



Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard

SILVADOR CLIMATE ACTION



GreenRaise

Document Prepared by GreenRaise Consulting GmbH

1010 Vienna, Rudolfsplatz 9/8, Austria

Tel: +1 604 619 1585 Email: admin@green-raise.com Website: www.green-raise.com

Project Title	Silvador Climate Action Initiative
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Project Location	Romania, Târgoviște
Project Proponent(s)	Silvador Company SRL, Forest Capital SRL Vlad Chitulescu, v.chitulescu@silvador.ro , +40 0740 208 268
Assessor Contact	EPIC Sustainability Services Private Limited R.B. Venkataramanaiah, Director No.41, Anugraha, 1 st Cross, Sundarnagar +91 95909 29936
Project Lifetime	01 August 2020 – 31 July 2050; 30-year lifetime
Monitoring Period of this Report	01 August 2020 – 31 December 2022
History of SD VISTA Status	No Historical Status
Other Certification Programs	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) #4511
Expected Future Assessment Schedule	Not currently known

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1 SUMMARY OF SDG CONTRIBUTIONS

Table 1: Summary of SDG Contributions

Row number	Quantitative Project Contributions during Monitoring Period	Contributions during Project Lifetime	SDG Target	SDG Indicator	Net Impact on SDG Indicator	Section Reference	Claim, Asset, or Label
1)	62% (954 ha) of project lands certified to the FSC Management Standard during the monitor period 2020-2022	100% (1,538 hectares) of project forestlands owned by Silvador is certified to a recognized third-party sustainable management standard.	12.0	Increase in the hectares of land certified to sustainable forest management standards.	Implemented activities to increase	3.1, 4.1, Impacts #1, 2, 3, 4, 5	Claim
2)	62,040 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO ₂ e) prevented from entering atmosphere during the monitoring period 2020-2022.	Prevent the release of an estimated 343,978 tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions into the atmosphere during project lifetime.	13.0	Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed.	Implemented activities to increase	3.1, 4.1, Impacts #6, 7, 8	SD VISTA-labeled VCU
3)	Project has Increased implementation of sustainable management of forest types by halting harvest on 1,538 ha of land (~30,680 m ³ of avoided harvest during the monitoring period 2020-2022)	Continuation of halted deforestation on 1,538 ha of forest lands spanning project lifetime 30 yrs. (~241,881 m ³ of avoided harvest throughout the lifetime of the project).	15.2	15.2.1 – Progress towards sustainable forest management.	Implemented activities to increase	3.1, 4.1, Impacts #2, 4,	Claim

2 PROJECT DESIGN

2.1 Project Objectives, Context and Long-term Viability

2.1.1 Summary of Project Sustainable Development Objective(s)

Silvador Company SRL and Forest Capital SLR (Silvador here on in) own and manage all related activities on their culturally and ecologically significant forest private lands in Romania. Each property is governed by a forest management plan (FMP) which outlines management practices for sustainable harvest and growth targets, as well as social-economic and ecological objectives as per requirements of the Forestry Code (Law 26/1996)¹.

The project consists of a single Project Activity Instance (PAI) totaling an area of 1,538 hectares (ha) and is composed of 8 private forest land parcels located in the counties of Buzău, Dâmbovița, with 3 future instances to be located in Argeș, Prahova, and Teleorman. Further information on the Silvador Climate Action project (SCA) can be found within the VCS Project Description and Monitoring Report Document, located within the VERRA Registry (Project #4511).

Historically Silvador has managed its forest lands with a focus on annual timber production. The project will maintain forest management initiatives which curtail regular harvesting within the PAI of the project, in addition to implementing third-party sustainable forest certification to the entirety of all their property holdings which require on-going monitoring, reporting, and annual external audits.

These initiatives are being undertaken with the primary objectives of actively managing and protecting the forest lands under their ownership to achieve climate benefits, biodiversity benefits, water benefits, and other ecosystem services benefits.

Silvador will achieve these sustainable development objectives through the following initiatives:

- Group Activity 1 – Sustainable Forest Management
- Group Activity 2 - Climate Action Initiative

It is expected that Silvador will positively contribute to sustainable development as defined by and tracked against the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The applicable SDGs include:

- 12 – Responsible Consumption and Production
- 13 – Climate Action
- 15 – Life on Land

¹ For more information on Law 26/1996 see: <https://www.fao.org/faolex/results/details/en/c/LEX-FAOC176434/>

The project outlined within this document will follow these steps :

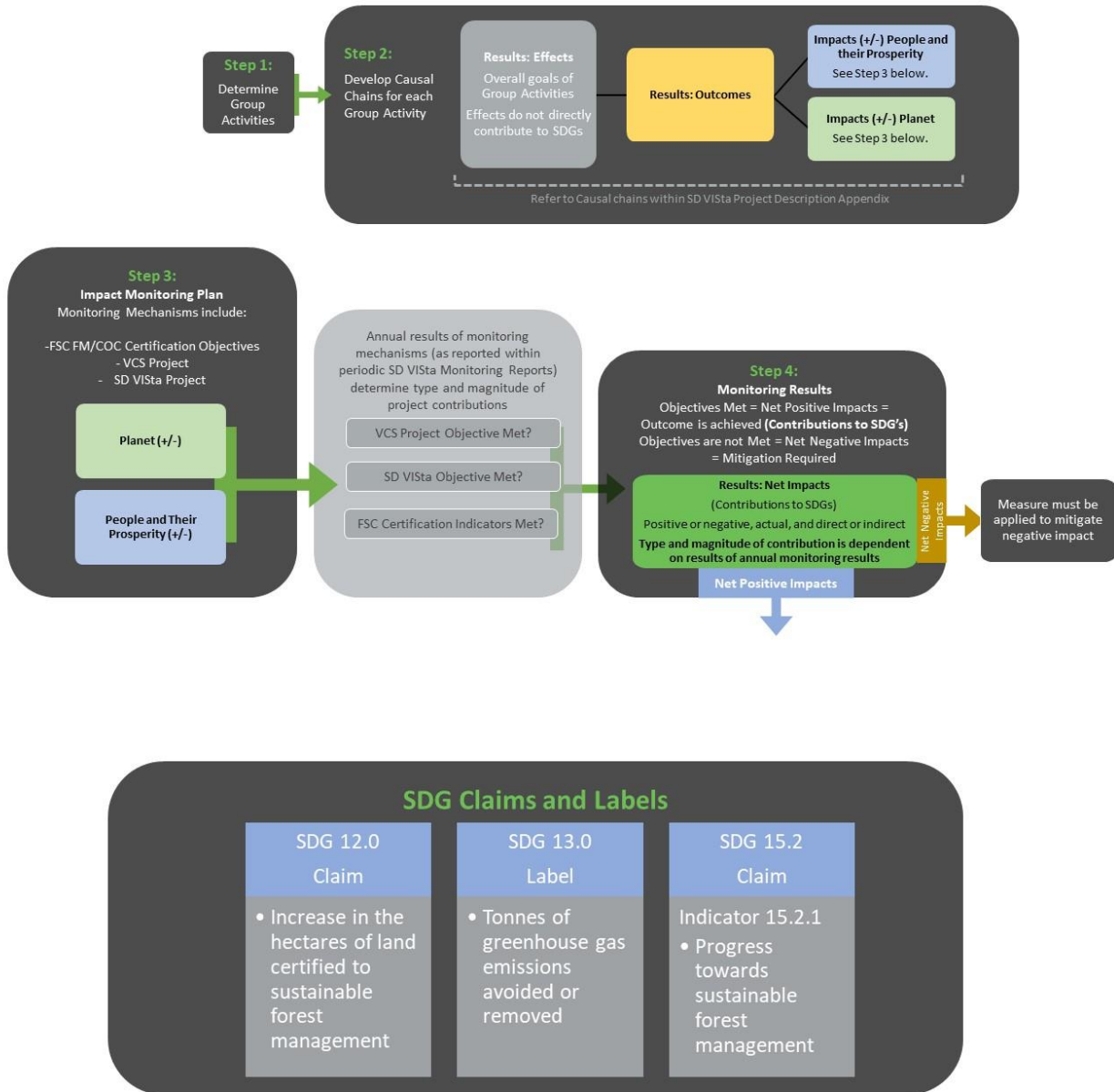






Figure 1: SD VISTA Stepwise Implementation Flow Chart

2.1.2 Description of the Project Activity

Initiatives will be undertaken by Silvador to achieve the noted sustainable development objectives via the following activities:

Table 2: Project Activities

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
Group Activity 1 – Sustainable Forest Management	<p>This relates to on-going forest management plan implementation and maintenance, as well as certification of forest lands to a recognized third-party certification standard on lands owned and managed by Silvador. The certification requires mitigation measures to be implemented to protect water quality, biodiversity, wildlife habitat, species at risk and forests with exceptional conservation value. This sustainable forest management certification requires on-going monitoring, reporting, and annual external audits (registration and surveillance) by accredited third parties.</p>	  
Group Activity 2 - Climate Action Initiative	<p>As outlined in the VCS Project Description Document (#4511), Silvador intends to implement a carbon offset project to create greenhouse gas (GHG) emission reductions and removals by converting privately owned operational forest lands to protected forest lands. The project will be implemented following the Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) VM0012 – Improved Forest Management in Temperate and Boreal Forests (LtPF), v1.2 methodology.</p> <p>The current PAI Current is within 1,538 ha of private forest lands located within managed forests UP I Constantinescu, UP I Forest Capital (Hodoba, Popescu, Barbu), UP I Manesti, UP I Cornatel, UP I Valea Tisei, and UP V Barbu as established as under the Law No.7 Of March 13, 1996 (Republished) Cadastre and Real Estate Advertising² Romania.</p>	

² Law No.7 of 13 March 1996: <https://www.global-regulation.com/translation/romania/3748442/law-no.-7-of-13-march-1996-%2528republished%2529-cadastre-and-real-estate-advertising-nr.-7-1996%2529.html>

Project Activity	Description	SDG Targets
	<p>This forest carbon project area is non-contiguous, with land parcels located throughout the counties of Buzău, and Dâmbovița</p> <p>Through the curtailment of timber harvesting within the project activity instances, an estimated 343,978 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (tCO₂e) will be reduced from the atmosphere during the life of the project. This project requires on-going monitoring, as well as validation/verification audits by accredited third parties.</p>	

2.1.3 Implementation Schedule

This is the initial SD VISTA assessment for the SCA. See table below for key dates and milestones in the project's development and implementation, as well as the monitoring and assessment schedules:

Table 3: Project Key Dates and Milestones

Date	Milestone(s) in the Project's Development and Implementation
August 1, 2020	<p>SCA project start date.</p> <p>Climate Action Initiative – Commence curtailment of harvesting activities within project instances.</p>
March 11, 2021	FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 COC – 000992 Issued (2021-2026) Silvador Company SRL
November 24, 2021	FSC FM-COC – 028522 4th Surveillance Audit by NEPCon OU
April 28, 2022	FSC STD-40-004 Standard for COC – 000992 Certification 1st Surveillance Audit (Silvador)
November 9, 2022	FSC FM COC – 028522 1st Reassessment Audit by NEPCon OU
October 30, 2023	Verified Carbon Standard (VCS) Validation/Verification for periods 2020, 2021, 2022
October 30, 2023	Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard (SD VISTA) validation/verification for periods 2020/2021/2022
2024	FSC FM COC Certification Main Assessment Audit- remainder of project properties
2025	FSC FM COC 1st Surveillance Audit- remainder of project properties

Annually/On-going	Project area monitoring and management
Annually/On-going	Project Verification Audits (VCS, SD VISta),
Annually/On-going	FSC STD-40-004 Standard Surveillance Audits
Annually/On-going	FSC FM COC Surveillance Audits

2.1.4 Project Proponent

Organization Name	Silvador Company SRL
Role in the Project	Project Proponent
Contact Person	Vlad Chitulescu
Title	Director
Address	Bld, Libertatii nr.1 Targoviste, Dambovita, Romania, 130009
Telephone	+40 0740 208 268
Email	v.chitulescu@silvador.ro

Organization Name	Forest Capital SRL
Role in the Project	Project Proponent
Contact Person	Vlad Chitulescu
Title	Director
Address	Bld, Libertatii nr.1 Targoviste, Dambovita, Romania, 130007
Telephone	+40 0740 208 268
Email	v.chitulescu@silvador.ro

2.1.5 Other Entities Involved in the Project

Organization Name	GreenRaise Consulting GmbH
Role in the Project	Authorized Representative, Implementation Partner, Project Developer
Contact Person	Jason Zimmerman, RPF
Title	Director
Address	1010 Vienna, Rudolfsplatz 9/8, Austria
Telephone	+1 604 619 1585
Email	jason@green-raise.com
Organization Name	
Organization Name	Global Forest Support GmbH.
Role in the Project	Listing Representor, Authorized Representative
Contact Person	Jason Zimmermann, RPF
Title	Director
Address	1010 Vienna, Rudolfsplatz 9/8, Austria
Telephone	+1 604 619 1585
Email	jason@globalforestsupport.com
Organization Name	
Organization Name	Zimmfor Management Services Ltd.
Role in the Project	Implementation Partner, Project Developer
Contact Person	Jason Zimmerman, RPF
Title	President
Address	2218-D Airport Drive, Campbell River, BC, V9H 0E2, Canada

Telephone	+1 604 619 1585
Email	jason@zimmfor.com

2.1.6 Project Location

The PAI is located within Silvador’s privately owned forest lands. The geographic area includes the counties of Argeş, Buzău, Dâmboviţa, Prahova, and Teleorman. Areas bordering the project area include a mixture of private forest and state lands. The current extent of the PAI is described by the extent geodetic coordinates within Table 4 and map below. .

Table 4: Project Geographic Boundary

Extent Coordinates				
Coordinate System	North	South	East	West
GCS_WGS_84	45.2747	44.6414	26.7006	24.9570

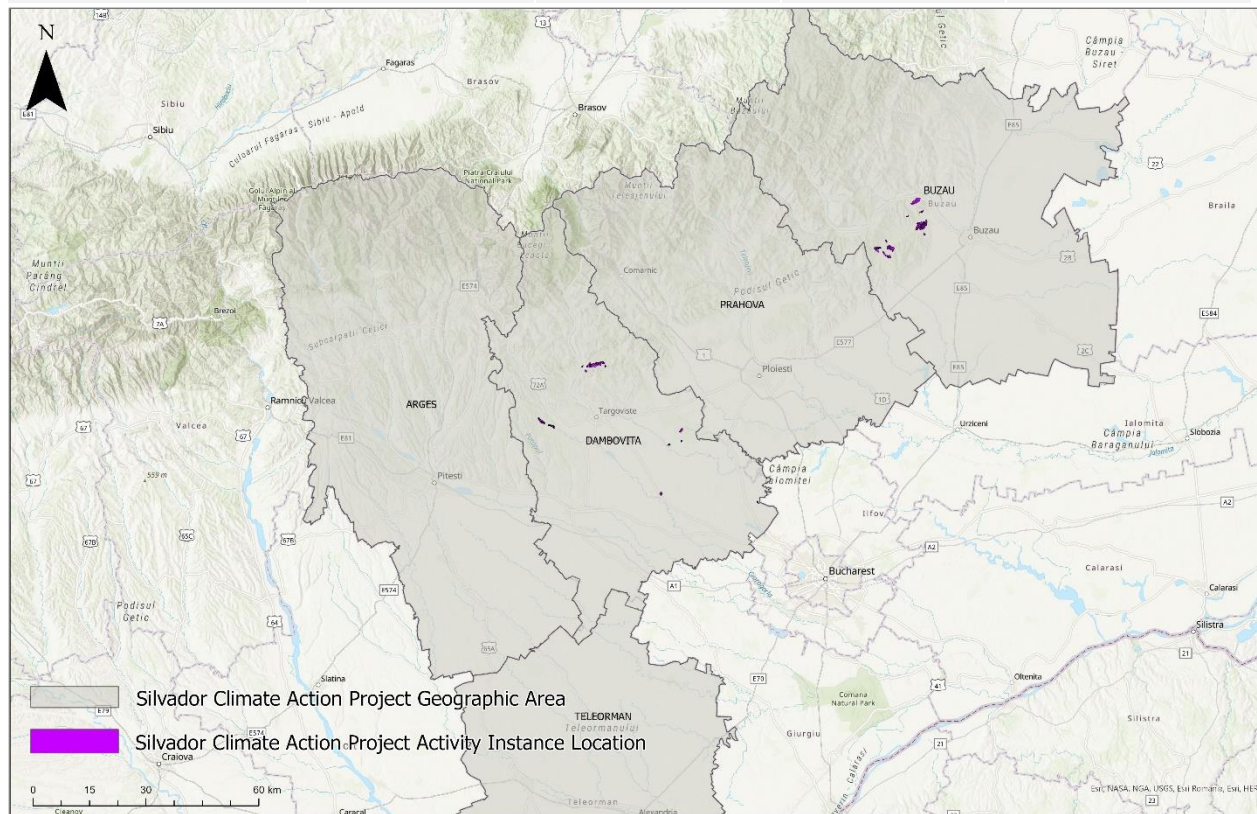


Figure 2: Overview of the Silvador Climate Action Project

2.1.7 Project Description Deviations

No project description deviations were applied during this monitoring period.

2.1.8 Threats to the Project

The table below outlines the likely natural and human-induced threats to the sustainable development benefits during the monitoring period and their mitigation measures.

Table 5: Threats and Mitigation Measures

Risk	Category	Description and Mitigation Measures
Fire:	Natural and Human Induced Event	<p>Large, intense forest fires are uncommon in Romania (Anfodillo et al., 2008). A fire occurrence would mean a potential loss of forest biodiversity, species habitat, critical and natural ecosystems, and carbon sequestration activities.</p> <p>Humans or natural weather events can cause fires. To mitigate the potential, the project proponent will enact the following fire prevention strategies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signage and gates to prevent public access to susceptible areas. • Employees trained in fire suppression tactics and equipment usage and dispatched if a fire occurs. • Employed forestry management companies are responsible for monitoring their private lands. • Weather patrols and passive monitoring and communications by adjacent communities and adjacent property owners.
Pest & Disease	Natural Event	<p>Insects and diseases tend to target specific coniferous and deciduous tree species, and their impacts are heightened following stressful events in a forest stand, like frost damage, windthrow, or drought. The effects on native ecosystems, habitats, and wildlife diversity can vary from minimal to extreme,</p>

		<p>as such is the case with spruce beetle infestations.</p> <p>In the project lands owned by the proponent, these preventative processes will be put in place to minimize the damage such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of forest conditions to identify and treat health concerns early on. • Reforest areas using only native species. • Ensure the timely removal of infected trees to prevent further spread of disease or insects.
Extreme Weather Events	Natural Event	<p>Severe weather events are common in Romania (Anfodillo et al., 2008; Turbe et al., 2012), with windthrow being the most common weather-related disturbance. These occurrences generally impact small areas, which means minor effects on native ecosystems, habitats, species, and biodiversity.</p> <p>The project proponent will implement forest management practices to mitigate the damages from severe weather. These will include managing the size of open areas, forest stand density, species structure, and regular area checks by staff.</p>
Geological Events	Natural Event	<p>Geological events such as volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, landslides, and mass floods have a minimal likelihood of occurring.</p> <p>The project properties will be regularly monitored, and incidents will be handled case-by-case.</p>
Political Risk	Human Induced	<p>Any risk to sustainable development benefits from political risk would be considered extremely low, as Romania is an Annex I country³, and party to the United</p>

³ As listed on the UNFCCC website: <https://unfccc.int/process/parties-non-party-stakeholders/parties-convention-and-observer-states>

		Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Land Ownership Claims	Human Induced	The project proponent owns all of the project lands, therefore there are no threats to any benefits concerning legal ownership risks.
Illegal Harvesting	Human Induced	Illegal harvesting activities can affect natural ecosystems and species' habitats. The project proponent will regularly monitor illegal activities and report occurrences to authorities. To prevent further events, locked gates, signage, and cameras will be installed in such areas.
Stakeholder Engagement	Human Induced	<p>Engagement from all community members is vital for ensuring biodiverse and culturally important areas are identified and protected. The proponent will ensure stakeholder engagement is ongoing by following the procedures below:</p> <p>Identifying and maintaining a stakeholder list of those groups interested in or affected by forest practice activities.</p> <p>Participating in regular Forestry Association board meetings, including those municipality members who may be affected by activities.</p> <p>Notifying the public and previously identified stakeholders at annual meetings to communicate concerns or identify social or environmentally significant areas.</p> <p>Making a comment form available to community members for feedback.</p>

Project Longevity

As described in the Non-Permanence Risk Assessment, the threats to project longevity are related to legally binding agreements. None of the activities listed above are under a legally binding agreement to continue management activities, however, all activities are carried out as per the Silvalor Field Operating Procedures, and the Oculul Silvic Evergreen Procedures⁴ specific to the Implementation of Certified Forest Management, which is the collective commitment to sustainable management

⁴ Information on the specific procedures can be found in document "Procedurile Specifice Implementarii Certificarii Managementului Forestier", Confor MCMF Vers1/10.08.2017

practices. Many measures, both legal and voluntary and have been implemented to ensure continued commitments and actions to achieve sustainable forest management and project activity.

The corporate governance policy states the “commitment to support responsible forest management practices that protect biodiversity and ecosystem integrity.”, which is guidance for all employees and contractors alike. Any deviation from these commitments would be considered an extreme variance of company strategies at the corporate level, which would also require full support from the executive management team. Due to the unlikely occurrence that this would occur, the threat associated with project longevity can be considered low.

2.1.9 Benefit Permanence

As referenced above, the project longevity is determined to be the most likely threat to the sustainable benefits of the project activities. The proponent has identified risks to sustainable development benefits and has operating and monitoring processes to ensure that the sustainable benefits are maintained and improved both currently and after project activities have ceased.

These include the following courses of action taken by Silvador (refer to Section 2.10 of the Project Description Document for all identified threats and mitigation measures):

- Standard operating procedures for training staff on fire suppression procedures, relevant equipment, and weather monitoring and patrolling.
- Monitoring areas for early signs of pest and disease outbreaks; treating infected areas and reforesting areas using only native resistant species.
- Implementing forest management techniques to mitigate damage from extreme weather events, like managing forest stand density and species structure to avoid homogenous stand heights and monocultures.
- Surveillance monitoring for illegal harvesting activities, installing signage and locked gates in sensitive areas. The risk to project benefits from unauthorized cutting is considered de-minimus.
- Attending annual stakeholder engagement meetings in project communities

During the monitoring period, no negative impacts occurred on the project's sustainable development benefits.

2.2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.2.1 Stakeholder Consultation and Adaptive Management

Approximately 40 potential stakeholders were identified geographically, i.e those within a set buffered distance from the PAI, and by the project proponent, utilizing stakeholder lists already established as part of regular business as a forest landowner in Romania.

Stakeholder consultation was conducted through website feedback platforms, publicly attended townhall meetings, and local onsite verification validation interviews. Initial stakeholder consultation

was conducted on November 28th and 29th, 2022. Consultation was conducted both via electronic documents, delivered by email on November 23, 2022, as well as in-person invites to “Town Hall” meetings in Romania held on:

- November 28th, 2022, within county of Dambovita at Aninoasa, Viforata, street Silozului nr.2
 - o Approximately 40 invitations; 7 persons attended, all representatives from the forest economic sector.
- November 29th, 2022, within county of Prahova at Ploiesti street Buzaului nr.1
 - o Approximately 40 invitations; 7 persons attended, all representatives from the forest economic sector.

Several other stakeholder consultation meetings were held through the week of January 8th during the project onsite verification and validation. Email notifications were sent out January 3rd and January 5th to 35 stakeholders.

January 8th, 2024, Targoviste at Targoviste Bld.Libertatii nr.1 bloc B2, parter Romania 130009

- o 20+ persons attended, representatives from the forest economic, environmental non-governmental organizations (NGO), and state forest agencies; validation/verification body (VVB) was present.

January 9th, 2024, Targoviste at Targoviste Bld.Libertatii nr.1 bloc B2, parter Romania 130009

- o 10+ persons attended, representatives from the forest economic, environmental NGO, state forest agencies, and social community representatives; VVB was present.

January 10th 2024, Casa Padurarului, Sasensii Vechi Romania 127684

- o 4 persons attended, social community representatives from Vechi; VVB was present

January 11th 2024, City Hall, Primaria Tisau, No.6 Izvoru Tisau Romania

- o 10+ persons attended, social community representatives from Izvoru; VVB was present.

February 16th 2024, a follow up town hall occurred at Targoviste Bld.Libertatii nr.1 bloc B2, parter. This gave an opportunity for those stakeholders who were unable to attend any previous meetings to learn about the project, give feedback, and ask questions if any arose. A email invitation was sent out February 8th, 2024 to approximately 45 stakeholders. 4 person attended and all were from Silvador Company SRL.

Different consultation processes were not required for each stakeholder group as all stakeholders were able to be consulted in the same manner. Consultation was conducted both via electronic documents delivered by email, as well as an in-person open house meeting within the counties of Dambovita, and Prahova. Meetings were organized by the project proponent. Attendance was taken at the town hall meetings kept on file. Project information relating to the design and implementation, any risks, costs or benefits to local stakeholders, all relevant law and regulations covering workers' rights in Romania were

provided via the GreenRaise website (<https://green-raise.com/projects/>). Links to the Project Registry were also provided on the GreenRaise website.

No marginalized and/or vulnerable groups were identified and therefore no special attention was required to be paid to optimizing benefits to these groups.

Online forms were made available on the GreenRaise and website and were used to collect stakeholder comments and feedback. Comments received through other means (i.e., town halls or direct emails) were collected by the proponent and saved in their data systems.

Response, and any required updates to the project design relating to comments received from Stakeholders were also tracked. All consultation information will be made available to the VVB during project Validation and Verification. Refer to the GreenRaise SOP –Stakeholder Consultation + Engagement for additional details relating to Stakeholder consultation processes.

No comments were received during the Verra implemented public comment period. None of the comments received were related directly to the SD VISta project and therefore did not impact project design.

The online feedback forms will remain accessible to the public throughout the lifetime of the project, allowing for continual stakeholder engagement. If required throughout the life of the project, any additional information that is required to be communicated to stakeholders will follow the same process of electronic correspondence via email and information provided via the GreenRaise website as described above.

2.2.2 Anti-Discrimination

Measures were taken throughout the stakeholder consultation process to ensure that the project proponent and all other entities involved in project design and implementation were not involved or complicit in any form of discrimination⁵ or sexual harassment with respect to the project.

Under the Romanian Government Ordinance no. 137/2000, and punishable under the penal code, all persons regardless of their status⁶ are protected against discrimination, harassment, and victimization. Employees and contractors hired by the project proponent fall under the safeguard of regulatory frameworks of the National Labor Code, the Law on Occupational Health and Safety (framework for the OSH), and other government ordinances. These measures, as well as the project proponent's own health and safety policy ensure that the proper procedures and training for health and safety and harassment reporting are in place to inform and address discriminatory issues if they arise

Additionally, correspondence was sent out electronically, presented virtually to interested stakeholders, and was made available on a public website; Town Halls were hosted in neutral locations (i.e., not owned by the project proponent) to allow for unimpeded access to project information and the opportunity to provide feedback.

2.2.3 Worker Training

Where required, training content will be tailored to marginalized and/or vulnerable people in the form of visual aids, translation services, and/ or traditional translations.

As part of the project proponent's Field Operating Procedures and Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Management System, new employees are orientated and trained prior to conducting work tasks. All contractors are required to comply with the laws and regulations in accordance with the occupational safety and health for forest activities provisions outlined in the Labor Code, as well as familiarize themselves to Silvalor's procedures.

Any stakeholders involved in carrying out project activities will be employed by the project proponent and fall under their corporate policies and procedures. Local capacity has grown slightly, with a worker increase between the years 2020 to 2022 with seven new hires.

Workers will be informed of the aforementioned project activities as part of worker training and orientation.

2.2.4 Equal Work Opportunities

Currently, no work opportunities have been generated from the project activities themselves. Work opportunities provided by the project proponent are posted publicly on newspaper sites or hiring

⁵ Discrimination may include but is not limited to that based on gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, or other habits.

⁶ Status as defined in GO. No 137/2000 Article 5 paragraph 2: ""(2) based on the criteria of race, nationality, ethnicity, colour, language, religion, social origin, genetic traits, gender, sexual orientation, age, disability, chronic non-contagious disease, HIV infection, political choice, family situation or responsibility, trade union membership or activity, membership of a disadvantaged category, is prohibited.

platforms, highlighting the position description as well as the job requirements. The submission of applications for postings is not restricted in any manner besides by a pre-determined time-frame. Once applications are received, and the pre-determined time frame has concluded, applicants are reviewed and assessed based on their qualifications as it relates to the corresponding job posting. From the applicant pool, applicants may then be chosen for in person interviews to further determine the applicants' qualifications for the posted position.

2.2.5 Workers' Rights

Silvador ensures that workers' rights meet all legal requirements including those of the Core Labor Conventions of the International Labor Organization (ILO) (refer to Section 2.3.8 below), via the ILO code on occupational health and safety for forest activities and the National Labor Code of Romania. These rights are communicated to workers through on-going safety and work training programs, the Evergreen FMC Certification Specific Forest Management Certification Procedures, and the Silvador FSC Policy.

2.2.6 Occupational Safety Assessment

Risks related to work carried out as a result of project activities are directly comparable to risks associated with forestry activities within Romania. These risks are associated with the proponent's "business as usual" and therefore project specific safety measures are not required. Risks associated with forestry work can include but are not limited to exposure to extreme weather (heat, cold, rain/snow), working in remote locations, working alone, wildlife encounters, slips trips and falls, scrapes, and bruises.

The project proponent has programs and activities established including workplace Standard Operating Procedures and Health and Safety Procedures. Anyone working on lands owned and managed by the project proponent is required to adhere to the OHS systems in place. As part of an established procedure, risk evaluations are required to be completed for personnel undertaking new job tasks or working in new areas.

2.2.7 Feedback and Grievance Redress Procedure

No feedback and/or grievances were received during the current monitoring period.

2.2.8 Stakeholder Access to Project Documentation

Project documentation has been made available to stakeholders via the GreenRaise website⁷, as well as via the Verra Project Registry⁸. Throughout the lifetime of the project, documentation will continue to be provided to the public in this manner, unless a change in procedure is warranted.

⁷ Information to stakeholders is available at <https://green-raise.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/Silvador-Stakeholder-Consultation-Presentation-Mar23.pdf>

⁸ <https://registry.verra.org/>

2.2.9 Information to Stakeholders on Assessment Process

Information regarding the process of SD VISta project assessment has been provided to all stakeholders via the GreenRaise website. This information will remain publicly available on the GreenRaise website for the lifetime of the project.

Stakeholders will be made aware of assessor's site visits, as well as how direct and independent communication with the assessor can be achieved, prior to the occurrence via an email notification. It is determined a stakeholder cannot be reached via electronic means; notification will be sent out via post mail.

2.3 Project Management

2.3.1 Avoidance of Corruption

The project proponents are legally incorporated business owners that comply with all laws and regulations of Romania, including those pertaining to corruption. The project proponent maintains an effective human resources program governing all employees and management. Refer to the proponent's corporate policies, strategies, and other supporting documentation.

Additionally, the proponents undergo Forest Management and Chain of Custody third party auditing through the Forest Stewardship Council.

2.3.2 Recognition of Property Rights

Tenure use, land access, and management rights to lands and resources affected by project activities are held by Silvador and demonstrated through land title extracts from the Office of Cadastres and Real Estate Publications and FMP documentation in accordance with applicable legislation. These documents are recognized and enforceable by the Romanian Government under applicable laws 18/1991 (Land Resources Law), 169/1997, 1/2000, and 46/2008 (Forest Code).

2.3.3 Free, Prior and Informed Consent

As no people live within the PAI, the project area, there are no affected individuals whose property rights will be, or are, affected by the project.

2.3.4 Restitution and/or Compensation for Affected Resources

There have been no negative effects of the project activities, and therefore this section is not applicable.

2.3.5 Property Rights Removal/Relocation of Property Rights Holders

No people live on the land affected by the project activities therefore there will be no risk of relocation of habitation or livelihood.

2.3.6 Identification of Illegal Activities

Timber theft is an identified illegal activity that could potentially affect the project impacts. Romania has strict regulation and policies in place to track and monitor timber leaving forest lands making timber theft extremely difficult, this includes on site monitoring by Forest Guards and Police.

Other identified illegal activities that could occur such poaching (wildlife, plants, edibles) are considered rare and insignificant. Management mitigation procedures are in place that would further reduce any potential threats to the project. The proponents' lands are regularly monitored.

To date, there are no identified issues with illegal activities within the project area.

2.3.7 Ongoing Conflicts or Disputes

Currently within this monitoring period, there have been no unresolved or resolved land/resource conflicts or disputes within the project area.

2.3.8 National and Local Laws and Regulations

There are a range of laws and regulatory requirements on forest lands in Romania. Landowners must ensure that all relevant national legislation is understood and observed. Key Acts and Regulations relevant to private land include, but are not limited to:

Table 6: Legislation Governing Forest Lands

Legislation	General Description
Law 46/2008 (Forestry Code)	Legislation applicable to all forest fund properties in Romania, in particular the ownership rights, management processes and harvest stipulations required for sustainable forest management and environmental practices. Includes mandated Forest Management Plans on forested areas greater than 10 hectares and outlines specifications of plan developments and ownership obligations.
Law No. 18 on Land Fund	This law establishes the land tenure system in Romania. Lands are classified by categories and ownership rights and must be registered in accordance with law. Provisions that are relevant include Procedural provisions IV and V; Use of land for agricultural and silvicultural production, and Land use for agricultural and forestry production.
Ministerial Order Nr. 23/2009	This regulation describes the security structures, organizations, and legal obligations of forestry personnel within the framework of forest management and service contracts for the protection of forest funds from illegal activities.
Ministerial Order Nr. 460/2010	The general provision of this order is to establish the certification methodologies for forest management plan development, and the requirements of legal persons applying for the certification of management activities

Legislation	General Description
Ministerial Order Nr. 1039/2010	This order outlines approved methodologies for the technical experts approving and reviewing the quality of forest management planning activities and establishes the conditions of certification for those tasked with creating the management plans.
Ministerial Order Nr. 1540/2011	The required terms, approvals, documents, permits, and collection methods for the harvesting and transportation of timber are outlined in this particular order.
Water Law No. 107/1996	Law providing legal requirements regarding the provisions of water resource use, water management and associated activities, as well as penalties. Forestry aspects include water conservation, soil protection, pollution control, and protected zones around natural waterbodies.
Environmental Protection Law No. 137/1995	Legal framework for the protection and regulations of activities affecting natural resources (water and land environments). Under this law, enforcement is carried out under the authority of the Ministry of Waters, Forests, and Environmental Protection.
Law no. 319/2006, on Work Health and Safety	Law requiring any forest activities concerning health and safety to be monitored by a Labor Inspectorate. The legislation ensures that work environments are safe and outlines challenge procedures for violations of safety requirements.
NATURA 2000	Natura 2000 is a series of ecologically sensitive networks protected throughout the European Union (EU). Its directives recognize and develop sustainable management strategies for birds, animals, and natural habitats via the Bird and Habitat Directives. It is a main driver for biodiversity and nature policies for countries in the EU but does not replace any legally required existing laws. Natura 2000 management plans created for forest lands and wildlife fauna are considered guidelines, not legal obligations.

2.4 Grouped Projects

The SCA project is a grouped project (refer to the VCS Project Description Document #4511 Section 1.4.1 for eligibility criteria). The project currently includes a single PAI. No new PAI was added during the verification period.

3 BENEFITS FOR PEOPLE AND PROSPERITY

3.1 Impacts on Stakeholders

Table 7: Expected Impacts on Stakeholders

Impact #2	Public Health Resource
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	(All Genders), Forestry Contractor (Direct), Forestry Contractor (Indirect), Interested Stakeholder
Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>Significant positive health benefits for all stakeholders with access to project lands that have been identified as having high recreational, or aesthetic values. Areas are available to be enjoyed by all nature enthusiasts and recreationalists.</p> <p>Project proponent actively seeks feedback from community and group stakeholders and in participates in identifying culturally significant areas on managed forest lands.</p>
Impact #4	Support for Local Communities
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	(All Genders). Interested Stakeholder

Resulting Change in Well-being	<p>The impacts to, and importance of, socio-economic services provided through forest management are assessed through regular annual consultation with forestry association members and local groups and communities. Any concerns raised during the consultation are addressed and mitigation measures are put in place until resolutions are reached.</p> <p>Significant positive benefits for stakeholders with access to project lands for hunting, foraging of traditional medicines and foods, non-wood permits, and local rights to firewood.</p> <p>Project proponent regularly issues public access authorizations/permits for personal use and consumptions of natural products and resources available on their private lands.</p>
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Impact #5	Economic Opportunity
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	(All Genders), Forestry Contractor (Direct), Forestry Contractor (Indirect), Interested Stakeholder
Resulting Change in Well-being	Significant positive benefits for stakeholders, local clients, and owners of timber resource suppliers to communities. Not all lands are in the project, and therefore, Silvador still provides employment. There are also opportunities for other small forest owners to supply timber resources to local industry in communities where the project lands have been established.

Impact #8	Economic Opportunity (Potential job loss)
Type of Impact	Negative, actual, direct, and unintended.
Affected Stakeholder Group(s)	(All Genders) Forestry Contractors (Direct/Indirect)

Resulting Change in Well-being

Minimal negative impact is anticipated due to the geographic distribution across the land base. Workers will still be required for harvest activities outside of the PAI. The potential job losses would most likely be related to the following activities:

- Harvesting (thinning, yarding crews)
- Log transportation (truck drivers)
- Silviculture (forestry workers)

Mitigation Efforts: Where practicable, forestry contractor workers displaced by harvest deferrals will be given opportunities by the project proponent to continue working in other areas that are not in the project and given preference for maintenance activities that are still required in the PAI as they arise.(windthrow, pest damage, etc.).

3.2 Stakeholder Impact Monitoring

The project proponent has conducted stakeholder group monitoring by monitoring the impacts to stakeholders, previously identified in the project description document, Table 7: Stakeholder Groups. Monitoring has been conducted through annual audit systems already in place by the organization, for example, forest management planning and FSC surveillance and assessment audits. The systems are well established and roles and responsibilities already identified throughout the organization. Table 7 below outlines all identified impacts to People and their Prosperity, and how they were monitored. Refer to the tables above for the full description of impacts and the affected stakeholder group(s).

Reporting on monitoring was completed in the following manner at the designated frequencies:

- VCS – periodically within verification reports (at least every 5 years)
- SD VISta – periodically within verification reports (concurrent with VCS verification events)
- FSC Criterion/Indicators – monitored annually within the FSC Surveillance Audit reports

Table 8: Stakeholder Monitoring Mechanisms

Impact #	Monitoring Mechanism(s)
2	<p>FSC Indicator #4.5.1 – Local Community Relations</p> <p>Stakeholder Groups monitored:</p> <p>(All Genders), Forestry Contractor (Direct), Forestry Contractor (Indirect), Interested Stakeholder</p> <p>Monitoring methods:</p> <p>Confirmation that the Evergreen Forestry Association Board of Directors and public consultation meetings occurred and that information from minutes taken from an annual</p>

Impact #	Monitoring Mechanism(s)
	<p>Board of Directors meeting and any feedback from public consultation meeting minutes. This is summarized in the yearly FSC surveillance or re-assessment audit.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Regular engagement with local communities and the organization occurs in order to identify significant areas having special cultural, ecological, economic, or spiritual significance to communities. - Target 1: Evergreen Forestry Association Board of Directors and public consultation meeting per year =1. - Target 2: Community meeting with local stakeholders per year =1.
4	<p>FSC Objective #5.1.2 – Benefits from the Forest</p> <p>Stakeholder Groups monitored:</p> <p>(All Genders). Interested Stakeholder Monitoring methods:</p> <p>Records of annual volumes of timber deposited at firewood depots in communities of Buzău and Dâmbovița reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Organization commits to continued support and diversification of local economies through identified benefits and products produced from local ecosystem services within managed forest properties. - Target: cubic meters of firewood to locals for house heating ≥ 7
5	<p>FSC Objective #5.1.1 – Benefits from the Forest</p> <p>Stakeholder Groups monitored:</p> <p>(All Genders), Forestry Contractor (Direct), Forestry Contractor (Indirect), Interested Stakeholder</p> <p>Monitoring methods:</p> <p>Employee and contractor employment records reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Organization commits to strengthening and diversifying the local economy through the efficient management of forest properties in order to maintain or enhance long-term economic viability and the range of social and environmental benefits - Target: Number of employees ≥ 20
8	<p>SD VISta – Impact #8: Economic Impact (potential job loss)</p> <p>Stakeholders Groups monitored:</p> <p>(All Genders) Forestry Contractors (Direct/Indirect)</p> <p>Monitoring Methods:</p>

Impact #	Monitoring Mechanism(s)
	Review of employee and contractor records Mitigation Effort: Where possible re-allocate forestry contractor workers displaced by project harvest deferrals to other proponent lands for alternate work opportunities.

Results

VCS and SD VISTA – Silvador is currently undergoing Validation and Verification for the SCA project, using the VCS-VM0012 IFM Logged to Protected Forest methodology. To date, all stakeholder and public consultation has been monitored. Comments will be addressed as per Section 0.

FSC Certification – Objectives: Silvador achieved ongoing FSC FM and COC Forest Management certification in 2021, and 2022 through third party audits demonstrating observance of FSC Certification Objectives for forest fund properties UP Barbu and UP Forest Capital, total 62% of the PAI.

Audit reports are on file and can be provided to the VVB if requested as follows:

- 2021 Group OS Ever Green FM_COC - 028522 4th Surveillance Audit
- 2021 FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 COC – 000992 Issued
- 2022 Group OS Ever Green FM_COC -028522 1st Re-Evaluation Audit
- 2022 FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 COC – 000992 1st Surveillance

Table 9: Results of Monitoring Mechanisms for Impacts to People and their Prosperity

Impact #	Variable Measured (Monitoring Mechanism – from Table 7)	SDG Indicators	Frequency Measured (annually)	Type and magnitude of impact
2	FSC Indicator #4.5.1 -Target 1	12.2 15.2.1		Targets met (+/indirect impact/activities increased beyond baseline: Local Community Relations)
			2020	N/A
			2021	1 Evergreen Forestry Association public consultation meeting held.
			2022	1 Evergreen Forestry Association public consultation meeting held.
	-Target 2	12.2 15.2.1		Targets met (+/direct impact/activities increased beyond baseline: Local Community Relations)
			2020	N/A
			2021	1 Community and local stakeholders meeting held
			2022	1 Community and local stakeholders meeting held
4	FSC Indicator #5.1.2	12.2 15.2.1		Targets met (+/direct impact/activities increased beyond baseline: Support for Local communities).
			2020	N/A
			2021	8.89 cubic meters of fuelwood provided to local community members for household heating
			2022	9.55 cubic meters of fuelwood provided to local community members for household heating
5	FSC Indicator #5.1.2 -Target 1:	12.2		Targets met (+/direct impact/activities increased beyond baseline: Local Community Relations)
			2020	N/A

Impact #	Variable Measured (Monitoring Mechanism – from Table 7)	SDG Indicators	Frequency Measured (annually)	Type and magnitude of impact
8	SD VISTA Impact #8	13.0	2021	Number of employees 23
			2022	Number of employees 27
				Targets met (+/direct impact/activities increased beyond baseline: Economic Impact)
			2020	No job loss due to implementation
			2021	No job loss due to implementation
			2022	No job loss due to implementation

3.3 Net Positive Stakeholder Well-being Impacts

Due to only identifying one negative impact (Impact #8 – Economic Opportunity (potential job loss) and 3 positive impacts, it has been determined that there is a net positive impact to stakeholders' wellbeing (see Appendix 2). Additionally, although the resulting net negative impact affects the stakeholder groups Forestry Contractors (direct/ indirect), mitigation measures are in place (providing other employment opportunities on other portions of managed lands) and have neutralize the negative impacts.

4 BENEFITS FOR THE PLANET

4.1 Impacts on Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services

Impact #1	Responsible Consumption of Resources
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Forest Ecosystems
Resulting Change in Condition	<p>Significant positive impacts within the project area due to sustainable management of forest resources and ecosystems. These include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Protection of natural communities -Reduction of forest conversion -Increased forest biomass through halted harvest operations

Impact #3	Protection of Native Ecosystems and Critical Habitats
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	Native Ecosystems and Critical Habitats
Resulting Change in Condition	Significant positive impacts within the project area due to: -Identification and protection of native ecosystems and critical habitats -Mitigation of important ecosystems losses from disease, and pest damage, through best management practices.
Impact #6	Decreased CO2 Emissions
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	CO2 Emissions
Resulting Change in Condition	Significant positive benefits within the project area due to the reduction in CO2 emissions from harvested biomass
Impact #7	Increase in CO2 Sequestration
Type of Impact	Positive, actual, direct, and intended.
Affected Natural Capital and/or Ecosystem Service(s)	CO2 Sequestration
Resulting Change in Condition	Significant positive impacts within the project area due to increased carbon sequestration via the deferral of harvesting

4.2 Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impact Monitoring

The project proponent has monitored the Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services impacts that were previously identified. Monitoring has been conducted through annual ongoing processes, for example sustainable forest management planning (FSC) and forest maintenance activities. The process in place for evaluations is well established and roles and responsibilities are identified throughout the organization. Table 9 below identifies impacts to the Planet, and how they were monitored. Refer to Table 8 above for the full description of impacts.

Reporting on monitoring was completed in the following manner at the designated frequencies:

- VCS – periodically within verification reports (at least every 5 years)
- SD VISTA – periodically within verification reports (concurrent with VCS verification events)
- FSC Criterion/Indicators – monitored annually within the FSC Surveillance Audit reports

Table 10: Natural Capital and Ecosystems Services Monitoring Plan

Impact #	Monitoring Mechanism(s)
1	<p>FSC Indicator #5.2.3 – Benefits from the Forests</p> <p>Monitoring measurements:</p> <p>Forest management plans for sustainable harvest cut rates were reviewed and compared to actual harvest records.</p> <p>Annual surveillance/reassessment reports were reviewed for the inclusion of additional project lands added to the FSC Forest Management Certification program.</p> <p>Monitoring frequency:</p> <p>Harvest volumes were monitored annually</p> <p>The annual FSC Forest Management surveillance/reassessment certification audit reports were reviewed</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: The harvest levels in management units are at or below a level which can be permanently sustained. Actual annual harvest (AAC) levels are recorded and do not exceed the expectations of the allowable level established by the forest management plan for its validity period - Target 1: Project lands are certified to FSC Management Standard $\geq 62\%$ - Target 2: = 100% of project lands have not exceeded their allowable forest harvesting quotas
3	<p>FSC Indicator #6.5.1 – Environmental Values and Impacts</p> <p>Monitoring Measurements:</p>

Impact #	Monitoring Mechanism(s)
	<p>Area of project lands that were designated for biodiversity conservation and excluded from production felling.</p> <p>Monitoring frequency:</p> <p>The FSC Forest Management surveillance/certification annual audit report was reviewed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Representative native ecosystems, including primary forests, marginal habitats, and self-regenerating forests, are identified and protected. - Target 1: More than 10% of representative natural ecosystems in the project are identified, mapped, and maintained (based on procedure P651 ver. 1 2019)
6	<p>VCS – Implementation and management of Improved Forest Management (IFM) project</p> <p>Monitoring measurements:</p> <p>The amount of CO₂ emissions avoided during the monitoring period</p> <p>Monitoring frequency:</p> <p>Monitored for years 2020, 2021, 2022.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Periodic generation of verified carbon units (VCUs) via verification audits.
7	<p>VCS – Implementation and management of Improved Forest Management (IFM) project</p> <p>Monitoring measurements:</p> <p>The amount of CO₂ sequestered during the monitoring period</p> <p>Monitoring frequency:</p> <p>Monitored for years 2020, 2021, 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Performance Measure: Periodic generation of verified carbon units (VCUs) via verification audits.

Results

Silvador achieved ongoing FSC Forest Management certification in 2021 and 2022 through third party audits demonstrating conformance to FSC Certification Objectives for forest fund properties UP Barbu and UP Forest Capital, just over 60% of the PAI. Audit reports are on file and can be provided to the VVB if requested as follows:

- 2021 Group OS Ever Green FM_COC - 028522 4th Surveillance Audit
- 2021 FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 COC - 000992 Issued
- 2022 Group OS Ever Green FM_COC -028522 1st Reassessment Audit
- 2022 FSC-STD-40-004 V3-1 COC - 000992 1st Surveillance

Silvador is currently awaiting project registry and VCU issuance for the Silvador Climate Action, a VCS VM0012 IFM project. At the time of writing, the project is expected to generate 54,285 VCUs and certified to the SD VISTA standard during this monitoring period.

Table 11: Results of Natural Capital and Ecosystems Services Monitoring Plan

Impact #	Variable Measured (Monitoring Mechanism – from Table 9)	SDG Indicators	Frequency Measured (annually)	Type and magnitude of impact
1	FSC Indicator #5.2.3 -Target 1	12.2, 15.2.1		Targets met (+/direct impact: increased beyond baseline: Benefits from the Forest through sustainable management practices)
			2020	No certification occurred
			2021	954 hectares certified (62%)
			2022	954 hectares certified (62%)
	-Target 2	12.2 15.2.1		Targets met (+/direct impact: increased beyond baseline: Benefits from the Forest through sustainable management practices)
			2020	13,254m ³ of avoided harvest in project
			2021	10,038m ³ of avoided harvest in project
3	FSC Indicator #6.5.1 -Target 1	12.2 15.2.1		Targets met (+/direct impact: increased beyond baseline: Environmental Values and Impacts)
			2020	N/A
			2021	106.7 hectares, 11.2%, natural areas identified
			2022	106.7 hectares, 11.2%, natural areas identified
6	VCS LtPF Project	13.0		Targets met (+/direct impact: increased beyond baseline: Decreased CO₂ emissions)
			2020	13,885 tCO ₂ e emission reductions or removals
			2021	10,635 tCO ₂ e emission reductions or removals

Impact #	Variable Measured (Monitoring Mechanism – from Table 9)	SDG Indicators	Frequency Measured (annually)	Type and magnitude of impact
7	VCS LtPF Project	13.0	2022	58,789 tCO ₂ e emission reductions or removals
				Target met (+ impact/direct: Increase beyond baseline: Increased CO2 Sequestration)
			2020	VCUs Issued 12,150 (Pending verification/validation)
			2021	VCUs Issued 0 (Pending verification/validation)
			2022	VCUs Issued 42,135 (Pending verification/validation)

4.3 Net Positive Natural Capital and Ecosystem Services Impacts

There are no negative impacts to the planet as identified through impact monitoring. It has been determined that the net impact of the project is positive for all-natural capital and ecosystem services.

APPENDIX 1 – COMMERCIALY SENSITIVE INFORMATION [*]

No commercially sensitive information has been excluded from the public version of the monitor report.

APPENDIX 2 – SUMMARY OF SDG CONTRIBUTIONS FOR MONITORING PERIOD

The following summary outlines the overall contributions to the SDGs over the current monitoring period (August 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022). A singular point (+1) is given per year to every indicator achieved per impact. If a target is not met for any given year, a value of -1 is assigned. For any year where an indicator is not applicable or has a neutral (no) impact, a value of zero (0) was assigned.

Table 12: Monitoring Period SDG Contribution Summary

Year	SDG		
	12	13	15.2.1
2020	0	2	0
2021	6	4	5
2022	6	4	5

Table 13: Impacts to the People and Their Prosperity

Impact	Indicator	SDG			Year
		12	13	15.2.1	
2	FSC Indicator #4.5.1	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	1	2021
		1	0	1	2022
	FSC Indicator #5.1.2	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	1	2021
		1	0	1	2022
4	FSC Indicator #5.1.2	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	1	2021
		1	0	1	2022
5	FSC Indicator #5.1.1	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	0	2021
		1	0	0	2022

Impact	Indicator	SDG			
		12	13	15.2.1	Year
8	SD VISta Impact #8	0	0	0	2020
		0	0	0	2021
		0	0	0	2022
	Totals	0	0	0	2020
		4	0	3	2021
		4	0	3	2022

Table 14: Impacts to the Planet (Natural Capital and Ecosystems Services)

Impact	Indicator	SDG			
		12	13	15.2.1	Year
1	FSC Indicator #5.2.3	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	1	2021
		1	0	1	2022
	FSC Indicator #6.5.1	0	0	0	2020
		1	0	1	2021
		1	0	1	2022
6	VCS	0	1	0	2020
		0	1	0	2021
		0	1	0	2022
7	VCS	0	1	0	2020
		0	1	0	2021
		0	1	0	2022
	Totals	0	2	0	2020
		2	2	2	2021
		2	2	2	2022