

Project Title
Auscarbon Biodiversity Project
Gold Standard ID
GS-3040
Type of Certification
☒ Initial Certification ☐ Performance Certification ☐ New Area Certification ☐ Annual Reporting

For each item listed below, please provide a general description in the corresponding box. In total, this document shall not exceed 5 pages. Be aware that carbon market specific terms may not be appropriate for the readers of this summary. The formatting requirements provided in chapter 7.4 must be followed.

1. Key Project Information

(a) Project activities

The project involves reforestation of two degraded agricultural properties in the mid-west region of Western Australia. Project plantings are of native vegetation types including provenance seed collected from the project properties. Seed and seedlings are planted with the design objective of restoring the project landscape to its natural condition of vegetation.

(b) Organisations that are involved in the project (project participants)

Auscarbon is the developer, owner and manager of the projects. Auscarbon engages a planting contractor (EScapes) to undertake project establishment.

(c) Communities involved in the project

The properties are in the shire of Perenjori in the mid-west region of Western Australia. The town of Perenjori is a small agriculture based community.

(d) Location of the project area and the planting area

The project area is located near the town of Perenjori in the mid-west region of Western Australia. See "Attachment 2.1 Key Project Information - Auscarbon property location map and Shire of Perenjori information".

(e) Size of the project area and the planting area

The biodiversity project includes two properties with respective planting areas of 652 ha and 880 ha (total planting area 1,532 ha. In total, Auscarbon has developed 6 properties including some 9,000 ha of new planting and conservation of a further 4,000 ha of existing vegetation.

(f) Risk of change to the project area (during the crediting period)

There is no risk of change to the project area during the crediting period. The properties have been planted and are now under permanent maintenance programs. The properties have specifically and solely been planted for long term carbon sequestration.

(g) Risk of change to the project activities (during the crediting period)

There is no risk of change to the project activities during the crediting period. The properties have been planted and are now under permanent maintenance programs. The properties have specifically and solely been planted for long term carbon sequestration.

(h) Timeframe for the project activities

The project plantings were completed between July 2010 and June 2011. Auscarbon now monitors the plantings under its maintenance program which includes frequent visits to site to assess condition of the project. It is envisaged that the project period for these properties will commence from 1 July 2011 and will end 30 June 2061. That crediting period of 50 years will cover the most substantial timeframe of growth and sequestration for the project. The project beyond that timeframe will continue to produce additional abatement however at a far less reduced rate. Auscarbon would consider that the project is for all practical terms, in long term maintenance.

(i) Number of (predicted) CO₂-certificates

The total predicted CO₂-certificates is 289'548 from a 50 year crediting period. That amount is calculated as: 1'532 ha x 189 t CO₂ per ha excluding baseline.

(j) Land-use history and current situation of the project area

The project area is situated land that was historically cleared for wheat cropping. The project area borders the eastern zone of the 'wheat belt' district and desert.

(k) Socio-economic history and current situation

During the earlier part of the 20th century the mid-west region was an active agriculture area. Over a number of decades however viable agriculture has been increasingly difficult and inconsistent seasonally. In more recent times many landowners have sought opportunities to exit farming. The regional communities in this area have been directly affected by this and the loss of services as the population has been in steady decline. Auscarbon has purchased land from farmers who are actively looking for opportunities to exit and who in other circumstances would not be able to sell their land as commercial agricultural opportunity.

(l) Forest management applied (past and future)

Auscarbon has established forest management programs for its projects. During planning and establishment programs the company assesses risk factors such as pest and vermin along with protection programs such as firebreaks and fencing. Once established, the company implements a management program to ensure that the properties are regularly visited and inspected for signs of damage and general condition monitoring.

(m) Forest characteristics (including main tree species planted)

Auscarbon biodiversity projects are plantings of native vegetation types. Species are identified that are not only local but at a project scale are compatible to specific soil and topography features. Much of the seed used is provenance, collected off Auscarbon properties and prepared for planting. Primary species include varieties of eucalypt and acacia and up to 40 sub species may be included in any particular planting. Some of these species are rare flora types and other such as saltbush are planted to specifically deal with problematic soils such as high saline ground conditions. Survival and growth rates for Auscarbon plantings are considered

(m) Forest characteristics (including main tree species planted)

to be high given the degree of compatibility to landform and climate. Auscarbon's native forests are also forming valuable fauna habitats. In addition to a wide range of indigenous fauna, protected species such as Black Cockatoo and Mallefowl are present across Auscarbon properties.

(n) Main social impacts (risks and benefits)

Social impact risks

- Risk that Auscarbon the does not develop a good relationship with local communities. The company is very conscious of building strong reputation with in the local community and works hard to ensure this is achieved – see below.

Social impact benefits:

- Local employment
- Indigenous employment
- Local contract engagement
- Local suppliers for ongoing operations (fuel, stores etc)
- Engagement with local fire brigades, councils and environmental groups
- Opportunity for farmers to sell non-productive land
- Revitalised landscape

(o) Main environmental impacts (risks and benefits)

Risks

- Poor establishment does not provide the extent of environmental benefits sought

Benefits

- Restoration of areas to native vegetation
- Flora and fauna habitat zones as outlined above
- Connection of recognised Threatened Ecological Corridor zones at a regional level.
- Replenishment of salt effected areas
- Enhanced population or rare species

(p) Financial structure

Auscarbon is a private company and has been developing carbon sink projects since 2008. The properties included in this application are wholly owned by Auscarbon. The plantings were completed in 2011 and have been are fully paid for.

2. Shapefiles

Please provide *shapefiles* in the *supporting documents* and provide a reference to these *supporting documents* in this template.

(a) Project area

Auscarbon's total biodiversity project includes plantings of approximately 9,000 ha over 6 properties. A

(a) Project area

further area of approximately 4'000 ha of remnant vegetation has also been preserved. This specific application relates to two properties that in total cover approximately 2'000 ha.

(b) Planting areas

The planting area is 1'532 ha. Other areas that are deemed to be not adequately stocked are removed from the area. Electronic shapefiles are provided.

(c) Eligible planting area

The eligible planting area is 1'532 ha. Other areas that are deemed to be not adequately stocked are removed from the area.

(d) Modelling Units

There is one modelling unit for each property. Each property has common establishment programs and sufficiently continuous soil profiles, topographies and climatic conditions to be considered as such. See "Attachment 2.1 – Key Project Information – Modelling Unit Assessment"

(e) Infrastructure (roads, houses, etc.)

Minimal infrastructure exists such as dwellings and access roads. None of this area is included in the eligible planting area.

(f) Water bodies

Nil on these properties. Low topography areas can be subject to seasonal and localised water flow however the annual average rainfall is between 300 mm and 350 mm and therefore land saturation to form a water body does not occur on the sandy loam soils.

(g) Sites with special significance for indigenous people and local communities - resulting from the Local Stakeholder Consultation (LSC)

Nil identified on these properties.

(h) Where indigenous people and local communities are situated

There is no settlement of indigenous people near the project site. The local community of Perenjori is located between 20 and 30 kilometres to the east of plantings.

(i) Where indigenous people and local communities have legal rights, customary rights or sites with special cultural, ecological, economic, religious or spiritual significance

Nil identified on these properties.

3. Boundaries

Please provide evidence that boundaries of the project area and the planting are clearly distinguishable in the field.

See "Attachment 2.1 Key Project Information – Boundary definition and fire breaks".