



One Thomas Circle, NW
Suite 1050
Washington, DC 20005
www.verra.org

02 August 2021

Colin Moore
Regional Carbon Advisor - Mekong
Wildlife Conservation Society

Dear Colin Moore,

This letter is in reference to your exemption request submitted to Verra on 25 May 2021. It is our understanding that Ministry of Environment of the Royal Government of Cambodia (the Project Proponent), is requesting an exemption from section 3.2.7 of the *VCS Standard v4.1* for the *Keo Seima Wildlife Sanctuary REDD+* (Project 1650). The exemption requested by the Project Proponent is to extend the use of the initial baseline without the need to reassess it until 31 December 2021.

Based on the information provided to Verra, it is understood that Project 1650 aims to nest into a national Forest Reference Emissions Level (FREL) and that a National REDD+ Program should be completed in the year 2022. Verra also understands that in the year 2022, the project would nest into such a FREL, provided that it has been registered under the JNR Requirements.

Verra analyzed this exemption based on Section 3.2.7 of the *VCS Standard v4.1*, which states, "For all IFM, REDD, WRC and ACoGS project types, the project proponent shall, for the duration of the project, reassess the baseline every 10 years and have this validated at the same time as the subsequent verification."

Considering the facts and background information provided during this analysis, Verra is able to grant an exemption from Section 3.2.7 of the *VCS Standard v4.1*, to the Project Proponent, allowing the project proponent to use the initial baseline without the need to reassess that baseline until 31 December 2021.

The Royal Government of Cambodia has not defined how long it will allow the use of stand-alone project baselines, and Verra is aware that the government is working on a nesting approach. Verra is not responsible for the impact(s) of any governmental disposition issued subsequent to the issuance of this letter on the use of the stand-alone project baseline of Project 1650.

Please note, exemptions are granted by Verra on a case-by-case basis and do not form the basis of, or set a precedent for, future exemption request approvals or denials.

This letter will be uploaded to the Verra Registry as a public document.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tanushree Bagh Mukherjee".

Tanushree Bagh Mukherjee
Senior Program Manager, Verra Programs
Verra