

# VCS PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

<b>Project ID</b>	1622
<b>Project Name</b>	REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast
<b>Project Proponent</b>	Fundacion para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservacion (FUNDAECO)
<b>Methodology</b>	VM0015, Methodology for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation, version 1.1
<b>Sectoral Scope(s)</b>	14. Agriculture, forestry and other land use
<b>Validation/Verification Body (VVB)</b>	AENOR
<b>Registry</b>	Markit

<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	<i>VCS Standard, v3.7; Climate, Community &amp; Biodiversity Standards, v3.1; CCB Program Rules, v3.1</i>
<b>Date of First Issue</b>	02 February 2018
<b>Date of Final Issue</b>	07 February 2018

## Summary:

An accuracy review of the REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast issuance request has been conducted by VCS in accordance with Section 4.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process* and Section 4.3 of the *CCB Program Rules*.

The accuracy review has raised two assessment findings and one minor finding, detailed below. The VVB, in coordination with the project proponent, is hereby required to provide a response to the assessment findings presented in Section 1. The two assessment findings must be addressed to the satisfaction of VCS. The VVB need not address the minor finding during this review. Please note, however, that where VCS finds consistent minor findings by the VVB in future reviews, minor findings shall be escalated to assessment findings.

This findings report may be made publically available. Confidential information may be provided as separate attachments.

## 1 ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

### Finding 1

Section 3.6.1 of the *VCS Standard* requires project description deviations that impact the appropriateness of the baseline scenario to be described and justified in a revised version of the project description.

The project proponent is requested to update section 2.9.2 of the project implementation & monitoring report to include information about project description deviation #1 to clarify whether this deviation impacts the appropriateness of the baseline scenario. Additionally, the VVB is requested to update section 3.3 of the verification report with respect to project description deviation #1 to include additional information about the assessment of whether this project description deviation impacts the baseline scenario.

**VVB Response:** The exclusion of the litter carbon pool does not impact the appropriateness of the baseline scenario. The baseline scenario for the project is the conversion of primary forest to subsistence agriculture and pastureland. The inclusion of the litter carbon pool is not required by the methodology, and the carbon stocks in the litter pool are lower in the baseline scenario than the project scenario, so its exclusion is conservative. This has been clarified in the project description deviation #1 in the monitoring and implementation report.

The verification report was also updated to include additional information about the assessment of the project description deviation number 1.

### VCS Response:

This explanation, and the updates in the project implementation & monitoring report and verification report are sufficient to close this finding. No further action is required in respect of this finding.

### Finding 2

Page 18 of the *Rules for the Use of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards* (December 2013) requires that the cover page of the project implementation & monitoring report to include a brief summary of the exceptional benefits generated by the project to meet the requirements of each Gold Level.

Additionally, page 25 of the *Rules for the Use of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards* (December 2013) requires that the project implementation & monitoring report local language summary include at least the information required for the cover page.

The project proponent is requested to update the cover pages of the project implementation & monitoring report, and the cover page of the Spanish summary, to include a brief summary of the aspects of the project that allow it to meet the requirements of the Biodiversity Gold Level.

**VVB Response:** The project proponent has updated the cover pages of the implementation and monitoring report as well as the cover page of the Spanish summary to include a summary of the biodiversity gold impacts for the project, as is required by the *Rules for the Use of the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards*.

**VCS Response:**

The updates to the cover page of the project implementation & monitoring report and the Spanish summary are sufficient to close this finding. No further action is required in respect of this finding.

## 2 MINOR FINDINGS

### Finding 1

A project description deviation for the change in project area due to the addition of new project activity instances was included in section 2.9.2 of the project monitoring & implementation report, and an assessment of the deviation was included in section 3.3 of the verification report.

Because the project was designed and validated as a grouped project, new project activity instances may be added to the project and validated during verifications without using a project description deviation, as set out in Section 3.4.10 of the *VCS Standard* and Section 4.2.10 of the *CCB Program Rules*.

## 3 ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

The VVB and project proponent have provided updated documentation sufficient to address all findings raised as part of this accuracy review. The accuracy review was closed on 7 February 2018.