

Dear Verra Team,

I am writing to you on behalf of Congolaise Industrielle des Bois (CIB), a subsidiary of Olam Agri. CIB is the owner of the project VCS 1052 -NORTH PIKOUNDA REDD+ in the Republic of Congo, which has undergone its second verification.

KBS, the VVB contracted, carried out the site verification visit in the project area in January 2023. In the subsequent months from February 2023 until December 2023 four rounds of findings were opened, which were addressed by us and finalized by December 2023. This was done as we knew the need of finalizing the verification of the project before the grace period for the application of the new permanence risk tool. Notwithstanding, the project finalization, technical review and final approval by KBS, which were planned to be finished by the end of 2023 could only finish by February 2024. High workload of the audit team and significant travel to various project sites led them to not meet this deadline.

Indeed, the monitoring report was submitted to KBS in 2022 using the v 4.0 of the Non-Permanence Risk tool (NPRT) and expecting to meet the deadline proposed by Verra at the end of 2023, to accomplish with the version 4.0 of the tool. KBS had to thoroughly review multiple projects in different geographies in 2023, which led to delay in submission. They strove to keep up with all their commitments, unfortunately, they were not able to officially submit the verification report to Verra before January 2024.

Therefore, CIB, as the project owner would like to kindly ask Verra for an exemption to use the old version of the NPRT: version 4.0. A change in the Non Permanence Risk Tool at this point on the verification will imply additional resource mobilization for undertaking the revision to meet the new requirements. This would lead to a delay in meeting the commitments that have been made to multiple stakeholders of the project, extra consultancy costs.

With aforementioned context, CIB as the project owner requests VERRA for an exemption to continue to use the old version of NPRT for this instance of verification.

Thank you for considering our request. We are looking forward to receiving your positive response.

With kind regards,



Ashish Malik  
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Olam Agri