



BRAZIL PASTURELAND REGENERATION WITH NATIVE PALM SILVOPASTURE



Native, A Public Benefit Corporation



**Verified Carbon
Standard**

BRAZIL PASTURELAND REGENERATION WITH NATIVE PALM SILVOPASTURE

Document Prepared by Native, A Public Benefit Corporation

	
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1 PROJECT DETAILS

1.1 Summary Description of the Project

This grouped project consists of planting Macaúba trees (*Acrocomia aculeata*) within agrosilvopastoral systems on non-forestland (primarily degraded pastureland) in the Vale do Paraíba region in São Paulo State, Brazil.

Macaúba is a native palm tree that is drought and disease tolerant and uses 70% less water than the common commercial African palm, while still producing fruits that can be processed into commercial palm oil products (e.g. pulp and kernel oil, livestock fodder, biofuel, and fertilizer).

The Vale do Paraíba region, located within the Atlantic Forest biome, is characterized by abundant biodiversity and endemism in its original form. However, due to extensive land-use changes that occurred over centuries, it now exists in a fragmented state. Extensive low-productivity cattle grazing is currently the dominant land management regime in the project region. Cultivating Macaúba on those lands has the potential to slow soil erosion, store carbon in tree biomass, regulate the micro-climate, and promote biodiversity. The integration of Macaúba palm trees with cattle grazing and cropland will diversify and increase income to local farming and ranching communities without displacing commercial or subsistence activities. Whenever possible, the plantings will connect forest fragments to create ecological corridors that promote flux of genes through migration, dispersal, linkage and interrelation of populations of wild flora and fauna, all of which are important to biodiversity.

This project has the potential to remove on average 42,396 tCO₂e annually throughout the project crediting period, with a total of 847,925 tCO₂e of estimated removals over the twenty-year crediting period in the form of aboveground and belowground tree biomass and soil organic carbon.

1.2 Sectoral Scope and Project Type

The Brazil Pastureland Regeneration with Native Palm Silvopasture Project is a grouped project under sectoral scope 14: Agriculture Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU). The project type is Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation (ARR). The methodology applied is CDM AR-ACM0003 v2.0 (4 October 2013) Methodology for Afforestation and Reforestation of Lands except Wetlands.

1.3 Project Eligibility

The project meets the eligibility criteria laid out in VCS Standard v 4.4, Section 3.2.4 and A1.1 (i.e., “the project area shall not be cleared of native ecosystems within the 10-year period prior to the project start date”). Historic land-use-change will be analyzed using satellite imagery for each project activity instance.

The project also meets the AFOLU eligibility criteria for ARR activities set out on Appendix 1 of the VCS Standard v4.4, as it increases carbon sequestration by establishing, increasing, and restoring vegetative cover through the planting of woody vegetation.

1.4 Project Design

- ☐ The project includes a single location or installation only
- ☐ The project includes multiple locations or project activity instances, but is not being developed as a grouped project
- ☒ The project is a grouped project

Eligibility Criteria

As a grouped project, the following set of eligibility criteria must be met for new project instances to be included after validation. This set of eligibility criteria is set for the geographic area and project activity defined in the project description. New project instances must meet this set of eligibility criteria and provide sufficient technical, financial, geographic, and other relevant information to demonstrate compliance with the following set of eligibility criteria and enable visits by the validation/verification body in the monitoring report at the time of inclusion. Such a monitoring report will be validated at the time of verification against this applicable set of eligibility criteria. New project instances must have evidence of project ownership held by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance. The start date for each project instance shall be the same or later than the grouped start date and be eligible for crediting from the start date of the instance through the end of the project crediting period. Where 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 five years of the project activity instance start date. The procedure for

adding new project proponents is set out in the VCS Program document *Registration and Issuance Process v4.3*.

New project activity instances will be eligible to join the project if they meet the following criteria:

- Applicability conditions set out in the methodology (CDM AR-ACM0003 v2.0).
- Use the measures specified in the project description, that is, planting of Macaúba trees.
- Apply measures in the same manner as specified in the project description, that is, planting Macauba trees in non-forest land.
- Are subject to the baseline scenario determined in the project description for the specified project activity (planting of Macaúba trees) and geographic area (Vale do Paraíba region, São Paulo, Brazil).
- Have characteristics with respect to additionality that are consistent with the initial instances for the specified project activity and geographic area.
- Financial, technical, and common practice barriers will be consistent with those in initial instances.
- Planting of trees is not mandated by any systematically enforced law, statute or other regulatory framework.
- Are located within the designated geographic area specified in the project description, that is, the Vale do Paraíba region in São Paulo State, Brazil.
- Have evidence of project ownership held by the project proponent from the respective start date of each project activity instance.
- Have a start date that is the same as or later than the grouped project start date.
- Be eligible for crediting from the start date of the project activity instance through to the end of the project crediting period.
- Not be or have been enrolled in another VCS project.
- Adhere to the clustering and capacity limit requirements for multiple project activity instances set out in VCS Standard v4.4 3.6.8 - 3.6.9.

1.5 Project Proponent

Organization name	Native, A Public Benefit Corporation
Contact person	Gabriela Jorge
Title	Manager, Project Origination and Development
Address	3 Main Street Suite 212, Burlington, VT 05401
Telephone	+1 (800) 924-6826
Email	gabriela.jorge@native.eco

1.6 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization name	INOCAS Vale do Paraíba Ltda.
Role in the project	Project Operator
Contact person	Johannes Zimpel
Title	Executive Director
Address	Av. Rui Barbosa 387 - Bairro Santa Rita, Guaratingueta - SP, 12502-010, Brazil
Telephone	+55 (34) 99215-8892
Email	zimpel@inocas.com.br

1.7 Ownership

Project ownership is held by the project proponent through enforceable and irrevocable agreements with the holders of the statutory, property or contractual right in the land, vegetation or management process that generates GHG emission reductions or removals which vests project ownership in the project proponent.

Project ownership will be demonstrated through:

- Property or contractual right in the land and vegetation that generates GHG emission removals (where the project proponent has not been divested of such project ownership).
- An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the property or contractual right in the plant or process that generates GHG removals which vests project ownership in the project proponent, or

- An enforceable and irrevocable agreement with the holder of the property or contractual right in the land and vegetation that generates GHG removals which vests project ownership in the project proponent.

Evidence of ownership will be provided as documentation to the VVB during the validation and subsequent verification events.

1.8 Project Start Date

The anticipated project start date is October 1, 2023. This will be the date on which tree planting starts and GHG removals begin.

1.9 Project Crediting Period

The project crediting period is anticipated to last from October 1, 2023 to September 30, 2043, with a total of 20 years. Project longevity is 30 years.

1.10 Project Scale and Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals

The estimated annual GHG emission reductions/removals of the project activity instances are:

- ☐ <20,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☒ 20,000 – 100,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☐ 100,001 – 1,000,000 tCO₂e/year
- ☐ >1,000,000 tCO₂e/year

Project Scale	
Project	X
Large project	

Year	Estimated GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO ₂ e)
Year 2023	1,944
Year 2024	5,830
Year 2025	19,570
Year 2026	30,661
Year 2027	42,204
Year 2028	55,808
Year 2029	61,363
Year 2030	62,644
Year 2031	64,370
Year 2032	65,216
Year 2033	62,721
Year 2034	58,893
Year 2035	54,032
Year 2036	48,300
Year 2037	42,158
Year 2038	36,842
Year 2039	32,623
Year 2040	29,224
Year 2041	26,593

Year 2042	24,389
Year 2043	22,541
Total estimated ERs	847,925
Total number of crediting years	20
Average annual ERs	42,396

1.11 Description of the Project Activity

The project activity consists of planting Macaúba (*Acrocomia aculeata*) trees on non-forestland (primarily degraded pastureland) in the Vale do Paraíba Region, São Paulo State, Brazil. Sequestration of carbon will take place in aboveground and belowground tree biomass and soil. Trees will be planted integrated with crops (agroforestry) and/or cattle grazing pastures (silvopasture).

The project activity is accomplished in coordination with the project stakeholders and the Project Operator, INOCAS Vale do Paraíba Ltda. (INOCAS), through the following steps:

- Collection of seeds: seeds are collected in naturally-occurring trees, contributing with genetic diversity and resilience of the plantings.
- Seed germination and seedling production.
- Land preparation, which does not involve burning or clearing and limits soil disturbance in accordance with soil conservation best practices.
- Planting of the Macaúba trees on leased land or in partnership with farmers, with 4 x 8 meter spacing design and approximately 312 trees per hectare.
- Continuous maintenance of the macaúba trees, including weed removal and fertilization. Participating farmers receive technical assistance.

As the trees grow, carbon is removed from the atmosphere and stored in its aboveground and belowground woody biomass and soil.

Whenever possible, the plantings will connect forest fragments to create ecological corridors that promote flux of genes through migration, dispersal, linkage and

interrelation of populations of wild flora and fauna, all of which are important to biodiversity.

The Project is not within a jurisdictional REDD+ program.

1.12 Project Location

As an AFOLU grouped project, project activity instances can be added throughout the project crediting period. All project activity instances will be located within the Vale do Paraíba Region, in São Paulo State, Brazil, and will not overlap with the project area of another VCS AFOLU project. The geographic location of the project zone where project activity instances will be located is shown in Figures 1 and 2, and location of project instances will be provided as confidential KML files to the VVB during the validation and subsequent verification reviews.

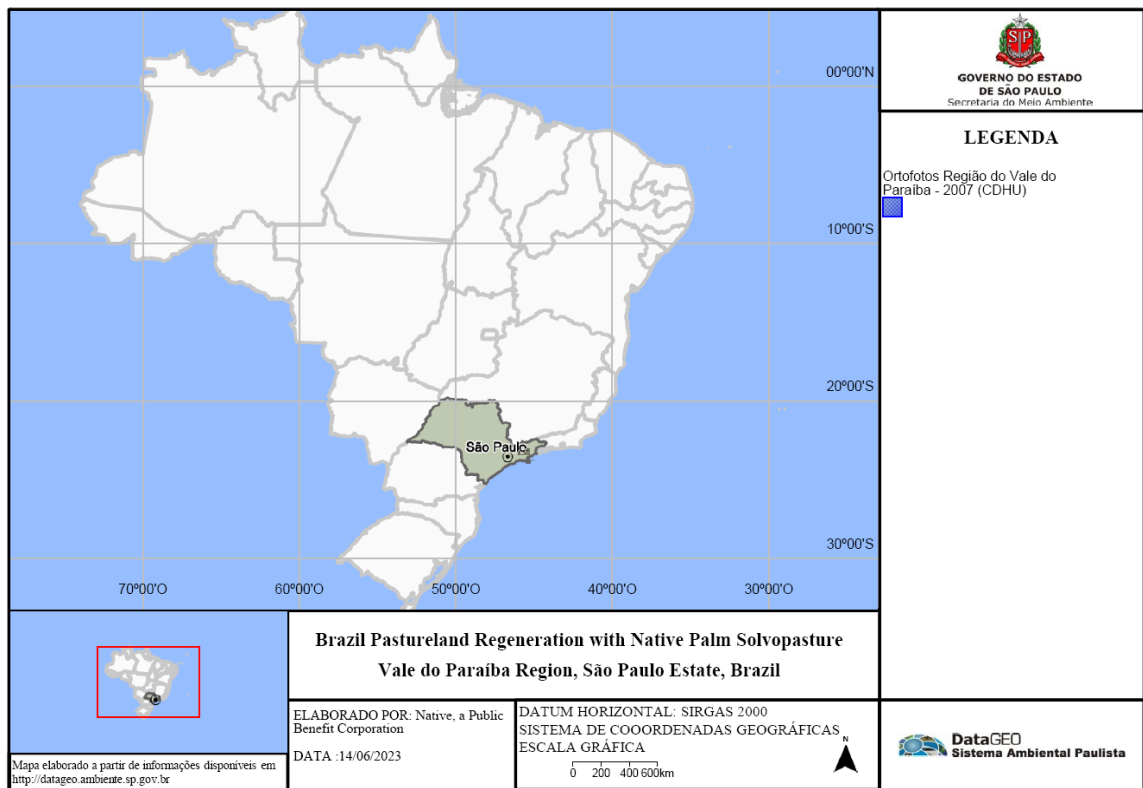


Figure 1. Map of the “project region” of São Paulo State, Brazil.

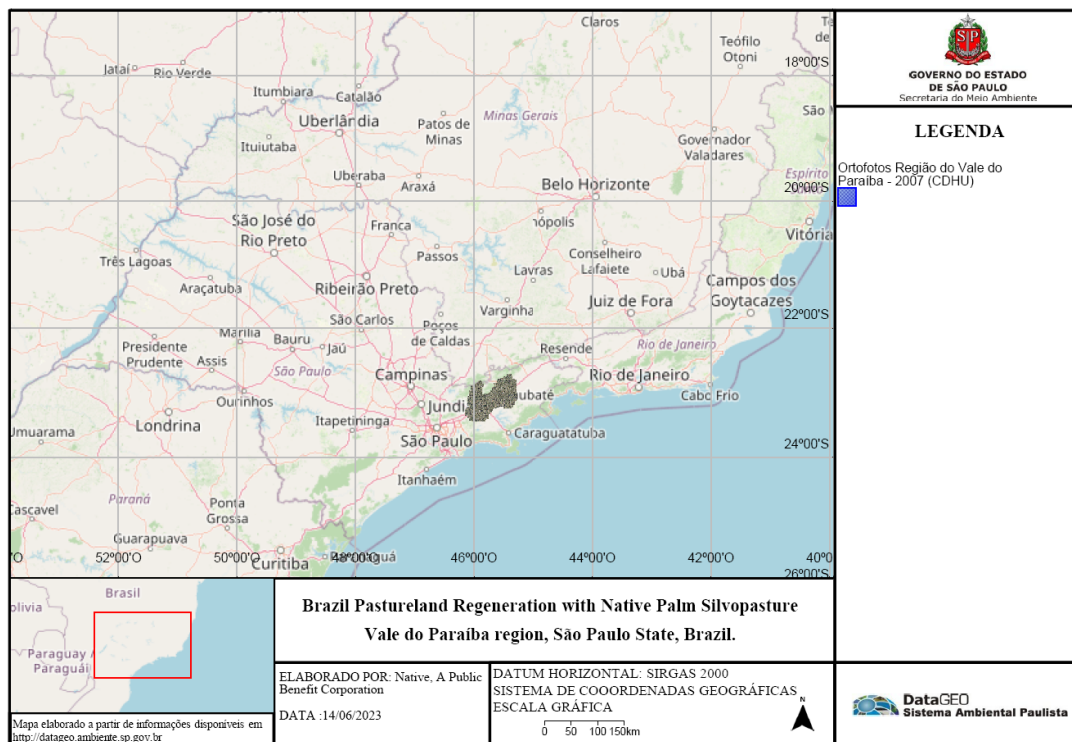


Figure 2. Map of the “project zone” of the Vale do Paraíba region where project instances will be located.

1.13 Conditions Prior to Project Initiation

The conditions prior to project initiation are characterized by degraded pastureland, where native ecosystems have been converted 10 years or longer prior to project initiation. This project has not been implemented to generate GHG emissions for the purpose of their subsequent removal.

The project area is within the Vale do Paraíba region in the São Paulo State, which covers an area of over 11 million hectares. The valley is located between two mountain ranges (Serra do Mar and Serra da Mantiqueira) with altitudes up to 2,000 m, and the valley itself is characterized by low-lying hills. Annual mean temperatures across the project area range from 18 to 22 °C.¹

- **Ecosystem type:** The project area lies under the Atlantic Forest and, to a lesser extent, the Cerrado biomes.

¹ Alvares et al., (2014) “Köppen’s climate classification map for Brazil”, *Meteorologische Zeitschrift*, Vol. 22, No. 6, 711–728.
http://www.dca.iag.usp.br/material/mftandra2/ACA0225/Alvares_etal_Koppen_climate_classBrazil_MeteorZe_2014.pdf.

Atlantic Forest

The Atlantic Forest biome is characterized by abundant biodiversity and endemism in its original form. It comprises three types of forests: Ombrophilous Dense Forests, Semideciduous and Deciduous Stationary Forests, and Ombrophilous Mist Forest (also known as Araucaria Forest).

Local precipitation patterns and soil characteristics have combined to erode soil from the project area's hillsides in the absence of the native forest. The average annual rainfall is between 1,300 and 1,600 mm, with rain mainly between December and March.

Cerrado

The Cerrado biome is the second largest vegetation formation in Brazil, after the Amazon. It is the world's most biodiverse savanna and plays a critical role in carbon storage, water quality and biodiversity.

- **Current and historical land-use:** The Atlantic Forest throughout coastal Brazil has been reduced to 14.5% of its original area and fragmented into small forest islands with an average size of 65 ha. This fragmentation resulted in biodiversity loss, with degraded grasslands now dominating the project area.

The native ecosystems in Vale do Paraíba were cleared by the 18th century as coastal forests were cleared for timber, agriculture, mining, and charcoal production.² Many of the intensive land uses for which the forests of São Paulo State were cleared were abandoned over the 20th century, and formerly cleared areas became grasslands.

These grasslands have since been used to graze dairy cattle on smallholder farms of up to 100 ha. Erosion has degraded the grasslands over time, contributing to farm abandonment throughout the State. Commercial Eucalyptus cultivation is also present, but is declining with the local pulp and paper industry. Existing Eucalyptus plantations will likely return to the previous land-use of cattle ranching.

The Cerrado biome is located in the center of the main agricultural frontier, its native conformation has been giving place to agricultural commodities, such as soy and beef.

² Nehren, U., Lamberty, G., Sattler, D., and Raedig, C. (2017) "The Atlantic Forest of Rio de Janeiro - Fragments of Hope", GEOÖKO. <https://www.uni-goettingen.de/en/2017/584676.html>



Figure 3: Matrixed landscape of mature and just harvested commercial Eucalyptus forests, fragments of Atlantic Forest and pastureland.



Figure 4: Typical landscape of the Vale do Paraíba region with small fragments of Atlantic Forest and pastureland featuring some degree of degradation.

- **Has the land been cleared of native ecosystems within 10 years of the project start date?**

☐ Yes☐ No

1.14 Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks

The project conforms to the provincial and national laws, statutes, and regulatory frameworks related to the project activities in Brazil. This project will stay in compliance with all and any relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks, including:

National Laws:

- Brazilian Federal Constitution: allows the use of lands on the Atlantic Forest, among other geographic locations, as long as the preservation of the environment is ensured.
- Brazilian Forest Code, Law No. 12,651 of May 25th, 2012 and its former versions and revisions: establishes minimum area that shall be maintained as permanent conservation areas and legal reserve.
- Brazilian Environmental Policy Policy, Law No. 7 804 of July 18, 1989. Amended Law 6
- Brazilian Integrated Crop Livestock Forestry Policy: Law No. 12,805 of April 19, 2013. Establishes the National Policy for Crop Livestock Forest Integration and amends Law No. 8.171, from January 17, 1991.
- National Vegetation Code (Federal law 12.651/12): Law regulates the protection, and sustainable use and exploitation of native forests and other indigenous plants.
- Atlantic Forest Law (11,428/2006): provides for the use and protection of the native vegetation of the Atlantic Forest Biome, and makes other provisions.
- Labor legislation: Norm 3123
- National Policy of Family Farming: N° 11,326/06

Local Legislation:

- Decree No. 51,453, of December 29, 2006 200627. Creates the State Forest System SIEFLOR

- Law No. 10,780 of March 9, 2001. Makes provisions on forest recomposition in the State of São Paulo.

1.15 Participation under Other GHG Programs

1.15.1 Projects Registered (or seeking registration) under Other GHG Program(s)

The project is not currently registered under other GHG programs, nor is it seeking registration under other GHG programs.

1.15.2 Projects Rejected by Other GHG Programs

The project has not been rejected by other GHG programs.

1.16 Other Forms of Credit

1.16.1 Emissions Trading Programs and Other Binding Limits

Does the project reduce GHG emissions from activities that are included in an emissions trading program or any other mechanism that includes GHG allowance trading?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1.16.2 Other Forms of Environmental Credit

Has the project sought or received another form of GHG-related credit, including renewable energy certificates?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Supply Chain (Scope 3) Emissions

Macaúba trees start producing fruits that can be processed into different commercial products after about 5 years of planting. To date, no Macaúba fruits have been harvested at a commercial scale, and therefore no products are commercially available, and no producers or retailers of the goods associated with this project exist. Such a statement will be made once Macaúba fruits begin to be harvested and processed into commercial products.

Have the owner(s) or retailer(s) of the impacted goods and services posted a public statement saying, "VCUs may be issued for the greenhouse gas emission reductions and

removals associated with INOCAS Macaúba palm products” since the project’s start date?

☐ Yes

☐ No

Has the project proponent posted a public statement saying, “VCUs may be issued for the greenhouse gas emission reductions and removals associated with INOCAS Macaúba palm products from the Vale do Paraíba Region, São Paulo, Brazil.”

☐ Yes

☐ No

Have the producer(s) or retailer(s) of the impacted good or service been notified of the project and the potential risk of Scope 3 emissions double claiming via email?

☐ Yes

☐ No

1.17 Sustainable Development Contributions

The project proponent and implementing partner anticipate that the project will result in sustainable development (SD) contributions and positively impact the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as described below:

- Planting Macaúba trees in partnership with farmers will significantly increase farmer revenue, contributing with the reduction of the proportion of people living in poverty and increase the proportion of the population living in households with access to basic services (SDG 1 and SDG 2).
- The creation of new revenue streams for smallholder farmers who previously did not have the means to grow or diversify their income, and who make less than the region’s formal workforce (SDG 2).
- Planting of Macaúba trees in agrosilvopastoral systems in partnership with farmers will promote the increase of agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers and pastoralists, and contribute with sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality (SDG 2).
- Tree planting will promote stabilization of eroding soils and contribute with (SDG 15).

1.18 Additional Information Relevant to the Project

Leakage Management

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

Commercially Sensitive Information

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

Further Information

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

2 SAFEGUARDS

2.1 No Net Harm

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

2.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

2.3 Environmental Impact

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the *VCS Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

2.4 Public Comments

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

2.5 AFOLU-Specific Safeguards

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

3 APPLICATION OF METHODOLOGY

3.1 Title and Reference of Methodology

The Clean Development Mechanism AR-ACM0003: Large-scale Consolidated Methodology for Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands v2.0 is applied to this project.

In addition, the following tools are applied:

- Tool for the “ Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities (Version 3.1)
- Tool for the “Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities” (Version 4.2)
- Tool for the “Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity” (Version 2.0)
- Tool for the “Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities ” (Version 1.1)

3.2 Applicability of Methodology

The project meets all the applicability requirements of the methodology and of the relevant CDM tools. Neither CDM AR-TOOL12 nor AR-TOOL14 have internal applicability conditions. The following CDM tools listed in the methodology will not be used as neither burning of biomass nor displacement of pre-project agricultural activities is part of the project activities:

- AR Tool 08: “Estimation of non-CO₂ greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity”
- AR Tool 15: “Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity”
 - “This tool is not applicable if the displacement of agricultural activities is expected to cause, directly or indirectly, any drainage of wetlands or peat lands.”

Applicability Condition or Tool	Explanation/ Justification
The land subject to the project activity is not categorized as wetland.	The project activity will occur on non-forested lands other than wetlands, primarily degraded grasslands.
Soil disturbance attributable to the project activity does not cover more than 10 percent of the area in each of the following types of land containing organic soils.	The project takes place on non-forested land with organic soil horizons of < 10 cm
Soil disturbance attributable to the project activity does not cover more than 10 percent of the area in each of the following types of land which, in the baseline, is subjected to land-use and management practices and receives inputs listed in tool appendices 2 and 3.	The project allows for either crops or grasslands to grow between the planted trees, and less than 10 percent of grasslands in the entire project area of Vale do Paraiba will be enrolled in the project.
Litter remains on site and is not removed (AR-T0016)	
Soil disturbance attributable to the A/R CDM project activity is in accordance with appropriate soil conservation practices.	

3.3 Project Boundary

Carbon Pool		Whether selected	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	Above-ground biomass	Yes	This is the major carbon pool subjected to project activity.
	Below-ground biomass	Yes	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to the implementation of the project activity
	Dead wood Litter	No	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to implementation of the project activity, but will be conservatively excluded.
	Soil organic carbon	Other	Carbon stock in this pool is expected to increase due to implementation of the project activity.

Source		Gas	Included?	Justification/Explanation
Baseline	Burning of woody biomass	CO ₂	No	CO ₂ emissions due to burning of biomass are accounted as a change in carbon stock
		CH ₄	Yes	Burning of woody biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed under this methodology
		N ₂ O	Yes	Burning of woody biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed under this methodology
Project	Burning of woody biomass	CO ₂	No	CO ₂ emissions due to burning of biomass are accounted as a change in carbon stock
		CH ₄	Yes	Burning of woody biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed under this methodology
		N ₂ O	Yes	Burning of woody biomass for the purpose of site preparation, or as part of forest management, is allowed under this methodology

The physical locations of the various installations or management activities taking place as part of the project activity based on the description provided in Section 1.11 (Description of the Project Activity) will be located within the Vale do Paraíba Region, São Paulo, Brazil, pictured in Figure 1 and 2, Section 1.2 Project Location. No leakage is anticipated to occur as a result of the project activities, because the displacement of land use activities to areas outside the project area is not expected, so a leakage belt is not necessary.

3.4 Baseline Scenario

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

3.5 Additionality

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

3.6 Methodology Deviations

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

4 QUANTIFICATION OF GHG EMISSION REDUCTIONS AND REMOVALS

4.1 Baseline Emissions

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

4.2 Project Emissions

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

4.3 Leakage

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

4.4 Net GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

5 MONITORING

5.1 Data and Parameters Available at Validation

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

5.2 Data and Parameters Monitored

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.

5.3 Monitoring Plan

This section has been omitted intentionally as per the listing “under development” requirements in section 3.1.3 of the VCS *Registration and Issuance Process V4.3* document.