

Gold Standard for the Global Goals

Template – Applicability for Afforestation and Reforestation Projects



Version 1 – July 2017

SECTION A. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

A. 1. Title of the project

Title: WithOneSeed Timor Leste Community Forestry Program

Date: March 2019

Version no.: v1

Gold Standard ID: GS4210

A. 2. Guidelines applied for this certification

☐ A/R Guidelines - Mangroves

SECTION B. APPLICABILITY

1. Areas shall not be on wetlands¹.

☐ Not applicable, as this is a A/R Mangrove Project as per A/R Methodology 'Section 1.0'

There are some rivers within the project areaⁱ. Land use map in 2000 delineated specific areas as wet arable areas (see Figure I). As these were areas that farmers had already planted, the delineation as wet arable area, e.g. rice paddies, was questioned and field crew went to these areas and consulted the farmers concerned. As site visit was conducted to one of the wetland areas and it was concluded that these area are no longer rice crop areas. Photos are provided in the folder: GIS files\GS4210 Project Area\ 5.1 Applicability - wetland photos.zip.

As such, the wetlands have now been delineated as dry cropland areas. See Figures II and IV below.

¹ Wetland

Definition of wetland according to the IPCC: 'This category includes land that is covered or saturated by water for all or part of the year (e.g. peatland) and that does not fall into the forest land, cropland, grassland or settlements categories.' Source: IPCC - Good Practice Guidance - Wetlands.

2. Areas with *organic soils* shall not be drained or irrigated (except for irrigation for planting).

The majority of the project area incorporates clay soilsⁱⁱ. The incidence of Sapristis and Hemists (a subclass of Histoles/Organic Soils) are not near the Project Area. The majority of the Project Area represents Tropepts and Udert soils, a mixture of dark clay and young soils respectivelyⁱⁱⁱ. It is expected that due to the soil types, there will be no interference with organic soils high in carbon content.

3. Soil disturbance (through ploughing, digging of pits, stump removals, infrastructure, etc.) on *organic soils*² shall be in less than 10% of the area that is submitted to certification (not 10% of the entire project area).

The soils within the Project Area are a mixture of dark clay and young soils⁴, and not classified as organic soils with high organic carbon content. Therefore there will be no soil disturbance of organic soils.

4. The most likely scenario without the project (baseline scenario) shall be defined for the project area. This scenario shall not show any *significant*³ increase of the Baseline biomass ('~~tree~~' and '~~non-tree~~').

The definition of a forest in Timor-Leste is: "Land spanning more than 0.5 hectares with trees higher than 5 metres and a canopy cover of more than 10 percent, or trees able to reach these thresholds in situ. It does not include land predominantly under agricultural or urban land use"^{iv}

The baseline scenario in the Project Area would be business as usual agricultural practices, i.e. continued slash-and-burn^v and further deforestation for timber export and as a source of firewood.

Agriculture has had a major impact on vegetation cover, and without the project, the overall vegetation cover will not increase within the Bagaia region. A 30% reduction of forest cover had occurred between 1972 and 1999, with dense forest only representing 16% of the country^{vi}. Continual deforestation will occur without the project as subsistence farmers continue to use forest products for their cooking fuel, building materials, food, and medicines. Continual increases in population

² Organic soils

Organic soils fulfil one of the following requirements:

1. If the soil is never saturated with water for more than a few days, and contains >20% (by weight) of organic carbon (35% organic matter)
2. If the soil is subject to water saturation episodes and has either:
 - >12% (by weight) organic carbon (20% organic matter) if it has no clay
 - >18% (by weight) organic carbon (30% organic matter) if it has >60% clay
 - a proportional lower limit of organic carbon content between 12 and 18% if the clay content of the mineral fraction is between 0 and 60%

³ Significant

Significant is defined to be more than 5% of the 'long-term CO₂-Fixation' - see chapter '5.7 CO₂-Fixation'.

4. The most likely scenario without the project (baseline scenario) shall be defined for the project area. This scenario shall not show any *significant*³ increase of the Baseline biomass ('tree' and 'non-tree').

and an absence of sustainable forestry policy would increase the pressure on forest resources. As 70% of Timor land is slope, this will increase the incidence and severity of landslides further affecting forest biomass.^{vii} Without the project, it is expected that contrary to a significant increase in baseline biomass, there will actually be a significant decline in biomass. It is expected that the rate of deforestation would continue somewhere close to the current 1.1%^{viii}.

Furthermore, there would be minimal incentive from the government and local stakeholders to stop the deforestation, due to a lack of awareness of the environmental and social benefits that a reforestation project through the WithOneSeed program could provide.

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- i Baucau Land Use map, http://timoragri.fhost.com.au/ta500/ta536%20baucau_lu_a3.jpg
 - ii Timor Leste – Map of Soil Texture: <https://docs.google.com/file/d/0B13RUdSV85KfZG5JWGhERXZxMzA/edit>
 - iii Geology and Soils in Timor-Leste, pp26. <http://seedsoflifetimor.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/12/Geology-and-Soils-in-Timor-LesteA4.pdf>
 - iv Global Forest Resources Assessment (2010) – Timor-Leste, pp. 6, <http://www.fao.org/docrep/013/al643E/al643e.pdf>
 - v Assessing Environmental Needs and Priorities in East Timor: Issues and Priorities, pp. 23, http://www.researchgate.net/publication/242725106_Assessing_Environmental_Needs_and_Priorities_in_East_Timor_Issues_and_Priorities
 - vi McWilliam, A. (2003). 'New Beginnings in East Timorese Forest Management', Journal of Southeast Asian Studies, 2, p. 309, JSTOR Journals
 - vii CARBON CATCHMENTS: Integrating climate change adaptation and mitigation in Timor-Leste. pp. 10-11
 - viii Timor-Leste National Action Programme to Combat Land Degradation, p 11, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/cplpunccd/Biblioteca/bib_TL_Timor-Leste_NAP_Revised_Draft.pdf
 - ix Timor-Leste's Fourth National Report to the UN Convention on Biological Diversity, pp. 12, <https://www.cbd.int/doc/world/tl/tl-nr-04-en.pdf>

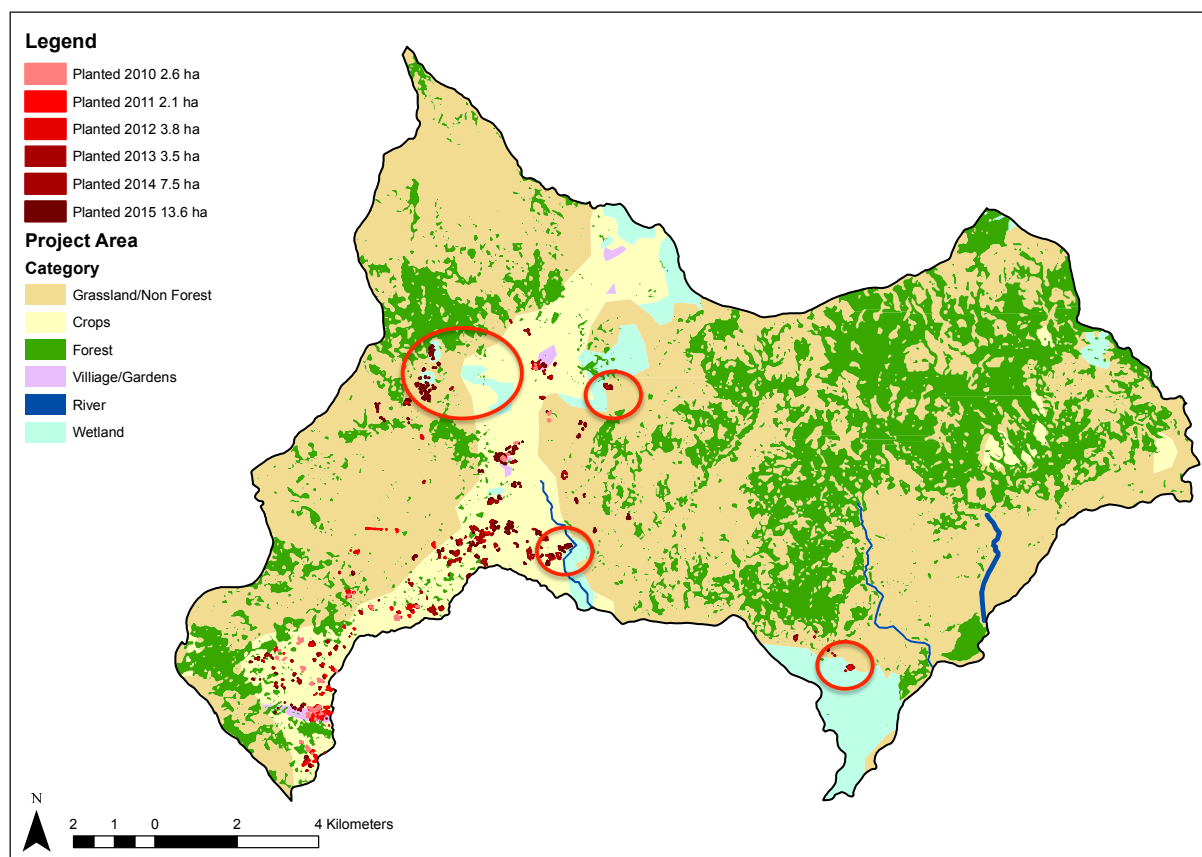


Figure I. Land use delineation 2000 and areas which were visited on-ground to confirm if they are still wet arable croplands.

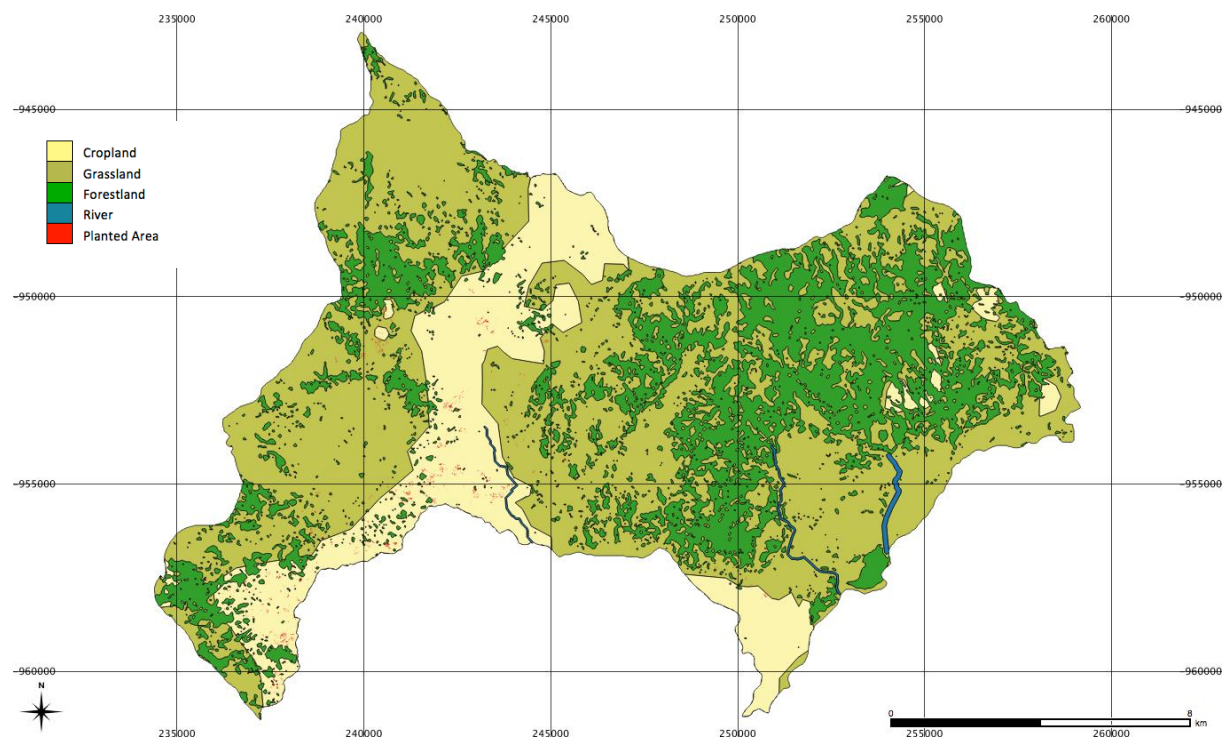


Figure II. Revised Land use classification and eligible planting areas

