

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

Project ID	1622
Project Name	REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast
Program(s)	VCS and CCB
Verification Period	01 January 2019 – 31 December 2019
Project Proponent	Fundación para el Ecodesarrollo y la Conservación –FUNDAECO–
Methodology	VM0015, “Methodology for Avoided Unplanned Deforestation”, v1.1
Sectoral Scope(s)	14. AFOLU (Agriculture, Forestry, and Other Land Use)
Validation/Verification Body (VVB)	AENOR
Assessment Criteria	VCS Standard, v4.0, Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1
Date of First Issue	26 August 2020
Date of Final Issue	9 September 2020

Summary:

An accuracy review of the REDD+ Project for the Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast verification approval request has been conducted by Verra in accordance with Section 4.3 of the *Registration and Issuance Process* and Section 4.3.28 - 4.3.30 of the *CCB Program Rules*.

The accuracy review has raised 3 assessment findings and no minor findings, 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 3 assessment findings must be addressed to the satisfaction of Verra.

This project review report will be made publicly available. Confidential information may be provided as separate attachments.

1. ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

Finding 1

Due to the effects of the COVID-19 global pandemic on the ability to travel and visit project sites, Verra granted project 1622 the request for the VVB, AENOR, to conduct a remote site visit. This remote site visit was required to still meet Section 4.3.13 of the *CCB Program Rules, v3.1*.

Given that the site visit for this project was remote, the VVB is requested to update Sections 3.4 and 3.5 of the verification report to clarify how the community and biodiversity elements of the projects were assessed in accordance with Section 4.3.13 of the *CCB Program Rules, v3.1*. For example, please provide information on what methods of communication took place with communities on the ground, and how the changes in biodiversity were verified remotely.

VVB Response:

Section 2.4 has been updated to include how the information related to community and biodiversity assessed. Specific questions were made during the interviews to cross-check the information, as well as, open questions regarding the general opinion about the impact of the project on communities and biodiversity.

Section 3.5 has been updated to indicate that the exemption criteria of Section 4.3.13 of the *CCB Program Rules, v3.1* were met by the project.

Verra Response:

Verra notes that the finding should state Section 2.4 and 2.5. Sections 2.4 and 2.5 of the verification are updated to provide details on how the community and biodiversity elements of the project were assessed. This finding is closed.

Finding 2

Section 3.5.5 of the *CCB Program Rules v3.1* and Section 3.4.3 of the *VCS Standard, v4.0* states that project proponents shall use the *VCS + CCB Monitoring Report Template*, adhere to all instructional text within the template.

Section 4.1.1 includes a table with a blank community group.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 4.1.1 to include all community groups for which expected impacts were monitored.

VVB Response:

The table with a blank was corrected by adding the community groups Local producers and Entrepreneurs and Women groups.

Verra Response:

The update to Section 4.1.1 includes the appropriate update to the blank table. This finding is closed.

Finding 3

Section 3.5.5 of the *CCB Program Rules v3.1* and Section 3.4.3 of the *VCS Standard, v4.0* states that project proponents shall use the *VCS + CCB Monitoring Report Template*, adhere to all instructional text within the template.

Section 2.2.1 of the *VCS + CCB Monitoring Report Template* requires a table demonstrating the implementation schedule of the project including the activities that took place since the start date of the project, as well as the activities that took place this monitoring period.

Section 2.2.1 of the monitoring report does not include details on the project activities that took place this monitoring period.

The project proponent is requested to update Section 2.2.1 of the monitoring report to provide details on the project activities that took place during this monitoring period.

VVB Response:

The Section was corrected by adding to the implementation schedule table the main activities that took place during this monitoring period.

Verra Response:

Section 2.2.1 of the monitoring report was updated to include details on the project activities that took place during this monitoring period. This finding is closed.

2. MINOR FINDINGS

No minor findings were raised.

3. ASSESSMENT CONCLUSION

On 24 August 2020 Verra completed a review of the verification approval request for project 1622 REDD+ Project for Caribbean Guatemala: The Conservation Coast and raised the three assessment findings detailed above.

On 26 August 2020 Verra submitted the findings report to the VVB AENOR and the project proponent.

On 3 September 2020 Verra received updated documents and responses to the three assessment findings detailed above.

On 9 September 2020 Verra determined all the findings had been responded to appropriately and closed the review.