

CCB VERIFICATION REPORT OF HUBEI HONGSHAN IFM (CONVERSION OF LOGGED TO PROTECTED FOREST) PROJECT

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Summary

A brief description of the verification and the project.

China Quality Certification Centre (CQC) is commissioned by Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co. Ltd to perform a verification on the project –Hubei Hongshan IFM (conversion of logged to protected forest) Project against the requirements of CCB Standards version 3.1.

The proposed CCB project activity Hubei Hongshan IFM (conversion of logged to protected forest) Project conducts forestry management conversion of 23,769.42 ha logged to Protected Forest (LtPF) in Hongshan Town, Suizhou City, Hubei Province of China. The VCS IFM methodology VM0010, Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest, Version 1.3 is applied to quantify the GHG removals achieved in this project. The project had been registered as a VCS project in VERRA, and the GHG removals achieved in the monitoring period from 01/01/2015 to 30/06/2019 had been approved by VERRA.

This project is being developed in conjunction with the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Standard (CCBS).

The purpose and scope of verification.

The verification is the systematic, independent and documented process for the evaluation of a project's delivery of net climate, community and biodiversity benefits in accordance with the project's validated design and monitoring plan and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards in accordance with the CCB rules.

The monitoring period.

This is the first Monitoring period started from 01/01/2015 to 30/06/2019.

The method and criteria used for verification.

The verification team assessed the project activity's compliance against the VCS Version 4.0, the CCB Standard Third Edition (version 3.1), the selected methodology and the project monitoring report.

The project activity is eligible under Project Scope 14 "Agriculture, Forestry, and other Land Use (AFOLU)". The verification criteria followed the guidance documents provided by CCB included the following: CCB Standards version 3.1, CCB Program Rules version 3.1, AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool version 4.0 and the VCS IFM methodology VM0010, Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest, Version 1.3.

The number of findings raised during verification.

In the course of the verification, 0 Corrective Action Requests (CARs), 5 Clarification Requests (CLs) were raised and successfully closed.

Any uncertainties associated with the verification.

There are no restrictions of uncertainty.

Summary of the verification conclusion.

Based on the documented evidence and an on-site assessment, CQC confirms the project has been implemented in accordance with the validated project description and complies with the verification criteria for projects set out in CCB Version 3.1.

The net positive climate, community, and biodiversity benefits achieved by the project during the project implementation period is valid, and the project has achieved its stated climate, community, and biodiversity objectives.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

China Quality Certification Centre (CQC) is commissioned by Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co. Ltd to perform a verification of the project – Hubei Hongshan IFM (conversion of logged to protected forest) Project against the requirements of CCB Standards version 3.1 and CCB Program Rules version 3.1 for the monitoring period started from 01/01/2015 to 30/06/2019.

The verification is the systematic, independent and documented process for the evaluation of a project's delivery of net climate, community and biodiversity benefits in accordance with the project's validated design and monitoring plan and the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards in accordance with the CCB rules.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The scope of the verification is to verify that: (a) project has been implemented in accordance with the validated project description^{7/} and complies with the verification criteria for projects set out in CCB Version 3.1; (b) the actual monitoring system and procedures are in compliance with the monitoring systems and procedures described in the monitoring plan; (c) the net positive climate, community, and biodiversity benefits achieved by the project during the project implementation period is valid.

Verification is conducted using CQC procedures in line with the requirements specified in the VCS Program and ISO14064-3 requirements. The verification criteria refer to the policy, procedure or requirement used as a reference against which evidence is compared. The verification is carried out on the basis of the following requirements, applicable for this project activity:

- CCB Standards version 3.1^{1/1}
- CCB Program Rules, v3.1^{2/}
- Program Definitions, v4.0^{3/}
- Other rules and requirements related to AFOLU projects

The following documents are also taken into account in the CCB verification, as a CDM methodology was used:

- Approved baseline and monitoring methodologies (including GHG inventories). such as the VCS IFM methodology VM0010, Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest, Version 1.3."^{4/}

The information included in the MR and the supporting documents were reviewed and assessed against the requirements as set out by the CCB Standards version 3.1. The verification is based on the information made available to CQC and on the contract conditions. CQC cannot be held liable for making its verification opinion based on any false or misleading information supplied to it during the course of verification.

The verification is not meant to provide any consulting to the project participants. However, stated requests for clarifications and/or corrective actions may provide input for improvement of the project design.

1.3 Summary Description of the Project

the project is located in Hongshan Town, Suizhou City, Hubei Province of China. The geographical coordinates of the project is between 112°43'~113°46" east longitude and between 31°19'N~32°26' north latitude.

The project is developed by Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd. The Project involves 23,769.42 ha logged to Protected Forest (LtPF) project including 5,562 subcompartments spreading over Baoji Village, Wangtai Village, Baiguofan Village, Huoyantao Village, Jimingsi Village, Sanshenmiao Village, Peijiayan Village, Qiaohe Village, Shuangfeng Village, Zhoujiawan Village, Qinglongmiao Village, Wushenggong Village, Yutingling Village, Jieshanchong Village, Yunlin Village, Sishan Neighborhood committee, Maocifan Neighborhood committee, Zhoujiazui Village, Huanglongsi Village, Wenquan Village, Gaojianshan Village, Xujiachong Village, Guanyintang Village, Zhuji Village, Dujiadian Village, Liangtinghe Village, Wangheshan Village, Guoji Village, Dianzihe Village, Huangjiafan Village, Guihuayuan Village. All these villages have the legal right to forest ownership. The tree species of the project include Oak, Masson Pine, Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest and Coniferous and Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest,, which are all native species.

The project activity is estimated to reduce the GHG emissions for about 8,769,291 tCO₂e in 30 years,with an average annual GHG emission removal of 292,309 tCO₂e .

The proposed project activity will achieve net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks by changing from logging trees to protected forest and will increase forest cover in the project region thus generating a typical landscape formed by conversion of Logged to protected forest, and will produce financial, social and environmental benefits to local communities.

The Project Start Date is 01/01/2015, when the approval of application for logging suspension was issued by local government,Hongshan Forestry Bureau^{6/}.

The project had been approved as a VCS project. The net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks in the 1st monitoring period from 01/01/2015-30/06/2019 is 932,144 tCO₂, which had been approved by VERRA(<https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/CCB/1935>).

2 VERIFICATION PROCESS

2.1 Audit Team Composition (Rules 4.3.1)

Lead Auditor/VCS-CCB Validator: Nie Xi (Daisy) is qualified by CQC in verification and Verification of Clean Development Mechanism Requirements (CDM projects) and other voluntary schemes as VCS, CCB and SD. She has experience with more than 50 verification and verification projects including VCS forestry project and CCER forestry project in China. She has also done a lot of research on social and community affairs, and also involved in the provincial standard written. She is the primary draftsman of the standards relating to the social and community, such as General Principles for Low-carbon Operation Management of Community (DB11/T 1532-2018)¹, and Technical Guidelines for Low-carbon Community Assessment (DB11/T 1371-2016)².

She has a bachelor degree of Environment Engineering and master degree of Environmental Engineering and conducted more than 30 CDM /VCS projects in China, thus has the relevant social and cultural expertise in this region and also have relevant ecological and biodiversity experience due to the education background. She speaks mandarin which is the common language in China and the regional residents can speak and understand this language.

¹ <https://max.book118.com/html/2019/0129/6023223131002004.shtm>

² <http://www.doc88.com/p-9157866532535.html>

Technical Reviewer: HONG Dajian is qualified by CQC in verification and Verification of Clean Development Mechanism Requirements (CDM projects) and other voluntary schemes as VCS, CCB and SD. He has experience with more than 40 verification and verification projects including VCS forestry project and CCER forestry project in China. He has also done a lot of research on social and community affairs, and also involved in the national standard written.

2.2 Method and Criteria

The verification method of the project consisted of the following steps:

- Contract review
- Appointment of verification team and technical reviewers
- A desk review of the CCB MR submitted by the client and additional supporting documents with the use of customized verification protocol
- Verification planning
- On-Site assessment
- Background investigation and follow-up interviews with personnel of the project developer and its contractors
- Draft verification reporting
- Resolution of corrective actions and clarifications
- Final verification reporting
- Technical review
- Final approval of the verification report.

The verification criteria consisted of the following:

- Program Definitions, v4.0
- CCB Standards version 3.1
- CCB Program Rules, v3.1
- VCS IFM methodology VM0010, Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest, Version 1.3.
- CDM Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities.

The verification process derived from all items in the verification criteria stated above. Considering sample plots had been inspected in the process of VCS verification, and the VCS verification of the project activity had been approved by VERRA, plots inspection was not carried out in this CCB verification. However, site visit and interview were conducted on 2010/2021 and 21/10/2021 to solicit important information from personnel related to project and relevant to the verification process.

2.3 Document Review

The verification was planned after reviews of the Project Description specified as CCB PD template to cover all the requirements set out in the CCB Standards version 3.1 and the methodology used to develop the project's greenhouse gas assertion.

PP submitted CCB MR (version 01)⁷⁷ and supporting background documents related to the project design to CQC on 27/09/2021.

PP submitted CCB MR (version 02)⁸¹ and supplementary evidence for closing the CARs and CLs raised during the verification.

Furthermore, the verification team used additional documentation by third parties like host party legislation, technical reports referring to the project design or to the basic conditions and technical data.

2.4 Interviews

The objective of the interview process was to solicit important information from personnel related to project and relevant to the verification process. On-site interviews and information discussions were conducted with project developer, local government officer, local residents and Project development consultant. The interviews were performed by the verification team on-site and the following Table 2-1 is a list of the main interviewees and subject.

Table 2-1: Interview and Interview Topics

Date	Interviewee	Organization	Interview Topics
20/10/2021	Mr. Liu Jun Director	Hongshan Town Forestry Bureau	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project Boundary -Project design -Compliance with Laws, Statutes and Other Regulatory Frameworks -project approval -Roles & responsibilities of the Government -Project activity starting date -Ownership -Local stakeholder consultation -Technical details of the project - Monitoring plan and arrangements -HCVs in the project zone -Risks to the Project
20/10/2021	Mr. Zhou Xiongjie Local representative	Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd (the PP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Project Boundary -Project design -Participation under other GHG programs -Risks to the Project
21/10/2021	Mr. Yu Kaiquan Mr. Wang Lizhen	Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. (the Consultant)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Crediting period -Baseline study assumptions -Additionality -Sampling and Monitoring plan -Monitored results of community and biodiversity benefits - Editorial issues of the CCB
21/10/2021	Mr. Liu Gongjie Ms. Cai Binbin Mr. Guo Xuanqun Mr. Liu Xueming Ms. Yang Wenzheng Mr. Li Dingguo Mr. Li Chuanlin	Local villagers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ownership -Annual income -Job opportunities - Impact on environment - Impact on biodiversity - Participation of decision making -Stakeholder Consultation - Well-being changes -Training information

2.5 Site Inspections

CQC performed a site visit and interviewed the local stakeholders on 20/10/2021 and 21/10/2021. The stakeholders interviewed is listed in Table 2-1. Considering sample plots had been inspected in the process of VCS verification, and the VCS verification of the project activity had been approved by VERRA, plots inspection was not carried out in this CCB verification.

During this site visit, CQC interviews with the representatives of the project owner and related local stakeholders. The verification site visit allowed the VVB to understand application of the methodology on-site, confirm the implementation of project activities, and to resolve issues identified in the document review.

The objectives of the on-site visit performed were to:

- Conduct a risk-based review of the project area and project activities to check that the project adhered to the requirements of the CCB Standards & CCB Program Rules and the methodology during the monitoring period
- Check that monitoring plan was conducted in accordance with the requirements of the validated monitoring plan, the VM0010 methodology and CCB rules
- Verify whether the climate, community, and biodiversity objectives has been achieved during the monitoring period

2.6 Resolution of Findings

The objective of this phase of the verification is to resolve issues related to the monitoring, implementation and operations of the registered project activity that could impair the capacity of the project activity to achieve net climate, community and biodiversity benefits or influence the monitoring and reporting of climate, community and biodiversity benefits prior to CQC's positive conclusion on the CCB standards.

Findings established during the verification can either be seen as a non-fulfilment of criteria ensuring the proper implementation of a project or where a risk to deliver net climate, community and biodiversity benefits is identified.

A Corrective Action Request (CAR) is raised, if one of the following situations occurs:

- (a) Non-compliance with the monitoring plan or methodology are found in monitoring and reporting and has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient;
- (b) Modifications to the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project activity has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants;
- (c) Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions that will impact the quantity of emission reductions;
- (d) Issues identified in a FAR during verification to be verified during verification or previous verification(s) have not been resolved by the project participants.

A Clarification Request (CL) is raised, if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the CCBS have been met.

A Forward Action Request (FAR) is raised, for actions if the monitoring and reporting require attention and/or adjustment for the next verification period.

To guarantee the transparency of the verification process, the concerns raised are documented in more detail in Appendix A.

2.7 Forward Action Requests

No Forward Action Request is raised during this monitoring period.

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Minor Changes to Project Design (Rules 3.5.6)

During the monitoring period, no minor changes to project design were identified.

3.2 Project Description Deviations (Rules 3.5.7 – 3.5.10)

Not applicable, no deviations from project description were identified.

3.3 Grouped Project (G1.13 - G1.15, G4.1)

Not applicable, the project is not a grouped project.

4 VERIFICATION FINDINGS

4.1 Public Comments (Rules 4.6)

The MR is available in both English and Chinese (as is a summary document of the MR)^{6/}. Both the documents were made available on the VERRA website for the public consultation period.

The project was open for public comment from 05/08/2021 to 04/09/2021. No public comments were received for this project as confirmed by email from VERRA dated 19/11/2021, the date after the CCB public comment period for draft project documents expired.

4.2 Summary of Project Benefits

As per the information available in the MR against the project benefits as determined in the PD and confirmed by the PP during the on-site interview, the unique Project Benefits including:

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions and mitigate climate change;
- Improve soil and water conservation and contribute to sustainable development;and
- Provide experience of forest management and risk prevention and control for local stakeholders; and
- Improvement of the biodiversity and ecological environment of the project area and its surrounding area;
- Increase employment opportunities and raise the income level of local residents.

The Standardized Benefits including GHG removals, improvement of forest cover, providing employment opportunities and well-being.

The project objectives consist in increasing the carbon stocks and biodiversity by conversion from logged to protected forests. Community objectives would ensure the creation of employment and provide relevant training (skilled labour force), which would positively influence the livelihoods and well-being of the population. Biodiversity objectives would preserve biodiversity and ecological environment in the Region.

The project activity has generated GHG emission reductions. Based on VCS validation & verification report of the project^{36/}, net anthropogenic GHG removals by sinks 932,144 tCO₂e had been achieved for the 1st monitoring period (01/01/2015 to 30/06/2019) and had been approved by VERRA. Further, by conversion from logged to protected forests, forest cover has been increased in the project region, therefore provided more suitable habitat for animals and generating a typical landscape formed by biological and productive areas that produce financial, social and environmental benefits to local communities. The project activity provides a large number of employment opportunities for local communities, thus improves the local well-beings, which has been confirmed during on-site interview, as well as statement provided by local Forest Bureau.

By comparing the information given in the MR, it is confirmed that this section of project benefits is completed appropriately, the achievements during this monitoring period is verified by the verification team and confirmed as correct and actual. Refer to below related sections for detail assessment.

Thus it is concluded that all achievements reported are substantiated with information provided in the body of the monitoring report and confirmed by the assessment in the body of the verification report.

4.3 General

4.3.1 Implementation Schedule and Status (G1.9)

The project was implemented and operated as the validated VCS PD during the monitoring period. Through the on-site assessment and desk review, CQC verification team have verified that the project includes the area of the project activity is 23,769.42ha , including 5,562 subcompartments spreading over Baoji Village, Wangtai Village, Baiguofan Village, Huoyantao Village, Jimingsi Village, Sanshenmiao Village, Peijiayan Village, Qiaohe Village, Shuangfeng Village, Zhoujiawan Village, Qinglongmiao Village, Wushenggong Village, Yutingling Village, Jieshanchong Village, Yunlin Village, Sishan Neighborhood committee, Maocifan Neighborhood committee, Zhoujiazui Village, Huanglongsi Village, Wenquan Village, Gaojianshan Village, Xujiachong Village, Guanyintang Village, Zhuji Village, Dujadian Village, Liangtinghe Village, Wangheshan Village, Guoji Village, Dianzihe Village, Huangjiafan Village, Guihuayuan Village.

All these villages have the legal right to forest ownership by checking the Certificate of Forest Rights issued by local Forestry Bureau. The species involved in the project are Oak, Masson Pine, Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest and Coniferous and Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest. CQC has onsite checked the boundary of the Project by GPS navigator against with the KML file, and confirmed the project activity including different forest types, as well as the monitoring system, metering equipment and the monitoring procedure have been implemented managed as described in the CCB PD.

Before the implementation of the project activity, the trees were logged based on a valid and verifiable government-approved timber management plan for harvesting the project area. The implementation of the project activity converses the trees to protected forest to reduce the GHG emissions for about 8,769,291 tCO₂e in 30 years,

No changes to the project design have been identified during this verification. The implementation and operation of the project activity have been conducted in accordance with the description contained in the CCB PD.

By checking the approval of the application for logging suspension from local forest bureau, CQC verification team confirmed the Project Start Date is 01/01/2015, and it represents the date on which the project began generating GHG emission reductions or removals as defined by the VCS and CCB requirements. The PP has implemented the activities as described in the validated PD in compliance with the VCS and CCB requirements.

CQC concludes the project has been implemented as described in the project description.

4.3.2 Risks to the Project (G1.10)

The PD states the overall risks to the project are low, no major risks have arisen that may cause any loss of project benefits for the local community, climate and biodiversity, so that the long-term viability is assured. Natural risk identified are fire, diseases and insects, pesticide in PD. Human-induced risk identified is illegal felling.

Fire risk is considered low because the forest rangers carried out regular forest inspections. Besides, the local forestry bureau has also set regulations on forest fire prevention and no fires occurred in the project areas as confirmed during the on-site visit. Also during this monitoring period, the fire was strictly controlled by local forest bureau who experienced in local natural risk control to minimize the potential effect which has been verified by interview with the local officer. PP has established fire prevention procedure in Forest Management Manual^{123/} and carried out educational activities with the forest law and regulations on forest fire prevention which was confirmed by on-site interview with the local residents and also found the forest law and regulations on forest fire prevention were listed on the local notice boards. Via on-site interview with local residents, technicians and government officers, it is verified that there was no fire disaster occurred during this monitoring period in project area.

The forests may be damaged by insects and disease, but the risk is considered low because it can be prevented by supervision and routine overseeing. PP have in place a Forest Management Manual and carried out training activities^{12/13/14/15/16/} about insects and disease identification and precaution. The biological measures to control pests and diseases will be adopted. Via on-site interview with local residents, technicians and government officers it is verified that there was no insects and disease disaster occurred during this monitoring period in project area.

The chemical pesticides are allowed to be used only if there is a serious pest problem erupted in the project area, while improper pesticide application would be harmful to natural environment, but the risk is considered low because pesticide is strictly managed by well trained staff to minimize the potential effect. As no insects and disease disaster occurred, the environmental friendly measures such as mixed species arrangements and seed and seedling quarantine have been adopted during this monitoring period.

Via on-site interview with local residents, technicians and government officers, it is verified that there was no significant pesticide application occurred as no insects and disease disaster occurred.

Illegal felling will be heavily punished. The forestry bureau supervises and forbids the forest cutting in the project area. Educational activities have been carried out to prevent illegal felling from happening.

Based on above assessment, it is confirmed that reasonable actions were in place and taken to mitigate risks to community and biodiversity benefits during this monitoring period.

In the process of verification, CL01 was raised requiring PP to clarify whether there is any human induced risks to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits identified in this monitoring period, and what measures had taken to mitigate these risks. The PP clarified it in CCB MR (Version 02) and CL01 is closed (see appendix 2 for details).

4.3.3 Benefit Permanence (G1.11)

To maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits, the implementation of the project activity includes the conversion from logged to protected forests. Additionally, CQC checked the Project Development Cooperation Agreement^{10/} signed between the project proponent Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd and village committee, which will make sure who would be responsible for the management of the project during the project lifetime. The carbon revenue generated from the project will be shared by PP and the village committee which will be completely used in the implementation and subsequent maintenance of the project, and also the follow-up restoration of the local ecosystem which could maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime.

The local government will take over of the responsibility beyond the project lifetime. The land use agreements with the land owner^{22/} is checked by verification team to confirm the land using is legal and the land using period is longer than the project lifetime, and in addition, according to Forest Management and Monitoring Manual, commercial logging will be forbidden and human interference will be minimized. The measures taken will extend many of the project benefits in the project lifetime.

Thus it is concluded that based on the measures taken, the project can maintain and enhance the climate, community, and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime. This is also confirmed by the on-site visit and interview with local officers and PP.

4.3.4 Stakeholder Access to Information (G3.1- G3.3)

The PD and MR are available in English and a summary document of the PD and MR are available in Chinese version. The full project documentation has been published on VERRA website for public comments and the PP had published the website of VERRA on the notice board thus the local communities and other stakeholders can easily download documents from the website.

Additionally, the PP has noticed local stakeholders through the routine villager assembly regarding project listing in VERRA website and has been confirmed by checking the routine villager assembly record^{30/} and interview with local residents. Furthermore, the PP will notice local stakeholders through the routine villager assembly regarding every milestones of the project development, including listing, registration, issuance, etc.

Stakeholder meeting was held on 17/11/2014^{19/}, prior to the start of the project activity. As per the meeting records, detailed information about the project development procedure, cost and risk, as well as the revenues were introduced in the meeting. During the site visit on 20/10/2021, by interview with the local stakeholders, it is verified that they understand the project development and process, as well as the potential costs, risks and benefits of the project activity.

Further, within the project area, Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) survey was conducted every two years since the start of the project activity^{11/}, to investigate people of the possible impact in terms of

economics, social and biodiversity aspects that the project might have on the community. This was confirmed by the PP and by checking the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) survey report provided during the site visit.

The PP informed and explained about the means of the verification process through routine villager assembly and posted on local bulletin boards before the verification site visit took place, which is confirmed by checking the routine villager assembly record and bulletin boards^{24/}.

Therefore, it is concluded that the project has provided appropriate access to information to communities and other stakeholders.

4.3.5 Stakeholder Consultation (G3.4 – G3.5)

As stated above, prior to the start of the project activity, stakeholder meeting was held for introducing people about the project impacts and ask them to raise their opinions of the project design and their willingness to participate the implementation, this has been confirmed by checking the meeting records and relevant questionnaires. It is confirmed that all the participants agreed the implementation of the project, therefore the project design was not modified and the project started with local stakeholder's agreement. Therefore, it is verified that the comments from community groups and other stakeholders have been considered and would influence project implementation if necessary through effective consultation.

Before the project started, the stakeholder input on project implementation has been documented through meeting minutes and questionnaires as stated above.

Furthermore, during this monitoring period, the stakeholder input on project implementation have been monitored through PRA process which has been confirmed by checking the "Summary of on-site Interview Notes" and 50 filled questionnaires collected during this period, and cross verified by on-site interview with the local stakeholders.

Continued communication procedures has been established and carried out which is confirmed by checking the "Communication and Feedback Mechanism"^{30/} and on-site interview with PP and the local stakeholders. According to "Communication and Feedback Mechanism", the PP appointed dedicated person as the general contact person, responsible for maintaining a direct line of communication with community members and relevant stakeholders. And PP will consider all the recommendations and comments to improve or change project implementation if necessary. Furthermore, PP promised that they will carry out the continued communication as planed in "Communication and Feedback Mechanism".

Therefore, CQC concludes all consultation and participatory process have been undertaken directly with communities and other stakeholders. The project carried out effective community consultation with stakeholders.

4.3.6 Stakeholder Participation in Decision-making and Implementation (G3.6)

As mentioned in section 4.3.5, prior to the start of the project activity, stakeholder meeting was held for introducing people about the project impacts and ask them to raise their opinions of the project design

and their willingness to participate the implementation, this has been confirmed by checking the meeting records and relevant questionnaires^{19//20/}.

Via checking all the questionnaires and by interview with the representatives during site visit, it is confirmed that all the participants agreed the implementation of the project, and the project started with local stakeholder's agreement.

Communication procedures has been established and carried out which is confirmed by checking the "Communication and Feedback Mechanism". A dedicated person was appointed by PP as the general contact person, responsible for maintaining a direct line of communication with community members and relevant stakeholders. The contact information, including its telephone number and Email address was published on village notice board.

CQC concludes the project enabled community participation in project implementation.

4.3.7 Anti-discrimination (G3.7)

During the interview with the project owner, local stakeholders, it is verified that the project proponent and all other entities involved in project design and implementation are not involved in or complicity in any form of discrimination or sexual harassment with respect to the project due to the labor contract was signed based on the <Labor Law of the People's Republic of China>^{29/} with anti-discrimination assurance.

The stakeholder involvement was inclusive without any discrimination of gender, cultural identity and religion. The national policies guarantee that no type of discrimination is tolerated at any point of the project implementation.

No discrimination complaint received during this monitoring period.

4.3.8 Stakeholder Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure (G3.8)

As set out in the PD, procedures has been established and carried out which is confirmed by checking the "Communication and Feedback Mechanism". The project owner nominated a specific staff in charge of recording and collecting conflicts and grievances of local communities and individual farmers. Forest patroller in each project site play an important role of treating with ordinary conflicts and grievances, and report to the forest stations or bureau. First, once getting the reports, project owner and local forest agency shall contact and discuss with relevant community or other stakeholders within 3 days; second, the specific staff of project proponent should propose a solution and mediation within a week based on all collected information from relevant parties; finally, the complications or grievances shall be dealt within 30 days.

No grievances received during this monitoring period.

Hence, it is confirmed that the formal grievance process was outlined sufficiently in the monitoring report and confirmed on-site during discussion with project personnel and it is concluded that the grievance redress procedure has been implemented according to the project's validated design.

4.3.9 Worker Relations (G3.9 – G3.12)

The steps taken to verify the project proponent has taken actions and implemented measures to ensure that the relationship between the project and workers meet the CCB requirements have been listed as below:

- Build the capacity of the communities through job training and employment.

As per the Training records provided by PP, the training for employees related to tending skills, management as well as knowledge regarding carbon sink and forest has been held once a year since the start of the project activity, which was further confirmed during on-site interview with local stakeholders.

Further, the PP has established the Management and Monitoring Manual. Each technician, when carrying out monitoring activities, must study the Management and Monitoring Manual in advance.

Thus, CQC concludes that capacity building has been carried out for the communities through job training and employment.

- Ensure people from the communities are given an equal opportunity to fill work positions.

The project makes an effort to hire locally as confirmed by the PP and local Forest Bureau during the on-site visit and hiring criteria are based on skill sets without discrimination. Actually, as per the worker payroll of the project^{31/}, 1800 persons (about 60% are women) from the local communities are involved in the project activity during this monitoring period. Thus, CQC concludes people from the communities are given an equal opportunity to fill work positions.

- Ensure the project is in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations regarding worker's rights and workers are informed of their rights.

The local people would be under the protection of Labor Law of the People's Republic of China and no forced labor is allowed, and they are free to establish and join any labor organizations as they wish. There will be regular training provided to workers before they start the job, which will clearly indicate their rights and mechanism for grievance appeal, and the worker's rights are guaranteed in the labour contracts for each worker.

Via on-site interview with local stakeholders, it was found that they know about the worker's rights, and no labor law violations occurred in this monitoring period. Thus, CQC concludes the project is in compliance with all relevant laws and regulations regarding worker's rights and workers are informed of their rights.

- Inform workers of risks and how to minimize risk and minimize workplace risk using best work practices

As mentioned in MR, forest protection and forest fire prevention, targeted safety training have been carried out for possible risks in the construction, which is confirmed during on-site interview with officials from local government and other stakeholders. Furthermore, Security Emergency Plan^{32/} with regard to forest fire, production safety accidents, biological disasters and floods has been established.

Based on above step-wise assessment, it is concluded that the relationship between workers and the project upholds the intent and design presented in the validated project description.

CCB MR described that the periodical training had been held since Sep 2015. CL02 was raised as no evidence was provided to support it during on-site visit. CL02 is closed (see appendix 2 for details).

4.3.10 Management Capacity (G4.2 – G4.3)

- Demonstrate the project possesses or is acquiring the key technical and management skills required to implement the project successfully.

Key technical and management skills required to implement the project are mentioned in the MR. Management team is consisted by Local Forestry Bureau, Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd.and Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd.

Local Forestry bureau and Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd.formed the expert group (Management team) who is in charge of guiding and coordinating the project's overall implementation and decision-making.

Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. is experienced in carbon measurement and monitoring. Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. has successfully developed many different carbon projects^{33/}, including verification and verification under VCS and CDM standard. CQC concludes the project possesses the key technical and management skills required to implement the project successfully.

- Demonstrate the financial health of the implementing organization is adequate to support project implementation

Local Forestry Bureau is government agency, and both Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd.and Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. are legally registered company in China, and according to the public information listed in National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System^{34/}, none of them were involved in nor complicit in any form of corruption such as bribery, embezzlement, fraud, favouritism, cronyism, nepotism, extortion, and collusion.

Thus, it is concluded that the financial health of the implementing organizations is verified and they can ensure adequate financial support over the project lifetime.

- Provide assurance that the project is not complicit in any form of corruption.

As legally registered companies according to above assessment, the project proponent and other involved entity in project implementation have the obligation to comply with relevant regulations, including anti-corruption law. No entity was complicit in any form of corruption during this monitoring period, which is confirmed via on-site interview.

Therefore, it is verified that the project has the capacity to implement the project in accordance with the validated project description.

4.3.11 Commercially Sensitive Information (Rules 3.5.13 – 3.5.14)

None of the commercially sensitive information found in all the documents of the project.

4.3.12 Rights Protection and Free, Prior and Informed Consent (G5.1-G5.5)

The steps taken to verify actions taken and measures implemented by the project proponent to protect the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities and other stakeholders are listed as below:

- Existing property rights are recognized, respected and supported

The ownership of the forest land of the project belongs to the local village committee, and the right to use the forest land belongs to the farmers. The farmers signed Project Development Cooperation Agreement with Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. (Founded in May 2013 and hereafter “ Zhong Che ”) on 06-01-2015, the local village committee authorizes Zhong Che to use the land for the forest management. Due to the shortage of funds in the later stage of project operation, Zhong Che terminated the agreement on project development. On 15-02-2019, Tripartite Project Cooperation Development Agreement was signed by local village committee, Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd.(Founded in January 2019) and Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co.Ltd. Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd. was the new project proponent, and Zhong Che was the consultant of the project. Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd.(hereafter “ the project proponent ”), established in January 2019.

The project proponent has the ownership and legal right of the carbon sink credit of this project. The property rights is protected by Land Use Agreement and Forestry Law of the People's Republic of China. There is no dispute over property rights.

- The project does not encroach uninvited on private, community or government property

Private, community or government property is protected by law. Via on-site interview with the local officer and villagers, In addition, the carbon sink cooperation and development agreement is based on the principle of voluntary and legal. So the project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property or government property.

it is verified that no entity can encroach the private, community or government property and change the land usage type without all forest farms and villager's consent which was confirmed during the onsite interview with the local stakeholders.

- The free, prior and informed consent has been obtained of those whose property rights are affected by the project.

Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd. and the village committee had signed a carbon sink cooperation and development agreement, which clarifies the forest land rights,responsibility and obligation by all parties during the project crediting period. The free, prior and informed consent were based on voluntary principle and confirmed by CQC veirification team during on-site interview and reviewing the related agreement.

- Appropriate restitution or compensation has been allocated to any parties whose lands have been or will be affected by the project.

As stated in MR, it is verified that the project conducts forestry management conversion of 23,769.42 ha logged to Protected Forest (LtPF) in Hongshan Town, Suizhou City, Hubei Province of China., and there is no residents to be migrated by on site interview with local residents and local forestry bureau , therefore no compensation is requested.

- Project activities do not lead to the involuntary removal or relocation or property rights holders from their lands or territories, and does not force them to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood.

As stated in MR, prior to the project implementation, the project land use continues to be used as the timber harvest land, and the project is to protect forest instead of logging. Through onsite interview and reviewing the certificate of forest rights issued by local Forestry Bureau, CQC verification team confirms villagers with forest land also have no other forest land outside the project boundary, which will not lead to the transfer of project activities. .Additionally, by checking the PRA process results and Carbon Sink Cooperation and Development Agreements signed between local forest farmer and PP, it is verified that all the local stakeholders voluntarily support the implementation of project prior to the start of the project.

Therefore the project activities does not lead to involuntary removal or relocation of property rights holders from their lands or territories, and does no force rights holder to relocate activities important to their culture or livelihood.

- Actions have been taken, if necessary, to reduce illegal activities that could affect the project's impacts.

Via on-site interview with local stakeholders, it is confirmed that the area is considered as being peaceful and excluded from social conflict.

Under current law of China, any illegal logging activities will be fined or punished. Currently all project lands are defined for forestry purpose by local government. Deforestation must be carried on under the approval of local Forestry Bureau, and the forests are nursed by project staff regularly as a result of the implementation of the project, so there will not be illegal deforestation. The project benefits are gained from legal activities. No illegal logging activities happened in this monitoring period, which is confirmed via on-site interview with PP and local forestry bureau.

Therefore, the project's climate, community and biodiversity impacts will not be affected by the illegal activities.

- No activities are undertaken by the project that could prejudice the outcome of an unresolved dispute relevant to the project over lands, territories and resources in the project zone.

Via on-site interview with local stakeholders, CQC verification team confirms that there is no unresolved dispute relevant to the project over lands, territories and resources in the project zone.

Therefore, based on above steps taken, CQC concludes the project has protected the rights of Indigenous Peoples, communities and other stakeholders in accordance to the Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards and the validated project design.

4.3.13 Legal Status (G5.6)

Both the PD and the MR provided an extensive list of internal agreements, regulations, national and local laws and explained their applicability to the project and the way compliance with the law is achieved by the project where applicable. The laws and regulations are confirmed through checking the public website which has been compared with the actual situation of the project by on-site interview during this monitoring period, and by interview with the local officers, no violation of any local or national laws or regulations were noticed.

4.3.14 Other Programs (G5.9)

Via on-site interview and checking the China Certified Emission Reduction (CCER) Website and also CDM, GS websites, it is verified that the project has neither been registered, nor seek registration under any other GHG programs.

4.4 Climate

As per CCBS, this section is not required for projects that have met the requirements of a recognized GHG Program.

CQC confirms the project has been approved by VERRA as a VCS project. Thus this section is not required.

4.4.1 Net Impact (CL2.2, CL3.1, CL3.3)

N/A

4.4.2 Leakage Mitigation (CL3.2)

N/A

4.4.3 Climate Impact Monitoring Plan (CL4.1, GL1.3, GL1.4)

N/A

4.4.4 Dissemination of Monitoring Plan and Results (CL4.2)

N/A

4.4.5 Optional Gold Level: Climate Change Adaptation Measures (GL1.3)

N/A

4.4.6 Optional Gold Level: Climate Change Adaptation Benefits (GL1.4)

N/A

4.5 Community

4.5.1 Community Impacts (CM2.1)

The identified community groups are Local residents, Migrant rural workers and Female rural workers in MR. The analysis of the net benefits to the community groups is conducted making comparison with the baseline scenario.

Based on the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews^{28/} and questionnaires^{27/} provided by PP, the living conditions and environment has been improved for local residents as the project activities have brought them employment opportunities and increased their income. The project activity also provide employment opportunities for migrant rural workers thus they may choose to work in their living villages instead of going outside. Female rural workers were provided with training and have more chance to participate in local activities compared with the baseline scenario. The above benefits were also confirmed by CQC via on-site interview with local stakeholders.

Therefore, the assessment of community impacts in MR is accurate.

4.5.2 Negative Community Impact Mitigation (CM2.2)

As mentioned in PD and MR, no negative well-being impacts on communities were identified for the project activity, and there is no HCVs in the project zone, which is confirmed via on site interview with local stakeholders.

4.5.3 Net Positive Community Well-being (CM2.3)

As mentioned above, the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews and questionnaires provided by PP has justified the project benefits, and no negative well-being impacts on communities were identified and observed during this monitoring period. Thus the net impact on community well-being is obviously positive.

The net positive community well-being of the project activity described in MR includes overcome poverty, create more local job opportunities, reduce migrant rural workers, improve gender equity, promote technical and economic capability of local communities and enhance social cohesion. Via checking the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews and questionnaires provided by PP, as well as the on site interviewing, CQC confirms the net community well-being is positive.

4.5.4 Protection of High Conservation Values (CM2.4)

No HCVs was identified related to community well-being in the project zone based on above assessment and assessed in the validated PD, thus none of the HCVs related to community well-being will be negatively affected by the project.

4.5.5 Other Stakeholder Impacts (CM3.2-CM3.3)

The MR states that no negative offsite effects are expected during this monitoring period same as the validated PD. Oppositely, the project provides valued experience of forest management and carbon trading to other stakeholder, which in some way could encourage more followers to engage in similar projects for sustainable development.

4.5.6 Community Monitoring Plan (CM4.1, CM4.2, GL2.2, GL2.3, GL2.5)

The PP carried out the community monitoring as per established community monitoring plan in the validated PD.

Following steps were taken by the verification team to verify the community monitoring results:

- The dates, frequency and sampling methods used are in accordance with the validated project design

As per the PD, procedures of PRA should be established and PRA process consisted with Semi-structured interviews and questionnaire survey will be conducted once every five years after initial monitoring.

Via on site interview and checking the PRA Procedures^{25/}, Summary of Semi-structured interviews, and Questionnaires, CQC confirms procedures of PRA has been established, Semi-structured interviews has been conducted in Sep 2019 and questionnaire survey has been conducted in 12/2020.

Thus, CQC concludes the dates, frequency and sampling methods used for community monitoring in this monitoring period are in accordance with the validated project design.

- The results of monitoring

Via checking the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews and 50 questionnaires collected by monitoring team, it is verified that the Semi-structured interviews was conducted in 10 villagers randomly selected by PRA team, and questionnaires were distributed to different community groups as defined in the PD including Migrant rural workers, Local rural workers, Female rural workers and the key variables set in the questionnaire are in line with the plan in validated PD. Via comparing the information in the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews and questionnaires, it is verified that monitoring results listed in the MR is correct and actual.

- The evaluation of monitoring, including evaluations by the affected communities.

Via checking the PRA Procedures, Summary of Semi-structured Interviews, and Questionnaires, it is verified that PP established a series of procedures including organizing monitoring team, training, preparation and survey. The sub procedures are verified as capable to finish this monitoring.

By combining the information in the Summary of Semi-structured Interviews and questionnaires, it is confirmed that during this monitoring period,

92.5% of stakeholders believe that project activities have brought them employment opportunities and increased their income;

100% of the representatives thought there was an improvement of their capability and technical skills due to the project.

100% of the representatives thought there was an improvement of social activities resulting from the project.

During the on-site verification, stakeholder meeting with different community groups has been carried out on 20/10/2021 and 21/10/2021 in local forest office. During the meeting, the affected community representatives were interviewed by verification team, and all the representatives confirmed that the household income has been improved due to the implementation of the project which provided more local job opportunities, improve their capability and technical skills and increase social activities.

Based on above evaluation from the affected communities, it is verified that the monitoring results reflect the actual community impact from each community groups affected by the project.

□ The effectiveness of measures taken to maintain or enhance all identified high conservation values related to community well-being.

Not applicable, as no HCVs were identified in the project zone.

Thus it is concluded that the community monitoring during this monitoring period was carried out in accordance to the validated project description.

4.5.7 Community Monitoring Plan Dissemination (CM4.3)

The community monitoring results, community monitoring plan and summary of the community monitoring plan in local language, have been made publicly available on the VCS and CCB website, which can be confirmed by checking the corresponding web page.

In addition, hard copies of the community monitoring plan and community monitoring manual have been distributed among local stakeholders by PP and local government which is confirmed and verified by interview with the local stakeholders.

Furthermore, the project participant published the website access approach, community monitoring plan and community monitoring manual on the local bulletin boards to explain the monitoring process to communities and other stakeholders which has been verified by checking the photo of the communities and stakeholders watching and seen by verification team during site inspection.

Finally, meetings with stakeholders have been carried out during site verification. During the meeting, project participant introduced the community monitoring results during this monitoring period and copies of community monitoring results is available at the meeting room to anyone requests it. Verification team has participated and the results are also verified by checking the meeting minute and questionnaires filled by stakeholders.

In conclusion, the results of community monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated project description.

CL03 was raised and successfully closed (see appendix 2 for details) requiring PP to provide relevant evidences and justify in CCB MR that community impact monitoring has been carried out in this monitoring period as per the monitoring plan in the CCB PD, including:

- 1) the procedures have been established and executed, including the composition of the PRA teams, SOPs for the PRA process, training of PRA teams and PRA field survey plan
- 2) the information about the Semi-structured interviews (the date of the interview, sample methods of interviewees, the results of the interview for each identified interviewees,etc)
- 3) The information about the questionnaires (how many questionnaires were distributed and collected, how the interviewees were identified, and the results of the questionnaires,etc)
- 4) The overall conclusion (monitoring results) of the Semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.

In the process of verification, CQC raised CL04, requiring the PP to clarify how the monitoring results was disseminated and made publicly available, and how summaries are communicated to the communities and other stakeholders through appropriate means in Section CM4.3 and B4.3. The PP clarified it in CCB MR (Version 02) and CL04 is closed (see appendix 2 for details).

4.5.8 Optional Gold Level: Short-term and Long-term Community Benefits (GL2.2)

N/A

4.5.9 Optional Gold Level: Smallholder/community member Risks (GL2.3)

N/A

4.5.10 Optional Gold Level: Marginalized and/or Vulnerable Community Groups (GL2.4)

N/A

4.5.11 Optional Gold Level: Net Impacts on Women (GL2.5)

N/A

4.5.12 Optional Gold Level: Benefit Sharing Mechanisms (GL2.6)

N/A

4.5.13 Optional Gold Level: Governance and Implementation Structures (GL2.8)

N/A

4.5.14 Optional Gold Level: Smallholders/Community Members Capacity Development (GL2.9)

N/A

4.6 Biodiversity

4.6.1 Biodiversity Changes (B2.1)

The monitoring report states that the project seeks to change the biodiversity intact through the Scientific and rational forest management project.

It is planned to evaluate the biodiversity element of species of plants and animals in the validated PD the indicators including native species of vegetation and animals which are considered as consistent with the project PD to identify and quantify the native species of plants and animals within the project boundary.

A list of biodiversity variables is reported in the monitoring report and the justification used to attribute biodiversity changes to the project's activities was assessed by verification team as following,

- For species of vegetation, native species are protected in the project boundary which are Oak, Masson Pine, Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest and Coniferous and Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest ,this is verified by onsite observation,and interview with the local official.
- For species of animals, with the scientific and rational afforestation implementation and management, the project was beneficial to hydrological cycle, reduce drought and flood risk; promote soil nutrient cycle, improve local micro-climate and other ecological environment, and all these change attracted the animals especially the birds to live inside the project area and project zone, this is verified by on-site inspection to the project area, the verification team found some birds inhabiting in the forest. Furthermore, a field survey records about change of biodiversity was provided to verification team during site visit and through checking the survey results, it is verified that there are many endangered birds living in forest habitat observed around the monitoring points and sample lines, which could prove the increase of animals during this monitoring period, and this is also verified by on-site inspection to the monitoring points and sample lines and remote observation of the project area.

In conclusion, the project's assessment of changes in biodiversity resulting from project activities in the project zone during the monitoring period are verified as accurate. There is no reason to believe the project area remains less rich in biodiversity that the project start.

4.6.2 Mitigation Actions (B2.3)

As justified in PD, it is proved that the project has no negative impacts on biodiversity and thus no special measures need to be taken for maintenance or enhancement of biodiversity and high conservation value attributes.

Forest management in this project was used local species, implement activity through scientific and reasonable method with no burning and slash, and protect the existing vegetation as much as possible which has been determined in the project design and confirmed by site inspection.

Therefore, it is concluded that no negative impacts on biodiversity or HCV attributes recorded, so no measures were necessary to mitigate impacts, beyond the routine operation of the project.

4.6.3 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts (B2.2)

Based on the situation of biodiversity within the project zone at baseline scenario, the project area will continue to be barren or degraded land and with low biodiversity condition. The main change by the project scenario is to create forest cover of the project area with local native species which has great vitality and adaptation to project zone.

Forest management in this project was used local species, implement activity through scientific and reasonable method with no burning and slash, and protect the existing vegetation as much as possible instead of logging . Therefore the implementation of this project will not decrease biodiversity of project sites. Project sites will gradually become ecological community with the domain species of tall trees, which will improve biodiversity.

Furthermore, the project was beneficial to hydrological cycle, reduce drought and flood risk; promote soil nutrient cycle, improve local micro-climate and other ecological environment, and all these change attracted the animals especially the birds to live inside the project area and project zone, this is verified by on-site inspection to the project area

Therefore the project activity will facilitate biodiversity protection of the whole project zone.

In conclusion, the net impact of the project's activities on biodiversity are positive.

CL05 was raised as it was not clear whether the expected biodiversity changes in CCB PD has been achieved, as the expected biodiversity changes in CCB PD is to increase the species of plants and animals, and the achieved changes in MR is the increase of the forest cover in the project zone. PP justify the relationships and rationals between above indicators, and CL05 is closed (see appendix 2 for details).

4.6.4 High Conservation Values Protected (B2.4)

No HCVs has been identified related to biodiversity based on on site interview and in line with the validated PD.

4.6.5 Invasive Species (B2.5)

Through onsite inspection and interview the local stakeholders, the planted species of the project activity includes Oak, Masson Pine, Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest and Coniferous and Broad-Leaved Mixed Forest, which are all native species. No invasive species were identified.

4.6.6 Impacts of Non-native Species (B2.6)

During this monitoring period, no invasive species have been used in the project activity, thus there are no adverse effects from non-native species.

4.6.7 GMO Exclusion (B2.7)

The PP declared and assured that no GMOs has been and will be used in the project to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals which is defined in the PD and verified by checking the Seedling Purchase Contract and on site observations.

4.6.8 Inputs Justification (B2.8)

As justified in PD, the chemical pesticides are allowed to be used only if there is a serious disease problem erupted in the project area, and the pesticides will be used in accordance with the National Pesticides Policy. Biological control agents will be used in the project according to local Pest Control and Prevention Policy.

During this monitoring period, no chemical pesticides and Biological control agents were used in the project area as no insects and disease disaster occurred, which has been confirmed via on site interview.

4.6.9 Negative Offsite Biodiversity Impacts (B3.1) and Mitigation Actions (B3.2)

The MR and PD both state that no potential negative impacts on biodiversity outside of the project zone would resulting from the project activities. The project contributes to the conservation of the biodiversity and ecosystem. No actual impacts were observed during the site visit and/or reported during the monitoring period.

4.6.10 Net Offsite Biodiversity Benefits (B3.3)

During this monitoring period, no potential negative offsite impacts on biodiversity were identified.

4.6.11 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan (B4.1, B4.2, GL3.4)

As per the monitoring plan in PD, three types of monitoring indicators will be chosen, including Pressure, State, and Response (PSR). The state variables includes Afforestation area and Species of vegetation, the Pressure variables includes Number of fires occurred and Effected forest area suffered by insects and disease, Response variables includes Forest area under prevention from fires, insects and diseases, forest area recovered from fire, insects or diseases and number of trees replanted.

The PP carried out the biodiversity monitoring as per established biodiversity monitoring plan in the validated PD. Following steps were taken by verification team to verify the biodiversity monitoring results.

- The dates, frequency and sampling methods used are in accordance with the validated project design

As per the monitoring plan in PD, monitoring of state variables (including Forest cover and Species of vegetation and Species of animals) should be carried out by sample plots before every verification. The project activity conduct forestry management conversion of 23,769.42 ha logged to Protected Forest (LtPF) in this monitoring period which had been confirmed by checking the VCS Verification Report. Species of vegetation has been monitored in sampled plots. Based on pictures provided by PP and on-

site observation in the process of VCS verification, all of species have also been observed in the project area.

As per the monitoring plan in PD, monitoring of Pressure variables and Response variables should be carried out the once a year and the monitoring results should be recorded by forest rangers and confirmed by local Forest Bureau. Based on on-site interview, all planted area in the project activity are under prevention control from fires, insects and diseases, and no fire, insects or diseases happened in this monitoring period.

□ The results of monitoring

Via checking the verified VCS Verification Report, and the pictures provided by PP and on-site observation and interview, it is verified that monitoring results listed in the MR is correct and actual.

□ The effectiveness of measures taken to maintain or enhance all identified high conservation values related to community well-being.

As mentioned in PD, there is no high conservation values related to community well-being in the project area, which was confirmed via on site interview.

Thus it is concluded that the biodiversity monitoring during this monitoring period was carried out in accordance to the validated project description.

4.6.12 Biodiversity Monitoring Plan Dissemination (B4.3)

The biodiversity monitoring results, biodiversity monitoring plan and summary of the biodiversity monitoring plan in local language, have been made publicly available on the VCS and CCB website, which can be confirmed by checking the corresponding web page.

In addition, hard copies of the biodiversity monitoring plan and biodiversity monitoring manual have been distributed among local stakeholders by PP and local government which is confirmed and verified by interview with the local stakeholders.

Furthermore, the project participant published the website access approach, biodiversity monitoring plan and biodiversity monitoring manual on the local bulletin boards to explain the monitoring process to communities and other stakeholders which has been verified by checking the photo of the communities and stakeholders watching and seen by verification team during site inspection.

Finally, meetings with stakeholders have been carried out during site verification. During the meeting, project participant introduced the biodiversity monitoring results during this monitoring period and copies of biodiversity monitoring results is available at the meeting room to anyone requests it. Verification team has participated and the results are also verified by checking the meeting minute and questionnaires filled by stakeholders

In conclusion, the results of biodiversity monitoring were disseminated in accordance with the validated project description.

4.6.13 Optional Gold Level: Trigger Species Population Trends (GL3.3)

N/A

4.6.14 Optional Gold Level: Effectiveness of Threat Reduction Actions (GL3.4)

N/A

4.7 Additional Project Implementation Information

No additional project implementation is relevant for reporting here as details on project implementation are included in preceding sections.

4.8 Additional Project Impact Information

The reported project impact information was sufficient and suitable for the verification of the project's CCB impacts.

5 VERIFICATION CONCLUSION

China Quality Certification Centre (CQC) is commissioned by Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co. Ltd to perform a verification on the project – Hubei Hongshan IFM (conversion of logged to protected forest) Project against the requirements of CCB Standards version 3.1.

Based on the documented evidence and an on-site assessment, CQC confirms the project has been implemented in accordance with the validated project description and complies with the verification criteria for projects set out in CCB Version 3.1.

The net positive climate, community, and biodiversity benefits achieved by the project during the project implementation period is valid, and the project has achieved its stated climate, community, and biodiversity objectives.

Monitoring Period: From 01/01/2015 to 30/06/2019

APPENDIX 1: DOCUMENTS REVIEWED OR REFERENCED

- /1/ CCB Standards version 3.1;
- /2/ CCB Program Rules, v3.1;
- /3/ Program Definitions, v4.0;
- /4/ VM0010, Methodology for Improved Forest Management: Conversion from Logged to Protected Forest, Version 1.3 ;
- /5/ Tool for the Demonstration and Assessment of Additionality in VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Project Activities”(VT0001 VCS AFOLU Additionality Tool v3.0) dated 01/02/2012;
- /6/ The evidence to demonstrate the present and prior environmental conditions of the project area <https://baike.baidu.com>;
- /7/ CCB MR (version 01) ,dated 26/04/2021;
- /8/ CCB MR (version 02), 15/12/2021;
- /9/ Summary document of the PD dated 21/04/2021;
- /10/ Consultant Agreement signed between Zhong Che (Beijing)Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd. and local village committee on 06/01/2015;
Cooperation Development Agreement by local committee, PP and project consultant(Zhong Che) dated 15/02/2019.
- /11/ Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) report of the project dated 01/2015,updating once every two years;
- /12/ Technical Training Record and safety, carbon sink training held by PP and local Forestry Bureau, and Local village committee in project area in year 2014~2019
- /13/ Project Starting Date evidence (Approval of application for logging suspension showed that the IFM start date is 01/01/2015 based on the date when the logging suspended.
- /14/ Logging plan from local forestry bureau;
- /15/ Meeting minutes on decision for development of the proposed project
- /16/ Stakeholder Meeting Notice, and meeting records
- /17/ CCB Questionnaires collected dated 12/2014 and 12/2020;;
- /18/ Certificate of Forest Rights issued by local Forestry Bureau;
- /19/ Land use agreements
- /20/ Forest Management and Monitoring Manual in Aug 2015;
- /21/ Regulations for Implementing the Forest Law
- /22/ Regulations for Grain for Green
- /23/ Regulations for the Protection of Wild Plants and Animals
- /24/ Regulation for Nature Reserve
- /25/ Regulation for Forest Fire Control
- /26/ Regulation for Forest Diseases and Pests Control
- /27/ Routine villager assembly record
- /28/ Certification of land rights issued by local bureau of land resources
- /29/ Project Layout including the GIS system and other geographic data;
- /30/ Labor Law of the People's Republic of China
- /31/ Communication and Feedback Mechanism established by Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co. Ltd, in 01/2015;
- /32/ Payroll of Worker involved in project ;
- /33/ Security Emergency Plan
- /34/ CDM and VCS project list developed by Zhong Che (Beijing) Environment Energy Technology Development Co., Ltd.
- /35/ National Enterprise Credit Information Publicity System
- /36/ National Forest Management Plan (2016-2050)
- /37/ Business License of Zhejiang Zhongzheng Forestry Development Co.,Ltd
- /38/ <https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/CCB/1935>
- /39/ Biodiversity Survey Report and Community Baseline Survey Report of the project

APPENDIX 2: CLARIFICATION REQUESTS, CORRECTIVE ACTION REQUESTS AND FORWARD ACTION REQUESTS

Table 2 Resolution of Corrective Action and Clarification Requests

Clarifications and corrective action requests by verification team	Summary of project participants response	Verification team conclusion
<p>CL01 Pls clarify whether there is any human induced risks to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits identified in this monitoring period, and what measures had <i>taken</i> to mitigate these risks.</p>	<p>The main human-induced risk is man made felling. According to the State Forestry Law, If felling without a license of forest harvest or felling is not done in accordance with the license of forest harvest, it will be considered illegal forest harvesting. The forestry bureau supervises and forbids the forest cutting in the project area. If whoever is found to illegal felling, the forest farm will keep statistics, and require such person or entity replant the same number of trees.</p> <p>During the monitoring period, the monitoring work of stealing felling was strengthened, and there was no stealing felling.</p>	<p>CQC confirms the human-induced risk to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits has been identified sufficiently in MR (Version 02), and mitigation measures taken is effective. CL01 is closed.</p>
<p>CL02 Pls provide training records and training notice or other relevant evidence that periodical training had been held since 2015.</p>	<p>Training records have been submitted to VVB.</p>	<p>CQC checked the training records provided by PP and confirms the training had been held yearly since 2015. CL02 is closed.</p>
<p>CL03 Pls provide relevant evidence and justify in CCB MR that community impact monitoring has been carried out in this monitoring period as per the monitoring plan in the CCB PD, including: 1) the procedures have been established and executed, including the composition of the PRA teams, SOPs for the PRA process, training of PRA teams and PRA field survey plan 2) the information about the Semi-structured interviews (the date of the interview, sample methods of interviewees, the results of the interview for each identified interviewees, etc) 3) The information about the</p>	<p>The results of semi-structured interviews and questionnaires have been described in MR. Relevant evidence has been submitted to VVB.</p>	<p>CQC checked the PRA Procedures, Summary of Semi-structured interviews, and Questionnaires, and confirms the procedures have been established and executed. PRA survey consisted by Semi-structured interviews and questionnaire investigation had been conducted in this monitoring period, and the overall conclusion (monitoring results) in MR (Version 02) is consistent with the Summary of Semi-structured interviews, and Questionnaires provided by PP. CL03 is closed.</p>

Clarifications and corrective action requests by verification team	Summary of project participants response	Verification team conclusion
<p>questionnaires (how many questionnaires were distributed and collected, how the interviewees were identified, and the results of the questionnaires,etc) 4) The overall conclusion (monitoring results) of the Semi-structured interviews and questionnaires.</p>		
<p>CL04 Pls clarify how the monitoring results was disseminated and made publicly available, and how summaries are communicated to the communities and other stakeholders through appropriate means in Section CM4.3 and B4.3.</p>	<p>After the monitoring activities finished, the project owner prepared a draft monitoring report along with a short version of MR summary in Chinese which has been published on Verra website. Also,the summary of monitoring results have been disseminated to local communities through local project leader and the contact information of monitoring staff from project owner has also been provided in case the local communities have any questions regarding the monitoring procedures and results.</p>	<p>CQC checked the Verra website and confirms the MR summary in Chinese version publicly available. Via on-site interview, it is concluded summaries are communicated to the communities through local project leader and the contact information of monitoring staff from project owner has also been provided. CQC confirms the dissemination of the monitoring results is described correctly in Section CM4.3 and B4.3 in MR (Version 02). CL04 is closed.</p>
<p>CL05 It was not clear whether the expected biodiversity changes in CCB PD has been achieved, as the expected biodiversity changes in PD is to increase the species of plants and animals, and the achieved changes in MR is the increase of the forest cover in the project zone. Pls justify the relationships and rationals above indicators.</p>	<p>This project increases the forest cover area and habitats of animals and plants, which can lead to the increase of animals and plants and improve the local ecological environment.</p>	<p>CQC concludes the rational is reasonable and convincible. CL05 is closed.</p>