenous species are used, and they were selected based on preference of site conditions, carbon sequestration rates, biodiversity conservation and socioeconomic values. Risk rating=0 is justified. b) The project has been running for more than 20 years and there has been no occurrences of encroachment in the project area. Risk rating=0 is justified. c) In accordance with the evidence provided, management team includes individuals with significant experience in sustainable forestry and VCS projects. This was checked during the remote audit process. Risk rating=0 is justified. d) Management team maintains a presence in the project area. This was checked during the remote audit process. This, rating =0 is justified. e) For the project a multidisciplinary team with high experience in biodiversity, Community and Climate issues is working. AENOR held interviews with people from UWA and Face the Future and verified this matter. Then, it is well justified the rating=-2. f) Adaptive management plan in place. The project is located within the Kibale National Park, for this national park a General Management Plan is operational, which includes adaptive and improvement processes. The preparation of management plans by UWA for all national parks and protected areas is a statutory requirement determined out of realization of the importance of planning and adaptively learning as a management tool. Additionally, continuous review processes take place with stakeholders, on both park and project level. The project works with Plan of Operations, which cover and is built on the lessons learned over the history of the project. Thus, risk rating= -2 is justified.	See CAR 2 from the Verification findings report in annex 3
Financial viability: It is assessed using table 2 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	0	a)-d) PP has provided an updated cashflow analysis at the date of the current risk assessment. According to the information provided the breakeven point is reached in year 4, i.e. in 2011. Thus, the rating chosen=0 is correct. e)- h) Since the project reaches breakeven in 2011, and planting funds, sales contracts and investments are available the project has secured 100% of the funding until it reaches breakeven. Thus, the rating chosen=0 is correct. i) No mitigation measures. Thus, Risk Rating=0 is correct.	See CL8 in the verification findings. Annex 3.
Opportunity Cost: It is assessed using table 3 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	6 (total may be less than zero)	a)-f) The option a) is chosen so, the rating 8 is correct. The most credible alternative land use scenario in the absence of the current ARR project activities is no human encroachment but fire, which is not profitable and therefore no NPV analysis is required. The other two less likely alternatives include continued but less intensive encroachment and continued encroachment	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

		as the very least likely alternative. If encroachment was to take place, the local communities would use the land for cultivation of bananas. Banana plantations would therefore be the most profitable activity and an NPV calculation has been carried out based on the published literature on banana prices and yields. Documents were provided. The outcome of this calculation shows that the NPV of the most profitable alternative land use scenarios is significantly higher than in the project scenario. g) Not applicable h) Face the Future and UWA have entered into legally binding contracts starting in 1994, for a period of 99 years. Then rating -2 is correct. i) No mitigation activities are claimed. Then, rating chosen = 0 is correct.	
Project Longevity: It is assessed using table 4 of the VCS AFOLU Risk Tool.	0	a)-b) The contracts have a period of 99 years during which the area needs to be managed according to the contractual arrangements. PL = $30 - (99 / 2) = -19$	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Total internal Risk=2			

External Risks			
Risk factor	Risk Rating	Findings and mitigation activities	Corrective Actions/ Clarifications
Land Tenure and resources access/impact: It shall be assessed using table 6 of the Risk Tool.	0 (total may not be less than zero)	a) Land ownership and resource access/use rights are held by the same entity. Then rating 0 is correct. The park is fully owned by the government of Uganda under the UWA Act and mandated by Uganda Wildlife Authority on behalf of Uganda government and all Ugandans. b) Not applicable. Then rating 0 is correct. c) Not applicable, there are no conflicts in more than 5% of the project area related to land tenure or ownership. The project area is only a small part of the entire Kibale National Park which has only one owner, the Government of Uganda. d) Not applicable, because there are no disputes over access/use rights or overlapping rights in the project area. Local communities have access to the national park to harvest non timber forest products, through Memorandum of Understanding and there are no disputes or conflicts over use rights. e) Not applicable, the project is not a WRC, and then 0 is correct. f) The project area falls within the boundaries of the Kibale National Park which is a protected area and will continue management practices that protect carbon stocks over the length of the project crediting period. Then rating -2 is correct. g) Not applicable.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Community engagement: It shall be assessed using table 7 of the Risk Tool.	-5	a) Not applicable as the project area is defined as forest. Then rating=0 is correct. b) The communities adjacent to the national park and to the project area have been consulted and participate in the project. Evidence of this can be found in the UWA	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

		Face project_Social Impact Analysis Final Report Sept 2000. Additionally, UWA has established a permanent position for a Warden who is responsible for community education, awareness and sensitization solely focused on the cooperation with local communities. As relevant stakeholders in the national park, the communities are taken seriously. In the period 2012-2015 the communities from the surrounding parishes have been consulted and involved in the Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment, which is used to formulate additional project goals to create net benefits for communities and biodiversity. Then rating 0 is justified. c) Mitigation: The project generates net positive impacts on the social and economic well-being of the local communities who derive livelihoods from the project area. Then the rating=-5 is correct.	
Political Risks: It shall be assessed using table 8 of the Risk Tool.	2	a)-e) The governance score calculated using "World Bank Institute's Worldwide Governance Indicators (WGI)", average for the years 2011 – 2015 is -0.59 Then, rating 4 is correct. AENOR verified the value and reliability of source. f) Mitigation: Country is implementing REDD+ Readiness or other activities as evidence provided demonstrated. Then, rating -2 is correct.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Total external risks=0 (negative score is not allowed)			

Natural Risks			
Risk factor	Risk Rating	Findings and mitigation activities	Corrective Actions/ Clarifications
Fire Risk: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0, 5	Significance (S) for this risk is "insignificant" and the likelihood is less than every 10 years. The reasons for this selection are that the Project is located in the wet tropical region when high rainfall in the region, then the likelihood of devastating fire is very low. Some of the planted forests and regenerating forests may be vulnerable to fires from time to time, but they are unlikely to be devastating. Because the Project is aggregating many scattered plantings and has well maintained fire-break lines and a system of intensive fire patrols during the dry season. The overall risk of a devastating fire significantly affecting the Project inventory is considered low. The fires that have occurred range from 0,03 to 8 hectares, with an unusual high burned area in 2014 of 157 hectares, this is insignificant compared to the total area (10.000 ha). A fire record was provided to AENOR and crosschecked during the remote audit process. LS=2 is correct. The Project has implemented a fire prevention strategy, which is multifaceted. The prevention plans consider traditional uses of fire, based on laws or regulations restricting fires and involve local community leaders and organizations. It also includes	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

		an emergency plan in case of fire outbreak, eliminating and containing fire outbreaks. Moreover, the risk report provides the different activities to fight the fires. Then M=0.25.	
Pest and disease outbreaks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=0,5	Pest and diseases attacks are not a big risk to the restored forest now and in the future. To date no serious cases of pest and diseases attack have been registered. The forest is planted with a variety of indigenous species, resulting in a natural forest. In case of an outbreak it can be expected that this forest has high biodiversity and resilience to naturally contain an outbreak. A list of potential pests that could affect forests in Uganda was provided in the document called Global Review of forest pests. The significance is scored as minor and the likelihood every 25 to 50 years, then LS=1. Project members of staff have been trained to monitor for such diseases in case of an outbreak. Then, Mitigation score: 0,50.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Extreme weather: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk tool.	LS*M=1	Carbon losses have not been registered due to extreme weather in the project area. The probability of extreme climatic conditions of frost, floods, and winds occurring is nil. Then, significance is "insignificant" and the likelihood is every 10 to 25 years. Then, LS=1. No mitigation measures.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Geological risks: It shall be assessed using table 10 of the Risk Tool.	LS*M=0,5	The Project area is in a stable geological formation. Landslides, however, are known to occur in steeper parts of the region and could potentially damage or destroy small patches of the Project area. The consequences in the context of the aggregated project are low, since the project area is in a flat area, without steep slopes. Landslides are therefore not likely to occur and in case they would occur they are isolated and would have a small impact. Therefore, the significance is scored as insignificant. Given the stable geological formation. The likelihood is considered low. The likelihood is scored as every 10 to 25 years. LS=1 is correct. Steep slopes are not taken into account when selecting the planting area, this can be regarded as a preventive measure. Mitigation score: 0,50	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Total Natural Risks=2,50			

Risk category	Rating
Internal Risk	2
External Risk	0
Natural Risk	2,5
Overall Risk Rating (a +b + c)	4,5

AENOR has checked that information provided in the Non-Permanence Risk Report v.1.0 for the monitoring period is consistent with supporting documents provided. The assumptions and justifications provided to determine the risk rating of each risk factor are developed and they are based on provided documents using conservative assessments. The documentation and data provided to support the risk score was sufficient.

AENOR deems that information provided is reliable and appropriate from official sources, thus, the overall risk rating is credible and realistic.

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

During the telematic interview process, AENOR confirmed with the key stakeholders and community members the awareness about the results of the projects, its implementation and monitoring. Results of the climate benefits were provided in a spreadsheet calculation. AENOR reproduced the calculation to achieve the same results, checked baseline and project emissions and leakage. Further information on the process and data checks is provided in sections above.

In opinion of AENOR the monitoring plan and the results were disseminated in accordance with the validated PD.

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

N/A

4.5 Community

4.5.1 Community Impacts (CM2.1)

Section 4.1.1 from the MR presents the main community impacts describing the community group directly affected, the type of benefit/cost/risk and the change in well-being. Following impacts were identified:

- Human Wildlife Conflict impacts
- Increased number of trees on smallholder farmland / increased access to own trees
- Skill enhancement / capacity building
- Income generating activities from revenue sharing funds
- Employment
- Local business developed

AENOR verified during the remote audit the direct impact of project activities during the interviews of local people working in the construction of trenches, in patrolling, fire prevention, nurseries, monitoring, restoration activities, agroforestry, beekeeping, etc. It was also verified that as part of the project activity, the local people acquire skills for the planting and maintenance of local tree species, which they can replicate in their own farms.

Assessment by the audit team concluded that the likelihood of net negative impacts on the well-being of the community is adequately addressed in the CCB monitoring report.

4.5.2 Negative community Impact Mitigation (CM2.2)

The human wild-life conflict is one of the main focal issues selected by the community representatives in the SBIA process. However, It cannot be firmly stated that the project activities increase the incidence of elephant crop raids, but it is true that by improving the quality of the ecosystems in and around the project area, the elephant population appears to be stable even increased due to project activities, which could be seen as an increase in elephant raids.

Section 4.1.1 of the CCB MR and in the CCB PDD CM2.2, describe the three main strategies for keeping elephants away without promoting major changes in the territory and its ecosystems. The three main activities to mitigate elephant crop raiding within the communities involved in the project were:

- establishment and maintenance of elephant trenches along the park boundary near the project,
- supporting and promoting beekeeping along the park boundary (specifically in those areas where no trench is present)
- planting of unpalatable crops (such as tea).

During the telematic interviews with beneficiaries of said activities it was proved that these activities produce a positive impact on the community well-being, either by economic incentives; skills, capacities or knowledge; employment in the activities themselves; or generation of alternative livelihoods among others.

In opinion of AENOR, the assessment of impacts is accurate and reflects faithfully the project benefits in communities.

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

Crop raiding by elephants is a notable impact on communities, nonetheless activities to mitigate said events produce also positive impacts on the well-being of the beneficiaries. During the verification process, the audit team did not find evidences of other negative impacts on the community well-being that could be linked to the project activities. Mitigation activities are in place to deal with the human wildlife conflict along the park boundary in places of high risk for elephants crossing the boundary and affecting the crops.

Thus, presented results demonstrate the project doesn't result in net negative impacts on the wellbeing of the community. Besides, the benefits of said activities and for the community well-being were confirmed during the remote interviews with community members involved in the project activities to mitigate crop raiding.

The assessment carried by the audit team concluded that the likelihood of net negative impacts on the well-being of the community is adequately addressed in the monitoring report and in accordance with the validated project description.

AENOR concludes that the net impact of project activities on community groups is positive, compared to the conditions of the without project scenario.

4.5.4 Protection of High Conservation Values (CM2.4)

In section CM1.2 of the CCB PDD no HCV's were identified. There are no areas identified inside the project area that are critical to the traditional cultural identity of communities. Thus, No HCVs related to community well-being were identified in the project zone.

The project does provide ecosystem services and generates NTFP's, which will only be improved by the project though the establishment and growth of the natural forest. Access and extraction are subject to agreement with the management of the Park.

AENOR could check during the verification process that the project activities are not negatively affecting to the High Conservation Values.

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

Validated CCB Project Description states that identified 'other stakeholders' are not negatively impacted by the project. Besides the project has a positive impact

Main strategies of the PP were oriented to protect the forest resources by monitoring the forests and their threats, maintaining continue communication with the main stakeholders in the area, or the channelling of funds or donations.

AENOR has assessed that the project doesn't result in net negative impacts on the wellbeing of other stakeholder groups.

Assessment by the audit team concluded that the likelihood of net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups is adequately addressed in the monitoring report and the net impacts of project activities on the well-being are positive.

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

The CCB MR in its Section 4.3.1 provides an overview of the Monitoring Results of the period between 1 March 2017 and 29 February 2020. The results are presented separately for each focal issue, following the CCB monitoring plan: Human Wildlife Conflicts monitoring results; Revenue sharing for income generating projects; Illegal extraction of resources inside the national park; Project Impact on employment; and other project impacts: Enhance tourism opportunities by establishing native forest, Local sourcing of project inputs to benefit the local economy; Provide skills to workers and employees in order to increase local business development and employment opportunities.

No changes occurred in communities, community groups or stakeholders during this monitoring period. The description of the parishes targeted by the project remains unaltered matching with what was described in the CCB PD. No HCVs related to community wellbeing were identified in the project area (see section 4.5.3 of this report).

AENOR deems the methodology & mechanism for data compliancy, as well as the objectives and indicators developed for its definition are accurate and reflect faithfully the project benefits in the local communities.

AENOR confirms dates, frequency and sampling methods used are in accordance with the validated project design and with the procedures and systematics used in the verification event. In addition, AENOR confirms that community monitoring plan is implemented as the monitoring report and the validated CCB Project Description.

4.5.7 Community Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CM4.3)

The monitoring reports were made available in hardcopy at the project office. Summaries of the monitoring report were distributed to stakeholders. Information meetings were organized to inform communities about monitoring results. In addition, during the stakeholder consultation, the VCS & CCB monitoring results were presented to the village Chairmen and Parish Chiefs. In addition, according to CCB rules the VCS & CCB MRs were also made available online for one month.

AENOR checked during the remote audit process that information provided in the CCB MR regarding the dissemination of the community monitoring plan was reliable. In opinion of AENOR the results of community monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated PD.

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

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

N/A

4.6 Biodiversity**4.6.1 Biodiversity Changes (B1.1)**

Biodiversity changes monitored were described in the CCB MR as follows:

Establishment and restoration of native forest that support and increases High Conservation Values.

Monitored Changes:

- Established additional 170 ha of recovering forest, in connection with existing (recovering) forest.
- No fire incidences in the project area during this monitoring period
- Increase of the natural regeneration of shade tolerant climax species, and the decrease in tree regeneration of pioneer species in the planted forest
- Increase in number of tree species and the overall increase in tree biomass
- Decrease in number of exotic species

Created and protected habitat for a variety of threatened wildlife species (such as red colobus, chimpanzee, African golden cat, etc.)

Monitored Changes:

- Overall population estimate of chimpanzees in KNP increased.
- A range expansion of chimpanzee communities towards the southwest sectors of the park in the areas of Kakooga, river Nsonge and Kyabandara was observed.
- There were a higher number of observations of forest dwelling species such as l'Hoest's monkey, red duiker, blue duiker, bush pig and giant forest hog, which may indicate further recovery and development of the forest.

The assessment carried by the PP gives indication that the planted and natural regenerated areas are moving gradually towards its original natural state with similar high conservation values as the surrounding natural forests in Kibale NP. AENOR deems results of the project activities on biodiversity are positive in general, not affecting to the HCVs.

In opinion of AENOR, information about benefits on biodiversity from project activities is accurate since is based on record taken from project stakeholders and project proponents, based on sources reliable and appropriate and the attribution of biodiversity changes to the project's activities is well justify.

4.6.2 Mitigation Actions (B2.3)

In this monitoring period there were no evidences of changes on the mitigation actions proposed in sections B2.3 and B4.2 of the validated CCB PDD. The main actions to ensure maintenance and enhancement of biodiversity as a whole and HCVs in specific are:

- Planting of trees
- Removal of exotics
- Prevention of fire
- Patrolling
- Research and monitoring

Audit team checked with the main beneficiaries of the mitigation actions during the remote audit process and with documented evidence and consider it is correct.

In opinion of AENOR mitigation actions are appropriate and in accordance with the validated CCB PD.

4.6.3 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts (B2.4)

As described in 5.1.1 and in the CCB PDD, there is a considerable positive impact of the project on biodiversity. In addition, the VCS carbon monitoring data provides information indicating recovery of the native forest ecosystem.

The animal census data could give a qualitative indication about the relation between forest recovery and animal species abundance, but currently the sampling intensity (nº of transects and frequency of monitoring) is too low to provide a more quantitative assessment. Thus, the project has signed an agreement with researchers from University of Eastern Finland and Makerere University to support a fruit-feeding butterfly monitoring project in the project area, which is an indicator species for forest condition. And could provide additional information.

AENOR deems improvements in the animal census and so said research agreement will provide additional data on the impact of the project on recovery of a valuable ecosystem and the biodiversity it supports. Thus, biodiversity monitoring is expected to be improved.

A The project area is divided in two well differentiated areas, the planted area and naturally regenerating areas. For this monitoring period, the planted area considered in calculation for carbon removals is 2,755 has and 2,593 ha for natural regeneration. The areas are being developing into a High Conservative Value Forest providing habitat for forest biodiversity.

The CCB MR provides in section 5.3.1 the objectives established for biodiversity and the indicators defined to measure the achievements of them and results for the monitoring period.

During the remote audit process audit team verify the data are monitored through the daily observation by park rangers and through the census data project area. IT was also checked the planning and performing of the patrolling crews.

AENOR deems the results from the biodiversity monitoring report indicate project's net biodiversity impacts are positive.

4.6.4 High Conservation Values Protected (B1.2)

No HCVs related to biodiversity in the project zone are negatively affected by the project. Moreover, the restoration and natural regeneration taking place in the project area, further enhances the HCV attributes.

AENOR has checked that No HCV were negatively affected by the project.

4.6.5 Invasive Species (B1.3)

Audit team did not find any record or evidence of the use of invasive species, but quite the opposite. During the telematic interviews with the main stakeholders, it was proved that the project does not introduce exotic species. In fact, has them identified (exotic species present in the park: *Eucalypt sp.*, *Cassia spectabilis* and *Lantana camara*) and aims to remove them from the project area by debarking and by slashing and uprooting in case of *Lantana. Camara*.

4.6.6 Impacts of Non-native Species (B1.4)

The use of non-native species has not been contemplated among the activities during the whole project implementation. Thus, there were no records of any non-native species impacts assessed.

4.6.7 GMO Exclusion (B1.5)

The project only plants native species that are raised in the nursery from seeds collected from natural trees and that are not genetically modified.

4.6.8 Inputs Justification (B2.8)

N/A

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

No negative offsite biodiversity impacts as a result of the project activity have been identified by the audit team. The project activity contains the conservation of existing natural forest. Therefore, negative offsite biodiversity impacts are unlikely and were not detected.

4.6.10 Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits (B3.3)

N/A

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

The project developer provided the document “CCB Monitoring Plan v2.1” which presents how community and biodiversity impacts and benefits are monitored by the project. The indicators selected for monitoring were identified by local experts and local communities, based on a Social and Biodiversity Impact Assessment report (SBIA).

In the document CCB Monitoring plan were defined: Roles and Responsibilities; Quality control & Quality assurance; The presentation of data and MR to local stakeholders; Objectives and Monitoring Indicators; Methods; Monitoring Plan Tables of the main focal issues identified with the communities, describing objective, indicator, indicator type, data collection method, Existing data?, Who?, When?, Where?, and the Cost to the project.

Through the SBIA process the five focal issues were identified with the communities: Human Wildlife Conflict; Misuse of revenue sharing funds; Illegal extraction of resources inside the national park; Wildfires; Exotic/Invasive Species. Objectives and indicators were identified for these focal issues.

Tables in Section 5.3.1 of the CCB MR provide details on the objectives, indicators and Results of the main focal issues identified and a summary for the biodiversity monitoring.

AENOR deems the KNP rehabilitation Project actions to maintain HCV are effective and they ensure HCV species presence.

AENOR confirmed that the monitoring plan (*dates, frequency, sampling methods used*) was carried out in accordance to the validated project design.

4.6.12 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (B3.3)

The monitoring reports were made available in hardcopy at the project office. Summaries of the monitoring report were distributed to stakeholders. Information meetings were organized to inform communities about monitoring results. In addition, the monitoring results are presented to a group of representatives of the local community. These representatives were selected by the local communities during the SBIA process.

AENOR checked during the remote audit process that meetings to socialize the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan in NKP were held. Also, that printed versions of the Biodiversity Monitoring report were made available to the main stakeholders and the main results were also socialized with the Parishes involved in the Project.

In opinion of AENOR the results of biodiversity monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated PD.

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

Two trigger species were identified: Chimpanzee (*Pan troglodytes*) & Ashy Red Colobus (*Piliocolobus tephrosceles*).

Forest restoration and fire prevention activities were considered to benefit chimpanzees and red colobus by increasing or protecting their habitat and food availability. Additionally, the provision of more suitable habitat for chimpanzees may reduce conflict with surrounding communities.

Section 5.3.1. of the CCB MR shows the trends in direct and indirect chimp observations in the project area. Overall population estimate of chimpanzees in KNP increased, from 921 to 1001 individuals, according to the latest survey performed by UWA and WCS. Besides, Kibale National Park may contain the only viable subpopulation of Ashy Red Colobus (IUCN Red List).

During the remote interviews with the local project monitoring team and community members participating in the monitoring activities, it was discussed the current situation of the threatened animal species. AENOR deems the actions taken by the project to maintain or enhance the population status of identified trigger species in the project zone, and reduce threats to them are sufficient and in concordance with validate CCB PD.

In opinion of AENOR the project strategies have a direct impact on the conservation of species. This indicator is adequately addressed for Gold Level recognition for biodiversity efforts.

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

Additional to the restoration and protection of habitat for identified trigger species, the project both directly and indirectly contributes to the protection and conservation efforts of Uganda Wildlife Authority.

Examples are:

- UWA-FACE revenue sharing from the sales of carbon
- Construction of a ranger outpost near Kayante village
- Employment of two rangers at the project
- Addressing Human-wildlife conflicts
- Supporting community income generating activities

In opinion of AENOR the project strategies have a direct impact on the conservation of species. This indicator is adequately addressed for Gold Level recognition for biodiversity efforts.

4.7 Additional Project Implementation Information

N/A

4.8 Additional Project Impact Information

N/A

5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

AENOR has verified that the project is in compliance with the verification criteria of Verified Carbon Standard version 4 and the CCB Standards Third Edition without qualifications or limitations.

The project has been implemented in accordance with the validated project description, and the data and information supporting the GHG assertion are historic in nature. The present verification event did not include validation activities.

AENOR is able to issue a positive verification opinion for 221,716 t CO₂e of verified emissions reductions, as reported in the VCS MR v.1.1. dated 30th-October-2020.

The verification assessment covered the monitoring period for VCS&CCB from 01-March-2017 to 29-February-2020; and verified that calculated emission reductions and/or removals were achieved during the monitoring period with a reasonable level of assurance. The overall risk rating was 10 %. Therefore, the total number of credits to be deposited in the buffer account is 22,172 VCUs and the total VCUs to be issued are 199,544.

Beyond benefits of GHG emissions reduction, AENOR confirms the project benefits on community and biodiversity for the current monitoring period as described in the CCB Monitoring Report version 1.1. dated 30th-October-2020. In opinion of the AENOR verification team, the project is achieving their community and biodiversity objectives. In addition, the project implementation meets all relevant requirements for the CCB Standards Third Edition, including biodiversity exceptional benefits. Hence, AENOR considers verified the project implementation is in accordance with the CCB Standards at Biodiversity Gold Level.

Verification/monitoring period: VCS&CCB 01-March-2017 to 29-February-2020;

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

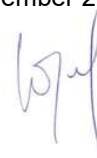
Year	Baseline emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Project emissions or removals (tCO ₂ e)	Leakage emissions (tCO ₂ e)	Net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
2017-2020	0	221,716	0	221,716
TOTAL	0	221,716	0	221,716

Overall non-permanence risk rating: 10%

Date: 18 November 2020

VCUs buffer to be deposited: 22,172 t CO₂e.

Total VCUs to be issued: 199,544 t CO₂e.



Lead Auditor
Miguel López Delgado

APPENDIX 1: LIST

Nº	Name
1	PDD Kibale CCB v3.1 pdf
2	070602_FaceMonitoring.pdf
	SOP_FACE_Uganda.pdf
	CarbonMonitoring_Jan2020.zip (Video and Pictures)
3	FieldMap_export_Kibale_FMplots_2020.xlsx
	Kibale_FMdata2020.accdb
	Kibale_FMdata2020_1.accdb
4	VCS Risk Report_v1.0
	Natural Risks folder: - Plan of Operations 2009.pdf; - KNP GMP 2015-2025 approved GMP 2015.pdf; - Global Review of forest pests and diseases.pdf; - Fire Risk and Strategies for mitigating fire risk.doc
	InternalRisks folder: - Uganda Kibale VERPA 10015b.pdf - Planting Agreement_JPM.pdf - Planting Agreement_GC.pdf - Plan of Operations 2009.pdf - NPV_opportunity costs.xls - MoU (1994) Government of Uganda and Face.pdf - KNP GMP 2015-2025 approved GMP 2015.pdf - General Conditions of Contract for CO2 offset.pdf - Form of Agreement Kibale (1994).pdf - Banana yields.pdf - Banana prices.pdf - Addendum 2 to Agreement for CO2 offset (2009).pdf
	External Risks folder: - WGI_score_Uganda_2014-2018.xls.xlsx - UWA Face project_Social Impact Analysis Final Report Sept 2000.PDF - The Uganda Wildlife Statute 1996.pdf 20150520_SBIA Report for Kibale Rehabilitation Project_Final.pdf
	VCS-Risk-Report-Calculation-Tool-v4.0_Kibale2020.xls
	VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Kibale 2017-2020_v1.0.docx
5	Project Trial Balances 2017-2020.xlsx
	Implemented CCB projects July 2019.docx
	Monthly reports folder (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020)
	Agro- farmers seedling request november 2019.doc
	Motorbikes, vehicle, infrastructure Pictures
6	MoU KAFRED & UWA-Face.rar (Collaborative Restoration Management Agreement between KAFRED and KNP represented by UWA-Face Project, 4-12-2019)
	Butterfly monitoring (mails of communication)
	Plan_for_fruit_feeding_butterfly_monitoring.pdf
	Proposal for fruit-feeding butterfly monitoring in the restoration areas of Kibale National Park

	Anu Valtonen 11 December 2019. Department of Environmental and Biological Sciences University of Eastern Finland
	WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.55.jpeg – Butterfly trap
7	Annual SMART Report 2018_19FY.pdf
8	2020.05.18 CONS_DEF_Greenchoice 2019 - signed.pdf
9	Visit Report Kibale 18-27 Nov 2019 and 20 Jan-3 Feb .docx
	Internship Report official document.docx
10	Kibale NP Chimp census draft Report_2020.02.28.pdf
11	UWA-FACE Plan of Activities 2020-2023.pdf
12	CCB Monitoring Plan v2.1.pdf
13	Reaction to the questionnaire.doc
14	Letter_of_support_Greenchoice.pdf
15	Letter of acknowledgement IFER.pdf
16	Inventory demonstration WhatsApp Videos WhatsApp Video 2020-09-16 at 10.24.46 WhatsApp Video 2020-09-15 at 11.36.35 WhatsApp Video 2020-09-15 at 11.28.59 WhatsApp Video 2020-09-15 at 11.28.45

APPENDIX 2: REMOTE AUDIT

ACTIVITY AND INFORMATION FOR REMOTE AUDITING

Activity & Information	Tentative date
Initial meeting - Introduction and scope of the Remote Audit - Confirmation of the Remote audit planning and dates	31st July 2020
Remote audit interviews process - Interviews with the key stakeholders (videocalls) - Traceable video recordings, written testimonies, photographs etc.	17 th -24 th September 2020

KEY LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS TO APPROACH

Whenever possible, considering the logistical availability and the relevant preventive measures given the current sanitary situation, live video interviews will be the preferred mean of communication with the stakeholders. In case that this mean is not available, video recordings with the testimonies of the stakeholders will be use as mean of verification. The audit team will provide the set of questions to answer by the recorded stakeholders.

Stakeholder Group	Representative from Entity/Group	Issue	Verification mean
Project Proponent	GreenChoice B.V.	Project funding & involvement.	Videocall/ Evidences of acknowledgement Letter /mail/ etc.
Project Proponent Collaborators	Uganda Wildlife Authority (UWA)	Project implementation	Videocall
	Face the Future B.V.	Project Design/ Carbon Development Overall project management	Constant communication during the Audit Process
Project Partners	Institute of Forest Ecosystem Research (IFER)	Project Involvement	Videocall/ Evidences of acknowledgement Letter /mail/ etc.
Local Government	Local government representative	Project acknowledge	Acknowledge letter/ written testimony
Communities involved in the project	Representatives from the main parish or villages	Project participation	Videocall
	Representative of Batoro natives	Project participation	
	Representative of Bakiga community.		
Local /community staff	Warden-Face	Project Development	Videocall
	Assistant account		
	Head Ranger		
	Rangers		
	Forest Clerks (MONIS)		

Stakeholder Group	Representative from Entity/Group	Issue	Verification mean
	General Workers		
	Other Support Staff		

PROJECT ACTIVITIES:

The following project activities are to be verified by remote audit means. The project proponent shall assess the feasibility of acquiring the required evidence and propose other means of verification if necessary due to logistic reasons.

Activity	Stakeholder Group	Description	Verification mean
Project monitoring/ inventory training/ data management & control	Monitoring teams: Red, Blue, Green and Yellow	Responsible for the monitoring equipment used in the field. Demonstration of usage (<i>Field Map Set</i>)	Traceable video recordings demonstration
		Remote visit of the project plots and planted areas with monitoring team members	
	Biodiversity Monitoring teams	Wildlife monitoring demonstration.	Videocall
	1 Complete monitoring team (e.g. Red team)	Campaign leader, Field Campaign Leader, Field campaign external supervisor, Campaign local supervisor, Data Analyst, Team <i>Leader, Backup team leader, calliper man, Poleman, Slasher, Security.</i>	
Project communication	PP local staff	Responsible of communication and information dissemination.	Videocall
Seedling production unpalatable crops	Local staff employed	Local farmers involved in the production unpalatable trees (tea tree)	Videocall/ Traceable video recordings demonstration
Restoration activities (planting/slashing of exotic sp., etc.)	Local staff employed/ Local or community beneficiaries	Community members trained in forestry practices to regenerate the project area and whom participated in the planting activities from present monitor period. <i>Idem</i> exotic sp. Control.	
Elephant deterrent trenches to contain animals in the Protected Area	Local staff employed	Community members employed for the trenches dug	
Beekeeping along the park boundary	Local or community beneficiaries	Locals involved in the beekeeping activities	
Agroforestry training and pilot	Local or community beneficiaries	Locals involved in the AF activities	
Patrolling	Local staff employed	Locals involved in the represented activities	
Fire prevention activities			

APPENDIX 3: VERIFICATION FINDINGS

CLARIFICATION REQUEST (CLS)

CL ID	01	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
In VERRA's registry web under the 637 ID we could only find the Verified Carbon Standard Project Description Template -19 November 2007- Version 1.2, September 5, 2011 available. Please provide the CCB Project Design Document (CCB PDD v3.1) presented in the documentation received.		
Project participant response		Date: 25-08-2020
During transfer of the project documentation to the new Verra registry platform, Verra made an error and the CCB PDD does not appear in the list anymore. We have taken this issue up with Verra and the PDD is now again publicly available. Additionally, we provide you with a softcopy (see provided documentation).		
Documentation provided by project participant		
CCB PDD v3.1.pdf		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
The Project developer provided clarification on the CCB Project Description. Thus, this CL is closed		

CL ID	02	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
1. Please provide geographical evidences, project boundaries, the Project GIS database resulting from the monitoring carried out using GIS integrated with GPS and Remote Sensing data. 2. Please provide evidences of the spatial data archived in the project implementers offices and the Field-Map technology used for data collection and mapping in this monitoring campaign. 3. Please provide documental evidences of the used methodology for Carbon Stock Monitoring (IFER, 2002).		
Project participant response		Date: 03/09/2020
1. Project boundaries and locations which are mapped in the field are currently stored in the project ArcGIS online database. This GIS data can be viewed using the following ArcGIS portal: https://face.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MinimalGallery/index.html?appid=bbe8afe725e846bc828f13a66dc59541 The ArcGIS portal includes 3 dashboards: • Dashboard on the reforestation activities: containing the boundaries of the project area and reforestation activities • Dashboard on the community program: showing information on the revenue sharing program • Kibale virtual tour: showing panoramic pictures of the project area 2. Please find pictures attached of the Kibale team using Field-Map technology during the carbon monitoring campaign in January-February 2020. 3. Please find following documents attached: • IFER - Methodology for Carbon Stock Monitoring (2002) • IFER - Standard Operating Procedures for Carbon Monitoring (SOP) (2011)		
Documentation provided by project participant		
• ArcGIS Dashboard https://face.maps.arcgis.com/apps/MinimalGallery/index.html?appid=bbe8afe725e846bc828f13a66dc59541 • Pictures on Monitoring using Field-Map: Pictures_CarbonMonitoring_Jan2020.zip • IFER - Methodology for Carbon Stock Monitoring (2002) • IFER - Standard Operating Procedures for Carbon Monitoring (SOP) (2011)		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020

1. Project developer team provided evidences of the Project's GIS database resulting from the monitoring carried out using GIS integrated with GPS and Remote Sensing data.

2. Evidences in form of pictures of the Kibale team using Field-Map technology during the carbon monitoring campaign in January-February 2020 were provided.

3. The methodology for Carbon Stock Monitoring elaborated by IFER in 2002, for Face the Future Carbon Offset Forestry Projects was provided.

It was also provided a Standard Operative Procedure for the Carbon Monitoring Campaigns developed also by IFER for Face the Future.

The documentation provided by the project developer is considered sufficient to clarify the requested. Thus, this CL is closed.

CL ID	03	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide documental evidences of the monitoring process of the selected inventory sample project plots. Provide also clarification/evidences on the computer program MONIS used for monitoring the progress of the project.		
Project participant response		Date: 03/09/2020
Attached is an export of the Field-Map plot table containing the data on the measured plots. Columns M and N (in red) provides the date of measurement and the team leader responsible per plot. Regarding MONIS, this was a monitoring system which was used in the past by the project. At the moment, we are no longer using this system since it is outdated. The program MONIS is now replaced by ArcGIS online. Paragraph 4.3.2 of the VCS monitoring report is now corrected accordingly.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
- FieldMap_export_Kibale_FMplots_2020.xlsx - VCS_Monitoring_Report_Kibale_2017-2020_v1.1.docx		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
Evidences of the monitoring process of the selected inventory sample project plots were provided. Project developer corrected and updated the VCS monitoring report, so the use of MONIS software was clarified. Thus, this CL is closed.		

CL ID	04	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide the VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Kibale 2017-2020 v1.0 and the tool used to elaborate it.		
Project participant response		Date: 03-09-2020
VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Kibale 2017-2020 now completed and included in attachment.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
- VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Kibale 2017-2020_v1.0.docx - VCS-Risk-Report-Calculation-Tool-v4.0_Kibale2020.xls Including all accompanying documents in 3 subfolders: - Internal Risks <sub folder> - External Risks <sub folder> - Natural risks <sub folder>		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
During the remote interview process the increasing population within and around the Project area was commented by community members as a potential risk or challenge noted during latest years of the project life. Thus, please provide clarification on how said potential risk was considered in the development of the NPRR.		
Project participant response		Date: 06-10-2020
Although the population is indeed increasing around Kibale National Park, the engagement of the communities adjacent to the park has not changed over the recent years. Furthermore the land tenure for the project area remains unchanged (PA within Kibale National Park), and the project has not seen any significant change in encroachment in the Project Area during the monitoring period. Please also see attached feedback by Richard Kigenyi, the Project Manager in Kibale. Therefore the NPRR sections on encroachment (Section 1 – Project Management), land tenure (Section 2) and community engagement (Section 2) of the NPRR have not been changed.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
In subfolder <CL04>: Reaction to the questionnaire.doc		

DOE assessment	Date: 15/10/2020
Project developer provided justification on how the population increasing was considered among the potential risks of the project and considered in the NPRR. Besides, a written communication by the local Project Manager related to the topic was delivered to provide an insight of the ground situation. Therefore, this CL is closed.	

CL ID	05	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide evidences (photographs, videos, others) of the following related to the Project Benefits presented in section 1.1. CCB MR. • Firelines • Ranger outpost (Kanyante) • 2 House-holds Nursery of 15.000 seedlings – • Motorcycles and vehicle for fieldwork & patrolling		
Project participant response		Date: 01-09-2020
<u>Firelines</u>: The monthly reports provide a detailed report of firelines established/maintained in the period 2017-2020. Additionally, the report <i>Implemented CCB projects July 2019.doc</i> provides some pictures of firelines and preventive burning. <u>Ranger outpost (Kanyante)</u>: See images <i>IMG_20191122_162705.jpg</i> and <i>IMG_20191122_162737.jpg</i> and the report <i>Implemented CCB projects July 2019.doc</i>. Furthermore, the Excel sheet <i>Project Trial Balances 2017-2020</i> provides an overview of the project expenses made in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (till Feb). The Trial Balances of May and August 2019 show the expenses made for the Ranger outpost. <u>2 House-holds Nursery of 15.000 seedlings</u>: See report agro- farmers seedling request november 2019. The document however mentions that 12.000 seedlings were requested. Our project manager stated that 15.000 were delivered. This is being clarified by the project manager. <u>Motorcycles and vehicle for fieldwork & patrolling</u>: See images <i>WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.18.jpg</i>, <i>WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.42.41.jpg</i> and <i>WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.42.41 (1).jpg</i>. Furthermore, the Excel sheet <i>Project Trial Balances 2017-2020</i> provides an overview of the project expenses made in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 (till Feb). The Trial Balances of January and May 2019 show the expenses made for the motorcycles and the vehicle.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
Monthly reports of 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020 agro- farmers seedling request november 2019.doc Project Trial Balances 2017-2020.xls Implemented CCB projects July 2019.doc IMG_20191122_162705.jpg		

IMG_20191122_162737.jpg Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.18.jpg WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.18.jpg WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.42.41.jpg WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.42.41 (1).jpg	
DOE assessment	Date: 30/09/2020
Please provide clarification on the data shown in the Report "Agro-farmers seedling request November 2019". Total and subtotal number of tree seedlings requested do not add up correctly based on the number of trees distributed per farmer.	
Project participant response	Date: 06-10-2020
The totals in the report were not adding up because of faulty calculations. Please find the corrected report attached.	
Documentation provided by project participant	
In subfolder <CL05>: agro- farmers seedling request november 2019_corrected.doc	
DOE assessment	Date: 15/10/2020
Data of the report "Agro-farmers seedling request November 2019" were corrected. Thus, this CL is closed.	

CL ID	06	Date : 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide Plan of Activities 2015-2024, update 2019., for the monitoring period in assessment or documental evidences of the following agreements presented as project milestones in Section 2.1.1 of the CCB MR - Signed MoU with Kibale Association for Rural and Environmental Development (KAFRED) on riverine forest restoration. Pending results. - Agreement with University of Eastern Finland to support research on fruit feeding butterflies (indicator species for forest condition) in the project area. Pending results. (See Plan of Activities).		
Project participant response		Date : 01-09-2020
<u>Plan of activities</u>: included updated plan of activities. Made document name revision, representing the actual document name, which is Plan of Activities 2020-2023 <u>Signed MoU with KAFRED</u>: See <i>MoU KAFRED & UWA-Face KNP.zip</i>, which contains scans (.pdf) of the signed MoU Agreement with University of Eastern Finland: See <i>Plan_for_fruit_feeding_butterfly_monitoring.pdf</i> and additional Outlook email correspondence <i>RE_butterfly_monitoring Kibale.msg</i> with additional agreements. See image <i>WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.55.jpg</i> showing a butterfly trap placed in the restoration area in March 2020.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
Plan of Activities 2020-2023 MoU KAFRED & UWA-Face KNP.zip Plan_for_fruit_feeding_butterfly_monitoring.pdf RE_butterfly_monitoring Kibale.msg WhatsApp Image 2020-09-01 at 09.32.55.jpg		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
The project developer provided the evidences requested. Thus, this CL is closed.		

CL ID	07	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide UWA's Annual SMART Report 2018/19FY		
Project participant response		Date: 01-09-2020
Document provided		
Documentation provided by project participant		
Annual SMART Report 2018_19FY.pdf		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
UWA's Annual SMART Report 2018/19FY was provided and no further clarifications were needed. Thus, this CL is closed.		

CL ID	08	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide clarification to justify the financial health of the implementing organization new Project Proponent. Please provide the specific documental evidences to justify said financial status.		
Project participant response		Date: 01-09-2020
Please refer to the consolidated annual account of 2019 of Greenchoice, pages 14 to 19. The document is unfortunately only available in Dutch.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
2020.05.18 CONS_DEF_Greenchoice 2019 – signed.pdf		
DOE assessment		Date: 30/09/2020
Project developer provided evidences to justify the financial health of 'Greenchoice' as Project Proponent. Thus, this CL is closed.		

CL ID	9	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please provide the documentation presented in the CCB MR "visit reports from November 2019 and Jan-Feb 2020 and internship report of Julian Hain"		
Project participant response		Date: 01-09-2020
Documents provided		
Documentation provided by project participant		
Internship Report official document.doc Visit Report Kibale 18-27 Nov 2019 and 20 Jan-3 Feb.doc		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
Documentation provided was reviewed, no further clarifications were needed. Thus, this CL is closed		

CL ID	10	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please demonstrate that the project's net impacts on biodiversity in the project zone are positive compared with conditions under the without-project land use scenario, as stated in section 5.1.3 of the CCB MR.		
Project participant response		Date: 01-09-2020
Please clarify what more information you require. The VCS carbon monitoring data provides evidence of the forest (re)growth and restoration to its natural status of the 6,788 ha of forest that was replanted or protected to regenerate naturally (see VCS MR and section 5.3.1 of the CCB MR). In the without project scenario this recovery would not have happened. During the monitoring period we established an additional 170 ha of forest planted with native species (over the project lifetime this amounts to 4,195 ha), increasing the (future) habitat of forest dependent species. In the without project scenario this recovery would not have happened. The animal census data shows the presence of a range of animal species in the project area, including endangered species, such as the chimpanzee and the Ashy Red Colobus, that include the restored forest as part of their habitat. During the monitoring period no fire incidences occurred, due to the establishment and maintenance of fire breaks and occasional patrolling. This would not have taken place in the without project scenario. Since the project start 116,467 exotic trees and 564.4 ha of <i>Lantana camara</i> has been removed from the forest. Without the project, the budget for exotics removal would have been much lower.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
-		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
In addition to the clarification in this finding, responses received during the interviewing process with local stakeholders and the local project management team were considered, plus, sections 5.3.1 and 5.1.1 of the CCB MR were reviewed. Thus, project's impacts on biodiversity were found positive compared with conditions under the without-project land use scenario. Therefore, this CL is closed.		

CL ID	11	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CL		
Please demonstrate that no HCVs related to biodiversity in the project zone are negatively affected by the project as stated in section 5.1.4 of the CCB MR.		
Project participant response		Date:
See CCB PDD sections B1.2 and B2.4, and CCB MR sections 5.3.1, 5.4.1 and 5.4.2 <u>HCV1</u>: The observation data of chimpanzees shows a significantly higher number of indirect observations (nr of nests). The Kibale NP Chimp census report confirms that based on the population estimates from 2005 and 2019, chimpanzee population seems to have increased. Furthermore, of special relevance to the project they observed that there has been a range expansion of chimpanzee communities towards the southwest sectors of the park in the areas of Kakooga, river Nsonge and Kyabandara. This seems to confirm that the chimpanzees include the restored forests in the project area for their habitat. Nr of observations of other primate species such as the red-tailed monkey and black and white colobus have increased. In 2019 the first l'Hoeest's monkeys were observed during the census in the project area. The nr of observation of red colobus and grey cheeked mangabeys remained fairly constant. Mainly the number observations of baboons decreased. One should keep in mind though that all the primate species in KNP live in groups, which can sometimes be very large, which can often explain large differences in number of individuals. Other marked observations are the higher number of observations of red duiker, blue duiker, bush pig and giant forest hog, which are all forest dwelling species. The observations and individuals for elephants remain more or less constant compared to 2017. <u>HCV2</u>: Being an integral part of Kibale NP, the whole area can be considered a HCV2 area. Forest recovery and planting of additional forest only strengthens this value. <u>HCV3</u>: The animal census data and report show that there is an overall population increase of chimpanzees in Kibale NP. Furthermore, they observed a range expansion of chimpanzee communities towards the southwest sectors of the park in the areas of Kakooga, river Nsonge and Kyabandara, which are part of the project area. Kibale National Park may contain the only viable subpopulation of Ashy Red Colobus (IUCN Red List). Similar to the chimpanzee the red colobus is expected to benefit from the forest restoration and fire prevention activities by increasing/protecting their habitat and food availability. <u>HCV 4</u>: It is expected that with an increasing native forest area (due to recovery of previously planted forest and additional planting), the ecosystem services, such as protection of water resources, of the area improve/increase.		
Documentation provided by project participant		

Kibale NP Chimp census draft Report_2020.02.28.pdf

DOE assessment

Date: 02/10/2020

Clarification provided was found sufficient and in concordance with the CCB PDD and with what was discussed during the remote interview process. Besides the results of the chimp census showed the importance of KNP for primate conservation and so the importance and interest in preserving the KNP. Thus, this CL is closed.

CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUEST (CARS)

CAR ID	01	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CAR		
Section 2.1.3 from the CCB MR states that there was a change in the Project Proponents. Please explain the reasons for the deviation presented and identify the impacts of the deviation on the applicability of the without-project scenario or the additionality. Provide an explanation of the outcome. Please provide evidence of the communication and consultation, with the communities and other stakeholders, of the Project Proponents change occurred during the monitoring period. Provide evidences of any input received during the communication. Please clarify how communication and consultation about the project has continued between the project proponents and communities and other stakeholders. Please explain how this communication and consultation has influenced the project. Please update accordingly section 2.2 of the CCB MR (2.2.3, 2.2.7, 2.2.8, 2.2.10)		
Project participant response		Date: 11-09-2020
Included in CCB MR update. See section 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.2.7, 2.2.8 and 2.2.10 Stakeholder consultations are presently being held (started on 7-09-2020). The monitoring report will be updated, pending the results and feedback received during these consultation meetings		
Documentation provided by project participant		
CCB Monitoring report v1.1		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
Sections 2.1.3, 2.2.3, 2.2.8 and 1.2.10 of the CCB MR were updated with information related as per requirement. Project proponent change and communications were consulted during the interviewing remote process held on 17th, 18th and 21st with the key stakeholders. Interviewees who were asked about this stated that they were aware and knew the ways to communicate with the PP. Exceptional situation for the stakeholder consultation event held on September 2020 was described in section 2.2.7. Section 2.2.10 mentions the "UWA-FACE's Plan of Activities 2020-2023." Please provide said document.		

Project participant response	Date: 06-10-2020
"UWA-FACE's Plan of Activities 2020-2023" is now provided in the attachments.	
Documentation provided by project participant	
In subfolder <CAR01>: UWA-FACE Plan of Activities 2020-2023.pdf	
DOE assessment	Date: 15/10/2020
Documentation requested was provided and no further clarification was needed. Therefore, this CAR is closed.	

CAR ID	02	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CAR		
Please complete sections 2.3.1 & 2.3.2 of the CCB MR by providing clarification on the maintenance of the key technical skills required to implement the project and document the management team's expertise and experience.		
Project participant response		Date: 11-09-2020
Included in CCB MR update		
Documentation provided by project participant		
CCB Monitoring report v1.1		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
During the remote interview process (17th, 18th, 21st September 2020) with the main stakeholders involved in the project activities, the project team <i>in loco</i>, and the management staff from FACE it became clear how key technical skills are being maintained and the management team's expertise and experience. Besides, Section 2.3.1 of the CCB MR was updated. Thus, this CAR is closed		

CAR ID	03	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CAR		
Please complete section 4.3.1 as per CCB MR template. Said section shall include the following information: - Communities, community groups, other stakeholders and HCVs related to community well-being shall be identified in the MR - Dates, frequency and sampling methods used and other information regarding the monitoring process - Evaluations by the affected communities		
Project participant response		Date:
Included in CCB MR update		
Documentation provided by project participant		
CCB Monitoring report v1.1		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
The CCB PDD mentions "The CCB Monitoring Plan for the UWA-Face project". Please, provide said document.		
Project participant response		Date: 06-10-2020
The CCB Monitoring Plan (date 3 rd of July 2015) is provided in the attachements.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
In subfolder <CAR03>: CCB Monitoring Plan v2.1.pdf		
DOE assessment		Date: 15/10/2020
Requested document was provided by the project developer and no further questions were raised. Thus, this CL is now closed.		

CAR ID	04	Date: 14/08/2020
Description of CAR		
Please complete section 2.3 of the VCS MR as per VCS MR template or provide specific references within the CCB PDD or the CCB MR for the: - Activities implemented to mitigate risks local stakeholders due to project implementation. - Any updates, to the property and land use rights of the local stakeholders - The processes used to communicate and consult with local stakeholders during the monitoring period, including any information about any conflicts that arose between the project proponent and local stakeholders and whether any such conflicts were resolved via the established grievance redress procedure.		
Project participant response		Date: 03/09/2020
VCS MR paragraph 2.3 updated with specific references to the CCB MR.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
VCS_Monitoring_Report_Kibale_2017-2020_v1.1.docx		
DOE assessment		Date: 02/10/2020
Please, update the VCS MR using references to the most up to date version of the CCB MR.		
Project participant response		Date: 06-10-2020
All references to the CCB MR 2017-2020 v1.1 in the VCS MR are now corrected (visible in track-changes). The corrected version of the VCS MR is included in the attachments.		
Documentation provided by project participant		
In subfolder <CAR03>: VCS_Monitoring_Report_Kibale_2017-2020_v1.1.docx		
DOE assessment		Date: 15/10/2020
The VCS MR was updated with correct references to the CCB MR. Thus, this CL is closed.		