

Project Title
Afforestation with Hazelnut Plantations in Western Georgia
Gold Standard ID
GS 3975
Type of Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> Initial Certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Performance Certification <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> New Area Certification
Dual Certification
<input type="checkbox"/> FSC - Dual certification If the project is certified according the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC), the certification status replaces the completion of this template. Please provide the 'FSC Audit Report' in the <i>supporting documents</i> of section '3. Sustainability' and provide a reference to this <i>supporting document</i> in this template: N/A

Copy the table for each

- mitigation measure identified in the chapter '3.1 Do-No-Harm Assessment' with the risk rating of 'medium' or 'high', AND
- indicator identified by the Sustainable Development Assessment in the chapter '3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation' rated as positive (+1) or negative (-1) , AND
- mitigation measure identified by the Sustainable Development Assessment in the chapter '3.2 Local Stakeholder Consultation' that will neutralize the negative indicators

3.5 Sustainability Monitoring Plan

Sustainability Monitoring ID	01	
Indicator for	7. Workers and labour organisations shall be generally satisfied with their working agreements.	
Mitigation measure	Weekly meetings are held on Monday morning where workers can raise any points. Minutes of these meetings are recorded. The Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) 6 show the reporting lines and decision-making process to solve any kind of concerns raised.	
Chosen parameter	Content of the minutes that are recorded.	
Current situation of parameter	Regular meetings minutes are archived.	
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter	Before the implementation of the afforestation project, land was government property. The main use of these lands after 1991 was low-level grazing of livestock. It is unknown what labour organization was in place at time.	
Target for parameter	Continue with the minutes recording	
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will check the content of the minutes and the criteria with interviews.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Head of HR Office is the responsible monitoring and collect the documentation.

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When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Weekly
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Sustainability Monitoring ID		02
Indicator for		13. The project owner shall not be involved, and shall not be complicit, in any form of: (a) sexual harassment, (b) discrimination based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation or any other basis.
Mitigation measure		A suggestion box and regular meetings with the workers are possible ways to uncovers possible discriminations. In case there are such cases workers and management sit together to find a case specific solution.
Chosen parameter		Content of the weekly minutes and possible submissions through the suggestion box.
Current situation of parameter		Submissions of the suggestion box are currently recorded
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		Before the implementation of the afforestation project, land was government property. The main use of these lands after 1991 was low-level grazing of livestock. It is unknown what anti-discrimination regulations were in place at time.
Target for parameter		Continue recording suggestion box info.
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will check the content of the minutes and the suggestion box submissions. Project owner will check the criteria with interviews.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Head of HR Office is the responsible monitoring and collect the documentation.
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Weekly

Sustainability Monitoring ID		03
Indicator for		15. There shall be a 'Health & Safety Policy' that is documented, implemented and regularly updated. This policy shall include at a minimum: (a) provisions for first aid, AND (b) provisions for the safe transport of workers, AND (c) provisions for timely evacuation of workers to an adequately equipped medical facility in case of serious accident, AND (d) a health insurance scheme for workers who are impacted by workplace accidents AND (e) if workers stay in camps for a longer period of time, measures shall to provided to ensure that conditions for accommodation and nutrition comply at least with those specified in the ILO Code of Practice on Safety & Health in Forestry .
Mitigation measure		All of the criteria above are part of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for Work Safety and Health. The implementation of these SOPs is continuously monitored by the Field Safety Officer or Safety Manager.
Chosen parameter		Implementation of SOP

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Current situation of parameter		Health & Safety Policies are enforced in AgriGeorgia in line with the SOP4 (see Policies in Sustainability Monitoring ID 3_Health and Safety)
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		Before the implementation of the afforestation project, land was government property. The main use of these lands after 1991 was low-level grazing of livestock. It is unknown what H&S policy was implemented in the property.
Target for parameter		Continue the enforcement of the H&S policy
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Regular training sessions are held. See attached documents (Sustainability Monitoring ID 3_Health and Safety)
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Head of HR Office is the responsible monitoring and collect the documentation.
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Continuously

Sustainability Monitoring ID		04
Indicator for		17. Workers shall have job-specific training and supervision to safely implement the project.
Mitigation measure		All of the criteria above are part of the Standard Operational Procedures (SOP) for Employment. The implementation of these SOPs are continuously monitored by the Human Resource Officer.
Chosen parameter		Implementation of SOP
Current situation of parameter		Regular technical training are held in order to improve the efficiency of the operations.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		N/A
Target for parameter		N/A
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will check the criteria with interviews.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Head of HR Office is the responsible monitoring and collect the documentation.
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Sustainability Monitoring ID		05
Indicator for		23. Minimum 10% of the project area shall be identified and managed to protect or enhance the biological diversity of native ecosystems. For this, the HCV approach should be followed.
Mitigation measure		The risk of non-compliance is mitigated by the implementation of the SOP Nature Conservation Area.
Chosen parameter		Percentage of the total project area being identified and managed to protect or enhance the biological diversity of native ecosystems
Current situation of parameter		11%
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		The situation before the hazelnut afforestation was mainly

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		abandoned intensive tea plantations and low-productive grasslands and some seminatural forest stands, where main use of these lands after 1991 was low-level grazing of livestock.
Target for parameter		Minimum 10% of the <u>project area</u> shall be <i>identified and managed</i> to protect or enhance the <i>biological diversity of native ecosystems</i> .
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	More than 10% of the land is managed with minimum or no intervention with the aim of supporting natural self-regulative ecosystem functions, maintaining biodiversity and structural diversity, protecting flora and fauna in their natural habitats. Attached the mapping of the Natural Conservation Areas and Woodlands which has remain unaltered since 2010. (See Sustainability Monitoring ID 5_biological diversity of native ecosystems). Also surveys of native fauna and flora is carried out, attached a survey of local fungi present in the plantation
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Sustainability Monitoring ID	06	
Indicator for	26. Fertilizers shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified.	
Mitigation measure	Fertilizers are only applied to the extend necessary. Fertilizers are applied wherever soil and tissues analysis show signs of deficit.	
Chosen parameter	Amount of chemical fertilizer applied (in tons)	
Current situation of parameter	Fertilizers are being applied to replenish soil nutrient levels following agricultural best practices. Foliar applications are preferred over conventional methods, to limit impact on runoff.	
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter	As abandoned land, the previous situation had little inputs.	
Target for parameter	In the last years 3 years, the amount of fertilizers is decreasing, and the objective is to reach a max. amount of 500 tones/year across all the land. 9 new fertilizer spreaders has been acquired to increase the fertilization application efficiency.	
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Amount of fertilizers purchased and applied by parcel is monitored and recorded. Fertilizers purchased since 2012 are documented in file (Sustainability Monitoring ID 6_Fertilizers)
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Sustainability Monitoring ID	07
Indicator for	28. Chemical pesticides shall be avoided, or their use shall be minimised and justified.
Mitigation measure	Chemicals are only applied to the extent necessary. The application of chemicals is described in the SOP "Use of

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		Chemicals". These SOPs outline how chemicals are applied in a responsible manner.
Chosen parameter		Amount of chemical pesticides applied (in tons)
Current situation of parameter		The use of pesticides is kept to levels that are economically and ecologically justified and which reduce or minimise risk to human health and the environment. Plant Protection Products purchased since 2012 are documented in file (Sustainability Monitoring ID 7_PPPs). Current amounts of roughly 55,000 kg/year of PPPs. The largest number of PPPs correspond to Copper applications which is permitted in organic farming.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		There are no evidences of the situation previously to the implementation of the project. Presumably, being abandoned land, little inputs were applied.
Target for parameter		Whether and when to apply plant PPPs is based on the results of the monitoring, robust and scientifically sound threshold values are essential components for decision making. Sustainable biological, physical and other non-chemical methods are preferred to chemical methods to pest control. The objective is to increasingly reduce the current amount.
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will check the criteria during field visit. During the field visit the SOP3 on chemicals shall be checked.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

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Sustainability Monitoring ID		08
Indicator for		29. Chemical pesticides shall be used in accordance with the <i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i> .
Mitigation measure		See SOPs.
Chosen parameter		FSC Pesticides Policy
Current situation of parameter		Any of the FSC PROHIBITED pesticides showed in the FSC Lists of highly hazardous pesticides (release May 2019) have not been used in the plantations. From the Highly restricted list, some active ingredients are still in use but only under exceptional circumstances.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		Before the implementation of the project, there was not any list of Prohibited pesticides in place.
Target for parameter		Chemical pesticides will continue to be used in accordance with the <i>FSC Pesticides Policy</i> . <i>Avoiding products in the prohibited and limiting the use of products of the Highly Hazardous list</i> (see (Sustainability Monitoring ID 8_FSC Pesticides Policy))
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Annual registration of the PPPs purchased and applied on the plantation is shown on file (Sustainability Monitoring ID 7_PPPs)
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Sustainability Monitoring ID		09
Indicator for		31. In the case that chemical pesticides are used, and two or more different chemical pesticides are equally effective, the least hazardous chemical pesticide shall be used.
Mitigation measure		See SOPs.
Chosen parameter		During the field visit of the SOP3 on chemicals shall be checked.
Current situation of parameter		For controlling fungal and bacterial diseases, copper-based products are preferred. Copper products are admitted in organic farming in EU Herbicides use is limited since most of the weeds are mechanically controlled, besides in order to limit runoff, in between the tree rows, grass is permanently maintained during the whole year
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		There are no evidences of the situation previously to the implementation of the project. Presumably, being abandoned land, little inputs were applied.
Target for parameter		The aim is to continue minimizing the use of hazardous pesticides and search for replacement Strategies.
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will check the criteria during field visit.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored	Annually

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(duration and frequency)?	
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Sustainability Monitoring ID		10
Indicator for		33. On both sides of permanent or temporary water bodies (lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, etc.) riparian buffer zones of 15 meters shall be implemented on each site. In these riparian buffer zones: (a) only native tree species may be planted, AND (b) invasive species shall be removed, AND (c) all existing vegetation shall be kept, AND (d) no timber harvesting activities shall take place, AND (e) no use of fertilizer or chemical pesticides.
Mitigation measure		Buffer strips will be established according to the criterion. They are part of the nature conservation area and no project activity is taking place on these areas.
Chosen parameter		Riparian buffer zones of 15 meters on both sides of permanent or temporary water bodies (lakes, streams, rivers, wetlands, etc.)
Current situation of parameter		An analysis of buffer zones has been done in order to identify the areas of action. (see attached Sustainability Monitoring ID 10_riparian buffer zones)
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		N/A
Target for parameter		The target is described in the attached file: Sustainability Monitoring ID 10_riparian buffer zones
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Monitoring of the action plan will be carried out annually both with field visit and with aerial image to control the evolution of the re-naturalized buffer areas.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Sustainability Monitoring ID		11
Indicator for		34. The flows of <i>water bodies</i> shall not be blocked.
Mitigation measure		None – as there are currently no negative effects.
Chosen parameter		Avoidance of blocked water bodies
Current situation of parameter		Artificial channels are only managed mechanically. Artificial inner and external drainage channels are regularly brush cut, while natural water courses are kept untouched.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		There are no evidences of the situation previously to the implementation of the project. Presumably, being abandoned land, little or no management of water bodies was in place.
Target for parameter		Annual control of the artificial channels to prevent blocking and water stagnation that can affect the plantation
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	In the yearly operations program, artificial water courses management is included and therefore recorded in the Farming Management Platform.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager

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	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually
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Sustainability Monitoring ID		12
Indicator for		35. The groundwater in and around the <u>planting area</u> shall not be negatively affected by the <u>project</u> .
Mitigation measure		None – as there are currently no negative effects.
Chosen parameter		Quality of groundwater in planting area. Parameter chosen is the quality of the ground water extracted from the plantation wells.
Current situation of parameter		The latest water quality analysis has shown no major contamination issues (see Sustainability Monitoring ID 12_Groundwater)
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		There are no evidences of the situation previously to the implementation of the project.
Target for parameter		The target is to maintain the current values of the water analysis which present no major issues.
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Project owner will do periodic sample groundwater quality tests.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and documentation?	Field Operational Manager
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

Monitoring based on “Risk Register” analysis

Sustainability Monitoring ID		13
Indicator for		Diseases - As monoculture plantation, the effects of diseases can have a large impact on the health of the plantation. Still, full failure of the plantation is seen as minimal.
Mitigation measure		The SOP “Risk Management” include guidance on an integrated pest management
Chosen parameter		Survival rate of the plants of the plantation and amount of chemical pesticides applied (in tons)
Current situation of parameter		A detailed description of the volumes of chemical pesticides can be seen in file: (Sustainability Monitoring ID 7_PPPs). The mortality of the plantation is very low, < 1% in the eligible areas.
Estimation of baseline situation of parameter		There are no evidences of the situation previously to afforestation project.
Target for parameter		The objective is to increasingly reduce the current number of PPPs applied and extending the current monitoring programs of Pest and Diseases to be more effective in the protection of the health of the plantation. The target is to keep the mortality of the plants < 1% and replace, if any, dead plants with new saplings.
Monitoring	How will it be monitored and documented?	Continue monitoring of Pest and Diseases of the plantation.. Specially Xanthomonas affected plants are yearly mapped and regular visit of plant pathologists are organized (see Sustainability Monitoring ID 13_Diseases). Also monitoring and training to control the outbreak of <i>Halyomorpha halys</i> is supported by the project.
	Who is responsible for monitoring and	Field Operational Manager

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	documentation?	
	When will it be monitored (duration and frequency)?	Annually

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