**BIODIVERSITY CONSERVATION INITIATIVE NAME**

Document prepared by (*Individual or entity that prepared this document*)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Name of the initiative** | *This name must be identical in all documentation and may not be changed after initiative registration.* |
| **Initiative holder** | *Individual or entity holder of the initiative* |
| **Initiative holder’s contact information** | *E-mail address, telephone, cell phone, and physical address* |
| **Initiative participants** | *Individuals or entities participating in the initiative* |
| **Version** | *Document version number* |
| **Date** | *DD/MM/YYYY of preparation of this version of the document* |
| **Initiative Conservation activities** | *Indicate the initiative's conservation activities and conservation mechanisms.* |
| **Grouped initiative** | *Indicate whether the initiative corresponds to a grouped initiative or not.* |
| **Applied Methodology** | *State the title of the biodiversity methodology used and its version.* |
| **Initiative location (City, Region, Country)** | *Indicate the country in which the initiative is located*  *Indicate the city(s) in which the initiative is located and the coordinates* |
| **Starting date** | *Indicate the starting date of the initiative's activities*  (DD/MM/YYYY) |
| **Quantification period** | *Specify the quantification period for monitoring or measuring biodiversity conservation throughout the initiative.*  (DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY) |
| **First quantification period** | *Indicate the first period of monitoring or measuring biodiversity conservation by provisions in section 11 of the Biodiversity Standard.*  (DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY) |
| **Monitoring periods and/or the final monitoring period** | Indicate the total subsequent monitoring periods (DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY) and/or the final monitoring period (DD/MM/YYYY to DD/MM/YYYY) |
| **Sustainable Development Goals** | *List a maximum of 3 sustainable development objectives with which the initiative complies (demonstrated)*. |

|  |
| --- |
| General template instructions |
| * *This template is for the Ecosystem and Biodiversity Conservation Initiative Document (CID) under the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS).* |
| * *Complete the information of each title according to the instructions provided. Ensure that all content is consistent with the rules and requirements outlined in the BioCarbon Standard.* |
| * *Do not modify any features of the template, including styles.* |
| * *Submit the document as a non-editable PDF, deleting this table beforehand.* |

*Note: The instructions in this template serve as a guide and do not automatically represent a complete list of the information the initiative holder shall provide under each template section.*

**Table of contents**

[1 Initiative Eligibility 5](#_Toc193908019)

[1.1 Scope of the Biodiversity Standard 5](#_Toc193908020)

[1.2 Conservation activities and conservation mechanisms 5](#_Toc193908021)

[2 General description of the Initiative 6](#_Toc193908022)

[2.1 Name of the Biodiversity Initiative 7](#_Toc193908023)

[2.2 Objectives 7](#_Toc193908024)

[2.3 Initiative Conservation Activities and Conservation Mechanisms 7](#_Toc193908025)

[2.4 Initiative location 7](#_Toc193908026)

[2.5 Additional information about the Biodiversity Initiative 7](#_Toc193908027)

[3 Applicability conditions 7](#_Toc193908028)

[4 Normative references 8](#_Toc193908029)

[5 Geographical boundaries of the Conservation Initiative 8](#_Toc193908030)

[6 Temporal limits and analysis period 9](#_Toc193908031)

[7 Biodiversity baseline 9](#_Toc193908032)

[8 Additionality analysis 9](#_Toc193908033)

[9 Characterization of drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss 10](#_Toc193908034)

[10 Conservation objectives 10](#_Toc193908035)

[11 Sampling effort 10](#_Toc193908036)

[12 Metrics for the quantification of BioCredits 10](#_Toc193908037)

[12.1 Species diversity 11](#_Toc193908038)

[12.1.1 Alpha Diversity 11](#_Toc193908039)

[12.1.2 Beta Diversity 11](#_Toc193908040)

[12.1.3 Gamma Diversity 11](#_Toc193908041)

[12.1.4 Structure 11](#_Toc193908042)

[12.2 Other diversity indicators 11](#_Toc193908043)

[12.2.1 Threatened species 11](#_Toc193908044)

[12.2.2 High Conservation Values (HCV) 11](#_Toc193908045)

[12.3 Landscape diversity 11](#_Toc193908046)

[12.4 Landscape Biodiversity Index (LBI) 12](#_Toc193908047)

[13 Quantification of BioCredits 12](#_Toc193908048)

[13.1 Metrics and value adjustment 12](#_Toc193908049)

[13.2 Calculation of BioCredits 12](#_Toc193908050)

[14 Monitoring plan 12](#_Toc193908051)

[15 Risk management 12](#_Toc193908052)

[16 Uncertainty management 13](#_Toc193908053)

[17 Permanence 13](#_Toc193908054)

[18 Stakeholder engagement 13](#_Toc193908055)

[19 Consistency with applicable legislation 13](#_Toc193908056)

[20 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 13](#_Toc193908057)

[21 Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs) 14](#_Toc193908058)

[22 Climate change adaptation 14](#_Toc193908059)

[23 Other certification criteria 14](#_Toc193908060)

1. **Initiative Eligibility**

## Scope of the Biodiversity Standard

*[The Initiative is eligible under the scope of the BioCarbon Biodiversity Standard (BBS) by meeting one or more of the following conditions (Mark with an X).]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| The scope of the BBS is limited to: | |
| Biodiversity conservation initiatives include actions for preserving, restoring, and sustainable use of biodiversity. |  |
| Biodiversity conservation initiatives whose development includes contributions to regional or local conservation strategies. |  |
| Biodiversity conservation initiatives are generated from compliance with biodiversity loss compensation plans provided that the actions frame in the initiative are additional to mandatory compliance. |  |
| Biodiversity conservation initiatives that propose voluntary actions for the preservation, restoration, and sustainable use of biodiversity. |  |
| *Voluntary biodiversity credits (BioCredits) are generated by implementing biodiversity conservation initiatives.* |  |

## Conservation activities and conservation mechanisms

*[Mark with an X the type of Conservation Activities under which the Initiative is developed.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Preservation |  |
| *Isolation of areas, establishment of ecological barriers* |  |
| *Isolation of forest fragments* |  |
| *Installation of surveillance and control programs* |  |
| *Reduction of hunting and fishing activities* |  |
| *Other (include if the activity is not in the list)* |  |
| Ecological Restoration |  |
| *Re-establishment* |  |
| *Rehabilitation* |  |
| *Recovery* |  |
| *Removal* |  |
| *Other (include if the activity is not in the list)* |  |
| Sustainable Use |  |
| *Purse-seine and other control efforts* |  |
| *Limitation on entry and/or actions of the public/tourists to a landscape or ecosystem* |  |
| *Limitation of vehicular transport access to a landscape or ecosystem* |  |
| *Limitation of heavy or destructive machinery and/or technology that may cause collateral damage to other elements of the landscape or ecosystem* |  |
| *Recycling/rotation of soil nutrients* |  |
| *Composting* |  |
| *Sustainable agriculture* |  |
| *Limitation of agrochemicals or fertilizers* |  |
| *Other (include if the activity is not in the list)* |  |

*[Mark with an X the conservation mechanisms under which the Initiative is developed (Mark with an X).]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| *Corridors (biological and conservation)* |  |
| *Mini corridors or connecting strips* |  |
| *Closures* |  |
| *Enclosures* |  |
| *Live fences* |  |
| *Enrichment* |  |
| *Supplementation* |  |
| *Multipurpose forests* |  |
| *Conversion of pastures to forest cover* |  |
| *Restoration of the hydrological regime/structure in wetlands* |  |
| *Reconstruction of the physical structure of the wetland habitat* |  |
| *Mangrove habitat restoration* |  |
| *Other (include if the activity is not in the list)* |  |

# General description of the Initiative

*Describe the Initiative objectives and activities here, including any activities that will result in voluntary biodiversity credits (BioCredits). Include the following in the description:*

1. *A brief description of the existing scenario prior to the implementation of the Initiative activities;*
2. *Details of how the Initiative activities will result in voluntary biodiversity credits (BioCredits);*
3. *A brief summary of how the Initiative activities will contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;*
4. *An average estimate of voluntary biodiversity credits (BioCredits) attributable to the Initiative activities.*

## Name of the Biodiversity Initiative

*[State here the Biodiversity Initiative name. It shall be consistent throughout the documentation and may not be changed after Initiative registration.]*

## Objectives

*[Describe the objectives of the Initiative in detail. It is important to note that the Initiative objectives should be consistent with the proposed activities.]*

## Initiative Conservation Activities and Conservation Mechanisms

*[Describe the Conservation Activities and Conservation Mechanisms here, including the technologies or measures used. Describe in detail how the Initiative activities will result in voluntary biodiversity credits (BioCredits).]*

## Initiative location

*[Indicate here the country and region where the Initiative is located, giving as much detail as possible. Include coordinates and maps/photographs if possible].*

## Additional information about the Biodiversity Initiative

*[Write additional information about the Initiative here. You can include any information about the Initiative activities that you consider relevant, e.g., atmospheric or geological information, political, economic, or historical data of the area.]*

# Applicability conditions

*[Identify and mark with an X if the initiative follows the applicability conditions stated in Section 5 of the Methodology document.]*

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| 1. It aims to restore and/or maintain the state of the biodiversity at a defined point in time in quantitative and qualitative terms, avoiding irreversible losses. |  |
| 1. In situ conservation is the activity on which the initiative’s activities are based. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the partial or total loss of an ecosystem or changes in land use, generating BioCredits. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the loss (direct or indirect) of a population or species. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the extinction of an endemic population, species, ecological or cultural value. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the net loss of diversity at the genetic, species, or ecosystem level. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the modification of natural systems/ecosystems or unique biotopes. |  |
| 1. Conservation activities prevent the extinction of species, populations, or varieties or decrease their viability to levels that increase their risk of extinction. |  |
| 1. The initiative area within the boundaries is under any other biodiversity compensation scheme, provided that they strictly comply with all the criteria established by the applicable legislation in compliance. |  |

# Normative references

*[Describe how the initiative complies with the applicable normative references, such as being by the Convention on Biological Diversity, national policies and action plans, environmental legislation, Convention on Biological Diversity, guidelines defined by BioCarbon, and others that may apply. Demonstrate that there are procedures to review periodically the changing regulations. List of legislative requirements that apply to the initiative.]*

# Geographical boundaries of the Conservation Initiative

*[Demonstrate that the areas within the geographic boundaries of the initiative correspond to the categories of vegetation or land cover considered by the land cover and land use identification system applicable to the country in which the initiative's activities are implemented.*

*The land cover identification and land use shall be carried out at a scale of 1:10,000 or higher, considering the diversity of the landscape in each Minimum Spatial Unit (MSU). The area units should be represented using a GIS for the initiative's duration. Demonstrate that the boundaries are eligible by complying with Section 10.1 of the Methodology document and Section 10.2 of the BBS.]*

# Temporal limits and analysis period

*[Evidence that the temporal limits of the initiative were defined as follows:*

*Initiative starting date [Indicate here the starting date of the activities leading to the avoidance of biodiversity loss in the area of the biodiversity conservation initiative]*

*Quantification period of BioCredits [Present here the period of quantification during which biodiversity conservation is monitored or measured]*

*Monitoring periods [Indicate here the monitoring periods foreseen during Initiative implementation. Please note that the periodicity of the monitoring periods shall be consistent with the Initiative objectives and comply with requirements outlined in Section 15 of the Methodology document.]*

# Biodiversity baseline

*[Determine the structure and composition of the ecosystem in each of the different types of land cover/ or land use, including information as detailed as possible on climate, soil and other biodiversity, landscape determinants, and the evaluation of physical and biotic components, as well as ecosystem structure and composition before the start of conservation activities.*

*The minimum provisions that the baseline should include are found in Section 10.4 of the BBS. Additionally, the acceptable sources of information for the baseline identification are found in Section 10.3 of the Methodology document.]*

# Additionality analysis

*[Demonstrate through qualitative and quantitative assessments that biodiversity and ecosystem conservation would not have occurred if the conservation initiative was not implemented and that these are not attributable to the implementation of legally required actions per the provisions of the BBS Section 10.7 and Section 10.5 of the Methodology document.*

*Demonstrate additionality through a qualitative and quantitative assessment that can explain, based on measurable metrics, according to the criteria and metrics in Section 13 of the Methodology document.]*

# Characterization of drivers of transformation and biodiversity loss

*[Indicate here the drivers of landscape transformation and subsequent biodiversity loss and underlying causes. Use the qualitative rating matrices (tables) of the extent and frequency of the BBS Section 10.5 and Section 10.4 of the Methodology document.]*

# Conservation objectives

*[Explain how the conservation objectives were established to carry out restoration/conservation/sustainable use actions. Ensure these are related to the Conservation Values and demarcated and delimited in the areas within the boundaries of the proposed initiative.*

*A helpful way to identify, measure, and monitor conservation objectives is the Theory of Change (TOC). The initiative holder can use the FSC Guidance for Demonstrating Impacts on Ecosystem Services[[1]](#footnote-1). This guide includes the essential elements of a theory of change and a quality checklist for a TOC*.]

# Sampling effort

*[Detail the techniques and tools used to achieve maximum sampling effort, ensure accurate data collection, and methods to minimize errors for a reliable representation of biodiversity as outlined in Section 12 of the Methodological Document.]*

# Metrics for the quantification of BioCredits

*[Demonstrate that the evaluation of biological communities and landscape characteristics was conducted by quantifying and weighting species diversity and landscape diversity metrics for each land cover and/or land use type.*

*Use each of the metrics detailed in Section 13 of the Methodology. Each metric should be calculated for each monitoring period during which the characteristics of the biological communities and landscape dynamics can be demonstrated and quantified using the calculation equations provided—the metrics for species diversity and landscape diversity are described below.*

## Species diversity

### Alpha Diversity

*[for species richness in a community (Specific Richness Index, Margalef Diversity Index, Average alpha).]*

### Beta Diversity

*[for identifying how similar or dissimilar two communities or samples are (Whittaker Index).]*

### Gamma Diversity

*[to establish the total species richness in a larger area (it is the sum of the alpha diversity in all landscape units within the boundaries of the initiative (Schluter and Ricklefs Gamma Index).]*

### Structure

*[Classified as indices of dominance and evenness, considering the number of individuals per species (Simpson's Index, Lambda Dominance Index, Shannon-Wiener equity Index, Pielou Index).]*

## Other diversity indicators

### Threatened species

*[Per the categories defined by the IUCN Red List -CR, EN, VU, NT, LC, DD, or other national, regional, or local database.]*

### High Conservation Values (HCV)

*[Significant or critically important biological, ecological, social, or cultural values identified through stakeholder consultation and analysis of existing information.]*

## Landscape diversity

*[Regarding composition (where it refers to the diversity and abundance of fragment types in a landscape) and regarding structure (where it relates to the spatial organization of fragments).]*

## Landscape Biodiversity Index (LBI)

*[Composed of five parameters together (Percentage of landscape-PLAND, Perimeter-Area Fractal Dimension-PAFRAC, Contagion index-CONTAG, Central area index-CAI, Simpson's index-SIDI). These are key to determining the composition and configuration of landscapes. They also allow comparisons between landscapes and/or determine changes in the same landscape over time.]*

# Quantification of BioCredits

## Metrics and value adjustment

*[Demonstrate and quantify conservation outcomes using the previously stated metrics. Adjust each metric within the minimum and maximum limits established in Tables 5 and 6 of Section 14 by the Methodology document.]*

## Calculation of BioCredits

*[Use Equation 17, including the metrics' results, to calculate biodiversity credits by monitoring period to later; the result must be included in Equation 18 to calculate the final value of biodiversity credits during the monitoring period and per Minimum Spatial Unit according to Section 14.3 by Methodology document.]*

# Monitoring plan

*[Present a complete monitoring plan. The monitoring plan shall consider an appropriate structure and the collection of relevant data per Section 15 of the Methodology document. Make sure to include qualitative and quantitative indicators and other variables of analysis. Include quality control measurements and evaluation plans per Section 11 of the BBS.]*

# Risk management

*[Demonstrate the environmental, financial, and social risk assessment (direct and indirect) of implementing the conservation activities. Based on these, indicate the measures to manage the risks, ensuring the maintenance of biodiversity credits during and after the initiative's activities by Section 16 of the Methodological document.]*

# Uncertainty management

*[Explain how uncertainty is considered by documenting the sources of information, the consistency and relevance of the data, and the results related to biodiversity credits. The analysis should be conducted using an appropriate model and justifying the choice of variables related to the assessment and according to the provisions in Section 17 of the Methodology document.]*

# Permanence

*[Demonstrate that the initiative’s implementation has a legal and financial basis that guarantees its implementation in the medium and long term per the provisions in Section 18 of the Methodology document.]*

# Stakeholder engagement

*[Identify in what ways the initiative is socially sustainable and specify how interactions with stakeholders were considered and included (participation) in the designing and implementing the initiative. Explain the method and time frames in which information disclosure and stakeholder consultation processes were implemented.*

*Use the tools and details for stakeholder engagement outlined in Sections 10.9 and 10.14 of the BBS.]*

# Consistency with applicable legislation

*[Initiative holders shall demonstrate that the initiative complies with current national and international legislation and other legal frameworks related to the conservation activities developed in the scope of the initiative term per the provisions in Section 10.10 of the BBS.]*

# Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

*[Indicate how the initiative aligns conservation actions with the Sustainable Development Goals. Demonstrate that, by defining relevant criteria and indicators, the initiative's contribution to the SDGs applies to its conservation activities per the provisions of the BBS Section 10.11.*

*To demonstrate compliance with this requirement, initiative holders shall apply the Tool Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)[[2]](#footnote-2), demonstrating through relevant criteria and indicators that the initiative's contribution to SDGs applies to their conservation activities.]*

# Sustainable Development Safeguards (SDSs)

*[Initiatives shall comply with the SDSs tool[[3]](#footnote-3) by addressing potential risks related to environmental and socio-economic safeguards that may arise during the initiative's conservation activities. Initiative holders shall demonstrate preventive and mitigation measures for each potential risk. Demonstrate that, by defining relevant criteria and indicators, the initiative's contribution to the SDSs applies to its conservation activities per the provisions of the BBS Section 10.12.]*

# Climate change adaptation

*[Develop a climate change adaptation plan directly related to biodiversity conservation actions by identifying impact and climate risk assessments, quantifying impacts, and climate change adaptation strategies stated in section 10.13 of the BBS.]*

# Other certification criteria

*[Design and state additional actions that enhance the integrity of biodiversity conservation efforts, such as targets of the Kunming-Montreal framework, High Conservation Values, protection of threatened category species, and others.]*

1. FSC-GUI-30-006 V1-0 ES. Forest Stewardship Council® (FSC,2018). FSC®F000100. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. https://biocarbonstandard.com/wp-content/uploads/BCR\_SDG-tool.pdf and https://biocarbonstandard.com/wpcontent/uploads/BCR\_SDG-Tool.xlsx [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. https://biocarbonstandard.com/en/tools/ [↑](#footnote-ref-3)