

Verified Carbon Standard Project Verification Report

PROTECTION OF THE BOLIVIAN AMAZON FOREST



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.



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Summary:

Environmental Services, Inc., (ESI) was contracted by the Project Proponent to conduct the project verification of *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* on 08 December 2011.

The goal of *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* is to protect the property as a carbon sink, maintain the biodiversity values of the property, and enhance the local economic environment with sustainable livelihoods. The climate objective is to avoid emissions from deforestation during the project timeframe. The project area is slated for conversion to cattle grazing and agriculture.

The project consists of protection of moist tropical Amazon forest property in Bolivia through 2041 by purchasing the property from the deforestation agent and avoiding planned deforestation. Redd Services Pte Ltd (Project Proponent) owns the property, developed the project and conducted the technical analysis.

The verification assessed the likelihood that implementation of the project will result in the greenhouse gas emission removal enhancements as stated by the project developer and to ensure that the project complies with VCS Standard (v3.3 October 2012) criteria. The methodology employed in the verification process was derived from all items in ESI's verification process. This included utilizing VCS documents and ISO 14064-3 to develop and implement a sampling plan. During the site visit, the project area was reviewed in the field, and 28.5% of all plots established by the project proponent within the project were sampled. Additionally, independent remote sensing analysis indicates that no deforestation or degradation has occurred in the project area during the monitoring period.

The baseline scenario is planned deforestation. The project falls within the Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) category (Scope 14).

The scope of the verification included the GHG project and baseline scenarios; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHG's; and time periods covered. The geographic verification scope was defined by the project boundary, which included one project area (grouped), the carbon reservoir types, management activities, growth and yield models, inventory program, and contract periods.

The verification criteria followed the guidance documents provided by VCS and included the following: VCS Program Guide (October 2012 v3.4); VCS Standard (October 2012, v3.3); Program Definitions (01 October 2012, v3.4); Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements (October 2012, v3.3); AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (October 2012, v3.2); and Approved VCS Methodology VM0007 Version 1.1, 7 September 2011 REDD Methodology Module REDD Methodology Framework (REDD-MF), Sectoral Scope 14.

A summary of all findings is included in Appendix B.

ESI confirms all verification activities including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, monitoring and project documentation adherence to VCS Standard v3.2 as documented in this report are complete. ESI concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* dated 22 March 2012 meets the requirements of the VCS Standard (v3.3, October 2012).

The GHG assertion provided by Redd Services Pte Ltd and verified by ESI has resulted in the GHG emission reduction or removal of 69,250 tCO₂ equivalents by the project during the verification period/reporting period (20 October 2011 – 19 October 2012). This is calculated based on a total of 71,102 tCO₂ equivalents sequestered as of the date of monitoring/verification less the uncertainty deduction of 2.6% (69,250 tCO₂ when applied). This does not include the 16% deduction based on the non-permanence risk assessment tool.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

The verification objective included an assessment of compliance with the VCS Standard (v3.3, October 2012) and the likelihood that implementation of the planned GHG project will result in the GHG emission removal enhancements as stated by the project developer (ISO 14064-3:2006). The periodic verification event ensures an independent assessment that ex-post GHG emission reductions and removals have occurred as a result of the project during the monitoring period, conducted in accordance with the VCS rules. This verification assessed the GHG emission removals through AFOLU projects, specifically Reduced Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation (REDD).

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the verification included the GHG project and baseline scenarios; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHG's; and time periods. The geographic verification scope was defined by the project boundary, which included multiple project areas (grouped), the carbon reservoir types, management activities, growth and yield models, inventory program, and contract periods. The scope of the *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* project was outlined by the project developer prior to the validation initiation and is re-defined as follows:

Baseline Scenario	Avoided Planned Deforestation and conversion to pasture
Activities/Technologies/Processes	Reduced emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD); forest/biodiversity protections. VCS Methodology: VM0007
Sources/sinks/Reservoirs	Sinks: above- ground and below-ground biomass Sources: biomass burning, combustion
GHG Type	Carbon dioxide (with potential emissions for CH ₄ and N ₂ O)
Time Period	Project start date: 20 October 2011 Project crediting period: 20 October 2011 to 19 October 2041 Verification Period: 20 October 2011 to 19 October 2012
Project Boundary	Project Location- ML1ASP, 235 Ha of forest in the Department of Beni, Bolivia. The Project boundary encompasses 235 Ha of secondary forest in Bolivia. The instance is located in the department of Beni, 150 km south of Riberalta and forms part of the Bolivian Amazon Forest.

The criteria follow the verification guidance documents provided by VCS, located at <http://www.vcs.org/program-documents>, and include the following: VCS Program Guide (October 2012 v3.4); VCS Standard (October 2012, v3.3); Program Definitions (01 October 2012, v3.4); Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements (October 2012, v3.3); AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (October 2012, v3.2); and Approved VCS Methodology VM0007 Version

1.1, 7 September 2011 REDD Methodology Module REDD Methodology Framework (REDD-MF), Sectoral Scope 14.

1.3 Level of Assurance

The level of assurance was used to determine the depth of detail that the verifier placed in the verification and sampling plan to determine if there are any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations (ISO 14064-3:2006). ESI assessed the project (general principles, data, sampling descriptions, documentation, calculations, etc.) to provide *reasonable assurance* to meet the Project Level requirements of the VCS Program. The evidence used to achieve a *reasonable* level of assurance is specified in the following sections.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

This project will protect the Bolivian Amazon forest from planned deforestation, initially protecting 235 hectares of tropical rain forest.

Protection of the project areas will prevent the emissions from deforestation and conversion to pastures and allow the forest to reclaim its status as a primary forest.

The project is a grouped project and the instances must be located in the only geographic area defined by the union of the Departments of Pando or Beni in Bolivia. The instances must be under threat of planned deforestation for conversion to agricultural activities as defined under VM0007 at the time the project proponent took ownership of the project area.

The project starts with only one instance but this number is expected to grow with time. The instance is located in the department of Beni, 150 km south of Riberalta and forms part of the Bolivian Amazon Forest. The project area is home to species listed in the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources Red List for Threatened Species. Species listed as vulnerable and endangered include *Cedrela odorata*, *Bertholletia excelsa*, *Amburana cearencis*. The project area has suffered in the past to some degree or other from selective logging, deforestation for agricultural purposes and deforestation resulting from human induced fires.

In protecting the forest, the project will pay special attention to endangered and vulnerable tree species native to the region while ensuring that the communities surrounding the project areas do not suffer the full impact of job losses associated with forest preservation. In addition to protecting the forests in the project areas, the project will enrich the project areas with endangered and vulnerable tree species. The prevention of deforestation will lead to the loss of employment opportunities. This will be mitigated by the project's area enrichment with endangered and vulnerable tree species that will generate employment throughout the duration of the project.

2 VALIDATION PROCESS, FINDINGS AND CONCLUSION

2.1 Validation Process

Please refer to Section 2 of the VCS Validation Report dated 26 March 2012 prepared by ESI and submitted to VCSA.

2.2 Validation Findings

2.2.1 Gap Validation

Not Applicable

2.2.2 Methodology Deviations

The PD and Monitoring Plan meet all of the requirements of the methodology and do not deviate from the baseline scenario, additionality determination or inclusion of project GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs.

2.2.3 Project Description Deviations

There were no project description deviations.

2.2.4 New Project Activity Instances

Although this is a grouped project, at this time there have been no new project activity instances.

2.3 Validation Conclusion

ESI confirmed all validation activities including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance and the PD adherence to the VCS Standard (v3.3, October 2012) as documented in ESI's Validation Report (dated 26 March 2012) are complete and concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the project documentation *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* dated 22 March 2012 meets the requirements of the VCS Standard (v3.3, 2012).

3 VERIFICATION PROCESS

3.1 Method and Criteria

The verification process closely followed the process outlined in the documents above and ESI's procedures for VCS verifications outlined within our Management System Manual. The sampling methodology is derived from all items in our verification process stated above, which utilized the VCS guidance documents, selected methodology (VM0007), and ISO 14064-3. Sample size and techniques were based on the project parameters and best professional judgment. Plots selected for detailed review (plot checks) were at the discretion of the verifier and were selected through a risk-based assessment.

For the field verification, the sample size for the plot verification was 6 plots of the 21 available plots or 28.5%. Of the 21 plots available to sample, ESI sampled the following plots: Plot 9, Plot 21, Plot 22, Plot 16, Plot 12, and Plot 8.

These plots were selected to provide the necessary sample size to meet a reasonable level of assurance; as directed by the professional judgment of the Lead Verifier. Direct field measurement occurred at each plot identified and mimicked the monitoring/inventory design conducted by the project proponent.

ESI also performed an independent remote sensing analysis using Landsat imagery. To evaluate potential deforestation in the project area for the monitoring period that ends one year from the project start date of 20 October 2011, ESI acquired satellite imagery from 2011 and 2012 to

perform a visual interpretation of forest cover change. Based on the results of the visual analysis performed using the imagery, it does not appear that any significant land cover change, degradation or deforestation has occurred in the project area from October 2011 to September/October 2012.

The verification criteria followed the guidance documents provided by VCS and included the following:

- VCS Program Guide (October 2012, v3.4)
- VCS Standard (October 2012, v3.3)
- Program Definitions (October 2012, v3.4)
- Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements (v3.3, October 2012)
- AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (v3.2, October 2012)
- VM0007 REDD Methodology Modules (REDD MF) v1.1
- Approved VCS Tool VT0001 Version 1.0 “Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality in VCS AFOLU Project Activities” (21 May 2010)
- VCS Module LK-ASP of VCS Methodology VMD0009 (03 December 2010)
- VCS Module VMD0001 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of carbon stocks in the above- and belowground biomass in live tree and non-tree pools (CP-AB) (03 December 2010)
- VCS Module VMD0005 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of carbon stocks in the long-term wood products pool (CP-W)
- VCS Module VMD0006 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of baseline carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas emissions from planned deforestation (BL-PL)
- VCS Module VMD0015 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Methods for monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and removals (M-MON) (03 December 2010)
- VCS Module VMD0017 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of uncertainty for REDD project activities (X-UNC) (03 December 2010)
- VCS Module VMD0013 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of greenhouse gas emissions from biomass burning (E-BB)
- VCS Module VMD0011 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Estimation of emissions from market effects (LK-ME)
- VCS Module VMD0016 Version 1.0 REDD Methodological Module: Methods for stratification of the project area (X-STR)

3.2 Document Review

A detailed review of all project documentation was conducted to ensure consistency with, and identify any deviation from, VCS program requirements, the methodology (Approved VCS Methodology VM0007 Version 1.1, 07 September 2011 REDD Methodology Module REDD Methodology Framework (REDD-MF), Sectoral Scope 14.), and the PD. Initial review focused on the validated PD and monitoring report and included an examination of the project details, implementation status, data and parameters, and quantification of GHG emission reductions and removals. Along with a review of the monitoring report, documentation for the selected sample was requested, provided and subsequently reviewed for consistency, accuracy, and appropriateness with regard to VCS program requirements, methodological requirements, and the PD. Documents reviewed include land ownership documentation, property boundaries, maps and aerials, data from monitoring, biomass and carbon calculation spreadsheets, and responses to corrective action/clarification requests.

AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool (October 2012 v3.2) was used by the project proponent to assess overall project risk. The final score was calculated to be 16%. The information in this report was evaluated by verifiers and found to have been conducted appropriately and in

compliance with VCS Standards v3.3. No discrepancies were found in the evaluation of the elements of the Risk Analysis.

The verification included a review of the validated Project Description (PD) and Monitoring Report, relative to the field conditions observed and interviews with project management staff. For this verification, the project area was reviewed in the field, and 6 of the available 21 sample plots or 28.5% of all plots established by the project proponent within the project were sampled.

3.3 Interviews

Interviews were conducted at multiple levels of the Protection of Bolivian Amazon Forest project to assess understanding of program requirements and to determine if baseline monitoring was conducted appropriately. Interviews included discussions with project senior management, field managers, staff and local stakeholders affected by the project. The following is a list of the main interviewees and those whose names were recorded:

- Fermin Aldabe – Project Proponent- owner of Redd Services Pte Ltd
- Harry Gilder Padilla Melgar – Regional Manager
- Miguel Suarez – Los Cayuses Community Leader
- German Jimenez – Instance Supervisor
- Adela Siripi-Saldatierra – Community Member
- Saul Jimenez – Forestry Technician
- Anonymous – 3 unnamed Takana-Cavineno community members (individuals were not willing to give their names).

3.4 Site Inspections

Site inspections occurred on 06 February 2012 to 12 February 2012. As part of the site visit, a resurvey of the inventory plots in the project area was conducted and 6 of the 21 available plots or 28.5% of the inventory plots were re measured. During the site inspections, ESI assessed the following items:

- project and stand boundaries;
- project documents including ownership evidence, ownership records of deforestation agent, contracts, PRA and other documentation.
- pre-project conditions, as evidenced by condition of adjacent or nearby non-project areas
- proxy area conditions and common practice evidence
- current project conditions, including reported tree species, reported growth characteristics (diameter, or similar), reported biomass volume, and implementation of management plan/monitoring (historical and current)
- conversion plan
- project support and community involvement

Direct field measurement of forest and plot characteristics was performed, with a detailed review of field measurement methodologies sufficient to satisfy the professional discretion of the Lead Verifier. Project carbon stocks were correctly estimated to be 277.4tCO₂e per hectare.

3.5 Resolution of Any Material Discrepancy

When potential material discrepancies/non-conformities were identified during the verification process, a non-conformance request (NCR) or request for clarification (CL) was issued. The project proponent was given up to 30 days to respond to the NCR or CL list. The ESI verification

team identified 60 NCR's. All NCR's were addressed satisfactorily by the project proponent during the project verification process. These NCRs provided necessary clarity to ensure the project was in compliance with VCS program requirements for GHG projects and the validated PD. All issues and their resolutions are attached (Appendix B).

During the course of verification efforts, there were several small grammatical errors that exist within the project documents. While efforts were made to correct these, small errors still exist. These errors do not materially affect the project and do not represent any omissions, or misrepresentations. Specifically, under the project calculations spreadsheets, the term CHB and DHB are listed. These represent circumference and diameter at breast height.

4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Project Implementation Status

The project activities and Monitoring Plan, as described in the validated PD, has been fully implemented. There are no remaining issues from the previous validation, and this is the initial verification.

4.2 Accuracy of GHG Emission Reduction or Removal Calculations

ESI conducted an intensive review of all input data, parameters, formulas, connections, conversions, statistics and resulting uncertainties and output data to ensure consistency with the VCS Standard, the project PD and the methodology. Further, ESI reproduced calculations for selected samples to ensure accuracy of the results. All data, conversion factors, formulas, and calculations were provided by the project proponent in spreadsheet format to ensure all formulas were accessible for review. The project proponent also provided a step-by-step overview of calculations to ensure ESI understood the approach and could confirm its consistency with the methodology and PD.

ESI also conducted a comprehensive assessment of all data collection and storage procedures to ensure all opportunities for error in transposition of data between data were minimized.

Uncertainty was assessed as required. ESI recalculated the statistics independently to confirm the accuracy of the reported precision.

Field data collection utilized appropriate principles of forestry data collection, including appropriate tools and methods. Collected data was handled appropriately, including a structured process for quality check. Analysis of collected data used appropriate formulas, conversions, and parameters, supported by scientific literature. Where ranges of parameters exist, or other types of formulaic uncertainty, appropriately conservative values were used in data analysis.

4.3 Quality of Evidence to Determine GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

During ESI's verification the evidence provided by the project proponent was sufficient in both quantity and quality to support the determination of GHG emission removals reported by the project. Throughout the verification, the project proponent demonstrated a commitment toward conservativeness and took all measures appropriate to ensure the reliability of all evidence provided. Interviews conducted (oral evidence) are outlined in Section 3.3, and the all documents received from the project proponent supporting the determination of GHG removals are included in Appendix A.

4.4 Management and Operational System

The management system employed by Redd Services Pte Ltd utilizes appropriate field measurement methods (systematic, appropriate measurement tools and techniques), data collection and management techniques (identified responsibilities for data accuracy; appropriate data quality control), and data analysis. Accordingly, in the process of the verification, ESI confirmed the suitability and appropriateness of Redd Services Pte Ltd 's management system for monitoring and reporting.

5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

After review of all project information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation and selected site visits, ESI confirms that the monitoring conducted by the project proponent, along with the supporting Monitoring Report, are accurate and consistent with all aforementioned VCS criteria, the validated PD, and the selected methodology. ESI confirms that *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* has been implemented in accordance with the validated PD.

ESI confirms all verification activities, including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance, monitoring and project documentation adherence to the VCS Standard v3.3, as documented in this report are complete. ESI concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that *Protection of the Bolivian Amazon Forest* meets the requirements of the VCS Standard (v 3.3).

The GHG assertion provided by Redd Services Pte Ltd and verified by ESI has resulted in the GHG emission reduction or removal of 69,250 tCO₂ equivalents by the project during the verification period/reporting period (20 October 2011 –19 October 2012). This is calculated based on a total of 71,102 tCO₂ equivalents sequestered as of the date of monitoring/verification less the uncertainty deduction of 2.6% (69,250 tCO₂ when applied). This does not include the 16% deduction based on the non-permanence risk assessment tool.

GHG Emission Reductions or Removals	tCO ₂ e
Baseline Emissions	69,250
Project Emissions	0
Leakage	0
Net GHG emission reductions or removals	69,250

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Date:	7 June 2013

SPM/SMM/JPM/RMB/V011090.00 VCS Verification Report-v2-final.doc
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APPENDIX A

Received from Project Proponent on 2011-12-13

- Reglamentacion Especial de Desmontes y Quemas Controladas.pdf
- ds_24453_reg_ley_forestal.pdf
- Ley Forestal 1700.pdf
- de desmonte Monte Libano V3.pdf
- ordenamiento.jpg
- monte libano.pdf
- Notes.doc
- KML_587.kml
- lista docs.txt

Received from Project Proponent on 2011-12-15

- VM0007VCU.xls
- VM0007BSL.xls
- VM0007LK.xls
- VM0007P.xls
- Foundation for Enterprise Development FUNDEMPRESA.docx
- Monte Libano.pdf
- Permit Request.jpg
- Plan de desmonte.pdf
- Presentation Plan Ref Remove from the property Mount Lebanon.docx
- SD 26732.pdf
- Forest Law 1700.pdf
- DE BENI.doc
- Res 131-97.pdf
- SD 24453.pdf
- VCSV.R.pdf
- VCSPPD.doc
- VCSPPD.pdf
- VCSV.R.doc
- Stratification.pdf
- ML1ASP.kml
- PLUS.pdf
- Distribucion.pdf

Received from Project Proponent on 2011-12-16

- Tree Locations.pdf.pdf
- Field Records 1.pdf.pdf
- Field Records 2.pdf.pdf
- Notification.pdf
- PRA.pdf
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20110813_233_068_L2_BAND3.tif.zip
- L71233068_06820040630_B10.tif.zip
- L71233068_06820040630_B20.tif.zip

- L71233068_06820040630_B30.tif.zip
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20011020_233_068_L2_BAND1.tif.zip
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20011020_233_068_L2_BAND2.tif.zip
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- LANDSAT_5_TM_20110813_233_068_L2_BAND6.tif
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20110813_233_068_L2_BAND7.tif
- LE72330682004182ASN01.tar
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20011020_233_068_L2_BAND1.tif
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- LANDSAT_5_TM_20011020_233_068_L2_BAND3.tif
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- LANDSAT_5_TM_20110813_233_068_L2_BAND5.tif

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- Appendix 2. IUCN Red List Information on Threatened and Endangered Species.pdf"

Received from Project Proponent on 2011-12-30

- Received from Project Proponent on 2012-01-03
- Received from Project Proponent on 2012-01-19
- Risk Analysis.pdf
- Spreadsheet link.doc
- VM0007VCU.xls
- VM0007BSL.xls
- VM0007LK.xls
- VM0007P.xls

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-01-25

- VCSV.R.2.pdf
- VCSPPD 2.pdf

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-01-30

- SAUL.gpx

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- VCSPPD.3.pdf
- Proxy areas 2011.kml
- VCSPPD.3.pdf
- VCSV.R.3.pdf
- 19900919.pdf
- 19941017.pdf

- 19971009.pdf
- 19980724.pdf
- 19991116.pdf
- 20011020.pdf
- 20050609.pdf
- 20110813.pdf
- FRA 2000 Section 2.pdf
- FRA 2000 Section 3.pdf
- Files\NPV.pdf
- Files\PLUS.pdf
- Files\Proxy 2001.pdf
- Files\Proxy 2011.pdf

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- 19900919.pdf
- 19971009.pdf
- PLUS.pdf
- FRA 2000 Section 3.pdf
- img-302091324-0001.pdf

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-02-29

- VCSPPD.3.pdf

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-03-09

- VM0007VCU.xls
- image001.png
- NCR reply.xls
- NPV.xls
- NPVVCS.xls

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- VCSV.R.4.pdf
- Proxy and Forest 2001.pdf
- Proxy and Forest 2011.pdf
- VCSPPD0.4.pdf
- VM0007P.xls
- VM0007VCU.xls
- VM0007BSL.xls
- VM0007LK.xls

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- VM0007P.xls

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- VM0007BSL.xls
- VM0007LK.xls
- VM0007P.xls
- VM0007VCU.xls
- VCSPPD.5.pdf
- VCSV.R.5.pdf

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-05-18

- Verification.7z
- VCS Monitoring Report v3.2_0.pdf
- VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report, v3.1.pdf
- VCS Risk Report Calculation Tool, v3.0.xls

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-05-21

- Monitoring_Report_v8.pdf
- photo.JPG

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- P6_LISS3_20120828_310_085_L2_BAND2.tif
- P6_LISS3_20120828_310_085_L2_BAND3.tif
- P6_LISS3_20120828_310_085_L2_BAND4.tif
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20100927_233_068_L2_BAND1.tif
- PANDO.pdf
- BENI.pdf
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- LANDSAT_5_TM_20100927_233_068_L2_BAND2.tif
- LANDSAT_5_TM_20100927_233_068_L2_BAND3.tif
- NPVVCS.xls
- Pando Land Registry.pdf
- PRA.pdf
- P6_LIS3_20100815_310_085_L2_BAND2.tif
- P6_LIS3_20100815_310_085_L2_BAND3.tif
- P6_LIS3_20100815_310_085_L2_BAND4.tif

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- VM0007LK.xls
- -Bolivia - VCS Project Verification NCR-CL-OFI -v1.docx
- Monitoring_Report_v9.doc
- Project area LANDSAT_5_TM_20011020_233_068_L2_BAND3 (2).pdf
- 2013-05-28\VCSPD0.5.FINALbis.pdf
- 2013-05-28\Verification.7z

Received from Project Proponent on 2012-06-04

- VM0007VCU.xls
- Monitoring_Report_v10.doc
- Monitoring_Report_v10.pdf

APPENDIX B

Item #	VCS Standard 3.3 Requirements (12 July 2012)	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y, N, or N/A)	Location in PO or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C)Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Round 1 Response from Client 6/19/2012	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C)Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Round 1 ESI Comments 6/19/2012	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C)Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Round 2 ESI Comments 2012-07-29	
1	Projects shall apply methodologies eligible under the VCS Program. Methodologies shall be applied consistently across all project tools and modules referred to by a methodology. The list of methodologies and their validity periods is available on the VCS website.	Y	n	Page 3 of POD	POD states using VM0007, however there are several other methodologies listed in the document. Some areas are referenced in the baseline, leakage and project scenarios.	Please include a full listing of tools and modules in section 2.1 of the POD. Only VM0007 and BI-1 are listed.	Modules added to section 2.1	A full listing of all tools and modules has been added to section 2.1. NCR is satisfied.				
2	Grouped project activity instances shall be included in a geographic area within which project activity instances may be developed. Such geographic areas shall be defined using geodetic polygons as set out in Section 3.11 below.	Y	n	Page 6 and possible attachments.	POD states project zone is defined by the Departments of Pando, Beni or Santa Cruz in Bolivia. No map found of the geographic areas. Geographic areas with no initial project activity instances shall be included in the project zone. Baseline scenario and rationale for the definition of the project zone is not demonstrated that such areas are subject to the same (or at least as conservative) baseline scenario and rationale for the demonstration of additional project activity instances. The project zone is not demonstrated to be a geographic area that does include initial project activity instances.	Please provide a map in the POD that shows the project zone. This is defined as the Departments of Beni, Pando and Santa Cruz in the POD. A map needs to be attached.	Map of project zone to be included. Santa Cruz was omitted from project	A map is attached to the POD as appendix B for geographic area. Additionally the Summary lists the project zone as only being the Departments of Beni and Pando. NCR is satisfied.				
3	The baseline scenario for a project activity shall be determined for each designated geographic area in accordance with the methodology applied to the project. Where a single baseline scenario cannot be determined for a project activity over the entirety of a geographic area, the geographic area shall be redefined or divided such that a single baseline scenario can be determined for the revised geographic area or areas.	Y	n	Page 18 of POD	Baseline scenario is determined given as attachment. Baseline cases do not appear to be demonstrated for the project activity instances over the actual project location. No proxy areas have been identified as described in POD at section 3.2. Geographic areas with no initial project activity instances shall be included in the project zone unless it can be demonstrated that such areas are subject to the same (or at least as conservative) baseline scenario and rationale for the demonstration of additional project activity instances for a geographic area that does include initial project activity instances.	Please demonstrate evidence of the use of proxy areas and provide maps showing location of proxy areas in relation to the project area. Please reference if these are the proxy areas referred to in Section 2.2 of the POD.	There is only a single project activity instance in terms of two separate calculations given as attachment. Baseline cases do not appear to be demonstrated for the project activity instances over the actual project location. No proxy areas have been identified as described in POD at section 3.2. Geographic areas with no initial project activity instances shall be included in the project zone unless it can be demonstrated that such areas are subject to the same (or at least as conservative) baseline scenario and rationale for the demonstration of additional project activity instances for a geographic area that does include initial project activity instances.	Map of proxy areas to be included. Santa Cruz was omitted from project	A map of proxy areas has been provided to earlier. Proxy areas were converted to pasture and have not been abandoned as evidenced by several maps showing proxy areas that were previously cleared. Information was added to section 2.2 of the POD for this discussion.	Map of proxy areas do not reference the location of the project area. Please provide an explanation of the project area in relation to the proxy area. NCR is satisfied.		
4	The additonality of the initial project activity instances shall be demonstrated for each designated geographic area, in accordance with the methodology applied to the project. Where the additonality of the initial project activity instances within a particular geographic area cannot be demonstrated for the entirety of that geographic area, the geographic area shall be redefined or divided such that the additonality of the instances occurring in the revised geographic area or areas can be demonstrated.	Y	n	pages 15-18 of POD	Additionally only discussed for the actual project location, not the designated geographic area. Geographic areas with no initial project activity instances shall not be included in the project unless it can be demonstrated that such areas are subject to the same (or at least as conservative) baseline scenario and rationale for the demonstration of additonaly as a geographic area that does include initial project activity instances.	Please demonstrate that the geographic area that will contain future instances will be subject to the same baseline scenario and conditions as the initial project activity instance.	The project has a single geographic area and it has an instance. Section 2.1 shows the additonality of the instance and therefore this point is satisfied. A statement showing this is in first table of section 1.13	As stated in section 1.1 of the POD, the instances must be located in the only geographic area defined by the union of the Departments of Pando and Beni in Bolivia. Additionally, Section 1.13 states that the project zone is defined by the Departments of Pando and Beni. The requirements under VM0007, module VM00005 and the other criteria listed in section 1.13. NCR is satisfied.				
5	1) Meet the applicability conditions set out in the methodology applied to the project.	Y	n	Page 10 of POD	POD lists conditions for applicability of the methodology. POD only lists eligibility in Summary Description. This is one line reference to land use change. The project proponent states that the project must be under threat of planned deforestation for conversion to agricultural activities as defined under VM0007 at the time the project proponent took ownership of the project area.	Please provide a demonstration that the entire project area meets the definition of a forest in Bolivia or a former forest area that is under threat of planned deforestation at the time of the project. Please remove the area on the map that has been recently deforested as discussed in the site visit.	The FAD definition is used as allowed under the methodology. Reference to the methodology is in section 2.2. Applicability to the instance is in appendix A. Maps are for validator only.	Under section 2.2, Step 1, the project adopts the FAO definition of forest as allowed under the methodology VM0007 and VCS definition of a forest. Landsat 5 imagery shows that the project area has been deforested. The project proponent states that the project area is under threat of planned deforestation for conversion to agriculture over the last 10 years. Landsat imagery reviewed. Instance 3 is within a property having 500ha. According to Appendix A, third paragraph, "Of the property, 313.5ha is under threat of planned deforestation, the area to the east of the project area was not suitable for agriculture and therefore the deforestation agent did not deforest this area. Furthermore, the deforestation agent had deforested an area of 313 ha located to the west of the project area and this area was not suitable for agriculture and therefore the project area is under threat of planned deforestation. Therefore only 313.5ha make up the project instead of 500ha. NCR is satisfied.				
6	5) Have proof of title, in respect of each project activity instance, held by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance (i.e., the date upon which the project activity instance began reducing or removing GHG emissions).	Y	n	Page 9 POD and site visit	POD refers to ownership but not dates of ownership	Please provide more detail regarding the ownership transfer status for the project area. Please confirm the exact date of ownership transfer. Project proponent did not provide who the official owner is. Please provide ownership to verifier, however this explanation needs to be included in the POD. Ownership documents are pending final registration from the government of Bolivia.	This request is included in the appendix	Appendix A states: "The Bolivian Government sanctioned the property under Law 1715 in 31 May 2005. This confirmed the deforestation agent's legal ownership. The project proponent purchased the property from the Bolivian Government on 13 October 2011. The National Institute of Agrarian Reform received the title to the property on 28 October 2011. The project proponent has presented the request to register the property in the land registry that is pending." NCR is satisfied.				
7	When inclusion of a new project activity instance necessitates the addition of a new project proponent to the project, such instance shall be included in the grouped project within two years of the project activity instance start date, or, where the project activity is an AFOLU activity, within five years of the project activity instance start date. The project proponent shall be responsible for the new project components is set out in VCS Document Registration and Issuance Process.	Y	n	Not applicable yet, however not mentioned in POD.		Please confirm instances that when inclusion of a new project activity instance necessitates the addition of a new project proponent to the project, such instances shall be included in the grouped project within two years of the project activity instance start date, or, where the project activity is an AFOLU activity, within five years of the project activity instance start date. The project proponent shall be responsible for the new project components is set out in VCS Document Registration and Issuance Process.	added at end of section 1.13	POD now states the inclusion of new project activities that necessitate the addition of a new project proponent, then such instances what be included in the grouped project within 5 years of the project activity instance start date. This is acceptable given that this project is an AFOLU Reducing Emissions from Avoided Deforestation. NCR is satisfied.				
8	1) A delineation of the geographic area(s) within all project activity instances shall occur. Such areas shall be defined by geodetic polygons as set out in Section 3.11 below.	Y	n	maps provided	No maps provided that show geographic areas. Perhaps located in the Landsat images sent over.	Please define geographic areas by geodetic polygons as set out in Section 3.11. Please provide a map showing the area and attach it to the POD.	List has too many points. Consider methodology deviation? Map included appendix.	Map provided of geographic zone in appendix B. NCR is satisfied. Please see NCR above that relates to location of project area within this map.				
9	5) A description of the central GHG information system and controls associated with the project and its monitoring.	Y	n	Not specifically listed in POD.		Please provide a description of the central GHG information system and controls associated with the project and its monitoring.	See section 1.13	Section 1.13 states: "The grouped project has a central GHG information system and controls associated with the project and its monitoring. The central GHG information system and controls will require that All data be collected and stored at different locations and stored for at least 2 years beyond the crediting period as required under section 1.18.3 of the VCS Standard. The grouped project will be required to perform the following tasks will be undertaken: 1. The baseline scenario will be reviewed every 10 years. 2. Monitoring of changes in greenhouse gas emissions. 3. Estimation of ex-post net carbon stocks and greenhouse gas emissions. 4. Leakage and greenhouse gas emissions. In addition, all instances will be subjected to the same procedures or monitoring. 1. Data to be collected: list of data and parameters 2. Overview of data collection procedures 3. Quality control and quality assurance procedure 4. Data storage 5. Organization and responsibilities of the parties involved in the above. 6. Frequency" NCR is satisfied.				
10	3.5 METHODOLOGY DEVIATIONS Deviations from the methodology applied to the project are permitted where they represent a deviation from the criteria and procedures relating to methodological approaches, methodologies, or methodologies, or removals set out in the methodology. Deviations relating to any other part of the methodology shall not be permitted. Methodology deviations shall not negatively impact the methodology's ability to demonstrate the quantification of GHG emissions reductions or removals.	Y	n	Page 18 of POD	Nothing entered in this section.	Please complete this section in the POD and state if there are any deviations to the methodology.	statement added in section 2.6	POD states that there are no deviations to the methodology. NCR is satisfied.				
11	Equivalence in type and level of activity of products or services provided by the project and the baseline scenario shall be demonstrated and, where appropriate, any significant differences between the project and the baseline scenario shall be explained.	Y	n	Page 18 of POD	POD lists the chosen baseline and give reasons why it was chosen.	Please add a description in the baseline section of the POD that describes equivalence in type and level of activity of products or services provided by the project and the baseline scenario shall be demonstrated and, where appropriate, any significant differences between the project and the baseline scenario shall be explained.	See section 1.13	Under section 1.13, the POD states: "There are no equivalent type and level of activity of products or services provided by the project and the baseline scenario. On the contrary, in the baseline scenario, the project area contains a large number of cattle and in the project, the forest remains standing. This significant difference between the project and the baseline scenario is to be expected in this methodology, as agricultural activities are incompatible with forest remaining forests". NCR is satisfied.				
12	1) A summary of the project details.	Y	n	Page 3 of VR	VR gives a very brief description of the project but leaves out several details	Please include a more detailed description of the project in the project summary. Please formulate this description in such a way that any third party person can read the summary and have a good overview of what the project is set out to accomplish.	Statement added to introduction	The project summary has been updated to provide a more clear description of what the project aims to accomplish. NCR is satisfied.				
13	3.13 Record Retention for the Project The project proponent shall ensure that all documents and records are kept in a secure and retrievable manner for at least two years after the end of the project crediting period.	Y	n	Page 40 of POD	All data will be digitalized and stored at different locations.	Please specify exactly how long the information will be stored and how often the relevant requirement will be checked.	Statement added in section 4.3	POD states that all data will be stored for at least 2 years beyond the crediting period.				

14	a) identification and demonstration of compliance with relevant laws, statutes and other regulatory requirements, an indication of whether the project has been registered or reported under any other GHG programs and provision of information relevant to the demonstration of compliance with VCS requirements with respect to such, and a demonstration that the project does not have nor intend to have a significant impact on the environment, including the avoidance of VCS claimed under the VCS Program (noting that the project may be registered sequentially with the VCS and other GHG programs, as set out in Section 1.3.2.4).	Y	n	Page 8 of POD	POD states that "There are no legal constraints from relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks to the project. Please provide a listing of any and all relevant laws, statutes and regulations that pertain to the project and confirm that each will be complied with. Please explain to the Bolivian Government for repossessing land if not found to be used for economic or social benefit." Please include a discussion of all relevant laws that pertain to the national resolution 131/97 in this discussion and relate all of these laws to the current project area and deforestation."	See section 1.11		
15	i) Additional information relevant to the project, including equality criteria for new instances of project activities for grouped projects, a description of any leakage management plan or mitigation measures and any further information which may relate to the quality of the environmental performance of net GHG emissions reductions, the quantification of net GHG emissions reductions, and an indication of commercially sensitive information that has been excluded from the public project description.	Y	n	Pages 8 and 9 of POD	POD lists eligibility criteria, leakage management and mitigation, and lists items that were withheld from the POD for commercially sensitive reasons. POD does not list any risks to the net GHG reductions nor does it reiterate the GHG reductions and removals.	See section 1.13	The POD gives a discussion of all the relevant laws that pertain to this project. Compliance is confirmed through both the POD and site visit. POD also incorporates the relevance of key laws and how they impact the current project. NCR is satisfied.	
16	5) A summary of any environmental impact assessments conducted.	Y	n	Page 44 of POD	POD states "The project does not impact the environment. It impacts to increasing biodiversity with the enrichment of endangered and vulnerable species in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species." POD lists possible issues associated with the project as they relate to local individuals, but does not actually list any contact or comments received regarding the project.	See section 5	POD states that no environmental impact was conducted because the project only serves to protect the environment and thus an impact assessment is not required. NCR is satisfied.	
17	6) A summary of relevant outcomes from any stakeholder consultations conducted.	Y	n	Pages 44-45	Please list any relevant outcomes from actual consultations with stakeholders. Listing found in calculations spreadsheets. Please identify who the individuals were in the PRA or state why their names are not available.	Section 4.3 Monitoring ex-post degradation and section 6. IS THIS FOR PRA OR WHAT?	POD notes that outcomes were produced with members of the coordinating committee and the main house found that the carbon project reduces short term employment. The survey was conducted using on site project managers, who were not instructed to take part in the survey. All data was gathered while on site. A copy of the notification and original questionnaire were provided for the verifier's files. NCR is satisfied.	
	VCS ARDUL Requirements Version 3.0 (28 March 2012)	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in POD or Supporting Documents	EI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CJ)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CJ)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) Round 2 ESI Comments 2012-03-05	
18	3.1.2 Implementation of the project activities shall not lead to the violation of any applicable law, regardless of whether or not the law is enforced.	Y	n	Page 8 of POD	POD states that no laws will be violated, but does not give a listing of relevant laws.	Please list all relevant laws that pertain to this project and demonstrate that they will not be violated.	See section 1.11	The POD gives a discussion of all the relevant laws that pertain to this project. Compliance is confirmed through both the POD and site visit. POD also incorporates the relevance of key laws and how they impact the current project. NCR is satisfied.
19	3.4.2 Maps of the project area.	Y	n	Maps provided to verifier.	No map is provided in the POD	A map needs to be attached to the POD as an appendix Map provided or a map needs to be added to the POD.		
20	3.4.4 Total size of the project area.	Y	n	Pages 6-7 of POD	POD states 332.44 Ha, but the calculation spread-sheet shows two strata, of which 235 Ha is used for the calculations. POD lists 500 Ha as total ownership.	Please describe the difference between the total ownership and the actual project area. Please detail the areas that are not to be included in the project and state why. Please demonstrate that recently cleared areas are no longer part of the current project. Please identify these areas on a revised map that is attached to the POD.	See appendix A	Please revise the project area map to include the additional area that both include along with a location of the project area within the project area. All land coverage types that show different land coverage has been updated. NCR types on the property. is satisfied.
21	3.3.1 The proposal for leakage and/or identifying areas at risk of deforestation to include leakage management zones as part of the overall project design. Leakage management zones may include the displacement of land use activities to areas outside the project by maintaining the status quo of forested areas, such as agriculture or within areas under the control of the project proponent or by addressing the socio-economic factors that drive land use change.	Y	n	Page 9 of POD	POD gives a description of the management framework of the various supervisors and often information regarding management zones.	Please describe when the leakage management areas are. Please provide reference or proxy areas used to determine rates of leakage. Please demonstrate why the rest of the 500 Ha property is not an onsite leakage area.	Section 1.13 Paragraph replaced.	The POD appendix A adds "Instance 1 is within a property having 500ha. Of the property's 500ha, an area of 157 Ha is to the east of the project area was not suitable for agriculture and therefore the deforestation agent did not clear this area. Furthermore, the deforestation agent had deforested an area of 316 located to the west of the project area and this area was never cleared by the deforestation agent. Therefore only 333.50ha make up the project instead of 500ha." This indicates that the area outside of the project area, over which the deforestation agent is no longer active, is no longer controlled by the agent of deforestation nor was it identified in the original deforestation permit. Therefore it is not considered to be under threat of deforestation and there is no permit to do so. NCR is satisfied.
22	3.3.2 Activities to mitigate leakage and/or sustainably reduce deforestation and/or degradation are encouraged and include the establishment of agricultural intensification practices, lengthened fallow periods, agroforestry and fast-growing tree species, the promotion of alternative land uses, agroforestry and other sustainable livelihood activities, and/or sustainable production of non-timber forest products. Leakage mitigation activities may be supplemented by protection of forest areas, including the use of traditional forest-based land protection, such as employment as protected-area guards, training in sustainable forest use or assisting communities in securing markets for sustainable forest products, such as timber, vanilla, tobacco, coffee and natural medicines.	Y	n	Page 9 of POD	Under section 1.13 page 9 there is a somewhat confusing statement regarding leakage management.	Please provide more detail that demonstrates how the leakage management program will work and why it is needed if leakage is projected to be 0.	Section 1.13 Paragraph replaced.	POD further clarifies what parts of the leakage tool were used, which details the leakage management areas that are to be like. Since the agent of deforestation is known, the project proponent was able to look at only one property, thus the deforestation agent is no longer active in this location. Further the agent of deforestation owns no other property that can be deforested, then the project proponent is allowed to use the plan to determine the rate of deforestation using the baseline module. The POD indicates that the area outside of the project area owned by the project proponent is no longer active, the area is no longer controlled by the agent of deforestation. Therefore it is not considered to be under threat of deforestation and there is no permit to do so. NCR is satisfied.
	VCS ARDUL Requirements (REDO) 3.0	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in POD or Supporting Documents	EI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CJ)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CJ)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI) Round 2 ESI Comments 2012-03-19	
23	4.2.2 Eligible REDD activities are those that reduce net GHG emissions by reducing deforestation and/or degradation of forests. Deforestation is the direct, human-induced conversion of forest land to non-forest land. Degradation is the deterioration of forest quality or condition due to human activities. In addition to human activities such as mining, logging, fuelwood extraction, land clearing or other such activities, but which does not result in the conversion of forest to non-forest land. Forests are defined as areas where trees are the dominant vegetation remaining as forests, such as set out under the IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidance. The project area shall meet an internationally accepted definition of forest. Forests are defined as areas where trees are the dominant vegetation (FAO definition), and shall qualify as forest for a minimum of 10 years before the project start date. The definition of forest may include mature forests, secondary forests, and forests that have been cleared and are considered to be regrown to be at least 10 years old and meet the lower bound of the forest threshold parameters at the start of the project. Primary forests, secondary forests, pastured forests and mangrove forests, are also eligible provided they meet the forest definition requirements mentioned above.	Y	n	Page 7 of POD	POD needs to justify how forest is defined in Bolivia and demonstrate that the property qualified as forest for 10 years prior and demonstrate that the property qualified as forest for 10 years prior to the project start date.	see section 2.2 Step 1.a. and appendix	FAO definition of forest has been provided as well as additional information regarding forest change as it relates to the FAO definition. The forest property under review for this project qualifies as forest. The forest property is not in the form of a tree, however land use for that strata did not change as a result and according to the FAO definition of forest change, still is regarded as a forest. Project site visit confirms that the strata 2 meets the definition of a forest. NCR is satisfied.	

24	4.4.7 For inclusion of the non-CO ₂ gases, evidence must be provided to demonstrate that the practice for which the project plan to claim credits is not compatible with the practices recommended in the IPCC 2003 Good Practice Guidelines for LULUCF and the IPCC 2006 Guidelines for National GHG Inventories may be used to estimate such GHG emissions.	Y	n	general	See also comment that common practice is to clear the land for livestock use. Further, relevant laws in Bolivia are in conflict and tend to lead to clearing the land unless the land is deemed to be a specific type of forest area.	Please describe the common practice activities in Bolivia & it relates to similar lands in the project zone. Please detail the reasons why the project does not constitute common practice.	Section 2.5 step 4	POD describes how common practice in this type of forest is to clear the area for agriculture and to clear the trees, all of which is for economic gain. To leave the forest in place is not financially viable without carbon finance. Therefore the project is considered additional and not common practice. NCR is satisfied.	
25	Approved VCS Methodology VM0007 REDD Methodology Module Version 1.1, 7 September 2011 Title: REDD Methodology For: [REDACTED-MP] Sectoral Scope 1+	Version 1.1, 7 September 2011 Title: REDD Methodology For: [REDACTED-MP] Sectoral Scope 1+	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in POD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C1)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Response from Client	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C1)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)
25	Land in the project area has qualified as forest at least 10 years before the project start date.	Y	n	Page 10 of POD	POD does not reference maps or any justification for this statement.	Please demonstrate through maps or other methods that the area was forest 10 years before the project start date. Please include the definition of a forest in Bolivia as a reference point.	see section 2.2 Step 1.a. and referenced appendix	Strata 2 has been defined as forest has been provided as well as additional information regarding forest change as it relates to the FAO forest definition and forest protection measures for this project. Qualifies to be forest under 2 as it contains a mix of trees and a few, however land use for that strata did not change as a result and according to the FAO definition of forest change, still is regarded as forest. This strata 2 is considered additional as the strata 2 meets the definition of a forest. NCR is satisfied.	
26	o Planned deforestation (VCS category APO);	Y	n	Page 10 of POD	Listed elements of this are on page 10 of POD and in reference material.	Please make reference to every document that would demonstrate these statements made to justify this application for validation. Please provide maps for these referenced documents in the POD.	see section 2.2	POD includes several references to the various laws and mandates that set requirements for deforestation and permitting. These are listed in the appendices to the POD and are also included in the documents viewed during the visit.	
27	If land is not being converted to an alternative use but will be allowed to naturally regrow (i.e. temporarily unstocked), this framework shall not be used.	Y	n	project proponent is leaving out approx. 95 ha that was previously burned and is regrowing.	project proponent is leaving out approx. 95 ha that was previously burned and is regrowing.	Please discuss the status of Strata 2 and its ability to be reforested. Please state what inventory procedures were applied to the strata and how these will be addressed in the future.	See appendix	POD states that the strata 2 suffered a human induced or natural cause and is temporarily unstocked. The FAO definition of a forest states "if no forest trees are established in the relatively natural way over a period of more than 25 years after the last regeneration period and this regrowth is named "reforestation". FAO also defines temporary as human loss of 10 years. But review of the strata 2 shows that the strata 2 is not a forest as per the FAO definition regarding forest change as it relates to the FAO forest definition. This strata 2 did not appear to be subject to human caused deforestation and is not a forest as per the FAO definition. Section 1.3 gives a description of why fuelwood collection is not a source of leakage for this project. Further, the site visit confirmed that there is no fuelwood collection occurring in the area. There is plenty of areas where dead wood is available. Further, technologies for collection and processing of firewood are not apparent on or near the site.	
28	It shall be demonstrated that post-deforestation land use shall not constitute reforestation.	Y	n	This item not found in POD	This item not found in POD	Please provide a demonstration or statement that confirms this information. We need to see evidence that this property complied with the definition of forest.	See appendix A	Strata 2 did not appear to be subject to human caused deforestation and is not a forest as per the FAO definition. Section 1.3 gives a description of why fuelwood collection is not a source of leakage for this project. Further, the site visit confirmed that there is no fuelwood collection occurring in the area. There is plenty of areas where dead wood is available. Further, technologies for collection and processing of firewood are not apparent on or near the site.	
29	Where, pre-project, unsustainable fuelwood collection is occurring within the project boundaries modules BL-DFW and LC-DFW shall be used to determine potential leakage	Y	n	This item not found in POD	This item not found in POD	Please provide a demonstration or statement that confirms that unsustainable fuel wood collection is not under BL-PL	See 1.3. Wood collection is not a leakage source contemplated	POD includes several references to the various laws and mandates that set requirements for deforestation and permitting. These are listed in the appendices to the POD and are also included in the documents viewed during the visit.	
30	a. The geographic boundaries relevant to the project activity; Use BL-PL, BL-UP, OR BL-DFW, and/or LC-ASP	Y	n	Pages 11-15 of POD	It is unclear if BL-PL was used or if any module was used.	Please identify which module was used for determination of project boundaries as per the methodology, step 1.	clarified in table 1 step 0 and step 1.a of section 2.2	The several areas where BL-PL is mentioned as being used. The project boundaries were selected by the original deforestation plan, as well as previously deforested or barren areas as determined while on site. NCR is satisfied.	
31	b. The temporal boundaries; 1. Start date and end date of the "historical reference period" 2. Start date and end date of the "project crediting period" 3. Date at which the project baseline shall be revised & duration of the monitoring periods	Y	n	page 4 of POD	Start date, end date and crediting period are provided. Date for project baseline revision is every 10 years. Project crediting period is 30 years. Monitoring periods are every 5 years or less. Historical reference period is not mentioned in the POD.	Please provide a historical reference period as required in the VM007 methodology, Step 1.b.	Added to step 1.b	Section 2.2, 2b, Historical reference period is defined as 10 years prior to the start of the project. NCR is satisfied.	
32	Project participants shall use T-ADD to identify credible alternative land use scenarios and to evaluate both the alternatives and the proposed project scenarios and to demonstrate the additionality of the project scenario. The assessment and demonstration of additionality shall be presented in the VCS PD.	Y	n	Pages 15-18 of POD	I think T-ADD was used here.	Please add a title to reflect Step 2.3 just above Step 2a. This identifies the approach. Further, please identify what module is being used at the beginning of the Addendum. Please provide a detailed description and overview of project costs to the validator/verifier as indicated or page 17 of POD. Sb-step 2a.	Added module using in section 2.5. I do not see a step 2.A in section 2.3	Project financial plan was provided by verifier and it is stated that it remain confidential. All other changes were made in the latest version of the POD. NCR is satisfied.	
33	II Monitoring of actual carbon stock changes and greenhouse gas emissions	Y	n	Pages 39-44 of POD	It is unclear how the yearly projection of carbon stocks was calculated.	Please reference the sources and calculations for the yearly estimation of the carbon stock accrual. % calculations and sources of yearly carbon stock accrual rates need to be stated and/or referenced in the POD.	see section 3.4 above estimates and table in section 1.7	Please provide a separate calculation that details the entire monitoring period. Please include this as an appropriately. Reference calculation to the carbon stock spreadsheet provided to verifier or show the actual calculations in the POD.	
34	The baseline of a REDD project activity is determined ex ante. Methods for estimating baseline carbon stocks, leakage and greenhouse gas emissions are provided in the following modules: The results of the estimations shall be presented in the VCS PD.	Y	n	procedure is listed on pages 18-19	The baseline calculation process is detailed in the POD. Verification of the baseline procedures took place during the site visit and were found to be adequate. Further, field data was supplied to the validator.	Please identify if the outlined baseline inventory data was included in the calculations and assumptions for baseline carbon and it was not used, please discuss the reasoning for abandoning the data and if it will be used in the future on this instance.	Included in appendix A	Section 3.4 states the use of a reference for the above ground biomass, a rate to shoot ratio and expansion factors for carbon with a final product of 4689.5 tCO ₂ . No actual calculations are provided.	
35	A description of how the baseline scenario is identified and the description of the identified baseline scenario shall be given in the VCS PD.	Y	n	Page 15 of POD	A description of what the baseline activity and the reasons why it is the most credible scenario are presented.	This description on page 15 is not adequate. Please follow the format given in VM0006 and address each of the items listed below for a detail for this discussion.	See section 2.4	Appendix A of Monitoring Report details that non-tree biomass was emitted for conservational reasons. There would be no non-tree biomass in the baseline scenario as likely some amount in the strata 2 is not a forest. Further table 2 of the VCS PD shows for conservative omission of carbon pools. NCR is satisfied.	
36	2. The project provides evidence to claim credits for avoided forest degradation caused by reversion of land for fuel or charcoal or carbon sequestration in forest land that would have been deforested in the baseline case. In such cases, the methods described in M-MON (Monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and removals).	Y	n	See calculations file, POD and monitoring report.	The project has invested in carbon stocks and is verifying and verifying the one project instance at the same time. The project instance is for avoided planned deforestation. The project at the time of inventory of the baseline conditions, the project is also being verified. There is no time difference between the two events.	The project has invested in carbon stocks and is verifying and verifying the one project instance at the same time. The project instance is for avoided planned deforestation. The project at the time of inventory of the baseline conditions, the project is also being verified. Please correct these items and make reference to the location of the final inventory documentation.	See section 4.3 monitoring carbon stocks	This is better explained now under monitoring of carbon stocks. Conflicting sizes of nested plots has been corrected to be 35 X 35 meters as the largest nest. NCR is satisfied.	
37	VCS Version 3 Risk Analysis March 8, 2011, v3.0	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in POD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments (Validation)	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C1)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Response from Client		
38	Risk Assessment- Internal Risk Items	Y	n	Risk Analysis file VM007VCU	Please demonstrate financial viability through financial statements and analysis.	Please provide a financial viability plan or similar means? What is the minimal document similar to?	Financial information was provided to verifier. Financial viability is demonstrated in the risk analysis.		
39	Risk Assessment- Internal Risk Items	Y	n	Risk Analysis file VM007VCU	Need to provide a demonstration of the costs associated with this item to demonstrate the value given. See 2.2.3 item 1 in Risk analysis tool.	Please provide the financial information that supports your findings under this item.	Financial information was provided to verifier. Financial viability is demonstrated in the risk analysis.		
40	Risk Assessment-Natural Risk Items	Y	n	n	Free risk relevance is provided.	Please identify source of information used to determine these risk items. Risk reference info is provided. Please provide the information used when there is evidence of recent fire on the project site.	Sources cited. Fires due to human intervention and not produced by nature. Generally accepted definition of "natural risk" given	Updated Risk Analysis provided as of March 9 2012. Email from VCS regarding this issue has been provided to verifier. NCR is satisfied.	
41	VCS Module VM00006 Version 1.0 BL-PL	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in POD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Classification (C1)/Opportunity for Improvement (OFI)	Response from Client		
41	Strata must be spatially discrete and defined on the basis of forest carbon stocks	Y	n	Page 7 of POD and calculations spreadsheet	No identification of how the two strata were identified and any characteristics of the strata.	Please clarify how the strata were selected and Appendix A	POD states that strata were selected on the basis of stocking level and location. There is no strata 2. This strata 2 is intended to be the first qualification of strata 2 but that is being determined in other NCR's. This NCR is satisfied on the basis of the selection method.		
42	1.2 Area of deforestation Aplanned,	Y	n	Page 7 of POD	POD states that the agent had applied for permission to deforest.	Please describe how legal permission to deforest has been proven and demonstrated. Please add this discussion to the POD in the baseline section.	Strata 2 is intended for carbon crediting but the inventory is being delayed until a future date. Strata 2 is confirmed at 78.5 ha. Total area for deforestation would have been 315.5 ha. Strata 2 baseline is being considered to be 0. NCR is satisfied.		
43	Legal permissibility for deforestation	Y	n	Page 7 of POD	POD states the government has classified the location as suitable for grazing of cattle.	Please demonstrate the government land classification for the project area and total ownership with reference to the legality to deforest the site.	This item is discussed in section 2.2 and in detail under section 1.1. POD gives a good explanation of the forest laws and what plans and permits were sought for the purposes of deforestation. NCR is satisfied.		
43	Suitability of project area for conversion to alternative non-forest land use	Y	n	Page 7 of POD	POD states the government has classified the location as suitable for grazing of cattle.	Appendix A	This issue has been addressed in the POD and through personal observations during the site visit. PLUS.pdf document provided as evidence of this. NCR is satisfied.		

	44	1.4 Likelihood of deforestation	Y	n	page 18 of PDD	Guidelines for this are on page 7 of module.	PDD states that likelihood of deforestation is 100%. Please justify this assumption using the guidance in VMOD006	Added to section 2.4	The deforestation agent had a valid deforestation permit that also identified a schedule. The history of non-action on the deforestation agent's part resulted in taking of some of his land by the Bolivian government. The Bolivian government had begun the deforestation on parts of the property that were not cut off the project area and given this scenario, the likelihood of deforestation as being 100% is justified by the NCR.
45	1.5 Risk of abandonment	Y	n	n	Page 19 of PDD	Risk of abandonment does require the use of proxy areas.	Please discuss how the value of risk determined for risk of abandonment. Please provide all information for proxy areas used for this determination. Please provide maps and descriptions of these proxy areas. Please also demonstrate that these proxy areas are applicable based on the guidance listed in B5-4.	See section 2.4	Proxy areas maps were provided that show similar lands and the claim is made that these lands were owned by the same class of deforested agent. The 5 proxy areas selected to satisfy the risk of abandonment condition have the same land conversion practices, post deforestation land use, management and land use rights as the indicator land. The validation agency has been given to validator. Proxy areas appear to prioritize common practice in Bolivia from a land use perspective. NCR is satisfied.
	VCS Module VMOD009 Version 1.0 LK-ASP	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in PDD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CL)/Opportunity for Improvement (OF)		Response from Client	Non-conformity Report (NCR)/Clarification (CL)/Opportunity for Improvement (OF)
46	Main calculation #1, page 2 of the module.	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	The calculation sheet does not list a value for this step.	Please show your calculations for this step.	This is step 5 of the calculation in section 3.3. NOTHING DONE		Calculations have been updated due to change in indicator land use. Strata 2 has been dropped and recored as NCR is satisfied.
47	Option 1.2 Baseline deforestation based on historic deforestation average.	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	Lists the Ha as the answer	Please show your calculations for this step. Please describe in the PDD Leakage section all assumptions that relate to this calculation according to the guidance in VMOD009, page 4. Please also calculate the difference between strata 2 listed in B5L, calculation sheet step 1, DB and D9 cells, with LK, step 1, cells C8 and C9.	See appendix A-6	All assumptions and added descriptions of the leakage calculations have been added to the PDD in Appendix A, item g. Updated spreadsheets showing the calculations have been requested. NCR is satisfied pending receipt of updated and corrected spreadsheets.	
48	Step 2. Estimate new projection of forest clearance by the baseline agent of deforestation with project implementation if no leakage is occurring.	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	The calculation sheet does not list a value for this step.	Please show your calculations for this step. Please describe in the PDD Leakage section all assumptions that relate to this calculation according to the guidance in VMOD009, page 4	See appendix A-6	Please submit all corrected calculations spreadsheets to ESI.	
49	Step 3. Monitor all areas deforested by baseline agent of deforestation through the years in which planned deforestation was forecast to occur.	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	The calculation sheet does not list a value for this step.	This step does not appear to have been used. Please explain the absence of this calculation.	See appendix A-6	All assumptions and added descriptions of the leakage calculations have been added to the PDD in Appendix A, item g. Updated spreadsheets showing the calculations have been requested. NCR is satisfied pending receipt of updated and corrected spreadsheets.	
50	Step 4. Monitor greenhouse gas emissions outside the project boundary by baseline agent of deforestation	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	The calculation sheet does not list a value for this step.	Please show your calculations for this step. Please describe in the PDD Leakage section all assumptions that relate to this calculation according to the guidance in VMOD009, page 4. Please also demonstrate that the property currently held by the deforestation agent is not deemed to be legally deforested.	See appendix A-6	All assumptions and added descriptions on one leakage calculations have been added to the PDD in Appendix A, item g. Updated spreadsheets showing the calculations have been requested. NCR is satisfied pending receipt of updated and corrected spreadsheets.	
51	PDD Step 5	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	The calculation sheet does not list a value for this step.	Please show your calculations for this step. Please describe in the PDD Leakage section all assumptions that relate to this calculation according to the guidance in VMOD009, page 4	See appendix A-6	Please submit all corrected calculations spreadsheets to ESI.	
52	PDD Step 7	Y	n	Page 21 of PDD and VMOD07LK spreadsheet provided.	No calculations included.	Please show your calculations for this step. Please describe in the PDD Leakage section all assumptions that relate to this calculation according to the guidance in VMOD009, page 4	This was modified to step 6 in section 3.3. See appendix A-6	All assumptions and added descriptions of the leakage calculations have been added to the PDD in Appendix A, item g. Updated spreadsheets showing the calculations have been requested. NCR is satisfied pending receipt of updated and corrected spreadsheets.	
Item number	Approved VCS Module VMOD005, Version 2.2 (30 November 2012), REDD Methodological Module: Methods for monitoring of greenhouse gas emissions and removals (M-MON) Section 2 Step 24	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in PDD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	NCR/CL/OR May 24, 2013	Response from Client	ESI response	NCR/CL/OR Satisfied (Y or N)
1	Medium resolution remote sensed spatial data shall be used (10m x 30m resolution of less, such as Landsat, Resourcesat or Spot sensor data).	Y	pending	Section 3.2 of PDD and resources/1 Images and landuse images submitted	These last images were submitted to ESI in order to review the project area and determine what to use in the analysis. The images submitted are from before the start date of the project area.	CL: Please indicate in the PDD and on the landuse images where the project area is and what constitutes the reference area.	Please see attached validated PDD with project location and attached Landuse Images with project area. Reference area only applies to unplanned deforestation.	Project proponent has submitted the requested information. Issue is addressed.	Please demonstrate reference agents current land holdings are not qualified to be deforested legally.
2	The methodologies process steps 2-7 above must be documented, according to items d-f of Inter 3 of the M-MON module (page 13)	Y	pending	Appendix A of Monitoring Report	Appendix A of the Monitoring Report items "Annex 5: Inquiry for the baseline year (2011) was used. Unfortunately this satellite imagery was not available for the baseline year. Therefore imagery from 2010 was used to cross correlate between Landsat-5 and Resourcesat-2. The imagery from 2010 was georeferenced and reasonable cloud cover was available for that year. Therefore imagery from 2010 and 2012 was geo-referenced and geometrically corrected as set out in 5.1 of GFC/GOLD 2008 Sourcebook for REDD. No cloud and shadow correction was applied to the imagery. Visual inspection as allowed in Step 5 was implemented and no degradation was observed." The project needs to explicitly document items listed in Step 3 items a-d of the module.	NCI: The methodologies module indicates that each of the steps 1 and 2 are as items a-d (Page 12 of M-MON) must be documented. This is done in the monitoring report. Please explicitly document each of the steps taken for this analysis in the monitoring report. Please list each step in sequence as they are listed in the M-MON tool.	See section 4.2 of revised monitoring report		Details were added to the monitoring report and numbered as requested. Issue is addressed.
	Approved VCS Module VMOD001, Version 1.0 (3 December 2005), REDD Methodological Module: Monitoring and Verification (M-MON) Section 2 Step 24	Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Requirement Met (Y or N)	Location in PDD or Supporting Documents	ESI Internal Comments	NCR/CL/OR May 24, 2013	Response from Client	ESI response	NCR/CL/OR Satisfied (Y or N)
3	Use Emissions - On-going to calculate Net greenhouse gas emissions due to market effects leakage. The sections below determine the parameters used in equation 1.	Y	pending	Section 1.10, 1.1 of PDD	Project is calculating market effects leakage as listed in step 6 of Section 1.1 of PDD	Please present a table in the calculations document that shows the application of the calculation including all planned corrections, if any, of the results as per equation 1.	Please see the attached spreadsheet.	Calculations included in VMOD07LK.xls. Issue is addressed.	
4	The next step is to estimate the emissions associated with the displaced logging activity. This is based on the total volume that would have been logged in the project area across strata and time periods (Calculated using Equation 3 on page 5)	Y	pending line 18	Section 1.18 of PDD, VMOD07LK.xls, section 3.1 of Monitoring Report	It is not clear where this calculation was presented.	Please see the attached spreadsheet.	Calculations included in VMOD07LK.xls. All areas in the project area have been non marketable and turned on in order to clear the land. The project area is not marketable and therefore no market effect on the project start. Because of this, there is no market leakage effect. Issue is addressed.		

5	The carbon emission due to the displaced logging biomass components: The biomass carbon in the trees removed by logging (2% of all trees removed) and The biomass carbon in the forest damaged in the process of timber extraction. These two components, together with other parameters, are used in Equation 4 on Page 4 to calculate the market leakage factor.	Y	pending line 18	Section 3.11 of PD: VM00007851.xls, section 3.2 of Monitoring Report	It is not clear where this calculation was presented. Included in Data and parameters mentioned, however it is not clear where this calculation was presented.	Please provide a separate tab in the calculations that shows this step. Please provide a separate tab in the calculations that shows this step.	Please see the attached spreadsheet. Please see the attached spreadsheet.	Calculations included in VM0007851.xls. Project area has no marketable biomass, therefore the final result of Market leakage is 0. Issue is addressed.
6	Merchantable biomass as a proportion of total aboveground tree biomass for stations 1 through 5 within the project boundaries (2000).	Y	Y	Section 4.1 of PD and references.	Not clear where this calculation was presented.	Please provide a separate tab in the calculations that shows this step.	Please see the attached spreadsheet.	Calculations included in VM0007851.xls. Issue is addressed.
7	Whole wood volume density (m ³ /ha) (defined as "Total gross biomass (including bark) of a tree 30 cm DBH or larger from a 30 cm stump to a maximum 10 cm top DBH of the central stem") by the summed total aboveground tree biomass	Y	Y	Section 4.1 of PD and references.	It is not clear where this calculation was presented.	Please provide a separate tab in the calculations that shows this step.	Please see the attached spreadsheet.	Project has no marketable biomass and therefore this step is not needed. Project has submitted the information required in the attached calculations spreadsheet. Issue is addressed.
8	Merchantable biomass is equal to merchantable volume multiplied by wood density (g/m ³)	Y	Y	Section 4.1 of PD and references.	Mean wood density - 500 (m ³) used Regional average (0.58 t.d.m. ⁻³). Tropical Africa; 0.50 t.d.m. ⁻³ . Tropical America; 0.57 t.d.m. ⁻³ - Tropical Asia from Brown, S., 1997. Biomass and wood density of tropical forests. In: B. L. Turner, ed. <i>Green Planetary Conundrum: For the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations</i> . Rome, 1997. FAO Forestry Paper 134. ISBN 92-5-103955-	Please provide a separate tab in the calculations that shows this step.	Please see the attached spreadsheet.	VM0007851.xls spreadsheet submitted. Project area does not contain any marketable biomass and so the total for market leakage is 0. The rest of the market leakage calculations are not needed, however the process is shown in the attached spreadsheet. Issue is addressed.