

VERIFICATION REPORT

THE CHOCÓ-DARIÉN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROJECT



Colombian Institute for Technical Standards and Certification – ICONTEC

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Summary

ICONTEC was contracted by Fund for Environmental Action to conduct the project verification. The verification process was intended to assess the conformance of the project with the VCS and CCB rules and the methodology applied to the project. According the project document and relevant information, the project leverages carbon finance to avoid mosaic conversion of tropical forests and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Through a combination of forest protection and sustainable development activities, the project pertain to three themes: Building governance capacity, improving enforcement and management and developing economic alternatives and incentives for the community in the project area.

The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor is located in the Darién region of northwest Colombia within the administrative jurisdictions of the Department of Chocó and the Municipality of Acandí. The Project area covers all land (13,465 ha) contained within Collective Title No. 1502 held by COCOMASUR. The project crediting period is 30 years and 0 months. The start date of the crediting period VCS is October 18, 2010 and the end date is October 17, 2040. The start date of the crediting period CCB is January 01, 2011 and the end date is December 31, 2040.

The Project Description was designed to conform to the VCS Standard v.3.3, specifically a REDD+ project under the AFOLU project types (AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.6). The project applied the approved VCS methodology for Avoided Deforestation (VM0009 v2). The project has been designed in accordance with the Standard for the design of Climate, Community and Biodiversity Project – Second Edition, December 2008. In consequence, the Monitoring Report contains information about the project benefits, project description, project implementation status, legal status and property rights, monitoring GHG emission reductions and removals. In addition, the description about the community and biodiversity impacts.

The purpose and scope of verification involve documental review, on-site visit, interviews with relevant personnel, and the consultation of secondary information sources, findings statements, feedback with the project owner and elaboration of the final report. In order to carry out the verification, Verified Carbon Standard Program Guide (v3.7) dated 21 June 2017 were taken into account and following the guidance provided in the VCS Validation and Verification Manual v.3.2 (19 October 2016). The verification purpose is to ensure the opinion of a third party, independent of the proposed project, carrying out a full assessment of the evidence to ensure compliance with the criteria defined by the Alliance for Climate, Community and Biodiversity (CCBA) for the project design, in accordance to that, verification was developed also considering project operations, monitoring and reporting by reviewing the criteria that conforms the CCB Standard assessment.

During the verification, the ICONTEC auditor identified 7 findings (3 Clarification Requests and 4 Corrective Action Request) that were addressed satisfactorily by the project developer during the verification process to ensure that the Project Description and Monitoring Report fulfils the VCS and CCB program requirements. No CARs that could lead to a material discrepancy between the project and the project monitoring were identified. The project complies with all of the verification criteria, and the assessment team has no restrictions or uncertainties with respect to the compliance of the project with the verification criteria.

Documentation review, interviews and on-site visit allowed ICONTEC to collect enough evidences to completely assess the verification criteria and determinate that the project is implemented according to

the Project Description (Version 1.87, 16-July 2012), and the Monitoring Report (version 2.0, 14/06/2018) are in accordance with the Monitoring Plan. The GHG emission reductions reported for the project proponent, in the Monitoring Report were correctly calculated, based on the applied methodology VM0009 (Version 2) and the Monitoring Plan contained in the VCS PD (July 2012).

The verification process results in a conclusion of ICONTEC International reporting if the project meets the criteria and requirements of the CCB Standard and subject to verification by the CCBA. The project implementation and the monitoring system are in place and followed appropriately. ICONTEC can confirm that the GHG emission reductions are calculated without material misstatements. Based on the information we have seen and evaluated we confirm the following statement:

Reporting period: 16-06-2012 to 31-12-2017 (VCS) and 01-01-2011 to 31-12-2017 (CCB)

Verified emission reductions in the above reporting period: 330,710.55 tons CO₂e

The project is in accordance with Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance, conforming to all requirements, and having reached Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits, achieving Gold Level.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

According to VCS rules (VCS Standard v.3.7) the verification is the periodic ex-post independent assessment by a verification body of the GHG emission reductions and removals that have occurred as a result of the project during the monitoring period, conducted in accordance with the VCS rules. In particular, the verification is an independent review of the monitored reductions that have occurred as a result of the registered VCS project activity during the verification period.

Verification is a requirement for all VCS projects and is seen as necessary as to provide assurance to stakeholders of the quality of the project and its generation of verified emission reductions. In this sense, the verification objectives include the assessment of the monitoring report (Monitoring Report: The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor) in order to identify the extent to which methods and procedures, including monitoring procedures, have been implemented in accordance with the validated project description and the extent to which GHG emission reductions and removals reported in the monitoring report are materially accurate.

In this way, the purpose of the VCS verification audit activities were conduct an independent assessment of the project to determine whether the project complies with the verification criteria, as set out in the guidance documents listed in Section 1.2 of this report.

According to CCB Program Rules (CCB Standards v.3.1), the verification demonstrates that multiple benefits have been delivered. Successful validation to the CCB Standards can help project proponents to build support among stakeholders and investors. Additionally, to confirm that the project complies with the rules and guidance to encourage effective and integrated project design.

As a result of those processes, the DOE prepare a verification conclusion and a written certification of the emission reduction achieved and verified for the specified time period.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The verification scope involves the independent and objective revision to determine that the project design and implementation meets the following criteria: VCS Program (relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy, transparency, and conservativeness), as well as the requirements described in the selected methodology (VM0009 “REDD+ Methodology for Avoided Deforestation” - Version 2) and the Monitoring Plan.

The verification include the assessment about the project activity implementation as per the validated PD and that all physical features of the project are in place, ensure that actual monitoring systems and procedures comply with the monitoring systems and procedures described in the monitoring plan and the approved methodology and that the data reported are complete and transparent.

Also, in accordance with Section 5.3.1 of the VCS Standard, the criterion for verification was the VCS Version 3, including the following documents:

- VCS Program Guide

- VCS Standard
- VCS AFOLU Requirements
- VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool

In addition, the temporal boundaries for verification are defined by the length of the monitoring period. In this case, the monitoring period goes from 16-06-2012 to 31-12-2017 (VCS) and 01-01-2011 to 31-12-2017 (CCB).

ICONTEC, based on its ethics code and internal procedures for carrying out validation, verification and certification audits of VCS project activities (which, in turn, are based on the Voluntary Carbon Standard) focused the verification process on the identification of significant risks for credits generation, and verification of the mitigation.

1.3 Level of Assurance

For this project the assessment was conducted to provide reasonable assurance, in compliance with the VCS Program requirements (VCS Standard v3.7, Section 5).

Besides the above mentioned, during the verification ICONTEC ensured to fulfill the requirements additional to ISO 14064-3:2006 and ISO 14065:2007, set in VCS standard 2017, which are as follows:

The level of assurance is reasonable for verification, with respect to material errors, omissions and misrepresentations;

The criteria is VCS Version 3.3 (regardless of the VCS version or GHG program under which the project was validated);

The objective is in conformance with the VCS requirements and VCS program methodologies as applicable to the specific project; and

To ensure complete transparency, a verification protocol check list is included in Appendix A. The verification protocol check list addresses all of the criteria that must be met for the project. In addition, the project is classified like a Project (Less than or equal to 300,000 tons of CO₂e per year). In consequence, ICONTEC applies materiality of five per cent in accordance with the requirements in VCS version 3.7.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

Project Proponent(s):	Anthroct S.A.S. Contact: +1 (650) 681-9787
Title of project activity:	The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor REDD Project
Project area:	The Project area covers all land (13,465 ha) contained within Collective Title No. 1502 held by COCOMASUR.

Baseline and monitoring methodology	Approved VCS methodology (VM0009 "REDD+ Methodology for Avoided Deforestation" - Version 2).
Sectoral scope(s)	VCS Sectoral Scope 14 – Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses under project activities Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD).
Location of the project activity	The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor is located in the Darién region of northwest Colombia within the administrative jurisdictions of the Department of Chocó and the Municipality of Acandí.
Project crediting period	The project crediting period is 30 years and 0 months.
Crediting period start date	The start date of the crediting period VCS is October 18, 2010. The start date of the crediting period CCB is January 01, 2011.
Crediting period end date	The end date is October 17, 2040 (VCS) and December 31, 2040 (CCB).
Period verified in this verification	VCS: 16/06/12 to 31/12/2017; CCB: 01/01/2011 to 31/12/2017

The project activity is to leverage carbon finance to avoid mosaic conversion of tropical forests and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project employs a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project methodology to determine the magnitude of these emissions reductions. Through a combination of forest protection and sustainable development activities, this project is estimated to avoid the emission of 2.5 Million metric tons of CO₂e over the project lifetime.

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

The verification consisted of the following four phases: i) a desk review and investigation on secondary sources of information, ii) on-site assessment iii) the resolution of findings and iv) issuance of the final verification report with the conclusion, as follows:

	Desk Review
16/05/2018 to 22/05/2018	Planning of the verification activities Preliminary documentation review and logistic aspects for the site visit, with the project developer.
28/05/2018-01/06/2018	On-site assessment. This visit included the assessment of the following aspects: Project Description, Sectoral scope and project type

Project's start date and Crediting period

Description of the project activity

Proof of land tenure/ownership as well as contracts on carbon right

Project location and project boundary (GIS and Project sites)

Assessment of the ex-ante stratification process and its results

Methodology applicability

Quantification of Emission Reductions – estimation of the net anthropogenic removals by sinks (methodology equations) evidence for input data and parameter to the VER calculations, leakage (Uncertainty and conservativeness)

Monitoring Report - The system employed for obtaining, recording, compiling and analyzing GHG data and information, as well as descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of those involved.

Description and explanations about environmental / social impacts and stakeholder's consultation.

Non-Permanence Risk Tool and the Non-Permanence Risk Report. The application of tool and the number of credits that the project proponent deposits into the reserve of non-tradable credits, the AFOLU pooled buffer account.

Design and goals of project, project participants and project description: land use scenarios, communities, biodiversity, among others.

Interview with the team responsible for each project activity

On-site visit

Project location and project boundary - Confirmation of Project sites and project boundaries

Management activities and baseline scenario

Stratification on field

Verification of plots

Interviews with communities

01/06/2018 Partial Closing meeting with PP

06/06/2018 Submission of first round of findings to client (CARs/CLs)

Reception of the action plan of the findings

14/06/2018 Reception of the final version of the Project Document and related documents

19/06/2018 to 22/06/2018 Review by the Verification team of documentation submitted by the Client in order to close all CARs/CLs

24/06/2018 to 28/06/2018	Writing of the draft report after closure of all CARs/ CLs Draft of the verification report
06/07/2018 to 09/07/2018	Internal Technical Review
10/07/2018 to 11/07/2018	Adjustments to the final verification report and relative documents to submission, according to the findings spotted by the technical reviewer team
27/07/2018	Project Submission to VCS of Final Verification Report

The Monitoring Report that includes the claimed emission removals for the project (Version 02 dated 14/06/2018), the net anthropogenic GHG removals, and the SOP for monitoring, the Shape files with the project boundary and the relevant documentation were assessed as part of the desk review. In addition, the following documents were checked:

- The last version of the PDD (Version 1.87, July 2012), including the monitoring plan
- The emission removals calculation spreadsheet
- Documentation related to the project monitoring

The whole documentation was reviewed and a verification audit plan was completely carried out during the verification activities.

Documentation review, interviews and on-site visit allowed ICONTEC to collect enough evidences to completely assess the verification criteria and determinate that the project is implemented according to the Project Description (Version 1.87, July 16, 2012) and the project implementation. Removals were correctly calculated, based on the applied methodology (VM0009). The project areas and the monitoring system are in place and followed appropriately. ICONTEC can confirm that the GHG emission reductions/removals are calculated without material misstatements. The verification protocol resulting from the verification of the project is enclosed in Appendix A of this report.

In addition, documentation review, interviews and on-site visit allowed ICONTEC to collect enough evidences to completely assess the verification criteria and determinate that the PD (Version 1.87 – July 2012) is in conformance with the rules and CCB criteria.

2.1 Audit Team Composition (*Rules 4.3.1*)

The verification team consists of the personnel described in Table 1.

Table 1: Verification Team

Role/Qualification	Last Name	First Name	Country	Type of involvement		
				Desk review	Site visit/Interviews	Reporting
Lead Auditor Sectoral Expert	Duque	Angela	Colombia	X	X	X

The auditor is qualified in accordance with ICONTEC qualification scheme for VCS/CCB validation and verification. The auditor is a Colombian forestry engineer, Environmental Economist and account with large expertise in forestry project, relevant social and ecological a biodiversity expertise.

2.2 Method and Criteria

The verification process was carried out by using the VCS validation and verification manual in order to ensure a fully completed verification process and to gather the information necessary to complete this report; and demonstrates how emissions removals have been verified and the manner in which such verifications were confirmed.

The criteria allow the verification guidance provided by VCS Standard and the rules related to VCS methodology applied. In consequence, the following documents were used to assess this project:

- VCS Standard Version 3.3 and Version 3.7
- VCS Guidance Validation and Verification Manual, 19 October 2016, v3.2
- VCS Project Description: VCS Version 3.3
- VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements, 21 June 2017, v3.6
- VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Calculation Tool, v3
- Approved VCS Methodology VM0009 Version 2.0, Methodology for Avoided Deforestation (26 October 2012) Sectoral Scope 14
- Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards Second Edition (December 2008)
- Rules for the Use of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (June 2017)
- Guidance for the Use of the CCB Standards (May 2014)

The sampling plan and the site inspections were completed to confirm the project boundaries, verify baseline and check the REDD+ project activities. Site inspections were also conducted to evaluate the consistency of the sampling technique and parameters related. The project site and plot location were confirmed with GPS. The inventory data (both digital and hard copy) were reviewed to check the monitored parameters.

ICONTEC verified that operational and data collection procedures were implemented in accordance with the monitoring plan of the PD and verified the information flows for generating,

aggregating and reporting the monitoring parameters. Furthermore, the monitoring equipment was checked in order to confirm that the monitoring practices followed the requirements of the PD and the applicable methodology.

The sampling plan and the site inspections were conducted to evaluate the consistency of the sampling technique and parameters related. The project site and plot location were confirmed with GPS. The inventory data (both digital and hard copy) were reviewed to check the monitored parameters.

2.3 Document Review

The documentary review was performed from May 16th, 2018 to May 22th 2018, as two reviews took place in order to finally conclude that the project meets the requirements of the selected methodology. The project was first reviewed, based on the information provided by the Project Proponent before the on-site visit. All answers to findings provided by the proponent were compared with the Voluntary Carbon Standard version 3.3 and other relevant requirements defined by VCS. This information crosschecking allowed identifying several findings that were declared in Appendix A – Verification Protocol. In addition, the following documents, among others were checked:

- Anthrotect, COCOMASUR (16/07/2012). The Project Description VCS - v. 1.87 (16 July 2012)
- VCS (26/10/2012). The applicable approved VCS Methodology VM0009 Version 2.0, Methodology for Avoided Deforestation (26 October 2012)
- South Pole, (03/05/18). The estimated GHG removals and all calculation sheets provided by the proponent (Annex D_Estimations)
- VCS Non-Permanence Risk (Proyecto COCOMASUR\ChocoDarien_Verification_CCB&VCS_2017\SupportingInformation\Climate\NPR_SupportingInformation)
- The Monitoring Report that includes the claimed emission removals for the project Version 01 dated 28/03/2018 and Version 02 dated 14/06/2018; the implementation status of the project, the stratification, activities, tasks and products of the Project and the estimated GHG removals, were assessed as part of the verification process.
- Anthrotect, (03/05/18), VCS MONITORING PLAN, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 12p.
- Anthrotect, (June 2018), VCS MONITORING PLAN Update June 2018, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 11p.
- Anthrotect, (03/05/18), DATA & PARAMETERS AVAILABLE AT VALIDATION, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 3p.
- Anthrotect, (03/05/18), Excel File PLOT LIST, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT.

- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), Excel File ESTIMATIONS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT.
- Ecological Carbon Offset Partners, (14/06/18), Traducción PROTOCOLO DE CAMPO MEDICION EN ZONA DE FUGAS, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 5p.
- Ecological Carbon Offset Partners, (25/03/18), LEAKAGE PLOT SAMPLING PROTOCOL, Anthrotext, 9p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), DATA & PARAMMETERS MONITORED, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROJECT, 3p.
- Ecological Carbon Offset Partners, (03/05/18), Traducción PROTOCOLO INVENTARIO FORESTAL DE CARBONO, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 8p.
- Ecological Carbon Offset Partners, (26/03/18), FOREST MEASUREMENT PROTOCOL, Anthrotext, 15p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), Excel File ALLOMETRIEQUATIONS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT.
- COCOMASUR/SOUTH POLE, (28/03/18), NON.PERMANENCE RISK REPORT, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 8p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), COMMUNITY INDICATORS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 9p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), PLAN DE MONITOREO DEL IMPACTO SOBRE LA BIODIVERSIDAD, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 19p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), NORMAS CONSTITUCIONALES Y LEYES RELEVANTES, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 16p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), MONITORING PLANS FOR CLIMATE, COMMUNITY AND BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 45p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), MONITOREO DE LOS IMPACTOS COMUNITARIOS PERIODO 2012-2017, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 26p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), VIDEOS & NEWS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT, 2p.
- Anthrotext, (03/05/18), Excel File BIODIVERSITY ANALISIS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROYECT.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), REPORTE DE MONITOREO LA BIODIVERSIDAD EN EL CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 52p.

- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), INFORME TECNICO ANALISIS CAMBIO DE COBERTURA PERIODO 2012-2016, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 13p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), INFORME TECNICO MAPA DE COBERTURA Y FRAGMENTACION DE HABITAT, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 19p.
- COCOMASUR, (14/06/18), SOCIALIZACION DEL REPORTE DE MONITOREO DEL PROYECTO CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN 2012-2017, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION DEL CHOCO-DARIEN, 5p.
- AnthroTECT, (03/05/18), COMMUNITY INDICATORS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROJECT, 9p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), PLAN DE MONITOREO DEL IMPACTO SOBRE LA BIODIVERSIDAD, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 19p.
- AnthroTECT, (03/05/18), MONITORING PLANS FOR CLIMATE, COMMUNITY AND BIODIVERSITY BENEFITS, THE CHOCO-DARIEN CONSERVATION CORRIDOR REDD PROJECT, 45p.
- AnthroTECT, (03/05/18), MONITOREO DE LOS IMPACTOS COMUNITARIOS PERIODO 2012-2017, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 26p.
- AnthroTECT, (03/05/18), Excel File BIODIVERSITY ANALYSIS, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN.
- COCOMASUR, (14/06/18), SOCIALIZACION DEL REPORTE DE MONITOREO DEL PROYECTO CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN 2012-2017, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 5p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), ESTATUTOS DEL CONSEJO COMUNITARIO MAYOR DE LAS COMUNIDADES NEGRAS DE LA CUENCA DEL RIO TOLO Y ZONA COSTERA SUR, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 26p.
- CONGRESO DE COLOMBIA, (15/07/94), LEY 152 DE 1994, POR LA CUAL SE ESTABLECE LA LEY ORGANICA DEL PLAN DE DESARROLLO, 14p.
- CONGRESO DE COLOMBIA, (18/07/97), LEY 388 DE 1997, POR LA CUAL SE MODIFICA LA LEY 9ª DE 1989, Y LA LEY 3ª DE 1991 Y SE DICTAN OTRAS DISPOSICIONES, 49p.
- CONGRESO DE COLOMBIA, (27/08/93), LEY 70 DE 1993, POR LA CUAL SE DESARROLLA EL ARTICULO TRANSITORIO 55 DE LA CONSTITUCION POLITICA, 15p.
- COCOMASUR, (03/05/18), PROCEDIMIENTO OPERATIVO ESTANDAR CAPACITACIONES Y CONSTRUCCION DE CAPACIDADES A LAS COMUNIDADES LOCALES- VERSION 1.0, CORREDOR DE CONSERVACION CHOCO-DARIEN, 13p.

- CODECHOCO, (2014), CONVENIO DE COOPERACION TECNICA No. 008-2014, OFICINA JURIDICA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA, 6p.
- PARQUES NACIONALES NATURALES DE COLOMBIA, (2016), CONVENIO DE ASOCIACION No. 002-2016, OFICINA JURIDICA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA, 7p.
- CODECHOCO, (2016), CONVENIO DE ASOCIACION No. 025-2016, OFICINA JURIDICA REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA, 7p.
- INSTITUTO COLOMBIANO DE DESARROLLO RURAL, (01/08/05), RESOLUCION No. 1502 DE 01 AGO 2005, COCOMASUR, 21p.
- FONDO ACCION, (11/06/14), CONVENIO FONDO ACCION 023 DE 2014, COCOMASUR, 7p.
- FONDO ACCION, (28/07/16), CONVENIO FONDO ACCION 020 DE 2016, COCOMASUR, 11p.
- FONDO ACCION, (08/03/17), CONVENIO FONDO ACCION 010 DE 2017, COCOMASUR, 12p.

2.4 Interviews

Between 28/05/2018 to 01/06/2018 a site visit to the project was undertaken. Interviews were conducted with Claudia Agudelo (Forest and Land Use Expert South Pole Carbon Asset Management SAS.) and Everildys Cordoba (General Coordinator, Project).

Interviews were carried out to assess the understanding of the program requirements and to determine if the Monitoring Report is in accordance with the Project Description/Monitoring Plan and the applied methodology. In consequence, during the interviews with the project developer, COCOMASUR, it was possible to validate and verify the particular procedures that were applied to determine the project implementation and carbon calculations.

In addition, to determine if the Project Description is in accordance with the CCB Standard. Therefore, on the interviews with the project developer (South Pole Carbon Asset Management SAS) and the Project Developer (COCOMASUR), ICONTEC audited the procedures to determine the relevant issues related with the compliance about impacts considered on climate, community and biodiversity. During the on-site visit, among others, the following people were interviewed (Table 2).

Table 2: Interviews

Name	Entity	Position
Angelica Ma. Denis	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza (Vereda Neca)
Carlos Alfredo Vecino	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Alfonso Blanquie	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Luz Amparo López	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local San Miguel
Olga Chaverra	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Caleta
Nilson Cordoba	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza

Name	Entity	Position
Orlando Ortega	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Caleta
Diego Guerrero	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Caleta
Geimer Mercado M.	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local San Miguel
David Manuel Bolaños	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Titiza
Arcesio Calderón	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Feliciano Chaverra	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Alfonso Gutiérrez	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Yenifer Vidal Mendoza	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Futurango
Rodermi Denis Rivas	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza (Vereda Neca)
Aureliano Córdoba Becerra	COCOMASUR	Representante Legal Consejo Local Peñaloza
Edwin Lozano	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Yedid Guerrero	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local San Francisco
David Vidal Mendoza	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Futurango
Angie Valbuena	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Ferley Caicedo	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Edier Lozano	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Ely Sandrith Quintana	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Caleta
Arquimedes Moreno	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Futurango
Cristina Rentería	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Caleta
Daniel Chaverra	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Playona
Daniel Gutiérrez	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Tibirre
Etiel E. Cordoba	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Ferney Caicedo	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Ravi Rodríguez Gutiérrez	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local San Francisco
Hilton Martínez	COCOMASUR	Consejo Local Peñaloza
Everildys Cordoba	COCOMASUR	Project Coordinator
Claudia Milena Agudelo	South Pole Carbon Asset Management SAS	Forest and Land Use Expert

The verification process also included on site Interviews with the communities and the team members of the COCOMASUR. In addition, the audit team carried out meetings whit the community, in the Appendix B of this report is included the complete list of people that intervned in those meetings.

The interviews, related with verification process, intended to assess the training and skills of the community people in charge of the maintenance, measuring and reporting of the data obtained from each plot. Interviews also included aspects related to the knowledge about the project activities, impacts and benefits were also examined.

2.5 Site Inspections

The objectives of the on-site inspections performed were to:





- Ensure that the geographic area of the project, as reported in the PD, the Monitoring Report and the accompanying Shape file, is in conformance with the VCS/CCB program and methodology requirements;
- Perform a risk-based review of the project area to ensure that the project is in conformance the eligibility requirements of the VCS rules and the applicability conditions of the methodology;
- Perform a risk-based review of the project area in order to cover the sampling area;
- Visiting of randomly selected 7 inventory sampling plots and collect GPS waypoints from the plots, project boundaries and other significant features in order to verify the status of the carbon reservoirs and of other parameters included in the monitoring plan and report;
- An assessment of the implementation and operation of the proposed VCS/CCB project through visual inspection and through the interviews with staff and the community;
- Reliability checks in order to verify the consistency of the previous measurement and the re-measurement, and to verify the correctness of the reported data;
- Verifying that operational and data collection procedures were implemented in accordance with the monitoring plan of the PD and verified the information flows for generating, aggregating and reporting the monitoring parameters. Furthermore, the monitoring equipment was checked in order to confirm that the monitoring practices followed the requirements of the Monitoring Plan and the applicable methodology;
- Confirmation that the quality control and quality assurance procedures were in place.




After developing the sampling analysis, the DOE's team considered adequate to establish a sampling plan for the inventory and forestry data, carried out by COCOMASUR. According sampling methodology applied, ICONTEC defined a sample size for the sample plots verification.

In consequence, the verification auditor decided to visit 7 plots, and re-measure two plots in forest and one plot in the leakage area, including representative samples for the inventory plots, as shown in the Table 3.

All plots where measured by the project team in charge of this activity, that were appointed to set the permanent plots and who measure for the first time, by following the procedures established in the PD and the Monitoring Plan. The applied methodology was described by Anthrotect (2018): \ChocoDarien_Verification_CCB&VCS_2017\Annexes\Annex 4_Climate_Annexes, Forest Measurement Protocol.

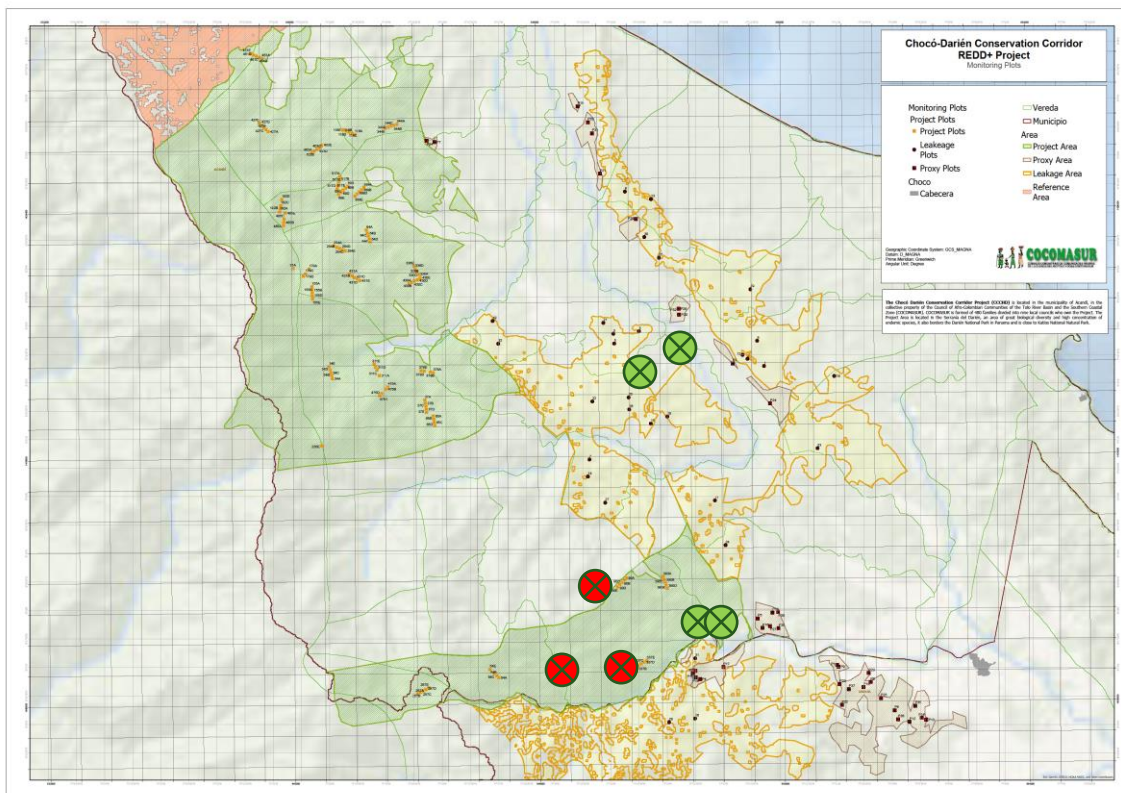
Table 3: Sampling plots visited and verified

Type	N° Plot	Land Cover*	GPS Point Data		Image
			North	West	
Forest	390C	High dense forest	8°18'29.26"N	77°14'1.08"O	
Forest	337C	High dense forest	8°17'6.94"N	77°14'22.79"O	
Leakage	12	High dense forest	8°22'25.52"N	77°12'34.29"O	
Leakage	31	Herbaceous vegetation	8°17'9.50"N	77°13'29.89"O	

Type	N° Plot	Land Cover*	GPS Point Data		Image
			North	West	
Pasture	27	Herbaceous vegetation	8°17'43.17"N	77°12'10.43"O	
Pasture	16	Clean pasture	8°17'41.43"N	77°12'18.33"O	
Pasture	2	Clean pasture	8°22'20.72"N	77°12'50.26"O	

*Land Cover according Corine Land Cover - IDEAM 2010

The first verification team issued a Forward Action Request (FAR2): “Due to the difficulty of reaching many project plots, the available time for the audit, and for some safety and security concerns, the verifying auditors were only able to reach two permanent project plots for re-measurement. DNV requests that more permanent plots be re-measured during the next verification, and specifically, that several of these be chosen for the southern section of the project accounting area, as this is the area most difficult to reach”. However the plots location and the difficulties in terms of distance, the Icontec auditor team visited the project area in the Globe2 (Southern section of the project accounting area). The following map attempts to show the location of some of the plots with the purpose of demonstrate the access difficulties in terms of distances and natural conditions that were considered before reaching each plot.



Besides gathering data related to the carbon stocks and biomass, the field visits included interviews and visits to the different local councils, as an attempt to identify how the people is feeling and their commitment about the project.

2.6 Resolution of Findings

Findings established during the verification can be seen as a non-fulfillment of verification criteria, or an identified risk to the fulfillment of the project objectives. The findings could take the form of a Corrective Action Request (CAR), Forward action Request (FAR) or a Clarification Request (CL).

A Corrective Action Request (CAR) shall be raised if one of the following situations occurs:

- (a) Non-compliance with the monitoring plan or methodology are found in monitoring and reporting and has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient;
- (b) Modifications to the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project activity has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants;
- (c) Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions which will impact the quantity of emission reductions;
- (d) Issues identified in a FAR during validation/verification to be verified during verification have not been resolved by the project participants.

A Clarification Request (CL) shall be raised if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable VCS/CCB requirements have been met.

A Forward Action Request (FAR) is issued for actions if the monitoring and reporting require attention and/or adjustment for the next verification period.

As a result of this assessment there were found 7 findings (3 Clarification Requests and 4 Corrective Action Request) and zero (0) FARs in the verification process. CAR and CLs were closed based upon adequate responses from the project proponent which meet the applicable requirements; findings were reassessed before their formal acceptance and closure. All findings, included the issues raised, the responses provided by the project proponent and the final conclusions are contained in the Appendix A. All required changes are observable on Monitoring Report Version 02 (14/06/2018) and the relevant annexes.

Consequent to the resolution of findings, the ICONTEC auditor concluded that the Monitoring Report is accurate, complete, and provides an understanding of the nature of the project and the project proponent demonstrates how emission removals have been reached, monitored and reported.

2.6.1 Forward Action Requests

There are not Forward Action Requests.

2.7 Eligibility for Validation Activities

N/A

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

Not applicable.

No gap validation is required; no methodology deviations were needed in the verification; and this is not a grouped project.

3.1 Participation under Other GHG Programs

Not applicable.

3.2 Methodology Deviations

Not applicable.

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

There are no project description deviations.

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

According to the information in the MR, on January 26th and February 15th 2012, the English and Spanish versions of the Project Design Document (PDD), which were validated in February of the same year, were delivered to CCBS. On February 2013 the document with the monitoring plans was delivered to CCBS. The social impact-monitoring plan was designed based on Social Impact Assessment and Biodiversity Assessment (BISS) methodology. Monitoring was conducted under the Theory of Change or Causal Model and activities were grouped into four areas: strengthening of governance and cultural identity; greater food security, wider livelihood alternatives and increased well-being.

At the time, the monitoring process was new to all parties as it was the first time that an Afro-Colombian community had implemented a REDD+ project in a collective territory. As a result, some activities were planned with different expectations and aspirations and have since been adjusted given their experience.

In consequence, the project proponent propose a new set of community indicators. This proposal uses some indicators that have already been approved, some new ones and the removal of others. This will result in more precise and accurate indicators to measure the impacts that the project wants to have in the specific ethnic context. Similarly, a new strategy is proposed for Focus 4: Improvement in well-being.

In the case of the Biodiversity Monitoring Plan, this task requires a periodic follow-up of four taxonomic groups found in the Project Area (flora, birds, beetles and macroinvertebrates), allowing a comparison to be made between the established conservation goals and the actual results. Due to the characteristics of the Project, the monitoring plan is set up to provide a permanent feedback from the lessons learned in the field by the community, who has made the decision to be an active actor in the implementation of the different monitoring strategies. For the present period, the monitoring plan has been slightly revised (Annex 2_UpdatedBiodiversityMonitoringPlan), however, neither its objectives nor its variables have not been changed since the initial Monitoring Plan validated in 2013 (Annex 5_CCBMonitoringPlans_2013).

The auditor confirmed those minor changes, including the assessment about the impact on the project design and monitoring. It is palpable that the Monitoring Plan is in a potential improvement up to the point where the community has the technical capacities to carry out the tasks required on their own.

3.5 Monitoring Plans (CL3.2, CM3.3, B3.3)

Not applicable.

4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Public Comments (*Rules 4.6*)

The project PDD was posted to the CCBA website for the formal 30-day public comment period from 26 April - 28 May 2018. No comments were received.

4.2 Summary of Project Benefits

The Summary of Project Benefits was completed appropriately. The section 3 (Climate) in MR is adequate and describe the GHG emission reductions associated with the estimated deforestation are presented with the relevant explanation. The Section 4 (Community), including Table 10, in Monitoring Report, contains the community impacts, showing the project actions, impacts, community group impacted, planned/no planned and effect. Additionally, the biodiversity impacts (Section 5) describes the biodiversity changes and the monitored data is included.

Icontec confirmed that all claims made are supported with adequate information. The auditor agrees that the continuation of the project activities is in way to ensure the maintenance benefits. Furthermore, based on the idea that the project activities will result in net positive benefits that communities will continue such activities into the future.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Implementation Status (G3.4, CL1.5)

In general, the project activity has been implemented as according to the description presented in the registered PD. The project activity is completely operational and the same has been confirmed on-site. ICONTEC has reviewed the monitoring report and confirms by means of comparison with the information given in the registered PD, that the project information gathered during the site visit and the description of the implementation status of the project activity is in line with the applicable provisions of the project standard.

The auditor confirms, through the visual inspection that all physical features of the proposed VCS project activity including data collecting, analyzing and storage systems have been implemented in accordance with the registered PD and the monitoring plan.

ICONTEC has been confirmed, to the best of his understanding that the GHG emission reductions generated by the project have not become included in an emissions trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading.

There are no material discrepancies between the actual monitoring system, and the monitoring plan set out in the project description and the applied methodology. Furthermore, the project has not received or sought any other form of environmental credit, and has not become eligible to do so since validation or verification, in addition, the project has not participate or been rejected by any other GHG program.

4.3.2 Risks to the Project (G3.5)

The assess to the accuracy of the likely natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community, and biodiversity benefits, during the project lifetime, identified by the project, include the assessment of information that support the possible risk identified by project proponent. The project proponent considered two risk types: internal and external. Internal risk factors related to: project management, financial viability, and opportunity cost and project longevity. External risk factors related to: land and resource tenure and political risk.

The document and support for each risk factor applicable to the project were verified, including any relevant evidence. By reviewing, an assessment of the quality of documentation and data provided to support the risk score was realized, in terms of the auditing process.

The document signals the possible risks that may affect the benefits of the project and identify the measures needed to mitigate these risks. According to that information, was evaluated the risk management proposal and the capacity of COCOMASUR in sense with the compliance on prevention, checking, perform actions, monitoring and evaluation of actions related to the project benefits.

In order to evaluate the risks management to the project, in the monitoring report (Section 2.2.5) there are an assessment related to post-conflict and security, corruption and mismanagement, illegal logging, opportunity costs of REDD+ and feasibility of REDD offsets. There are a complete explanation about the project has been managed and mitigated those risk.

ICONTEC evaluated the risk assessment undertaken by the project proponent and assessed all assumptions, justifications and documentation provided by the project proponent to support the risk to the project. The information included in the MR was confirmed and is consistent with the risk assessment.

4.3.3 Enhancement of High Conservation Values (G3.6)

By reviewing the information and the Interviews with the project developer and the project proponent, the auditor has been confirmed that the evaluation about the actions needed or implemented to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the high conservation value attributes identified in the project description was assessed and is complete. The actions to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the high conservation value attributes are consistent with the precautionary principle.

The project activity have guaranteed the protection of continuous coverage, avoided the conversion of the forest to other land use, preserved the main river sources that supply the communities and maintained the connection with the Darién National Park. All of this has contributed to the maintenance and improvement of HCV 1 to 5.

HCV 6 has received special attention during this monitoring period as it supports the maintenance of the other communities. This is because the communities execute all the actions necessary for conservation, which are based in strengthening their link with nature. On the one hand, consultations and decisions making with communities and the local councils meetings (supports in 4.3.2.1) give meaning and dynamism to the organizational structure of COCOMASUR. This contributes to the strengthening of territorial governance and identity through the exercise of autonomy. On the other hand, the conservation of the forest the associated activities that are carried out by the community strengthen their cultural identity which is so intrinsically linked to nature.

In the other hand, workshops were held with local councils to discuss water uses, difficulties experienced by users and ways to solve them. The main objective was to identify the effects that community's actions have on water, its sources and the forest as the provider.

All those aspects described were confirmed by meetings carried out with the community in some places and local councils, including the reference about high conservation values in the project area and the commitment about.

4.3.4 Benefit Permanence (G3.7)

By reviewing, the measures needed and included in the monitoring report and interviews with the project developer and the project proponent, the assessment of the actions needed or implemented to maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime was carried out.

The information about the management for the improvement of telecommunications infrastructure, education and training activities, is included in the monitoring report involving the activities and data related. The confirmation of those affirmations consisted in documentary review and interviews with the project developer and the project proponent, checking the related evidence and by means of discussions with the community members.

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

Section 2.3 of the MR adequately addresses how the project information is made available and actively disseminated to the relevant groups. In addition, the project developer used several meetings to transmit the information to the community (see the O1E2_2_ReunionesConsejosLocales Folder). The auditor requested to the community the aspects related with information about project activities and monitoring report. This allowed confirm the community engagement and the compliance with this requirement.

During the on-site visit, the auditor was able to confirm that project summary documents were distributed to local councils and other interested individuals, and that several meetings were carried out with community members throughout the project area.

In this way, based on on-site interviews with community members, the auditor confirmed that these interviews were adequate to express the most important information regarding the project, including that: communication and consultation carried out in accordance with the communication and consultation plan, the consultation plan, the public comment period for verification was publicized to communities and other stakeholders using the communication methods identified in the validated project description and their submission of comments to VCS was facilitated, project implementation and monitoring information, and other key documents, were distributed to communities and other stakeholders during the monitoring period.

4.3.6 Stakeholder Grievance Redress Procedure (G3.10)

By crosschecking documentation and interviews with the project developer, the auditor verified that the project proponent has implemented the project's grievance redress procedure. According to the information presented, the internal rules of COCOMASUR provide the main guidelines for dealing with conflicts and grievances. Specific procedures are outlined in the Mechanism of Petitions, Complaints, Claims and Suggestions and the Procedure of Mediation and Resolution of Intra-Community Conflicts. The auditor confirmed by review, that those documents include the guiding instruments for receiving, resolving and following up on situations that may arise in the territory.

The total cases processed during this monitoring period is 56. The information in the MR demonstrates the cases processed. The document review and the meetings with the community, allowed to conclude that the grievance redress procedure has been implemented according to the project's validated design.

ICONTEC concludes that the grievance resolution process complies with each requirement of G3.10. The process are defined in a manner consistent with G3.10, and reasonable time limits have been specified for each stage.

4.3.7 Worker Relations (G4.3 – G4.6)

According the information presented by the project proponent, and evidenced in onsite visit, by mean of discussions with the community, all activities that involve people from outside the community should also result in learning for at least one project participant from the community. Considering the practices in the project, the community have a group of people large enough to cover the necessary tasks. To do this, training happens openly and aims to train members from all local councils. The auditor reviewed also the documented workshops developed during the current monitoring period.

In sense to build the capacity of the communities, young people are included in the training of COCOMASUR members, in all knowledge lasts in the long term and is shared throughout the communities.

In addition, the assessment allowed conclude that the project is in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations regarding worker's rights and workers are informed of their rights (See section 2.4.4 MR and documentation related to).

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

The auditor has been able to confirm that exist enough evidence related to management capacity and best practices by the project participants. Is relevant the experience reached by the community, in order to carry out the project activities and the monitoring. The community has been trained in conformance to technical and administrative skills to implement the project successfully, in alliance with Fondo Acción. There are a longer documented evidence (Folder 2.2.7.2_Educación/Entrenamientos, among others). The meetings with the community in onsite visit confirmed the information and documentation presented by the project proponent.

In line with the financial health of COCOMASUR, for support project implementation, is clear and evidenced that with an increased management capacity and the support of the project's base team, COCOMASUR is able to reach different organizations and execute agreements with them. Those agreements allowed the project to achieve its goals and objectives, in addition to contributing to the development of COCOMASUR's administrative capacities, which in turn resulted in a recognition of good resource management across all organizations. In this way, COCOMASUR has strengthen its ability to manage resources and has a good alliance with Fondo Acción, the project has adequate financial resources to continue with its implementation.

4.3.9 Legal Status (G5.1)

The legal aspects of the project and all relevant laws are listed, analyzed and described adequately in Project Description. Additionally, in the Monitoring Report there is a complete explanation about the changes to all the pre-existed laws (Annex 3: Laws_Updates). There are four new relevant decree have been created during the current monitoring period:

- Decree 298, 2016: organization and operation of the National Climate Change System
- Decree 1655, 2017: organization and operation of the National Forestry Information System, the National Forest Inventory and the Forest and Carbon Monitoring System that are part of the Environmental Information System for Colombia.
- Decree 870, 2017: payment for Environmental Services and other incentives for conservation
- Decree 926, 2017. Carbon tax

Compliance with the regulatory framework was assessed, and no incompliance was detected during the verification process.

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

The documentation assessed and observations made on the site visit provide the evidence to conclude that the property rights are recognized, respected and supported appropriately. In accordance to that, is clear that during the design of the project, the consultation process with each of the COCOMASUR communities (nine local councils) was carried out. The auditor could confirm the fulfilment of the requirements of prior consultation with the communities

According the text in MR, the relationship with the indigenous communities that neighbor project has been stable throughout history. In recent years there have been meetings to deal with territorial issues, related to the extension of their reservations, the clarification of their limits and their process of restitution of territorial rights. The auditor has confirmed that the project has protected the rights of Indigenous peoples, communities and other stakeholders in accordance to the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards and the validated project design. This aspect was confirmed by document review and discussions with the project coordinator.

Because the project activity is located in the COCOMASUR area, the project activities do not lead to the involuntary removal or relocation or property rights holders from their lands or territories, and does not force them to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood.

4.3.11 Identification of Illegal Activities (G5.5)

In the project area, the selective logging and invasion are the two illegal activities that are potential to affect the project. The project proponent has been created a forest monitoring team to carry out periodic routes to detect and report all types of illegal activities in the project area. This has been further supported by the training of members of different local councils. All of this translates into an increase in installed capacity for monitoring and surveillance of the territory.

In order to confirm the capacity and effectiveness of the periodic routes, the auditor participated in a territory reconnaissance walk, activity carried out with the objective of increasing the sense of belonging of the communities in their territory, efforts are made to exemplifying damages that are evident.

4.4 Climate

4.4.1 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction and Removal Calculations

The data and parameters used, as well as the quality control measurements are detailed in the Annex B_Data&ParametersAvailableAtValidation (Data and parameters available at validation). The parameters monitored are in the file ChocoDarien_Verification_CCB&VCS_2017\Annexes\Annex\4_Climate_Annexes\AnnexF_Data&ParametersMonitored.

The quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals were determined using data and parameters, the models and equations contained in the methodology (VM00009) applied by project proponent (Table 4).

Table 4: Data and parameters applied

VM00009 Variable		2012	2017
t [^] [m]	Monitoring (Verification) Event Date	15/06/2012	31/12/2017
--	Project Start Date	18/10/2010	18/10/2010
--	Project Crediting Period Start Date	18/10/2010	18/10/2010
--	Project Crediting Period End Date	18/10/2040	18/10/2040
alpha	Alpha	- 2,17	- 2,17
beta	Beta	0,00012	0,00012
A_PAA	Project Accounting Area (ha)	9.910,40	9.902,77
A_PX	Proxy Area (ha)	1.028,55	1.028,55
A_AS	Activity-Shifting Leakage Area (ha)	6.000,00	6.000,00
c_P BM [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Biomass from Project Accounting Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	650,35	656,59
c_B BM [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Biomass from Proxy Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	53,55	183,41
c_P BGB [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Below Ground Biomass Project Accounting Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	240,63	242,94
c_B BGB [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Below Ground Biomass Proxy Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	19,81	67,86
c_P SOC [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Soil from Project Accounting Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	461,28	243,04
c_B SOC [^] [m]	Carbon Stocks in Soil from Proxy Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	403,83	192,31
r_RS	Root-to-Shoot Ratio	0,37	0,37
U_P [^] [m]	SE of all pools considered in Project Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	107,91	56,88
U_B [^] [m]	SE of all pools considered from Proxy Area (tCO ₂ e/ha)	38,17	124,88

VM00009 Variable		2012	2017
Standard Dviation_EM	Aproximate Uncertainty of the logistic function	0,00583	0,00583
nd	Number of spatial points in the Reference Area	1.531	1.531
E_P Delta^[m]	Project Emissions per Monitoring Period	-	-
q	Time between degradation and deforestation (yrs)	-	-
lambda_SOC	Decay rate for SOC	0,20	0,20
x0	Covariate values as of the project start date	-	-
theta	Covariates to the deforestation model	-	-
x^[m]	Covariates to the deforestation model	-	-
rU	Onset proportion of deforestation immediately adjacent to project area	0,44	0,44
p_LDEG^[0] 2012	Proportion of degradation and deforestation in the leakage area	0,13	0,13
p_LDEG^[m] 2017	Proportion of degradation and deforestation in the leakage area	0,13	0,09
--	Risk Rating	16%	16%

The other parameters used are: Tree BG Ratio (0,37), Tree Fraction Carbon (0,5), Merchantable DBH-cm (118), Shrub BG Ratio (0,4), Shrub Fraction Carbon (0,47), Grass BG Ratio (0,4) and Grass Fraction Carbon (0,45).

All data parameters and calculations were assessed by ICONTEC, with the person in charge of processing the data in order to identify possible human errors. In conclusion, the spreadsheet formulae, conversions and aggregations are accurate and provide reliable results.

ICONTEC was able to demonstrate that the equations, sources, assumptions, parameters and statistical procedures, meet the methodological and standard requirements. Additionally, ICONTEC assessed the total calculations for evaluate accuracy of the results for baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and emission removals. In this sense, all data, conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by the project proponent in spread sheet format to guarantee all calculations were accessible for review.

ICONTEC has checked whether the monitoring parameters related to the GHG removals in the project has been implemented in accordance with the monitoring plan contained in the project description (Annex A_ Monitoring Plan and Annex A_MonitoringPlan_Update2018). The PD and MR have been checked for consistency. Also, the auditor conducted a full assessment of data collection and storage procedures to ensure all opportunities for error in transposition of data between data were minimized. Uncertainty was assessed as required. Moreover, the auditor reviewed the statistics parameters and the sampling plan to confirm the accuracy of the precision reported by the project proponent.

Finally, all fixed parameters are in compliance with the applied methodology, PD and MR. The GHG monitoring system is included and integrated in the management system of the project and it could be evidenced and confirmed during site visit that GHG management system is completely

implemented. COCOMASUR and South Pole have implemented a management system including procedures related to forestry inventory, inventory calculation and maintenance, measure and data processing. All procedures are implemented and consider the GHG monitoring. During interview with the project developer and South Pole expert team, procedures were provided and assessed.

On the other hand, ICONTEC has been confirmed that field data collection applied the adequate methods and principles of forestry data collection. Collected data was handled appropriately, including a structured process for quality check. Analysis of collected data used appropriate formulas and parameters. The monitored data for required parameters have been verified by ICONTEC and have been found complete, reliable and consistent by checking the whole procedure for data aggregation.

In consequence, ICONTEC considers that the process of data collection, management, transfer, storage and reporting was carried out in compliance with the monitoring plan, the PD and the applied methodology, and it was reliable and transparent. In addition, the auditor considers that the default values used in the monitoring report are appropriately applied.

Agreeing to that, ICONTEC confirms that the GHG removals have been quantified correctly, in accordance with the Project Description version 1.87, the Monitoring Report v.02 and the applied methodology.

4.4.2 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

The auditor checked relevant assumptions by reviewing regional and international documents in order to confirm the applicability of the parameters and estimations. The documents were completely reviewed, and the auditor concludes that the source and accuracy of the parameters was good enough to be included as part of the project calculations. In this sense, the assessment allowed to confirm the sufficiency of quantity, and appropriateness of quality, of the evidence.

Procedure undertaken to estimate the net GHG removals is clear and the explanation of the procedure carried out for estimation has been provided in the MR. Auditor consider that PP has correctly identified and applied the methodology and relevant tools to calculate the net GHG removals from the project. In addition, concluded that the assumptions and sources of data were conservative and well selected after reviewing the supporting documents provided by the proponent. All risks were assessed according to the development of other projects in Colombia that include communities and by reviewing all legal documents provided by COCOMASUR.

In regard to procedures in the correspondent requirement of VCS/CCB Standard and applied methodology, ICONTEC confirms the following statements:

- a) All relevant assumptions and data are listed in the project description and monitoring report, including their references and sources.
- b) All data and parameter values used in the monitoring report are considered reasonable in the context of the project.
- c) All estimates of the baseline emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the monitoring report.

Based on the information detailed in PD and the estimations tools and files, ICONTEC could confirm that the sources used are quoted correctly and interpreted adequately in PD. All assumptions, sources and data are indicated in the PD and all relevant information about the project, was confirmed and checked completely. In consequence, we can conclude that the methodology was applied following all the requirements, equations and methodological procedures.

Finally, the auditor concludes that the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and net GHG emission reductions and removals.

4.4.3 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The project proponent has been determined the risk factors through a qualitative analysis, following the guidance of the VCS AFOLU Non Permanence Risk Tool and providing enough evidence and documentation. ICONTEC evaluated the risk assessment undertaken by the project proponent and assessed all data, rationales, assumptions, justifications and documentation provided by the project proponent to support the non-permanence risk rating.

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.

Table 5: Assessment of non-permanence risk rating

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
Internal Risks				
Project Management	(a) Species planted (where applicable) associated with more than 25% of the stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued are not native or proven to be adapted to the same or similar agro-ecological zone(s) in which the project is located.	0	Not applicable.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(b) Ongoing enforcement to prevent encroachment by outside actors is required to protect more than 50% of stocks on which	2	In accordance with the observations during onsite visit, the auditor confirmed that deforestation agents are expected to continue in the scenario without project. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	GHG credits have previously been issued.			
	(c) Management team does not include individuals with significant experience in all skills necessary to successfully undertake all project activities (ie, any area of required experience is not covered by at least one individual with at least 5 years experience in the area).	0	Not applicable.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(d) Management team does not maintain a presence in the country or is located more than a day of travel from the project site, considering all parcels or polygons in the project area.	0	Not applicable.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(e) Mitigation: Management team includes individuals with significant experience Management team includes individuals with significant experience in AFOLU project design and implementation, carbon accounting and reporting (eg, individuals who have successfully managed projects through	-2	The team of COCOMASUR consists in a group of trained personal with experience in the development and implementation of the project activities. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	validation, verification and issuance of GHG credits) under the VCS Program or other approved GHG programs.			
	(f) Mitigation: Adaptive management plan in place	-2	The project has a management plan in place. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Financial Viability	(a) Project cash flow breakeven point is greater than 10 years from the current risk assessment	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) Project cash flow breakeven point is between 7 and up to less than 10 years from the current risk assessment	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(c) Project cash flow breakeven point between 4 and up to less than 7 years from the current risk assessment	1	According to the project cash flow carried out by the project proponent, the breakeven point occurs in year 7. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(d) Project cash flow breakeven point is less than 4 years from the current risk assessment	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(e) Project has secured less than 15% of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(f) Project has secured 15% to less than 40% of funding needed to cover the total cash out required before the project	0	Not applicable.	N/A

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	reaches breakeven			
	(g) Project has secured 40% to less than 80% of funding needed to cover the total cash out required before the project reaches breakeven	2	According the analysis and evidence presented by the PP, the project has secured 40% to less than 80% of funding needed to cover the total cash out required before the project reaches breakeven point. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(h) Project has secured 80% or more of funding needed to cover the total cash out before the project reaches breakeven	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(i) Mitigation: Project has available as callable financial resources at least 50% of total cash out before project reaches breakeven	0	Not applicable	N/A
Opportunity Cost	(a) NPV from the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be at least 100% more than that associated with project activities; or where baseline activities are subsistence-driven, net positive community impacts are not demonstrated	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) NPV from the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be between 50% and up to 100% more than from	0	Not applicable	N/A

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	project activities			
	(c) NPV from the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be between 20% and up to 50% more than from project activities	4	In the case of the project, the case (c) has been applied. As the most profitable alternative land use activity (cattle ranching) can be expected to be comparable with project activities. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(d) NPV from the most profitable alternative land use activity is expected to be between 20% more than and up to 20% less than from project activities; or where baseline activities are subsistence-driven, net positive community impacts are demonstrated	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(e) NPV from project activities is expected to be between 20% and up to 50% more profitable than the most profitable alternative land use activity	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(f) NPV from project activities is expected to be at least 50% more profitable than the most profitable alternative land use activity	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(g) Mitigation: Project proponent is a non-profit organization	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(h) Mitigation: Project is protected by	-2	According the information and evidence, the project is protected by a "legally binding	No Corrective Actions

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	legally binding commitment to continue management practices that protect the credited carbon stocks over the length of the project crediting period (see project longevity)		commitment": ICONTEC auditor checked the documents and has been confirmed through onsite interviews. The risk rating is justified.	Requests or Clarifications
	(i) Mitigation: Project is protected by legally binding commitment to continue management practices that protect the credited carbon stocks over at least 100 years (see project longevity)	0	Not applicable	N/A
Project Longevity	(a) Without legal agreement or requirement to continue the management practice	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) With legal agreement or requirement to continue the management practice	30 – 30/2 = 15	The project has a life cycle of 30 years, with a legal agreement. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
External Risks				
Land and resource tenure	(a) Ownership and resource access/use rights are held by same entity(s)	0	Same entity. COCOMASUR. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(b) Ownership and resource access/use rights are held by different entity(s) (eg, land is government owned and the project proponent holds a lease or concession)	0	Not applicable	N/A

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	(c) In more than 5% of the project area, there exist disputes over land tenure or ownership	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(d) There exist disputes over access/use rights (or overlapping rights)	5	By interviews of the staff project and documentary evidence assessment, the auditor confirmed this issue. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
	(e) WRC projects unable to demonstrate that potential upstream and sea impacts that could undermine issued credits in the next 10 years are irrelevant or expected to be insignificant, or that there is a plan in place for effectively mitigating such impacts	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(f) Mitigation: Project area is protected by legally binding commitment (eg, a conservation easement or protected area) to continue management practices that protect carbon stocks over the length of the project crediting period	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(g) Mitigation: Where disputes over land tenure, ownership or access/use rights exist, documented evidence is provided that projects have	-2	There is a dispute over land tenure or ownership. COCOMASUR is in action to resolve that. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	implemented activities to resolve the disputes or clarify overlapping claims			
Community Engagement	(a) Less than 50 percent of households living within the project area who are reliant on the project area, have been consulted	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) Less than 20 percent of households living within 20 km of the project boundary outside the project area, and who are reliant on the project area, have been consulted	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(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	-5	Indeed the project generates total positive impacts on social and economic aspects of the communities. The socio-economic potential impacts are documented and it was verified. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Political Risk	(a) Governance score of less than -0.79	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) Governance score of -0.79 to less than -0.32	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(c) Governance score of -0.32 to less than 0.19	2	From the governance indicators scoring, Colombia has an average score of -0.249. Political risk was evaluated through the review of documents and literature such as Governance score estimated for Colombia is -0.249 – worldwide governance indicators issued by the World Bank and the document	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
			REDD in Colombia issued by the REDD Desk. The risk rating is justified.	
	(d) Governance score of 0.19 to less than 0.82	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(e) Governance score of 0.82 or higher	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(f) Mitigation: Country implementing REDD+ Readiness or other activities such as: a) The country is receiving REDD+ Readiness funding from the FCPF, UN-REDD or other bilateral or multilateral donors b) The country is participating in the CCBA/CARE REDD+ Social and Environmental Standards Initiative c) The jurisdiction in which the project is located is participating in the Governors' Climate and Forest Taskforce d) The country has an established national FSC or PEFC standards body e) The country has an established DNA under the CDM and has at least one registered CDM A/R project	-2	The Colombian government is an active member of the UNFCCC REDD+ and within the framework of the same has established a National REDD Strategy (ENREDD). In addition Colombia has established a designated national authority, and has several projects registered under the Clean Development Mechanism and REDD+. The risk rating is justified.	No Corrective Actions Requests or Clarifications
Natural risk				

Risk factor	Risk	Risk rating	Risk factor and/or mitigation description	Corrective Actions/Clarifications
	(a) Fire (F)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(b) Pest and Disease Outbreaks (PD)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(c) Extreme Weather (W)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(d) Geological Risk (G)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(e) Other natural risk (ON1)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(f) Other natural risk (ON2)	0	Not applicable	N/A
	(g) Other natural risk (ON3)	0	Not applicable	N/A

The document and support for each risk factor applicable to the project were verified, including any relevant evidence. By reviewing, an assessment of the quality of documentation and data provided to support the risk score was realized, in terms of the auditing process.

The Risk rating resulting is the following: (a) Internal Risk 16; (b) External Risk (0) and Natural Risk (0) for a total of 16%. ICONTEC confirmed the adequate use of the documentation and support for the calculation, in consequence, the appropriateness of the risk rating. Considering this risk of 16%, the total buffer credits estimated for the total project to be put aside correspond to 62,992.49 tCO₂e.

4.4.4 Dissemination of Climate Monitoring Plan and Results (CL3.2)

The auditor confirms that COCOMASUR has a complete framework for dissemination of the project to communities. The monitoring plan and monitoring result were disclosed through workshops with the local councils. This ensures direct communication with the community including a feedback tool that generates improvements for the project and the community.

The monitoring plan has been developed by the project proponent, and implemented correctly. However, the project proponent has not been demonstrated that the results of monitoring, was communicated to the communities and other stakeholders (CAR 3).

In order to compliance with this requirement, Sections 3.1.4, 4.3.3 and 5.3.3 were updated with the explanation of how monitoring results were disseminated. Additionally, a detailed record of the socialization process is included in the Annex 11_DisseminationMonitoringResults. The Appendix 2: List of Annexes was updated with this new information.

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

Not applicable.

4.5 Community

4.5.1 Community Impacts (CM1.1)

According the information described and verified in onsite visit, for the analysis of the direct and indirect impacts of the project on communities, theory of the Social and Environmental Impact

Assessment Methodology (IESB) was used. Its construction of the change matrix links results with activities through a causal relationship.

The project proponent provides a complete explanation of the impacts generated for community groups (local COCOMASUR councils and the Chidima and Pescadito indigenous reservations), the activities and management of activities throughout the project and their work teams during the monitoring period. ICONTEC could confirm the information about descriptions of the communities' impact and any significant community changes in the monitoring period. The community characteristics has been adequately described. In conclusion, the explanation responds sufficiently to the requirement. The monitoring was carried in compliance with the respective monitoring plan.

The impacts assessment was realized with an appropriate methodology. The complete text and Table 10 (page 58, MR) includes the impacts from the project on the community. The explanation responds adequately to the requirement, and the assessment of impacts is accurate.

4.5.2 Net Positive Community Well-being (CM1.1)

The net impacts expected due to project activities include strengthening territorial governance structures, improved capacity for collective land administration, resolution and prevention of land conflicts, access to benefits of educational established by Colombian law, increased internet access, better agricultural performance and food safety, provision of water and strengthening dignity, territorial autonomy and traditional ways of life. The explanation responds adequately to the requirement.

The auditor has been confirmed, by crosschecking documentary and interviews in onsite visit, the management capacity obtained by the members of COCOMASUR, in this sense, the community members have been able to manage, supervise and order interventions as well as execute agreements and projects. This has been possible by the project implementation, and the impacts obtained are net positive.

4.5.3 Protection of High Conservation Values (CM1.2)

No negative effects have been evidenced as a result of project activities in any of the high conservation values, on the contrary, the activities have had a positive impact. This is adequately explained in section 2.2.6 (MR): Enhancement of High Conservation Values. The auditor evaluated the accuracy of the information and considers that this is valid and adequate. In order to that, the assessment allowed conclude that all activities that reinforce cultural identity and the importance of natural resources have led to the generation of positive impacts as a result of the implementation of the project.

4.5.4 Other Stakeholder Impacts (CM2.2-CM2.3)

No negative impact on stakeholders expected. During this monitoring period, no negative impacts were anticipated or identified on the communities neighboring the project.

4.5.5 Community Monitoring Plan (CM3.1, CM3.2, GL2.5)

The project proponent explain the results of monitoring to the communities and other stakeholders. The auditor has been able to confirm that the community impact monitoring has been carried out in accordance with the project's validated design and the monitoring plan (Annex 5_CCB MonitoringPlans_2013 and Annex 1_CommunityIndicators). The community monitoring was carried out during the whole period, in accordance with the plan, but with minor changes. These changes were made based on the experiences and learning of the community as a result of the implementation of project activities.

The monitoring seeks to measure direct impacts on the communities through indicators based on products, results or impacts established in the project's theory of change. The ICONTEC auditor evaluated the analysis undertaken by the project proponent and assessed all community variables monitored, the dates, frequency and if methods used are in accordance with the validated project design. Moreover, the results of monitoring, including data, assumptions, justifications and documentation provided by the project proponent to support the valuation of community monitoring.

4.5.6 Community Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CM3.3)

The auditor confirms that COCOMASUR has a complete framework for dissemination of the project to communities. The monitoring plan and monitoring result were disclosed through workshops with the local councils. This ensures direct communication with the community including a feedback tool that generates improvements for the project and the community.

The monitoring plan has been developed by the project proponent, and implemented correctly. However, the project proponent has not been demonstrated that the results of monitoring, was communicated to the communities and other stakeholders (CAR 3).

In order to compliance with this requirement, Sections 3.1.4, 4.3.3 and 5.3.3 were updated with the explanation of how monitoring results were disseminated. Additionally, a detailed record of the socialization process is included in the Annex 11_DisseminationMonitoringResults (SOCIALIZACIÓN DEL REPORTE DE MONITOREO DEL PROYECTO CORREDOR DE CONSERVACIÓN CHOCÓ DARIÉN 2012-2017).

4.5.7 Optional Gold Level: Barriers to Benefits (GL2.3)

Not applicable.

4.5.8 Optional Gold Level: Protections for Poorer and the more Vulnerable (GL2.4)

Not applicable.

4.6 Biodiversity

4.6.1 Biodiversity Changes (B1.1)

Project proponent describe the positive impacts for the biodiversity within the region by maintaining two local conditions: (1) the natural forest cover and (2) the integrity of the ecosystems specific to

the forests, using appropriate explanations and justifications. The project proponent explains the potential changes in biodiversity, including assessment of direct and indirect impacts, resulting from project activities in the Project area and over the project lifetime, using appropriate methodologies to recognize the expected impacts for each biodiversity element identified in the project description and monitoring plan.

The information, supported by site inspections, according the field visit of some project sites, in the area included in the project boundary, confirmed the affirmations regarding the conditions in the biodiversity changes. In addition, the interviews with the project consultant (South Pole Carbon Asset Management S.A.s) and the project proponent has been conducted observing the information and descriptions. The auditor concludes the equate response to the requirement, including the accuracy and appropriateness of monitored data.

4.6.2 High Conservation Values Protected (B1.2)

No negative effects have been evidenced as a result of project activities in any of the high conservation values, this is adequately explained in the monitoring report. The auditor evaluated the accuracy of the information and considers that this is valid and adequate. In order to that, during onsite visit the results of the biodiversity monitoring was discussed in depth. The monitoring procedures were reviewed. The onsite visit did not give cause of serious concern to negative biodiversity impacts of the project activity.

4.6.3 Invasive Species (B1.3)

Invasive species has not been introduced into any area affected by the project and the population of any invasive species did not increase as a result of the project. However, the project proponent includes, in the monitoring report, a description about some local commercial initiatives. Moreover, an explanation about the efforts on the strengthening of governance and community monitoring with a decrease of the introduction of non-native species in the region.

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

There is no use of non-native species in the project area.

4.6.5 GMO Exclusion (B1.5)

The project has not used GMOs to generate emission reductions.

4.6.6 Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts and Mitigation (B2.2)

According the information validated and assessed, by crosschecking and interviews in onsite visit, the description in the MR, that explain no negative impacts on the biodiversity of surrounding areas have been evidenced by the implementation of project activities.

In consequence, the auditor considers that the project does not generate negative offsite biodiversity impacts and is not necessary to take actions to mitigate the impacts.

4.6.7 Net Biodiversity Benefits (B2.3)

The ICONTEC auditor has been able to confirm how COCOMASUR, through the implementation of Project activities, has generated positive net impacts in the entire Project Zone by improving connectivity between areas under protection and conservation schemes of ecosystems. During the onsite visit, the auditor participated in activities related to monitoring the Caná (*Dermochelys coriacea*) turtles in the Acandí Playón and Playona Fauna Sanctuary.

The explanation in the documents and the documentary evidence about the biodiversity monitoring is adequate and appropriate. The assessment permit conclude that the net biodiversity impacts of the project are positive.

4.6.8 Biodiversity Monitoring Results (B3.1, B3.2)

The project proponent explain the results of monitoring to the biodiversity. The auditor has been able to confirm that the biodiversity impact monitoring has been carried out in accordance with the project's validated design and the monitoring plan (Annex 5_CCB MonitoringPlans_2013, Annex2_UpdatedBiodiversityMonitoringPlan).

The biodiversity monitoring was carried out during monitoring period, in accordance with the plan. The monitoring report and the annexed documents demonstrate the accuracy of the dates, frequency, biodiversity variables and sampling methods used, the results of monitoring and the effectiveness of measures taken to maintain or enhance all identified high conservation values.

The monitoring seeks to measure direct impacts on the flora, fauna, water quality, habitat fragmentation and vegetation cover in the project area. The Table 25 in the MR, describe the measure used and main finding of the monitoring that allow to demonstrate the status of the HCVs of the project biodiversity. The ICONTEC auditor evaluated the analysis undertaken by the project proponent and assessed all biodiversity variables monitored, the dates, frequency and if methods used are in accordance with the validated project design. Moreover, the results of monitoring, including data, assumptions, justifications and documentation provided by the project proponent to support the valuation of biodiversity monitoring.

4.6.9 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (B3.3)

The auditor confirms that COCOMASUR has a complete framework for dissemination of the project to communities. The monitoring plan and monitoring result were disclosed through workshops with the local councils. The monitoring plan has been developed by the project proponent, and implemented correctly. However, the project proponent has not been demonstrated that the results of monitoring, was communicated to the communities and other stakeholders (CAR 3).

In order to compliance with this requirement, Sections 3.1.4, 4.3.3 and 5.3.3 were updated with the explanation of how monitoring results were disseminated. Additionally, a detailed record of the socialization process is included in the Annex 11_DisseminationMonitoringResults (SOCIALIZACIÓN DEL REPORTE DE MONITOREO DEL PROYECTO CORREDOR DE CONSERVACIÓN CHOCÓ DARIÉN 2012-2017).

As described in the section 3.1.4 (MR), the results of this monitoring were socialized through workshops in the local councils. Furthermore, after the execution of every project or agreement, information meetings are held to present the results obtained. All of the works carried out relating to biodiversity in the area are also made available on COCOMASUR's website (<http://cocomasur.org/>).

4.7 Additional Project Implementation Information

There is no additional information related to the project implementation.

4.8 Additional Project Impact Information

By crosschecking and interviews in onsite visit permitted confirm that the results of the monitoring activities allowed to identify and measure additional benefits provided by the protection of the forest in the project influence area. Additionally, the community empowering potential of the monitoring activities was identified by the project proponent. In order to complete the verification about biodiversity impact, the auditor evaluated the additional monitoring results that demonstrate how the project meets all CCB indicators that require demonstration of impacts. In this way, the additional project impact information provided is suitable for the verification of the project's impacts.

5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

ICONTEC performed the verification process of "The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor REDD Project". The verification was performed on the basis of the VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements, 21 June 2017, v3.6 and VCS Standard, Version 3.3. Moreover, based on the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards Second Edition (December 2008) and Rules for the Use of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards (December 2013).

The review of the Project Description and the subsequent follow up interviews has provided ICONTEC with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfillment of the stated criteria. The project correctly applies the following methodology: VCS methodology for Avoided Deforestation (VM0009 v2).

The project activity is to leverage carbon finance to avoid mosaic conversion of tropical forests and therefore reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The project employs a Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Degradation (REDD) project methodology to determine the magnitude of these emissions reductions. Through a combination of forest protection and sustainable development activities, this project is estimated to avoid the emission of 2.5 Million metric tons of CO₂e over the project lifetime.

The project starting date is October 18, 2010. The total emission reductions from the project are estimated to be on the average of 80,938 tCO₂e per year over the project crediting period (30 years). The Estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO₂e) are 2,509,065. The emission reduction forecast has been checked and it is deemed likely that the stated amount is achieved because the underlying assumptions do not change.

In summary, it is ICONTEC's opinion that the project "The Chocó-Darién Conservation Corridor REDD Project", as described in the Project Description (version 1.87, 16/07/2012), meets all

relevant AFOLU VCS and CCB requirements. ICONTEC confirms that the project is implemented as described in the validated and registered PD. The project activities, essentials for generating emission removals are established and managed appropriately. The monitoring system is in place and the project is generating GHG emission removals as an AFOLU project. The verification was performed based on the requirements set by the VCS Program and relevant guidance provided by VCS Standard. ICONTEC considers that the project's GHG emissions removals reported in the Monitoring Report, are fairly stated.

ICONTEC received the information and asked for explanations we deemed necessary to provide enough evidence that the amount of GHG emission and the calculation of the GHG emission removals, based on the Monitoring Report, are fairly stated for the reporting period.

ICONTEC's examination process includes test-based assessments of all evidence relevant to the amounts and disclosures of a project's GHG removals and the calculations of such removals for the reporting period. After review of all project information, procedures, calculations, supporting documentation and selected site visits, ICONTEC confirms that the monitoring are accurate and consistent with all aforementioned VCS criteria, the validated PD, and the applied methodology. In addition, ICONTEC confirms all project activities, including goals, scope and criteria, level of assurance and the MR compliance to the CCB Project Design Standards, Second Edition, as documented in this report are complete. The project is in accordance with Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance, conforming to all requirements, and having reached Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits, achieving Gold Level.

ICONTEC can confirm that objective, scope and criteria, level of assurance, project description, monitoring report and project documentation is consistent to the VCS Standard, as documented in this report are complete. ICONTEC concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the GHG emissions removals are calculated without material misstatements. Our opinion applies to the project's GHG emissions and the resulting GHG emissions removals reported and related to the validated and registered baseline, as well as the monitoring plan and its associated documents.

Verification period VCS: 16 June 2012 – 31 December 2017

Verification period CCB: 1 January 2011 – 31 December 2017

Table 6: *Verified GHG emission reductions and removals in the above verification period*

Year (Monitoring period)	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)
2012 – 2017	331,948.12	-61,754.92	-	393,703.04
Total	331,948.12	-61,754.92	-	393,703.04

Considering this risk of 16%, the total buffer credits estimated for the total project to be put aside correspond to 62,992.49 tCO₂e. In consequence, the data resulting for the second verification period is equivalent to 330,710.55 tCO₂e.

APPENDIX A: VERIFICATION PROTOCOL

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Verification Team conclusion
<p><u>Clarification Request CL1</u> The identification number of the document (Report ID) is missing in the cover page of the monitoring report.</p>	CCB & VCS Monitoring Report Template	<p>14/06/2018</p> <p>Answer from Christopher Chapman from VERRA regarding the use of the Report ID: <i>The Report ID field was included for the sake of project proponents and VVBs. Many organizations have their own internal numbering or identification system for reports that they like to use. The Report ID field simply gave organizations a place to put their own ID number without having to include it somewhere else that could confuse the reader. You do not need to include anything in the Report ID if it is not relevant to your report numbering or ID system.</i></p> <p>In the case of this report, it is not needed, unless the VVB requires one. A note of 'not applicable' was included.</p>	<p>22/06/2018</p> <p>Proponent has properly addressed the Clarification. CLOSED</p>
<p><u>Clarification Request CL2</u> The implementation description must provide a summary description of the implementation status of the project activities and the relevant implementation dates. Moreover, this description must be consistent with the proposed activities by the project proponent.</p>	Project Design Document Monitoring Plan Monitoring Report	<p>14/06/2018</p> <p>The section of implementation description provides a summary of the implementation status and the strategies the project was focused on during the monitoring period, which are in line with the project activities listed in the CCB PDD. An extra paragraph was included with the climate benefits generated during the first monitoring period (January 2011 – June 2012).</p> <p>The more relevant milestones and their implementation dates are listed in section 2.2.1 (Implementation Schedule). There, an extra column was included to make links with the related project activities.</p>	<p>22/06/2018</p> <p>Proponent has properly addressed the Clarification. CLOSED</p>
<p><u>Clarification Request CL3</u></p>	Monitoring Plan Monitoring Report	<p>14/06/2018</p> <p>The text of Table 7 in the Monitoring Report was changed to "<i>When biomass</i></p>	<p>22/06/2018</p> <p>Proponent has properly addressed the Clarification.</p>

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Verification Team conclusion
In Table 7 (Monitoring Report), the monitoring frequency of the log of forest explain: “When forest degradation and deforestation is carried out in the project area”. On the other hand, in the monitoring plan, the text is: “When biomass harvesting occurs in the project area”. In consequence, the text is not consistent. It is possible to use the definition of degradation and deforestation, or explain the difference in the text.		harvest occurs in the project area”.	CLOSED
<p><u>Corrective Action Request CAR 1</u></p> <p>The section 2.1.1 signals: “The main activities to be carried out during the project are established in the Project Design Document. They are as follows: planning land use, agricultural intensification, territory demarcation, strengthening of local governance, monitoring and surveillance of the forest, implementation of silvopastoral systems, reforestation and regeneration, promotion of non-timber forest products, sustainable extraction of forest biomass, improved forest management and certified artisanal mining”.</p> <p>However, in section 1.8 of PDD (Description of the Project Activity), the activities included are different (Table 4 – PDD).</p>	Project Design Document Monitoring Plan Monitoring Report	<p>14/06/2018</p> <p>The activities listed in the Monitoring Report are those written in Table 21 of the PDD of CCB. Those activities involve all three themes of the project activities included in section 1.8 of the VCS PDD (Table 4): Governance capacity, Enforcement and management, and Economic alternatives and incentives.</p> <p>Although in the two versions of the PDD the number and name of each activity differs slightly, the CCB project activity list contains all the activities mentioned in the VCS PDD.</p> <p>A clarification was added in section 2.1.1 of the Monitoring Report regarding which PDD version (VCS or CCB) was used to list the main project activities.</p>	<p>22/06/2018</p> <p>Proponent has properly addressed the Corrective Action Request.</p> <p>CLOSED</p>
<p><u>Corrective Action Request CAR 2</u></p> <p>The Monitoring Plan includes the continual monitoring activities in the section named “Overview”. In the table, the monitoring frequency planned for the plot measurements are “Once per year”. In the section “Frequency of Inventory Measurements, the text signals: “every five years”. In section 3.1.3 in MR: “Every 5 years”.</p>	Monitoring Plan Monitoring Report	<p>14/06/2018</p> <p>The Monitoring Plan of VCS was updated. The section Frequency of Inventory Measurements was changed, and the following paragraph appears now, together with a different map and without the distribution table showing different years: “All plots shall be re-measured at least every five years. Each re-measurement will be in a unique complete</p>	<p>22/06/2018</p> <p>Proponent has properly addressed the Corrective Action Request.</p> <p>CLOSED</p>

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Verification Team conclusion
In the Annex 4_Climate_Annexes, it is not clear the monitoring frequency and the results of the plots measurements. Also, in the MR.		<p>event to save economic resources due to the exhaustive logistic needed to access all the monitoring plots.” The Monitoring Plan is part of the Annex 4_Climate_Annexes and was renamed as Annex A_MonitoringPlan_Update2018.</p> <p>The results of the plot measurements for the current verification are included in the Annex D_Estimations of the Annex 4_Climate_Annexes. Row 23 of the sheet “Param” indicates the “Monitoring Event Date” (please see columns D and E that have the date of the first and second monitoring events, respectively), which was five years after the previous monitoring.</p> <p>Additionally, Table 7 was updated with: “At least every 5 years”.</p>	
<p><u>Corrective Action Request CAR 3</u></p> <p>The project proponent does not explain how any results of monitoring undertaken in accordance with the monitoring plan, have been disseminated and made publicly available on the internet. Describe how summaries (at least) of the results have been communicated to the communities and other stakeholders.</p> <p>The section in MR (3.1.4, 4.3.3 and 5.3.3) signals that: “A Spanish version of the Monitoring Report will be available so that any member of the communities can read it and present the comments, suggestions or questions that it considers. Additionally,</p>	CCB & VCS Monitoring Report Template Monitoring Plan Monitoring Report	<p>14/06/2018 Sections 3.1.4, 4.3.3 and 5.3.3 were updated with the explanation of how monitoring results were disseminated.</p> <p>Additionally, a detailed record of the socialization process is included in the Annex 11_DisseminationMonitoringResults. The Appendix 2: List of Annexes was updated with this new information.</p>	<p>22/06/2018 Proponent has properly addressed the Corrective Action Request. CLOSED</p>

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Verification Team conclusion
printed copies of the summary of the entire document will be distributed among the community (section 2.3.2)."			
<p><u>Corrective Action Request CAR 4</u></p> <p>FAR 1 in Report N°2012-9556 (DNV) has not been attended by the project proponent.</p> <p>As part of the site visit DNV confirmed that, although a non-written procedure is in place for the training of inventory and leakage monitoring of the project personnel, this is not written, and as such, is still not a standard procedure, nor are records now being kept as to who got trained when, etc. This might represent a risk for future monitoring periods.</p> <p>The project proponent is requested to establish a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for the periodical training and revision of project staff and that this be in place by the next verification.</p>	<p>DET NORSKE VERITAS (U.S.A.) INC. VCS VERIFICATION REPORT REPORT N°2012-9556 REVISION NO. 1</p> <p>Monitoring Report Version 01(28-03-2018)</p>	<p>14/06/2018 The Standard Protocols for inventory and leakage monitoring are the annexes E and G of the Annex 4_Climate_Annexes referenced in the Monitoring Report.</p> <p>Likewise, two extra annexes were included: Annex E.1_LeakagePlotSamplingProtocol_SpanishCommunity, Annex G.1_ForestMeasurementProtocol_SpanishCommunity. These are the Spanish versions for community use. In some places, points are communicated in more accessible language, so as to make it easier to understand.</p> <p>The Appendix 2: List of Annexes was updated with this new information.</p>	<p>22/06/2018 Proponent has properly addressed the Corrective Action Request. CLOSED</p>

APPENDIX B: MEETINGS WITH THE PROJECT COMMUNITY ON MAY-JUNE 2018



NIT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INCODER
Nro. Matricula inmobiliaria N° 180-25167

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad: Revisión de adicionales y cierre
Responsable: Cocomasur, iacotec, South Pole
Lugar: kiosco Cocomasur
Fecha: 01-06-2012

No.	Nombres y Apellidos	Cédula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	Roderini Denis	1.028.026.148	3102954067	Roderini Denis	Peñalosa (urca)
2	Ferny Caisedo T	1078578738	—	Ferny Caisedo T	Peñalosa
3	Eliel E. Córdoba M.	11808101	—	Eliel E. Córdoba M.	Peñalosa
4	Clara Milena Argüello	103863500	3205666951	Clara Milena Argüello	South Pole
5	ANGELA Duque	51838243	3105127198	ANGELA Duque	ICOTEC
6	Blanca Durk	5181610	320173337	Blanca Durk	ICOTEC
7	Ely Sondrik Guirón	100730313	3206298385	Ely Sondrik Guirón	Caloto
8	Angelica M. Davis	26287741	3207279290	Angelica M. Davis	Caloto
9	FELIX CORTES J	1078580336	—	FELIX CORTES J	Caloto
10	Eduin Lozano B.	104034131	3225047850	Eduin Lozano B.	Caloto
11	Daniel Gutierrez CASHI	1078580513	3147056900	Daniel Gutierrez CASHI	Caloto
12	Ange Valbuena	1.022.993849	3222423258	Ange Valbuena	Caloto
13	Evellys GARCIA B	26286413	320664692	Evellys GARCIA B	Caloto
14					
15					

Acañil, Chocó
Tel. 3216155714 | cocomasur@gmail.com
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NOT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2,005 INCOODER.
Nro. Matricula inmobiliaria N° 180-25167

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad: Visita de Auditoría de las Actividades del Proyecto CCHO península 2012-2014
Responsable: Cocomasur, Icantec, South Pole
Lugar: Kioeco Cocomasur
Fecha: 28-05-2012

No.	Nombre y Apellidos	Cédula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	Rodermi Denis Pinos	1078026148	302954064	Rodermi Denis	Península (NCH)
2	Angelica Noequis	26287761	3209279290	Angelica Noequis	Península (NCH)
3	Juan Alberto Sibola	1004074548	3113144356	Juan Alberto Sibola	
4	Alfonso Cervantes	11654558	312062767	Alfonso Cervantes	Playa de
5	Feliciano Chaverran	82330905	3104846198	Feliciano Chaverran	Playa de
6	Aracelio Calderon C.H.	82331103	3216213759	Aracelio Calderon	Playa de
7	Juan Carlos Solano Estrada	1078577973	3212392088	Juan Carlos Solano	Playa de
8	David Vidal Piedraza	1010110460	3212060486	David Vidal	Playa de
9	Felipe de la Cruz	262877996	3137484481	Felipe de la Cruz	Playa de
10	Guillermo Mercado, Miquel	1010108,390		Guillermo Mercado	Playa de
11	Diego Cuervo C.H.	1078580408	3217626243	Diego Cuervo	Playa de
12	Orlando Ortega C	1078577974	3106805618	Orlando Ortega	Playa de
13	Nelson Cordoba M	81331009		Nelson Cordoba	Playa de
14	Felipe Cervantes	1078580336		Felipe Cervantes	Playa de
15	Alfonso Blanes et al	82331063	3217535593	Alfonso Blanes et al	Playa de

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NT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INCODER.
No. Matrícula inmobiliaria N° 180-25167

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad: _____
Responsable: _____
Lugar: _____
Fecha: _____

No.	Nombres y Apellidos	Cédula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	Luz Ambrato Lopez M	76269240	314513685	Luz Ambrato	San Nicolás
2	Olga Patricia Verra	26286704	314314564	Olga	Salazar
3	Angie Valbuena	1022993849	3222423258	Angie Valbuena	Cocomasur
4	Carlos Alfredo Vecino	70415509946		Carlos	Plasencia
5	Edgar Leoncio Becerra	1026050467	3127073494	Edgar	Domina
6	Baldemar Natta	5304610	3005113731		Iconic
7	Ely sandrith Guinanga	100330313	3206290385	Ely Guinanga	Coloto
8	Angela Duque	44609412	3113642347	Angela Duque	Fernández
9	Cristina Renteria	45690237	3208500481	Cristina	Coloto
10	Daniel Gutierrez C	1038580513	3147056900	Daniel Gutierrez	Los Tibirres
11	Etir E. Cordeiro	11808701		Etir E. Cordeiro	Cocomasur (Pruyba)
12	Fernando Caceres	1028528938		Fernando	Cocomasur
13	Raul Rodriguez Gutierrez	1028018555	3147395287	Raul Rodriguez	San Francisco


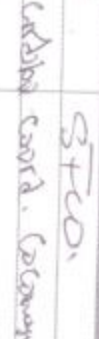
Acañi, Chocho
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LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

NIT: 900312218-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INCCOER.
Nro. Matricula inmobiliaria N° 180-25167

Actividad:	
Responsable:	
Lugar:	
Fecha:	

No.	Nombres y Apellidos	Cedula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	William Morfin Blandon	8.165.812	3137105610		STCO
2	Yenellys Urbina B	26.286413	320.664.6912		STCO
3					
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Acañal, Chocó
Tel: 3276151214 | cocomasur@gmail.com

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NIT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INCODER
Nro. Matrícula inmobiliaria N° 180-25167

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad: Reunión comunitaria durante visita de Auditoria de las Actividades del Proyecto CCHO
Responsable:
Lugar: Casa Comunal del Consejo L. de Penaloza Fecha: 29-05-2019

No	Nombre y Apellidos	Cedula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	Rodriguez Denis Elias	1028026148	310-295-4064	Rodriguez Denis	Penaloza (Neca)
2	Ros Rodriguez Garcia	1028017555	314-295387	Ros Rodriguez	Con Francisco
3	Leiton Morfin-2 B.	8165-812	3137105610	Leiton	STCO
4	Ely Jandilla Quintana	1028020813	310296885	Ely Quintana	Coleta
5	Felicit Garcia	25284996	313748481	Felicit	Safrine Sca
6	Emilda Hinesrozam	26256927	3117065616	Emilda H.M.	Penaloza
7	Jaime Blanco .m.	8230699		Jaime B. M.	Tuare Alto
8	Deby Bettea	39321027	311345169	Deby B	Penaloza
9	Claudia Castillo Ch	26207916		Claudia	Coleta
10	Sandra Atencio	26291781		Sandra Atencio	Penaloza
11	Feliciano Chaverro	82330905	310484198	Feliciano	Playena
12	Edwin Loreano Becerra	104036113	3125063950	Edwin	Penaloza
13	VORSELE GONZALEZ	3091815		VORSELE GONZALEZ	Playena
14	Carlos Alfredo Vasquez Rinda	1045509940		Carlos	Playena
15	Julio Juane Morayo V	82330861	303454743	Julio Morayo	Tofreza

Acaña, Choco
Tel. 3216151714 | cocomasur@gmail.com
"Por el rescate de nuestra identidad cultural y manejo ordenado del territorio."



NIT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INDCODER
Mto. Matrícula inmobiliaria N° 160-25167

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad: _____
Responsable: _____
Lugar: _____
Fecha: _____

No.	Nombres y Apellidos	Cédula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	Ruben Román	82330526	310352874	<i>[Firma]</i>	Petrolera
2	Fidelina Tapia	30091837	3123465089	Fidelina Tapia	Tibirí Alto
3	Arellys Tapia	26282837		Arellys	Petrolera
4	Angelica Moreno	26257767	520927970	Angelica	Petrolera (Coca)
5	Jose Blondine	71092567		Jose	Tivire
6	Yolanda Berrojo	107857741	—	Yolanda Berrojo	Chugandí
7	Luiz Stella Contreras	26286782	3105243300		Chugandí
8	Yolanda Berrojo	4819098		Yolanda Berrojo	Petrolera
9	Angie Vallejo	1022993819	322473258	Angie Vallejo	CCB MASUR
10	Arto Bolao	4812594		Arto Bolao	Tivire
11	Angie Vallejo	4809912	311784247	Angie Vallejo	Petrolera
12	Fidelina Tapia	26257767	310352874	Fidelina Tapia	Petrolera
13	Angelica Moreno	26257767	310352874	Angelica Moreno	Petrolera
14	Jose Blondine	71092567	310352874	Jose Blondine	Petrolera
15	Yolanda Berrojo	107857741	320566151	Yolanda Berrojo	Southble

Acerca de CCB
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NIT: 900312219-1
Resolución número 1502 de 01 agosto 2005 INCODER.
Ipo. Matrícula inmobiliaria N° 180-25157

LISTADO DE ASISTENTES

Actividad:	
Responsable:	
Lugar:	
Fecha:	

No.	Nombres y Apellidos	Cédula	Celular	Firma	Comunidad
1	FELIX GARCIA	107850076			Veracruz
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					
7					
8					
9					
10					
11					
12					
13					
14					
15					

Acañá, Chocó
Tel. 3218151214 | cocomasur@gmail.com

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