

PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

This project review report includes findings raised during Verra's review of the project specified below. The VVB must address the findings before the project request can be considered for approval by Verra. The project review report will be made publicly available on the Verra Registry. Confidential information may be provided in separate attachments.

Project ID	1748
Project Name	Southern Cardamom REDD+ Project
Review Type	Verification Approval
Program(s)	CCB & VCS Program
Verification Period	01 January 2021 – 31 December 2021
Project Proponent	Royal Government of Cambodia, Ministry of Environment
Methodology	VM0009, Methodology for Avoided Ecosystem Conversion, v3.0
VVB	AENOR INTERNACIONAL S.A.U.
Assessment Criteria	<i>VCS Standard, v4.2, CCB Standards v3.1, Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0</i>
Date of First Issue	15 December 2022
Review Conclusion	Approved
Date of Final Issue	10 January 2023

FINDINGS

#	Finding Description	VVB Response	Status
1	Title: Missing ERR calculation spreadsheets <u>Issue</u> Under sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2, and 3.2.3 of the monitoring report, the project proponent has not provided an emission reduction/removal calculation spreadsheet to Verra to facilitate the verification of results. <u>Action Required</u> The VVB must ensure that that the PP provides Verra with emission reduction/removal calculation spreadsheets to facilitate the verification of results. <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>CCB & VCS Monitoring Report, CCB v3.0, VCS v3.4, Sections 3.2.1, 3.2.2, and 3.2.3</i>	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> Section 4.4.1 in VCS/CCB Verification Report includes the information review by the VVB to assess emission reductions calculations, and then no changes are needed in this document. On the other hand, the PP emailed the ER Calculation workbook file (Cardamoms RL M3 v2.4.xlsx) to Verra on 16th December. The VVB was in copy on the email, and is assured Verra has been provided with the requested ER Calculations for the project and this third monitoring period. <u>Verra Response</u> The emission reduction/removal calculation spreadsheet have been submitted to Verra to facilitate the verification of results.	Closed
2	Title: Missing buffer contribution <u>Issue</u> Under section 3.2.4 of the monitoring report, the project proponent has not calculated the total number of buffer credits that must be deposited into the AFOLU pooled buffer account.	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> Information on the total number of buffer credits and overall non-permanence risk rating for the monitoring period being requested from Verra is already present in the final version of the MR (v3.0) submitted previously. The overall non-permanence risk rating for the M3 monitoring period is 10%,	Closed

Additionally, the risk rating is not indicated. <u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must ensure that the monitoring report is updated to include the total number of buffer credits that must be deposited into the AFOLU pooled buffer account. 2. The VVB must ensure that section 3.2.4 of the monitoring report is updated to include the risk rating <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>CCB & VCS Monitoring Report, CCB v3.0, VCS v3.4, Sections 3.2.4</i>	as shown under MRR.77. The total buffer pool contribution for the M3 monitoring period is 430,009 tCO₂e, as shown under MRR.78. Tradable final VCU are indicated in MR.74. All figures as required by the VCS/CCB MR Template and the MRR requirements of the methodology are covered in section 3.2.4.3.3 of the MR on page 154. It is not clear what additional information is being requested from Verra. No changes were done to VCS/CCB MR and Verification Report. <u>Verra Response</u> Information of on buffer credits that must be deposited into the AFOLU pooled buffer account has been clarified.	
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3 Mitigation of negative impacts on other stakeholders		
<u>Issue</u> Table 4 in section 2.3.7 of the CCB/VCS monitoring report lists various negative impacts that could affect other stakeholders in the project (charcoal producers and subsistence hunters). Section 4.2.1 states that there are no negative impacts on other stakeholders requiring mitigation. <u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must ensure the project proponent has implemented adequate measures to address the impacts listed in Table 4. 2. Section 4.2.1 of the CCB/VCS monitoring report must be updated to reflect these mitigation measures. 3. The VVB must assess the mitigation measures to ensure they adequately address the risks faced by these groups.	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> The Proponent acknowledges the potential negative impacts to other stakeholder as identified in Table 4 of the MR, and the lack of information regarding mitigation measures implemented to address these potential impacts in section 4.2.1. Therefore, section 4.2.1 of the MR has been updated as follows. "The SCRP is not expected to result in any significant negative well-being impacts on other stakeholders. However, some community stakeholders of the Project will face negative impacts, mainly through the loss of income or their livelihoods when these are linked to illegal activities in-side of the Project Area (e.g. charcoal production, poaching). To mitigate these potential negative impacts, implemented Project Activities are focused on increasing the incomes and encouraging new income generating activities in the project communities, thereby	Closed

	4. Section 4.5.5 of the CCB/VCS verification report must be updated with this assessment. <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1, Section CM2.2</i>	mitigating these negative effects. The project has provided direct employment to people who were seeking income from illegal activities in the Project Area as to the best of its abilities as forest rangers, through promotion of ecotourism or other positions to gain their expertise and knowledge of the forest and replace their lost income. Consequently, the net well-being impacts are overwhelmingly positive given the proportion of the population potentially impacted, the magnitude of the impacts and their long-term nature." Thus, section 4.2.1 of the VCS/CCB of the MR has been updated to include a description of measures to mitigate the impact of the project on other stakeholders. These measures were already implemented in the project area and were evaluated during the verification by the VVB, however this clarification had not been included in the Verification Report. It is important to clarify that the poachers, loggers, charcoal producers and subsistence hunters belong to the communities involved in the project, and the impacts and their mitigation measures are similar to those described in sections 4.5.1, 4.5.2, 4.5.3 of the MR (reason for which specific clarification had not been made previously in the MR and VR). In conclusion, section 4.2.1 of the VCS/MR and 4.5.1 of the VR were updated to clarify this fact. <u>Verra Response</u> Section 4.2.1 of the MR has been updated to include an explanation of the potential negative impacts on other stakeholders and the measures in place to mitigate these impacts. This is sufficient to close the finding, no further changes are required. Round 2 <u>VVB Response</u> <u>Verra Response</u>	
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4	Assessment of stakeholder comments		
	<u>Issue</u> It is unclear whether the VVB had access to and assessed the comments received during the stakeholder consultation meetings that took place during this monitoring period. <u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must assess the comments received during these meetings to ensure the project has taken appropriate measures to consider all input received. 2. The VVB must update sections 2.3 and 4.3.5 of the CCB/VCS verification report as necessary. <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1, Section G3.4</i> <u>Background</u> These meetings and comments are described in section 2.3.4 of the CCB/VCS monitoring report.	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> Section 4.3.5 in the Verification Report includes the sources of information that were evaluated (FPIC, complaints mechanism and regular meetings) with its reference to the documents provided (in section 2.3). The section is complete with respect to the documents consulted (D15, D30, D32) although comments were now added in section 4.3.5 of the VCS/CCB Verification Report to indicate the conclusions of the evidence reviewed, as well as section 3.3.1 of SDVista VR. <u>Verra Response</u> The VVB has provided an assessment of the comments received. This is sufficient to close the finding, no further changes are required.	Closed
5	Assessment of grievance redress procedure		
	<u>Issue</u> Section 4.3.8 of the CCB/VCS verification report states that the boxes for collecting comments were hardly used and stakeholders stated that they would go directly to WA employees if they had a grievance. This section does not state how the VVB assessed whether any grievances were received via this method.	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> Section 4.3.8 was updated in the VCS/CCB Verification Report (as well as section 3.3.7 of the SDVista VR) to address the request. The grievances were assessed through the documentation submitted during the onsite audit (hard copies) and crosschecked with the interviews. In conclusion, there are no grievances in the monitored period.	Closed

	<u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must describe how they assessed whether any grievances were received through alternative methods (ex. Statements to WA employees). 2. The VVB must update section 4.3.8 to include an assessment of any grievances submitted through these alternative methods. 3. If any grievances were submitted, the project must document them and make them publicly available. <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1, Section G3.8</i>	<u>Verra Response</u> The VVB has updated section 4.3.8 to provide an assessment of the communications between stakeholders and WA employees. The VVB has clarified that no grievances were received via this method. This is sufficient to close the finding, no further changes are required.	
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6	Assessment of worker health and safety plan		
	<u>Issue</u> Section 4.3.9 of the CCB/VCS verification report does not provide an assessment of the Health and Safety Plan described in section 2.3.16 of the CCB/VCS monitoring report. <u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must update section 4.3.9 to describe how they assessed the worker health and Safety Plan to ensure the measures described within are sufficient to mitigate the risks faced by project employees. <u>Program Rule(s)</u> <i>Climate, Community & Biodiversity Standards, v3.1, Section G3.12</i>	Round 1 <u>VVB Response</u> The Health and Safety Plan was assessed during the verification process; however, a conclusion regarding the assessment was not included in the VR. Section 4.3.9 in the VCS/CCB Verification Report was updated to address this, as well as the section 3.3.3 of the SDVista VR. <u>Verra Response</u> The VVB has updated section 4.3.9 of the VR to provide an assessment and conclusion of the worker safety plan. This is sufficient to close the finding, no further changes are required.	Closed