

**VALIDATION REPORT**

**PROJECT NAME**

**PROJECT ID**

**Conformity Assessment Body | (**optional CAB Logo**)**

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| --- | --- |
| **VALIDATION REPORT**  **PROJECT ID** | |
| **Project Title** | It shall identically match the name of the project that is registered in the BCR registration platform. |
| **Project ID** | It shall match the unique registration number of the project. |
| **Project holder** | Organization or person owning the project. |
| **Project Type/Project activity** | Indicate the type of project and the project activity. |
| **Grouped project** | Indicate if the project corresponds to a grouped project or not. |
| **Version number and date of the Project Document to which this report applies** | Indicate the version number and date of the Project Document. |
| **Applied methodology** | Indicate the title and version of the methodology used by the project and that will be subject to Validation. |
| **Project location** | Indicate the country in which the project is located.  Indicate the city(s) in which the project sites are located. |
| **Project starting date** | Indicate the start date of the project activities.  (DD/MM/YYYY) |
| **Quantification period of GHG emissions reductions/removals** | Indicate the programmed period of quantification of GHG emissions reductions/removals.  (MM/DD/YYYY to MM/DD/YYYY) |
| **Estimated total and mean annual amount of GHG emission reductions/removals** | Indicate the total amount of GHG emissions reductions/removals (during the quantification period).  Indicate the estimated average annual amount of GHG emission reductions/removals. |
| **Contribution to Sustainable Development Goals** | List the sustainable development objectives with which the project complies. |
| **Special category, related to co-benefits** | Indicate the special category to which the project applies. |
| **Document date** | Date of completion of this report. |
| **Work carried out by** | Individuals who conducted this validation. |
| **Approved by** | Name and signature of the individual at the CAB who approved this validation report. |

|  |
| --- |
| General template instructions: |
| * This template is for the validation of projects under BCR Standard. |
| * Complete the information each tittle according to the Instructions relate back to the rules and requirements set out in the BCR Standard (paragraphs in font: Constantia, 11 pt., Italic, gray or “Template” style) using Constantia,12 pt., black or “Normal” style. |
| * 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 validation report template, just serve as a guide and, do not automatically represent a complete list of the information that the validation team shall provide under each section of the template.

**Table of contents**

[1 Executive summary 6](#_Toc164835758)

[2 Objective, scope and validation criteria 6](#_Toc164835759)

[3 Validation planning 6](#_Toc164835760)

[3.1 Validation plan 6](#_Toc164835761)

[3.2 Validation team 6](#_Toc164835762)

[3.3 Level of assurance and materiality 7](#_Toc164835763)

[3.4 Sampling plan 7](#_Toc164835764)

[4 Validation procedures and means 7](#_Toc164835765)

[4.1 Preliminary assessment 7](#_Toc164835766)

[4.2 Document review 7](#_Toc164835767)

[4.3 Interviews 8](#_Toc164835768)

[4.4 On-site visit 8](#_Toc164835769)

[4.5 Clarification, corrective and forward actions request 8](#_Toc164835770)

[4.5.1 Clarification requests (CLs) 8](#_Toc164835771)

[4.5.2 Corrective actions request (CARs) 8](#_Toc164835772)

[4.5.3 Forward action request (FARs) 8](#_Toc164835773)

[5 Validation findings 9](#_Toc164835774)

[5.1 Project description 9](#_Toc164835775)

[5.2 Project type and eligibility 9](#_Toc164835776)

[5.3 Grouped project (if applicable) 9](#_Toc164835777)

[5.4 Other GHG program 10](#_Toc164835778)

[5.5 Quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals 10](#_Toc164835779)

[5.5.1 Start date and quantification period 10](#_Toc164835780)

[5.5.2 Application of the selected methodology and tools 10](#_Toc164835781)

[5.5.2.1 Title and Reference 10](#_Toc164835782)

[5.5.2.2 Applicability 11](#_Toc164835783)

[5.5.2.3 Methodology deviations (if applicable) 11](#_Toc164835784)

[5.5.3 Project boundary, sources and GHGs 11](#_Toc164835785)

[5.5.3.1 Eligible areas in the GHG project boundaries (for AFOLU projects) 11](#_Toc164835786)

[5.5.4 Baseline or reference scenario 11](#_Toc164835787)

[5.5.5 Additionality 12](#_Toc164835788)

[5.5.6 Conservative approach and uncertainty management 12](#_Toc164835789)

[5.5.7 Leakage and non- permanence 13](#_Toc164835790)

[5.5.8 Mitigation results 13](#_Toc164835791)

[5.5.8.1 GHG emissions reduction/removal in the baseline scenario 13](#_Toc164835792)

[5.5.8.2 GHG emissions reduction/removal in the project scenario 13](#_Toc164835793)

[5.6 Monitoring plan 13](#_Toc164835794)

[5.7 Double counting avoidance 14](#_Toc164835795)

[5.8 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks 15](#_Toc164835796)

[5.9 Carbon ownership and rights 15](#_Toc164835797)

[5.10 Risk management 16](#_Toc164835798)

[5.11 Sustainable development safeguards (SDSs) 16](#_Toc164835799)

[5.12 Stakeholder engagement and consultation 17](#_Toc164835800)

[5.13 Socioeconomic aspects 17](#_Toc164835801)

[5.14 Stakeholders’ Consultation 17](#_Toc164835802)

[5.14.1 Public Consultation 17](#_Toc164835803)

[5.15 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 18](#_Toc164835804)

[5.16 REDD+ safeguards (if applicable) 18](#_Toc164835805)

[5.17 Climate change adaptation 18](#_Toc164835806)

[5.18 Special categories related to co-benefits. 18](#_Toc164835807)

[6 Internal quality control 18](#_Toc164835808)

[7 Validation opinion 19](#_Toc164835809)

[8 Validation statement 19](#_Toc164835810)

[9 Annexes 19](#_Toc164835811)

# Executive summary

Briefly describe the project including sector, purpose, activities, location, temporality, etc. Summarize the scope of the validation, the validation process and conclusion.

# Objective, scope and validation criteria

Describe the validation objectives, the scope, and the validation criteria.

# Validation planning

Provide information regarding validation planning based on the validation objectives, scope, and project sector. Include the validation plan, the validation team (roles and responsibilities), duration of validation activities, specific requirements, and the level of assurance and materiality.

Develop a validation and verification plan, including a documented sampling plan addressing the aspects detailed in ISO 14065 and considering the requirements specified by the BCR Standard.

The report shall include the validation plan, the validation team (roles and responsibilities), duration of validation activities and specific requirements.

## Validation plan

Describe in detail the validation plan, including a documented sampling plan addressing the aspects detailed in ISO 14064-3 and considering the requirements specified by the BCR Standard.

Describe the schedule and duration of the validation activities.

## Validation team

Provide details of the validation team, technical reviewer, and approver. Describe the profile of the professionals in charge of validation and the activities to be carried out by each one of them, specifying if it is a documentation review, on-site visit, report, technical review, etc.

In Annex 1, demonstrate how the team meets the compliance required for the validation, and list the documentation that supports the competencies of the validation team, required in the BCR Validation and Verification Manual.

In addition, describe the compliance of the validation team with the requirements of BCR Antibribery policy detailed in section 8.2.4 of the BCR Validation and Verification Manual.

## Level of assurance and materiality

Explain the assessment of the GHG data and information, to enhance evidence to evaluate the project's GHG statement, based on a sampling plan by selecting data and information that provide a reasonable assurance level and ensure compliance with materiality requirements.

Establish the relative importance (materiality) required, considering the objectives, assurance level, criteria, and scope of validation.

Provide a complete description of the assessment concerning the individual or the aggregation of errors or omissions that would significantly misrepresent a GHG assertion and could influence the conclusions about GHG emissions reductions/removals.

Provide the level of assurance (degree of confidence in the GHG statement) achieved, and evidence collected accordingly, used in the validation process.

## Sampling plan

Provide a complete description of the sampling plan, considering the level of assurance, the scope of validation, the validation criteria, the quality, and type of evidence (qualitative and quantitative) required to achieve the required level of assurance, the methodologies for determining representative samples, and the risks of potential errors, omissions, or misinterpretations.

# Validation procedures and means

## Preliminary assessment

Provide a description concerning the preliminary evaluation, including the assessment of the sufficient information to determine the purpose and scope of the validation.

## Document review

List all documents reviewed or referenced during validation process, include at least: document title, version (if applicable), author(s), organization name, reference (if applicable), document provider, if they are from the project or from other documentary sources used.

The report shall include the means for assessment applied and the information related to cross-checking applied.

Use the table in Annex 3, below.

## Interviews

Summarize all the interviews carried out with relevant stakeholders, that took place during validation activities. Specify if they were conducted in person, via telephone or video conference. Include a description about the consulted aspects and, the results of the interviews.

## On-site visit

Summarize the activities carried out during the on-site visit, as part of the validation process. Consider the characteristics of the project, specifications of the applied methodology, sectoral scope, complexity of information, data and parameters used by the project.

## Clarification, corrective and forward actions request

Describe, as appropriate (clarification, correction, or forward actions), in compliance with GHG mitigation objectives, applicability of methodology, uncertainty assessment, conservative approach, baseline, project mitigation results, additionality criteria, carbon rights ownership, environmental and social assessment, co-benefit criteria and indicators (if applicable), among others.

Include the assessment of the project contribution to sustainable development objectives, stakeholder consultation and compliance with national legislation, and the monitoring plan.

Summarize the process for the resolution of any findings raised by the validation team.

### Clarification requests (CLs)

If applicable, briefly describe the issues and the total number of findings that correspond to clarifications request.

### Corrective actions request (CARs)

If applicable, briefly describe the issues and the total number of findings that correspond to corrective actions request.

### Forward action request (FARs)

If applicable, briefly describe the issues and the total number of findings that correspond to forward actions, that is, findings raised during the validation, for the subsequent project verifications.

Remark the total number of corrective action requests, clarification requests, forward action requests and other findings raised during the validation.

In Annex 2, below, provide a summary of any CLs, CARs and FARs raised, including the response provided by the project holder, any resulting changes to the project documents and, the final conclusion.

# Validation findings

Summarize the compliance, in accordance with applicable validation requirements in the BCR Standard and the VVM, describing means of validation and a brief description of findings.

## Project description

Explain how the project description was assessed, in accordance with the applicable validation requirements.

## Project type and eligibility

Provide the steps carried out to assess if the information presented by the GHG project holder complies with the conditions established in the BCR Standard and VVM. Explain whether the project holder identified the scope, the project type, the project activities, and the project scale, in accordance with the BCR Standard.

Table 1. Project type and eligibility

| Eligibility criteria | Evaluation by validation body |
| --- | --- |
| Scope of the BCR Standard | Text |
| Project type | Text |
| Project activity(es) | Text |
| Project scale (if applicable) | Text |

## Grouped project (if applicable)

Explain how the compliance with the requirements and conditions to develop a grouped project in accordance with the BCR standard and the applied methodology, was assessed.

For AFOLU projects, this explanation should include the assessment regarding (among others), how the project holder identifies the expansion area of the Project and define the criteria for the addition of the new areas.

## Other GHG program

Confirm whether the project (or project areas, in the AFOLU sector) is participating or participated under other GHG program. Explain how the compliance was assessed according to the conditions in sections 24 of BCR Standard, as follows:

Confirm if the project is registered under any other GHG program. In this case, include the reasons which the project holder decided to register the project under BCR Standard. Provide evidence related to the registry in another program.

State whether the project has been rejected by any other GHG program. If so, provide the program name and the date and reasons for such rejection, including any other relevant information.

Present a complete assessment of potential overlapping of the project areas in AFOLU projects. Provide a conclusion regarding the compliance of the related requirement.

Provide a conclusion regarding the compliance of the related requirement.

## Quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals

Explain the steps taken to assess the emission reductions or removals quantification in accordance with the applicable requirements in the applied methodology and the VVM.

### Start date and quantification period

Provide an assessment regarding compliance with the start date, expected quantification period, project operational time and lifespan, in accordance with the applicable validation requirements in the VVM.

### Application of the selected methodology and tools

#### Title and Reference

Provide the title and reference of the methodology and the applicable tools. Confirm that the applied methodology and tools, and their specific versions are valid at the time of submission of the project registration.

Include in the assessment, whether the projects holder applies the methodologies eligible under this Standard. Methodologies shall be applied in full, including the full application of any tools or parameters/data referred to by a methodology.

Explain how the application of methodology and tools were assessed in accordance with applicable validation requirements.

#### Applicability

Describe the steps carried out to evaluate conformance of the project with all the applicability conditions of the methodology and tools applied to quantify the GHG emissions reductions/removals.

Provide a clear conclusion regarding each applicability condition of the methodology and, any tools applied by the project holder.

#### Methodology deviations (if applicable)

Confirm whether any deviation from the selected methodology has been approved by the Technical Committee of BioCarbon. Describe the assessment of the deviation applied, and the conformance with the deviation approval (if applicable).

### Project boundary, sources and GHGs

Describe the steps taken to evaluate if the project complies with all the information regarding the project boundary. Include details of the documentation assessed and the aspects reviewed during the site visit.

Explain how the project boundary, selected sources and gases were assessed in accordance with applicable validation requirements related to the project boundary in the VVM.

Provide a conclusion regarding whether the project boundary, selected sources, and reservoirs are duly justified for the project holder.

#### Eligible areas in the GHG project boundaries (for AFOLU projects)

Provide a complete description of the compliance assessment with the areas in the geographical limits of the project corresponding to the categories of land cover/use, conforming the requirements set forth in the BCR Standard and the applied methodology.

### Baseline or reference scenario

Explain how the baseline scenario identified for the project holder was assessed in accordance with the applicable validation requirements related to the establishment of the baseline scenario in the applied methodology and the VVM.

Describe the steps taken to assess baseline or reference scenario, including (as applicable) whether:

1. assumptions, methods, parameters, data sources, and factors are transparently applied, justified appropriately, and supported by adequate evidence;
2. uncertainty is considered and there was used prudential assumptions;
3. relevant national as also when applicable to sectoral policies and circumstances was considered and are listed in the project document;
4. the procedures for identifying the baseline scenario maintain consistency with the emission factors, activity data, projection variables of GHG emissions, and the other relevant parameters;
5. the implementation of procedures to ensure data quality under ISO 14064-2 and the requirements of the applied methodology.

Provide details, undertaking consideration to the sources of information, about the baseline identification assessment and cross-check data used in the identified baseline scenario. Provide a conclusion confirming that the documentary evidence used in determining the baseline scenario is relevant, and correctly justified.

In accordance with section 11.2 of the BioCarbon Standard, for all types of AFOLU projects, the project holder shall, for the duration of the project, reassess the baseline every 10 years and submit it for validation with subsequent verification.

Where appropriate, provide details, including the sources of information, of the baseline reassessment and cross-checking data used in the established baseline scenario. Provide a conclusion confirming that the evidence used to establish the baseline scenario is relevant and properly justified.

### Additionality

Explain how the additionality was assessed in accordance with the applicable validation requirements, related to the demonstration of additionality in the BCR Standard and, the Baseline and Additionality Guidance.

Summarize an assessment concerning the demonstration that emission reductions/removals do not correspond to emission reductions attributable to the implementation of legally required actions.

Provide a detailed description, including sources of information, and cross-check data used in the additionality demonstration. Afford an overall conclusion regarding whether additionality is justified for the project holder.

### Conservative approach and uncertainty management

Provide a description regarding how the GHG Project Holder establishes and apply mechanisms for managing uncertainty in the baseline quantification and mitigation results.

Evaluate whether the project adequately demonstrates and justifies if the use of data and parameters to estimate the reduction or removal of GHG emissions are consistent with the emission factors, activity data, projection of GHG emissions, and the other parameters used to construct the inventory national of GHG and the national reference scenario. If this is the case, then it is unnecessary to apply the percentages defined for the discount factor provided in the guidelines for managing uncertainty.

### Leakage and non- permanence

Where relevant, describe the steps taken to assess the leakage and non-permanence risk. Provide an assessment concerning the applied mechanisms for managing the risk of leakage, taking account the established in the methodological documents of BCR Standard.

Explain how the project holder ensures the permanence of the project activities, following the conditions set forth by the BCR Standard. In the same way, summarize the assessment of the actions to ensure the project benefits are maintained over time. For this, the GHG Project Holder shall apply the BCR Tool “Permanence and Risk Management”. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

### Mitigation results

Provide a description regarding the assessment about the projected mitigation results because of the implementation of the project activities, and how are validated within the framework of ISO 14064-3:2019, or those norms that update it.

#### GHG emissions reduction/removal in the baseline scenario

Describe the procedures carried out to assess the quantification of GHG reduction/removal of GHG emissions, including relevant data, parameters and equations, assumptions or additional considerations used in accordance with the provisions of the applied methodology.

#### GHG emissions reduction/removal in the project scenario

Provide the assessment of the ex-ante calculations for the GHG emissions reduction/removal during the entire quantification period, as well as the total estimated reduction and the estimated annual average.

Provide an overall concluding statement regarding whether the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and GHG emission reductions/removals.

## Monitoring plan

Explain how the description of the monitoring plan was assessed in accordance with the applicable validation requirements related to the monitoring plan in the VVM. Describe the process for the assessment of the monitoring plan.

Provide a summary of the compliance of follows:

1. necessary data and information to estimate GHG reductions or removals during the quantification period;
2. data and supplementary information for determining the baseline or reference scenario;
3. specification of all potential emissions that occur outside the project boundaries, attributable to the activities of the GHG Project (leakage);
4. information related to the assessment of environmental and social effects of the project activities;
5. procedures established for the management of GHG reductions or removals and related quality control for monitoring activities;
6. description of the methods defined for the periodic calculation of GHG reductions or removals and leakage;
7. the assignment of roles and responsibilities for monitoring and reporting the variables relevant to the calculation of reductions or removals;
8. the related procedures whit the assessment of the project contribution whit the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
9. criteria and indicators related to the contribution of the project to sustainable development objectives;
10. procedures associated with the monitoring of co-benefits of the special category, as applicable;
11. criteria and indicators defined to demonstrate the additional benefits and measurement of co-benefits and the specific category, as applicable.

Provide a description of the steps taken for evaluate if the monitoring plan is based on a monitoring methodology approved within the framework of the methods referred to in section 8 of the BCR Standard and the following:

1. national circumstances and the context of the GHG Project;
2. monitoring good practices, adequate for the follow-up, and control of the activities of the GHG mitigation effort;
3. procedures to ensure data quality under ISO 14064-2.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the compliance of the monitoring plan to the requirements of the applied methodology and any referenced tools.

## Double counting avoidance

Describe how the validation was performed including the assessment of the double counting avoidance, considering the requirement that prohibits the accounting, issuance, and retirement of GHG mitigation results.

For AFOLU projects, provide an assessment and detail how it has been confirmed that the project areas are not included within other project boundaries. Present a cartographic analysis that ensure the validity of this assessment.

Provide the steps carried out for the assessment of the application of the BCR Tool “Avoiding Double Counting (ADC)[[1]](#footnote-1)” which sets out the principles and requirements for the BCR Program, to avoid double counting of emission reductions or removals.

## Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

Provide a description of the assessment of the project's compliance with all relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks. In addition, compliance with laws related to GHG mitigation activities.

Legal compliance includes, but is not limited to, laws related to the protection of human rights and the rights of indigenous peoples, in accordance with international regulations such as the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and ILO Convention 169 on Indigenous Peoples.

Provide a description whether the project holder have implemented a documented procedure (Document Management System) in which to identify and have access, on an ongoing basis, to relevant legislation and regulations, demonstrating that have a procedure in place to periodically review compliance with them.

## Carbon ownership and rights

Provide an assessment with respect to the carbon rights, including the evaluation of the agreements and documents that ensure the requirement is met.

Describe the full assessment of the carbon rights, and the evidence that support a process based on free, prior, and informed consent. Include an explanation about the compliance about the respect of interested parties’ rights to participate in and consent to consultation as part of project design and implementation.

In cases where the project involves activities in the territories of ethnic groups and/or local traditional communities, evaluate how the project holder guarantee respect for their rights and carry out the procedures provided for in the applicable legislation.

Especially when the ethnic groups and/or local traditional communities are not project participants, i.e. when the project participants are a person or organization other than the ethnic groups or local traditional communities, require certification from the corresponding authority to determine if there are any Ethnic Communities in the project area. If there are then the Fundamental Right to Prior Consultation shall be guaranteed, when applicable.

Evaluate the implementation of transparent agreements that include fair and equitable compensation provisions in all cases.

Review the evidence/documentation that the agreements outline the responsibilities and obligations of all parties involved in the project. Also, the transparency and that stakeholders have a clear understanding of the project's objectives, timelines, and potential impacts.

Include an overall conclusion regarding whether ownership and rights are adequately justified by the project holder.

## Risk management

Summarize the evaluation whether the project holder has carried out a risk assessment and management, including the risks related to the project activities, in the environmental, financial, and social dimensions, as well as the measures designed to manage the risks by the project.

Likewise, describe the steps to evaluate the use of the **“Risk and permanence”** tool by the project holder. Present a conclusion and describe how you reached that conclusion. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

## Sustainable development safeguards (SDSs)

Provide an assessment whether the project holder has carried out an environmental and social assessment, analyzing the probable effects on biodiversity, ecosystems, and communities within the limits of the project. Present a conclusion concerning that the analysis is supported with reliable and recent references.

Summarize the evaluation whether the project holder demonstrates that the project activities do not cause any net harm to the communities and/or environment. To support this, the describe the steps to evaluate the use of BCR Tool. Sustainable Development Safeguards, SDSs.

Describe the conformance with social and environmental safeguards. These safeguards comprise a series of measures to ensure that the rights of communities are respected and that ecosystems and the environment in general are protected.

Provide an assessment about the process of social and environmental due diligence as outlined in the BCR Standard.

Likewise, describe the steps to evaluate the use of the **““**Sustainable Development Safeguards, SDSs **”** tool by the project holder. Present a conclusion and describe how you reached that conclusion. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

## Stakeholder engagement and consultation

Summarize the stakeholder consultation and explain whether the consultation has been conducted through a comprehensive assessment and understand the various individuals, groups, and organizations that will be impacted by the project activities.

Provide a description of how stakeholder interests have been considered, potential risks identified, and appropriate mitigation measures put in place. Review whether the documentation provides appropriate mechanisms for stakeholders to comment on the project and demonstrates how stakeholders are appropriately involved.

Evaluate documentary (or other) evidence to ensure that invitations to comment have been sent to relevant stakeholders.

Present the assessment including the requirement compliance, about the report on the comments received during the stakeholder consultation. The project holder shall provide a complete list of comments, including contact information for the stakeholder who made the comment. Also assess whether the comments were considered. If there have been stakeholder complaints or grievances, provide a full explanation of how they were addressed and whether they were satisfactorily resolved.

## Socioeconomic aspects

Describe the assessment concerning the project holder has carried out an analysis of the significant socioeconomic effects of project activities within the project boundaries, clearly explaining the assumptions used and justifying the review results. Describe the steps to evaluate the demonstration that the project activities do not cause any net-harm to the local communities and society in general. Provide a description whether the project holder apply the BCR Tool. No Net Harm Environmental and Social Safeguards (NNH).

Present a conclusion and describe how you reached that conclusion. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

## Stakeholders’ Consultation

Explain how the local stakeholder consultation process was assessed in accordance with the applicable validation requirements related to the local stakeholder consultation in the VVM. Provide a conclusion confirming (or not) the compliance with the requirement.

### *Public Consultation*

Summarize the public comments received during the public consultation period and describe the assessment whether the project holder considered all comments submitted. Include the evaluation of the information, providing the responses of the comments and describe any resultant changes to the project design, or justify that the comment is not relevant.

Include an overall conclusion regarding public consultation.

## Sustainable Development Goals (SDG)

Provide the process to evaluate the criteria and indicators that the project establishes to determine how the applicable activities of the project contribute to the objectives of sustainable development, using the tool **¨SDG Tool¨**.

Provide an overall conclusion regarding the adherence of the tool. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

## REDD+ safeguards (if applicable)

Describe the assessment to the compliance by the project with respect to REDD+ safeguards, including the review of indicators, monitoring criteria, by using the **¨Safeguards REDD+¨** tool.

Take in account that whether the host country have a national interpretation related to Safeguards, it is required the respect of that interpretation.

Present a conclusion and describe how you reached that conclusion. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version.

## Climate change adaptation

Provide an assessment to evaluate the criteria and indicators used by the project to carry out actions to demonstrate their contribution to climate change adaptation, in accordance with the provisions of the BCR Standard.

## Special categories related to co-benefits.

Describe the process to assess the definition and measurement of co-benefits (if applicable). Provide an assessment concerning the demonstration that the project holder provides additional benefits for the society or environment (biodiversity conservation, benefits on communities and, gender equality) and, if they have confirmed a model of criteria and indicators that would monitor each of the conditions and demonstrate compliance with them.

# Internal quality control

Describe the measures taken to ensure the quality of the validation activities.

# Validation opinion

Provide a validation opinion in accordance with the applicable validation requirements in the VVM. Summarize the validation results according to the scope, objectives, ex ante calculations and defined plan for the validation of the project.

# Validation statement

Provide a validation statement in accordance with the provisions of the BCR Standard and the Validation and Verification Manual. This validation statement shall be contained in a document attached to this validation report.

# Annexes

Annex 1. Competence of team members and technical reviewers

Provide documentation to demonstrate the required competence of validation team members and technical reviewers.

Annex 2. Clarification requests, corrective action requests and forward action requests

If needed, copy the table, and fill out with the findings raised, in ¨Finding Type¨ choose whether it is clarifying, corrective or forward action.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Finding ID** | **1** | **Type of finding** | **Clarification / Corrective/ Forward action** | **Date**  **DD/MM/YY** |
| **Section No.** | | | | |
| Indicate the section number of the validation report to which each CL, CAR or FAR corresponds. | | | | |
| **Description of finding** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **Project holder response (dd/mm/yyyy)** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **Documentation provided by the project holder** | | | | |
|  | | | | |
| **CAB assessment (dd/mm/yyyy)** | | | | |
|  | | | | |

Annex 3. Documentation review

Use the table to list all document reviewed and referenced during the validation, including BCR or CDM documents. For each document, indicate the following:

1. Title: provide the title of the document. Include the version number, if applicable;
2. Author: provide the name(s) of author(s). Where the author(s) belong(s) to the organization(s) that issue the document, provide only the name(s) of the organization(s);
3. References to the document: where applicable, provide the relevant reference to the document such as the dates of completion/publication and URL;
4. Provider: choose one of the following options to indicate who provided the document to the CAB for its review.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Document Title / Version** | **Author** | **Organization** | **Document provider (if applicable)** |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |

Annex 4. Abbreviations

Use the table to list all the abbreviations used in this report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Abbreviations** | **Full texts** |
|  |  |

1. The tool is available at the BCR website, make sure you are using the latest version. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)