VALIDATION REPORT

GROUPED PROJECT FOR COMMERCIAL FOREST PLANTATIONS INITIATIVES IN THE DEPARTMENT OF VICHADA

Colombian Institute for Technical Standards and Certification – ICONTEC

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Summary:

The *Grouped Project for Commercial Forest Plantations Initiatives in the Department of Vichada* aims to promote investments new commercial forest plantations in Puerto Carreño Municipality. The land within the project boundary is degraded grassland for all cases of the grouped instances, as they all occur in the same baseline conditions. For the first instance, it is expected to reforest around 12,172 ha with commercial plantations, using the species *Acacia mangium*, *Eucalyptus tereticornis*, *Eucalyptus pellita*, *Hevea brasiliensis*, *Pinus caribaea*, *Gmelina arborea* and other 18 native species. However, the potential total area is 25,000 ha.

ICONTEC was contracted by Fundación Natura Colombia to conduct the project validation. The validation process was intended to assess the conformance of the project with the VCS rules and the methodology applied to the project. The validation audit was performed through a combination of document review, interviews with relevant personnel and on-site inspections. The project complies with all of the validation criteria, and the assessment team has no restrictions or uncertainties with respect to the compliance of the project with the validation criteria.

The Project Description contains complete information about the project activities, project start date, project crediting period, project scale, project location, project boundary, baseline scenario, additionality and monitoring. The Project Description was designed to conform to the VCS Standard v.3.5, specifically as an ARR project under the AFOLU project types (AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3). The project applied the approved CDM Afforestation and Reforestation methodology: AR-ACM0003 A/R Large-scale Consolidated Methodology "Afforestation and Reforestation of lands except wetlands" - Version 2.0.

The purpose and scope of validation involve documental review, on-site visit, interviews and consultation of secondary information sources, findings statements, feedback with the project owner and elaboration of the final report. In order to carry out the validation, Verified Carbon Standard Program Guide v3.5, dated 8 October 2013 were taken into account and following the guidance provided in the VCS Validation and Verification Manual (8 October 2013, v3.1).

During the validation, the ICONTEC team identified 30 findings (18 Clarification Requests and 12 Corrective Action Request) that were addressed satisfactorily by the project proponent during the validation process to ensure that the Project Description fulfills the VCS program requirements. No CARs that could lead to a material discrepancy between the project and the project description were identified.

Documentation review, interviews and on-site visit allowed ICONTEC to collect enough evidences to completely assess the validation criteria and determinate that the project is implemented according to the Project Description (Version 2.1, May 16, 2016). Removals were correctly calculated, based on the applied methodology.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Objective

According to VCS rules (VCS Standard v.3.5) the validation involves the assessment of the project description, regarding the project conformance to VCS rules and the applied methodology, including the procedure for the demonstration of additionality specified in the methodology. Additionally, to confirm that methods and procedures set out in the project description will generate verifiable GHG data and information when implemented.

In this sense, the purpose of the validation audit activity was conduct an independent assessment of the project to determine whether the project complies with the validation criteria, as set out in the guidance documents listed in Section 1.2 of this report.

1.2 Scope and Criteria

The validation scope includes the independent and objective revision to determine that the project design meets the following criteria: VCS program (relevance, completeness, consistency, accuracy, transparency, and conservativeness), as well as the requirements described in the selected methodology (AR-ACM0003 “Afforestation and Reforestation of lands except wetlands” - Version 02.0.).

In accordance with Section 4.3.4 of ISO 14064-3:2006, the scope was defined as follows:

• The project and its baseline scenarios;

• The physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the project;

• The GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs applicable to the project;

In accordance with Section 5.3.1 of the VCS Standard, the criterion for validation was the VCS Version 3, including the following documents:

• VCS Program Guide

• VCS Standard

• VCS AFOLU Requirements

• VCS AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool

ICONTEC, based on its ethics code and internal procedures for carrying out validation, verification and certification audits of VCS project activities (which, in turn, are based on the Voluntary Carbon Standard) focused on the identification of significant risks for credits generation, and verification of the mitigation.

1.3 Level of Assurance

Besides the above mentioned, during the verification ICONTEC ensured to fulfill the requirements additional to ISO 14064-3:2006 and ISO 14065:2007, set in VCS standard 2015, which are as follows:

- The level of assurance is reasonable for validation;

- The criteria is VCS 2013 or other GHG Program as approved under the VCS Program;
- The objective is in conformance with the VCS 2013 requirements and VCS program methodologies as applicable to the specific project; and
- The project is classified like a Project (Less than or equal to 300,000 tons of CO_{2e} per year). In consequence, the materiality *with respect to the aggregate of errors, omissions and misrepresentations relative to the total reported GHG removals*, is five per cent.

1.4 Summary Description of the Project

Project Proponent(s):	Fundación Natura Colombia
Title of project activity*:*	Grouped Project for Commercial Forest Plantations Initiatives in the Department of Vichada
Baseline and monitoring methodology:	AR-ACM0003 "Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands" – Version 2.0.
Sectoral scope(s):	14. Land-use, land-use change and forestry
Location of the project activity:	The grouped project is located in Puerto Carreño Municipality (Vichada, Colombia). The project area for the first instance corresponds to the planted areas inside the properties of La Pedregoza, El Toro, Canapro, El Diamante and Horizonte Verde, located at the veredas Caño Negro, Aceitico, La Esperanza and Campo Alegre, in the municipality of Puerto Carreño.
Project crediting period:	The total length of the grouped project-crediting period is 30 years.
Crediting period start date:	The start date of the crediting period is June 15, 2011.
Crediting period end date:	The end date is June 14, 2041.

2 VALIDATION PROCESS

2.1 Method and Criteria

The validation consisted of the following four phases: i) a desk review and investigation on secondary sources of information, ii) on-site assessment iii) the resolution of findings and iv) issuance of the final validation report with the conclusion, as follows:

06/03/2016 to 12/03/2016

Desk Review

Developing the Planning of the validation activities.

14/03/2016

Opening Meeting

- Introduction of auditor
- Audit objective
- Schedule discussion/remarks
- Preparation of sample plot visits

- Questions

Project Description, Sectoral scope and project type

Project location and project boundary (GIS and Project sites)

Methodology applicability

Assessment of the baseline scenario – selected alternatives.

Project additionality – Tools and assessment results.

Ex-ante Quantification of Emission Reductions – estimation of the net anthropogenic removals by sinks (methodology equations) evidence for input data and parameter to the VER calculations, leakage (Uncertainty and conservativeness)

Monitoring Plan

Description and explanations about environmental / social impacts and stakeholder's consultation.

Non-Permanence Risk Tool and the Non-Permanence Risk Report.

The application of tool and the number of credits that the project proponent deposits into the reserve of non-tradable credits, the AFOLU pooled buffer account.

Field visit

Project location and project boundary - Confirmation of Project sites and project boundaries

Management activities and baseline scenario

Stratification on field

Planting Plan and monitoring plan implementation

18/03/2016	Partial Closing meeting with PP.
16/05/2016	Project owners submits relevant documentation to addressing (Corrective Actions Requests (CARs)/Clarification Requests (CLs) in one submission to DOE/AIE
21/05/2016 to 22/05/2016	Review by the VCS Validation team of documentation submitted by the Client in order to close all CARs/ CLAs / FARs
23/05/2016	Writing of the draft report after closure of all CARs/ CLs
25/05/2016 to	Internal Technical Review

28/06/2016

31/05/2016 to 01/06/2016 Adjustments to the final validation report and relative documents to submission, according to the findings spotted by the technical reviewer team

02/05/2016 Project Submission to Project Participant of Final Validation Report

The criteria allow the validation/verification guidance provided by VCS Standard and the rules related to AR-CDM methodology applied. In consequence, the following documents were used to assess this project:

- VCS Standard, 25 March 2015, Version 3.5,
- VCS Guidance Validation and Verification Manual, 8 October 2013, v3.1
- VCS Project Description: VCS Version 3.2
- VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements, 8 October 2013, v3.4
- VCS Guidance. AFOLU Guidance: Additional guidance for VCS Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation projects using CDM Afforestation/Reforestation Methodologies, 8 March 2011
- VCS Non-Permanence Risk Report Template, v3.1 (4 October 2012)
- VCS Monitoring Report Template, Version 3
- AR-ACM0003. A/R Large-scale Consolidated Methodology, Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands, Version 02.0 (4 October 2013)
- A/R Methodological tool “Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities” (Version 01)
- A/R Methodological tool. Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities (Version 04.1)
- A/R Methodological Tool. Estimation of non-CO2 GHG emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity” (Version 04.0.0)
- A/R Methodological Tool. Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities (Version 3.0)
- A/R Methodological Tool. Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity (Version 02.0)
- A/R Methodological Tool. Calculation of the number of sample plots for measurements within A/R CDM project activities (Version 02.1.0)
- A/R Methodological Tool. Demonstrating appropriateness of allometric equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities (Version 01.0.0)

• A/R Methodological Tool. Demonstrating appropriateness of volume equations for estimation of aboveground tree biomass in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01.0.1)

Documentation review, interviews and on-site visit allowed ICONTEC to collect enough evidences to completely assess the validation criteria and determinate that the PD (Version 2.0, May 11, 2016) is in conformance with the rules and VCS criteria. Removals were correctly calculated, based on the applied methodology. ICONTEC can confirm that the GHG removals are calculated without material misstatements. The validation protocol resulting from the assessment of the project is enclosed in Appendix A of this report.

The validation team consists of the personnel described in Table 1.

Table 1: Validation Team

Role/Qualification	Last Name	First Name	Country	Type of involvement		
				Desk review	Site visit/Interviews	Reporting
Lead Auditor / Sectoral Expert	Duque	Angela	Colombia	X	X	X

The Validation Team is qualified in accordance with ICONTEC qualification scheme for VCS validation and verification.

2.2 Document Review

The documentary review was performed in March 06-12, 2016, based on the information provided by the Project Proponent before the on-site visit. This documentation was compared with: Voluntary Carbon Standard 2015 and Voluntary Carbon Standard AFOLU Guidance 2013. This information crosschecking allowed identifying several findings that were declared in Appendix A - Validation Protocol. In addition, the following documents, among others were checked:

The Project Description VCS - v. 01, 18/02/2016 (PD_ARVichada_160218_V01) and v.2.1, 16/05/2016 (PD_ARVichada_ 160516_V02.1).

The applicable approved methodology AR-ACM0003 "Afforestation and Reforestation of lands except wetlands" (version 02.0) and related Tools.

Project Area (SIG, supporting maps and shapes) and Eligibility Analysis (Consolidado de areas_160516, Núcleos elegibilidad, Bosque no bosque 2001-2011)

Agreement and Commitment landowners (Commitment letters, CL_Canapro, CL_El Diamante, CL_El Toro, CL_Horizonte Verde, CL_La Pedregoza, and signed "Otrosi" 01/02)

The estimated GHG removals (CANAPRO_160505, ElDiamante_160505, ElToro_160505, HorizonteVerde_160505, LaPedregoza_160505, PlantingPlan_160505 and Summary)

VCS Non-Permanence Risk (Folders Non permanence risk: Canapro, El Diamate, El Toro, HV, La Pedregoza)

Forestry Management Plans (Folders titled PMFS El Diamante, Horizonte Verde, Canapro, LA Pedregoza and El Toro)

Land Tenure and related information with each property included in the grouped project (Proof of Title)

Sources of Equations & default values (Torres y Del Valle, 2007; Vega y González, 2003; IPCC GPG-LULUCF, 2003 among others)

Stakeholder consultation (Stakeholder Consultation Report GFV, Assistance registry, received comments and photographic evidence)

The whole documentation was reviewed and a validation audit plan was completely carried out during the validation activities.

2.3 Interviews

Between 14/03/2016 to 18/03/2016 a site visit to the project was undertaken. Interviews were conducted with Beatriz Zapata (Forestry Project Developer Carbono & Bosques) and Andrea Vera (Forestry Project Developer, South Pole Group - SPG).

Interviews were carried out to assess understanding of program requirements and to determine if the Project Description is in accordance with the applied methodology. In consequence, on the interviews with the project developer (Research Center Carbono & Bosques and South Pole Group) and the Project Participants, ICONTEC audited in particular the procedures to determinate project boundary and baseline scenarios, carbon calculation, land eligibility as well as proof of land tenure/ownership, including leakage. In addition, the relevant issues related with the Monitoring Plan. During the on-site visit the following people were interviewed (Table 2).

Table 2: Interviews

Project Participant	Name	Position
Canapro	Nubia Flórez	Administrative Coordinator
Canapro	Adiela Henao	Secretary
Canapro	Eduardo Ulloa	Administrator
Canapro	Jhon Jairo Jiménez	Supervisor
Canapro	Jorge Corcho	Coordinator
La Pedregoza	Dexter Dombro	Project Manager Amazonia El Vita
La Pedregoza	Cristian Espinel	Forest Nursery Technical
El Diamante	Héctor Urrea	In charge of the farm
Horizonte Verde	Diego Solano	Administrator
Horizonte Verde	Jhoana Bermúdez	Supervisor
Horizonte Verde	Juan Carlos Gaviria	Genetic Improvement Technical
Horizonte Verde	Elkin Salazar	Management Assistant
El Toro	Edilberto Castillo	In charge of the farm

The Desk Review and the On-site visit resulted in the validation protocol included in Appendix A. The use of this protocol ensures a complete validation process and allows obtaining the information needed to confirm the consistence of the PD whit the program requirements.

2.4 Site Inspections

The objectives of the on-site inspections performed were to:

- Ensure that the geographic area of the project, as reported in the PD and the accompanying Shape file, is in conformance with the program and methodology requirements;

- Perform a risk-based review of the project area to ensure that the project is in conformance the eligibility requirements of the VCS rules and the applicability conditions of the methodology; and

- Perform a risk-based review of the project area to ensure that the project conforms to all other requirements of the VCS rules and the applied methodology.

- In fulfillment of the above objectives, the audit team performed an on-site inspection of the project area on March 14-18, 2016.

- During field reconnaissance, GPS waypoints were collected at boundaries and other significant features including locations where photos were taken.

The eligible areas in the first instance include a total of 12,172 hectares with planted areas distributed in 42 sites on the eight strata. The shape file and maps of all eligible areas was available.

The project area and the site inspections were completed to confirm the project boundaries, verify baseline and check species, age and density of plantings. Site inspections were also conducted to evaluate the consistency of the designed stratification. The project site and plot location were confirmed with GPS.

The project boundary was visited, regarding the baseline conditions and the project stratification. ICONTEC defined a sample size for the sites visited. Those sites were selected randomly, by strata, in the list of plots and identified in field by using a GPS with and accuracy of <10m.

According to that, a total of 14 sites were checked, including representative samples for the identified strata. The sites visited during the validation are provided in Table 3.

Table 3: Sites visited

Species/Planting year	Strata	POINT_X	POINT_Y
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1495270	5.8196520
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1482040	5.8275920
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1514460	5.8306150
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1568920	5.8293080
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1560840	5.8257800
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1645840	5.8214170
Acacia 2013	3	-68.1550100	5.8219290
Acacia 2011	1	-68.1537460	5.8141980
E pellita 2011	4	-68.3952520	5.6412140
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3799680	5.5702460
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3819600	5.5733120
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3815290	5.5740500
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3827960	5.5798430
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3872120	5.5744200
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3927130	5.5756850
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3929920	5.5709780
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3925230	5.5706210
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3898120	5.5755950
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3836030	5.5473160
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3693420	5.5618520
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3620810	5.5609040
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3573270	5.5601910

Species/Planting year	Strata	POINT_X	POINT_Y
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3570230	5.5538280
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3580570	5.5450680
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3597610	5.5410380
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3623760	5.5468420
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3497450	5.5642360
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3488410	5.5619880
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3421030	5.5414490
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3394810	5.5394290
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3392640	5.5379640
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3453370	5.5337940
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3347350	5.5495190
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3371780	5.5618250
E tereticornis 2012	5	-68.3376130	5.5660980
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3952560	5.6414000
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3959810	5.6502800
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3995110	5.6493560
Acacia 2012	2	-68.3946000	5.6536760
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3967500	5.6589930
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3988850	5.6644100
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3988860	5.6644070
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3922770	5.6670310
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3859550	5.6698640
Acacia 2011	1	-68.3930310	5.6622090
E pellita 2015	7	-68.3598510	5.6776320
E pellita 2015	7	-68.3563010	5.6766190
E pellita 2015	7	-68.3509570	5.6770460
E pellita 2015	7	-68.3452680	5.6753310
E pellita 2015	7	-68.3504100	5.6768660
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3429580	5.6699830
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3425500	5.6640270
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3435470	5.6536910
E tereticornis 2013	6	-68.3411050	5.6481130
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2796260	6.1303460
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2776150	6.1334050
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2759260	6.1403530
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2760590	6.1425170
Acacia 2012	2	-68.2764220	6.1444300
Acacia 2012	2	-68.2772120	6.1469980
Acacia 2012	2	-68.2794130	6.1446430
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2813200	6.1407710
Acacia 2013	3	-68.2784300	6.1352850
Acacia 2012	2	-67.7834820	5.9221620
Acacia 2012	2	-67.7795410	5.9295550
Acacia 2012	2	-67.7956420	5.8897960
Acacia 2011	1	-67.7290240	6.0608430
Nativas 2014	8	-67.7358390	6.0508300
E pellita 2012	5	-67.7420850	6.0602610

2.5 Resolution of Findings

Findings established during the validation can be seen as a non-fulfillment of validation criteria, or an identified risk to the fulfillment of the project objectives. The findings could take the form of a Corrective Action Request (CAR), Forward action Request (FAR) or a Clarification Request (CL).

A Corrective Action Request (CAR) shall be raised if one of the following situations occurs:

(a) Non-compliance with the monitoring plan or methodology are found in monitoring and reporting and has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants, or if the evidence provided to prove conformity is insufficient;

(b) Modifications to the implementation, operation and monitoring of the registered project activity has not been sufficiently documented by the project participants;

(c) Mistakes have been made in applying assumptions, data or calculations of emission reductions which will impact the quantity of emission reductions;

(d) Issues identified in a FAR during validation to be verified during verification have not been resolved by the project participants.

A Clarification Request (CL) shall be raised if information is insufficient or not clear enough to determine whether the applicable VCS requirements have been met.

A Forward Action Request (FAR) is issued for actions if the monitoring and reporting require attention and/or adjustment for the next verification period.

This report includes all CARs and CLs raised in this validation. The findings of the validation are stated in the following sections. The validation criteria (requirements), the means of validation and the results from verifying the identified criteria are documented in more detail in the validation protocol in Appendix A.

As a result of this assessment there were found twelve (12) CARs, Eighteen (18) CLs and zero (0) FARs. CAR and CLs were closed based upon adequate responses from the project proponent which meet the applicable requirements; findings were reassessed before their formal acceptance and closure. All finding, included the issues raised, the responses provided by the project proponent and the final conclusions are contained in the Appendix A. All required changes are observable on PD Version 02.1 (16/05/2016).

2.6 Forward Action Requests

There are not Forward Action Requests.

3 VALIDATION FINDINGS

3.1 Project Details

3.1.1 *Project scope, type, technologies and measures implemented, and eligibility of the project*

The project is an AFOLU A/R, under sectoral scope 14 (AFOLU). As described in Section 4.2 of the VCS AFOLU Requirements, the project falls under the category of Afforestation, Reforestation and Revegetation.

The Grouped Project aims to promote investments new commercial forest plantations in Puerto Carreño Municipality. The project is based on changing the use of land from extensive cattle ranching (of low productivity and which use prescribed burns to encourage the regrowth of degraded grassland) to sustainable forest production systems, based on good forestry practices, which will increase the forest cover in the project region and promote remnant natural forest restoration, thus generating a landscape of biological and productive corridors that produce financial, social and environmental services for the region. These impacts include the mitigation of climate change, regulation of water flows, expansion of habitat and conservation of the flora and fauna in the zone and the Orinoco region.

3.1.2 *Project proponent*

The project proponent is Fundación Natura.

Fundación Natura is a non-profit and non-governmental organization (NGO) whose mission is to promote the conservation of biodiversity and the sustainable use of natural resources. Through the Agreement No. 02 of 2015, Fundación Natura established an alliance with the landowners and project owners, in order to co-finance and collaborate with the development of the project design for carbon markets and eventually with other related activities.

3.1.3 *Project start date*

The project start date, according to the PD (section 1.5), is June 15, 2011.

The Annual Planting Report (2011), signals the date which started the reforestation activities in the nucleus La Pedregoza. The starting date was confirmed by ICONTEC according the requirements of VVM. The starting date is clearly defined and the evidence is sufficient to prove it. Accordingly, ICONTEC verified that the start date of the project activity is 15/06/2011, which corresponds to the date of the first registry of planting activities (32.6 hectares with 10 native species). Besides, the shape file and maps, including planted areas was reviewed. In this sense, the VVB completed a site inspection to confirm the planted sites and the date of plantation of each of those in the respective reports and formats used by the PP.

The VVB also checked in person such information and discuss about it with the project owner. All files were checked and evaluated properly according to the standard requirements.

3.1.4 *Project crediting period*

The total length of the grouped project-crediting period is 30 years. The start date of the crediting period is June 15, 2011; the end date is June 14, 2041. There is no difference between the project start date and the project crediting period start date.

3.1.5 *Project scale and estimated GHG emission reductions or removals*

The project is considered a “project” according to the requirements of Section 3.9.1 of the VCS Standard.

The project is estimated to result in GHG emission reductions and removals equivalent to 39,506.38 tCO_{2e} per year, over the project crediting period, for the first instance.

3.1.6 *Project location*

The project area for the first instance corresponds to the planted areas inside the properties of La Pedregoza, El Toro, Canapro, El Diamante and Horizonte Verde, located at the veredas Caño Negro, Aceitico, La Esperanza and Campo Alegre, in the municipality of Puerto Carreño. The Project description includes the geodetic coordinates of the central point, within the farms (Table 4).

Table 4: Project location – First Instance

Nucleus	Farm	Coordinate X	Coordinate Y
Canapro	Bita	1,040,338.61	1,172,503.33
	Caño Negro	1,033,726.78	1,145,425.19
El Toro	La Esperanza	1,004,503.46	1,150,573.95
	Las Maravillas	1,003,557.44	1,154,285.04
	El Toro	978,189.56	1,171,384.59
La Pedregoza	La Pedregoza (conformed by the properties La Pedregoza, El Sol and El Encierro)	1,038,893.26	1,163,248.50
El Diamante	El Diamante	992,586.52	1,134,837.61
Horizonte Verde	El Sinaí	970,745.19	1,105,251.76
	El Reflejo	968,276.26	1,106,465.08
	La Fenicia	965,269.87	1,107,016.73
	San José	972,230.04	1,114,629.04
	El Silencio	977,677.24	1,116,001.90
	Pozo Azul	974,690.02	1,115,035.41
	La Estaca	969,996.24	1,115,742.06
	El Triunfo	983,664.04	1,114,753.83
	La Payara	987,784.69	1,149,968.49
	La concordia	986,765.04	1,115,441.17
	Los Eucaliptos	965,479.28	1,116,924.84
	El Pretesto	985,038.06	1,123,535.53
	La Diversión	984,102.26	1,120,523.56

The project proponent provided KML files depicting the property boundaries, in conformance with the VCS Standard. Comparison of GPS waypoints taken during the on-site visit with the boundaries represented by the Shape files found no discrepancies.

3.1.7 *Conditions prior to project initiation*

The PD includes the description of the present environmental conditions of the area planned to the proposed A/R project activity, including a concise description of ecological and climate information (Temperature, precipitation, relative humidity, soils, geomorphology, hydrography, land use and biodiversity conditions), in conformance with the VCS Standard.

3.1.8 *Project compliance with applicable laws, statutes and other regulatory frameworks*

According PD, project complies with the national statutes and other regulatory frameworks. Domestic law does not require any special licenses or permits to plant a forest. The company complies with the Act 1377 of 2010 that regulates the activity for commercial reforestation and

Regulatory Decree No. 2803 of 2010, by which is regulated the Ac 1377 of 2010 about registration of forest crops and agroforestry systems for commercial purposes, protective-productive plantations and the mobilization of primary processing products, among others.

In addition, the project proponent presents adequately the information related with the other local regulation for the grouped project.

3.1.9 *Ownership and other programs*

ICONTEC confirmed that the *Grouped project for commercial forest plantations initiatives in the department of Vichada* is clear with respect to the form of participation of individuals or entities interested in the project, at the level of demonstrating the legal land tenure, the ownership rights of the resources and services obtained.

Through the Agreement No. 02 of 2015, Fundación Natura established an alliance with the landowners and project owners, in order to co-finance and collaborate with the development of the project design for carbon markets and eventually with other related activities. The owners and legal representatives of the first instance agreed that Fundación Natura could act as project proponent, as they move towards the establishment of a formal figure that represents them.

The project has not been registered under any other GHG program and is not seeking a second registration in the future. The current VCS project is completely independent from any other carbon project scheme being developed in Colombia such as REDD projects. The project is not seeking participation into any other GHG program.

3.1.10 *Additional information relevant to the project, including:*

Eligibility criteria for grouped projects

In section 1.13 of the PD (Additional Information Relevant to the Project), PP provides a list of the eligibility criteria that project instances need to meet for the inclusion of any new eligible areas as instances willing to participate within the proposed grouped project, regarding the areas under control of the PP and the conditions about eligibility, baseline scenario and additionality conditions for the specified project activity and geographic area.

ICONTEC confirms that definition of eligibility criteria complies with paragraph 3.4.9 of the VCS Standard version 3.5 (25 March, 2015).

Leakage management for AFOLU projects

The project is not required to manage leakage. See discussion under section 3.2.6 of this report.

In summary, ICONTEC considers that the description, documentation and information related to the project description is accurate, complete and provides an understanding of the nature of the project.

3.2 Application of Methodology

3.2.1 *Title and Reference*

The methodology applied to the project (hereafter termed “the methodology”) is a CDM A/R approved methodology AR-ACM0003: A/R Large-scale Consolidated Methodology Afforestation and reforestation of lands except wetlands – Version 2.0. The methodology can be found at https://cdm.unfccc.int/methodologies/DB/C9QS5G3CS8FW04MYYXDFOQDPXWM4OE.

Tools referenced, and adequately applied by the project, are the following:

- "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities";
- "Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities";
- "Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks in dead wood and litter in A/R CDM project activities";
- "Tool for estimation of change in soil organic carbon stocks due to the implementation of A/R CDM project activities";
- "Estimation of non-CO2 greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions resulting from burning of biomass attributable to an A/R CDM project activity";
- "Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity".

3.2.2 *Applicability*

The applicability conditions for the methodology are:

a) The A/R CDM project activity is implemented on degraded lands, which are expected to remain degraded or to continue to degrade in the absence of the project, hence the land cannot be expected to revert to a non-degraded state without human intervention;
b) If at least a party of the project activity is implemented on organic soils, drainage of these soils is not allowed and not more than 10% of their area may be disturbed as result of soil preparation for planting;
c) The land does not fall into wetland I category.

The Project Proponent addresses each of these applicability conditions, correctly and including the consistency between the requirements and the project activity, in section 2.2 of the Project Description Version 02.1, 16.05.2016.

By all-inclusive review and cross-checking, ICONTEC corroborated that the selected methodology applies to the project activity and was correctly applied with respect to the following: project boundary, baseline identification, formulae to determine emission reductions, additionality and monitoring methodology.

3.2.3 *Project Boundary*

The relevant GHG sources, sinks and reservoirs for the project and baseline scenarios are presenting in Table 16 on PD. GHG pools for the project include above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, dead wood, litter and soil organic carbon. Emission of non-CO2 GHGs resulting from the loss of aboveground tree biomass due to fire (in the event that occur) is considered and calculated using the above ground biomass in trees of relevant strata.

By reviewed information and the field visit, ICONTEC could conclude that the project boundary and selected sources, sinks and reservoirs are adequately justified for the project.

3.2.4 *Baseline Scenario*

The baseline scenario has been justified applying the A/R CDM Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities". The land within the project boundary is defined as degraded grassland for all cases of the grouped instances.

The project proponent follows the procedures outlined in the mentioned tool. The credible alternative land use scenarios that would have occurred on the land within the project boundary correspond to:

- Continuation of the pre-project land use: Degraded pasture

- Project activity on the land within the project boundary performed without being registered as the VCS AFOLU project

Based on those alternative land uses identified, the project proponent identifies barriers to project implementation related to investment, technological and infrastructure (routes of transportation) and social aspects.

In this sense, applying the decision tree presented in the "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project V.1.0 in the outcome of sub-step 3b is concluded that: Degraded pasture by extensive livestock and burning grassland is the land use alternative that does not face any of the identified barriers. Forest plantations with or without native species, without carbon revenues face all the identified barriers. Therefore, degraded pasture by extensive livestock and burning grassland is the baseline scenario.

The audit team examined the documentation that provide evidence and justify the exactitude of the information and descriptions in PD.

In accordance with the requirements of the baseline and additionality tool, a common practice analysis has been. Pertinent section on PD includes a discussion about. ICONTEC confirmed that the project initiative is different of the common practices in the region project.

In concurs with observations made during the site visit and information provided by project proponent, in addition with the review of documentation related to the forestry sector and the dynamic of the land use in the project area, considering the evidence and application of the CDM tool, as required by the methodology, the audit team finds that the historical uses and the economic determinants of land use would most probably result in a continuation of degraded pasture are the most plausible baseline scenario and that the project activity is additional.

3.2.5 Additionality

See the discussion under section 3.2.4. Note that under the VCS Standard section 3.14, additionality is to be demonstrated and assessed in accordance with the requirements set out in the methodology.

3.2.6 Quantification of GHG Emission Reductions and Removals

Quantification of baseline emissions

Baseline carbon stock changes are assumed to be zero. The PP applied the methodology (AR-TOOL14, Estimation of carbon stocks and change in carbon stocks of trees and shrubs in A/R CDM project activities Version 04.1, section 5), considering that the carbon stock in trees in the baseline can be accounted as zero, regarding the conditions of the tool indicated. The compliance of those conditions is guaranteed and the information reviewed determines that the indicators related with conditions under which carbon stock and change in carbon stock may be estimated as zero in the AR methodological tool has been considered and **c**hanges in carbon stocks in trees and shrubs in the baseline have been accounted as zero.

ICONTEC verified the information available and the process implemented by PP during the documentary review and confirmed this information by observations on the first instance during the site visit.

Quantification of project emissions

The procedures and equations identified in the PD for calculating net GHG emissions follow the procedures and equations laid out in the methodology, including reference to specified CDM tools for individual pools.

Quantification of leakage

According the applied methodology, the emissions due to the displacement of agricultural activities should be account by leakages. As described in section 3.3 of PD, the project activity attributable to displacement is grazing. However, at the time of the project's implementation, the properties were not being used for cattle or it was not significant (it was between 0.02 and 0.09 animals / hectare, while the carrying capacity for cattle in this region is between 0.1 and 0.2 animals / hectare). The few animals in the project boundary were moved to other existing grazing lands inside the farms. Accordingly, leakage emission attributable to the displacement of grazing activities is considered insignificant and hence accounted as zero.

The audit team concludes that the Project Proponent's assertion that leakage can be considered insignificant is justified and conforms to the VCS requirements.

In regard to procedures in the correspondent requirement of VCS Standard, ICONTEC confirms the following statements:

a) All relevant assumptions and data are listed in the project description, including their references and sources.
b) All data and parameter values used in the project description are considered reasonable in the context of the project.
c) All estimates of the baseline emissions can be replicated using the data and parameter values provided in the project description.

According the information and evidence presented, the grazing activity is the only agricultural pre-project activity. Based on this analysis, leakage emissions for this project are considered negligible, and have been accounted as Zero. ICONTEC has been confirmed through visual inspection that grazing activities displacements are adequately referred in the PD. Also, the information collected during the interviews with the landowners confirmed the presented information. Finally, the audit team concludes that the methodology and any referenced tools have been applied correctly to calculate baseline emissions, project emissions, leakage and net GHG emission reductions and removals.

3.2.7 *Methodology Deviations*

The PD identifies no methodology deviations and none were found by the audit team.

3.2.8 *Monitoring Plan*

ICONTEC verified that a Monitoring Plan was included in the PD. The monitoring plan is intended to facilitate monitoring, recording, reporting, and verification activities necessary for assessment of the project performance and determination of the achieved emissions reductions in compliance with the approved methodology AR-ACM0003. This MP monitors the carbon stock changes in the A/R project activity.

The assessment team has checked all the parameters presented in the monitoring plan against the requirements of the methodology. In this sense, the Monitoring Plan contains all necessary parameters, with adequate descriptions as to: Source of data, measurements procedures, monitoring frequency and QA/QC procedures to be applied.

The Monitoring Plan is further described all the issues of the MP are included. The following components are addressed in the monitoring plan (MP) for quantifying the carbon sequestered under the proposed A/R Project: Data storage, information data management system, monitoring periods and frequency, monitoring and operational procedures, measurement and estimation of carbon content changes, stratification, plot size, quality assurance and quality control (QA/QC). Also, includes the operational and management structure to monitor actual GHG removals by sinks and any leakage generated by the proposed A/R project activity.

The MP complies with the requirement of AR-ACM0003, Version 02.0 (Section 6). The audit team checked the parameters, source of data, measurements procedures, monitoring frequency and QA/QC procedures. The requirements for the monitoring of carbon stock changes were correctly applied. The boundary and the forest management were defined following the methodology and specifically for the project conditions. The selected monitoring frequency of the parameters is consistent with the requirements of methodology.

Based on these descriptions and on documental verifications, the DOE deems that the technical and organizational design proposed in the Monitoring Plan is adequate to ensure that removals resulting from the project can be reported ex post and verified. The monitoring plan presented complies with the requirement of the methodology AR-ACM0003, Version 02.0.

3.3 Non-Permanence Risk Analysis

The project proponent has been determined the risk factors through a qualitative analysis, following the guidance of the VCS AFOLU Non Permanence Risk Tool and providing enough evidence and documentation. ICONTEC evaluated the risk assessment undertaken by the project proponent and assessed all data, rationales, assumptions, justifications and documentation provided by the project proponent to support the non-permanence risk rating.

The result of the AFOLU non-permanence risk was 20%, in accordance with the supporting documents (VCS Non-Permanence Risk report for project sites: CANAPRO, El Diamante, El Toro, Horizonte Verde and La Pedregoza). Therefore, this percentage of the net GHG emission reductions or removals (178,308), have to be deposit into the AFOLU pooled buffer account. ICONTEC considers that the data provided to support the result is adequate and the risk score is appropriate.

3.4 Environmental Impact

As described on PD, the project proponent has been developed an environmental impact assessments with respect to the project. The project is developed as a system of well-managed commercial plantations, which seeks to minimize the impact of plantations on natural ecosystems and promote the maintenance of the different ecosystem services in the high plains, using criteria of environmental sustainability.

The description about environmental impact is in way to the characteristics of project and project area. Additionally, the reforestation project does not need an impact assessment in Colombia.

3.5 Comments by Stakeholders

The project proponent explains correctly the stakeholder's participation and present adequately the summary of the mechanisms for on-going communication and comments received (see Section 6 on PD).

4 VALIDATION CONCLUSION

ICONTEC performed the validation process of the project: "**Grouped project for commercial forest plantations initiatives in the department of Vichada**". The validation was performed on the basis of the VCS Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use (AFOLU) Requirements, 8 October 2013, v3.4 and VCS Standard, 25 March 2015, Version 3.5.

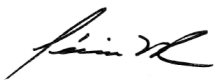
The review of the Project Description and the subsequent follow up interviews has provided ICONTEC with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfillment of the stated criteria. The project correctly applies the following CDM methodology: AR-ACM0003 - "Afforestation and Reforestation of lands except wetlands" - Version 02.0.

The grouped project is based on changing the use of land from extensive cattle ranching to sustainable forest production systems, based on good forestry practices, which will increase the forest cover in the project region and promote remnant natural forest restoration, thus generating a landscape of biological and productive corridors that produce financial, social and environmental services for the region. The objective of the first instance is to establish forest plantations with commercial species. The most used species for the project are the *Acacia mangium, E. tereticornis* which occupy more than 80% of the area intervened by the project.

The project activity started in June 15, 2011. The total emission reductions from the project are estimated to be on the average of 39,506.38 tCO_{2e} per year over the project crediting period. The Estimated net GHG emission reductions or removals (tCO_{2e}) are 1,185,191.26. The emission reduction forecast has been checked and it is deemed likely that the stated amount is achieved because the underlying assumptions do not change.

In summary, it is ICONTEC's opinion that the project "Grouped project for commercial forest plantations initiatives in the department of Vichada", as described in the Project Description (version 02.1), meets all relevant AFOLU VCS requirements. ICONTEC thus requests the registration of the project as a VCS project activity.

Bogotá, 02/06/2016



Mónica Vivas
Director of conformity assessment
ICONTEC

5 APPENDIX A: VALIDATION PROTOCOL

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
Clarification Request CL1 In the summary description of the project, the PP signals that the project include "*restoring natural forest cover and creating a landscape of biological and productive corridors*"; however, in the project activities there are not description about those aspects.	Project Description Template v3.2	11 – 05- 2016 In the summary description of the project, the sentence… "*restoring natural forest cover and creating a landscape of biological and productive corridors*"… was modified in order to explain that natural forest cover restoration is not a project activity, but an expected impact of the project.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL2 On section 1.4 (Other entities involved in the project) there are some missing information.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1 Project Details	11 – 05- 2016 On section 1.4, the missing information related to project owners, was added.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL3 The project start date is not presented, specifying the day, month and year.	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 3.2 Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.5 Project Start Date	11 – 05- 2016 As indicated *in the section 1.5 of the PDD, t*he project star date is *June 15th, 2011 corresponding to the reforestation activity in La Pedregoza.*	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL4 The reference about the species planted is not consistent. There is not included *Simarouba amara* in the Table 1. Moreover, there is not presented the description of the some species in the section.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.8 Description of the Project Activity	11 – 05- 2016 The list of used tree species was revised, corrected and supplemented. Besides, description of the species was added.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
Clarification Request CL5 The reference to the Table 2 is missing in the text.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.8 Description of the Project	11 – 05- 2016 The reference to the Table 2 was added in the text.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL6 On section related to silvicultural activities, there are some texts incorrect, e.g. in the Table 4 is included *Gmelina arborea*, and the section related to project activities does not consider this species.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.8 Description of the Project	11 – 05- 2016 In 2011 and 2012, 2.35 ha of *Gmelina arborea* were planted in La Pedregoza. This specie was included in the section 1.8.1. and Table 1.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL7 Is not clear if the current land use presented in the section 1.10.1 (Description of the grouped project location) corresponds to the project area. Besides, the last idea included in the list of activities, does not an activity, it is a consequence.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.10 Conditions prior to project location	11 – 05- 2016 The current land use presented in the section 1.10.1, corresponds to the area in which the group project is expected to extend the project area. This clarification was incorporated in the PD. Adjustments to the paragraphs corresponding to *current land use* were also made.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL8 On section 1.10.2, the description about La Pedregoza is not consistent with the documentation. The farm is conformed by three properties. On the other hand, the data related to farm area is incorrect: "..an area of 2.652 ha, which include 7.187 ha eligible for project activities".	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 4.3 Project Boundary AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool	11 – 05- 2016 On section 1.10.2, the description about La Pedregoza was corrected. Overall, La Pedregoza nuclei comprises three properties (La Pedregoza, El Encierro and El Sol) for a total area of 2,684 hectare, which	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
	"Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	include 1,826 ha eligible for project activities.	
Clarification Request CL9 The description about the land use in the farm El Diamante is not clear. The text indicates that "*the lands of the farm are dedicated to the development of reforestation activities*"; however, in the table there are other land uses.	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 3.4 Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.10 Conditions prior to project location	11 – 05- 2016 Modified. New information taken from the Management Forest Plan. Land use of El Diamante is Gallery Forest, flooded forest and Savanna.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL10 The section 1.11 is not adequate. The PP enlists the regulatory frameworks, the national legislation, departmental legislation and municipal legislation. Nevertheless, is missing the demonstration of the compliance of the project with all and any relevant local, regional and national lows, statutes and regulatory frameworks.	A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01) Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.11 Compliance with laws, statues and other regulatory frameworks	11 – 05- 2016 The information regarding the compliance with any relevant local, regional and national laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks, was added in the section 1.11.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL11 The right of use described on section 1.12.1 is not appropriate. The PP explains the right of use related to the land in the project. On this section should be explained, and evidenced, the right of	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 3.4 Project Description Template v.3.2	11 – 05- 2016 The five nucleus will form an official entity that manage the carbon credits.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding.

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
use with respect to the GHG removals.	Section 1.9 Project Location		Closed
Clarification Request CL12 The sentence: "Greater than one has continuous areas. Forest" (Section 1.13) is not clear. It is confusing.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.13 Eligibility Criteria VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.4.1 Grouped Projects	11 – 05- 2016 This sentence was corrected.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL13 There is not an adequate explanation about the organic soils in the project boundary. In the Table 15, the PP have been included a text about the soils in the Colombian high plains, and references the PMES El Diamante, but the areas in the project are conformed by multiple properties.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 2.2 Applicability of Methodology VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 4.3 Applicability Conditions AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 2.2	11 – 05- 2016 The explanation about the soils in the project boundary was corrected in order to clarify that the project activities do not take place on organic soils. This explanation was also extended to include all the project properties.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL14 About the applicability conditions of the ARAM-tool-15-v2.0 (Estimation of the increase in GHG emissions attributable to displacement of pre-project agricultural activities in A/R CDM project activity); the applicability condition included in the Table 16 is not appropriate. In this sense, the text in the column "Compliance" is not consistent with the condition described. Moreover, PP inscribes that "*the implementation of project do not cause displacement of agricultural activities*"; Besides in onsite visit was observed grazing activities in the project boundary.	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 2.2 Applicability of Methodology VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 4.3 Applicability Conditions AR Tool 15 v 02.0	11 – 05- 2016 The text related to the compliance with the ARAM-tool-15-v2.0 was corrected according to the project conditions. The information about grazing activities inside the project farms was included in a new table on section 3.3.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
Therefore, it should be applied the Tool, and provide the correct evidence about the grazing activities.			
Clarification Request CL15 On monitoring section (4.1. Data and parameters available at validation), about the factor Root-Shoot-Radio, the PP explain that parameters for the project sites and the region were not available at the time of validation , the project participant use for all tree species, the equation suggested by the ARAM Tool 14; However, in page 75 the text is: "*For all cases (except H. brasiliensis)*….".	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 4.8 Monitoring AFOLU Requirements v3.4 Section 4.0 Monitoring Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 4.1	11 – 05- 2016 On section 4.1., it was explained that the equation suggested by the ARAM Tool 14 was used to calculate the Root-Shoot-Ratio for all cases except *H. brasiliensis*.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL16 Some data and parameters presented in section 4.2 should be contained also in section 4.1, available at validation.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 4.8 Monitoring AFOLU Requirements v3.4 Section 4.0 Monitoring Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 4.1	11 – 05- 2016 The parameters *A, Ai,* $V_{TREE, j,p,i,t}$ and *F(D,H)* used to calculate ex ante project emissions, was included in the section 4.1 (parameters available at validation).	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Clarification Request CL17 On section 5.1 (Environmental Impact Assessment), the PP states: "*The forest cover generated by the plantations, increase the connectivity of natural ecosystems, which favors the protection of gallery forests, wetlands and morichales. Additionally, the recovery of ecological niches for endemic, vulnerable or threatened species is favored*".	Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 5	11 – 05- 2016 Additional information added based on scientific papers.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
Moreover, "*the project is also considered an activity of landscape restoration that incorporates objectives of conservation of biodiversity*". Those are theoretical sentences. It is necessary to explain and justify the relation to the project activities with that.			
Clarification Request CL18 The PP does not include the complete references to sources of information in the some parts of PD (document or study used, author, date and if applicable the web site where it is available). Also, there are some mistakes in the sources identified.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Project Description Template v.3.2	11 – 05- 2016 Complete references added.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR1 The specie *Anacardium occidentale* not presents compliance with the forest definition; this specie should not be included in the carbon calculation.	AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 This specie was excluded from the ex-ante emission calculations.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR2 The project location is presented in the Table 12. The farms contained in this table are not coherent with the properties included in the documentation; e.g. the farm La Pedregoza consists of three properties.	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 4.3 Project Boundary AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline	11 – 05- 2016 La Pedregoza consists of three properties: La Pedregoza, El Sol and El Encierro (these were the previous names before being purchased by Amazonia El Vita). However, the cartographic information is entirely merged into a single polygon, with a total area of 2,684 ha. The geodetic	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
	scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01) Project Description Template v.3.2 Section 1.9 Project Location	coordinates presented in the section 1.9, correspond to the entire polygon. This clarification was also included in the PD.	
Corrective Action Request CAR3 According section 1.10, "*the conditions existing prior to the project initiation is livestock under conventional conditions of low productivity*". In the same way, on page 37 is explained: "*The predominant land use correspond mostly to extensive livestock activities*". However, in section 3.3 (Leakage), the PP signals that "*the properties were not being used for cattle or it was not significant*". Additionally, in the common practice analysis, the first scenario described is cattle farming. This is not clear for the conditions existing prior the project initiation, baseline scenario and the aspects related to additionality.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.1 AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities"(Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 The baseline scenario of the project activity corresponds to the degraded pasture lands, mostly by extensive cattle ranching and regular antropogenic burning of grasses. Additionality section modified.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR4 The description presented about the farm El Toro is not consistent with the information included about the properties. The text signals: "*is conformed by the farms La Esperanza, Las Maravillas, El Toro1 and El Toro Sur*", but the documentation submitted includes 2 properties.	AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 4.3 Project Boundary AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to	11 – 05- 2016 El Toro consists of three properties: El Toro, Las Maravillas and La Esperanza. The documents related to the three properties were updated and added into the folder: Proof of Title.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
	identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)		
Corrective Action Request CAR5 On section 2.1, the PP indicates that the project "*aims to reforest degraded lands, which are expected to remain degraded or to continue degraded in the absence of the project*". And, in Table 24 (Parameters used for the estimation of the soil organic carbon), the management factor used corresponds to lands are identified as degraded lands. However, there is not enough evidence, in the document, that the lands in the project are degraded lands.	AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 The evidence that the lands in the project are degraded lands was added in the sections 2.4 (Baseline scenario) and 2.5 (Additionality).	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR6 The analysis about the credible alternative land use scenarios to the proposed project activity does not include the reference related to another carbon project in the Vichada department.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.14 Additionality AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 This reference was added in the PD	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR7 The barrier analysis is not enough. Some discussions are not clear, and the	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.14 Additionality	11 – 05- 2016 Due to forest plantations are	22-05-2016 The project proponent response

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
presented evidence is not sufficient. The PP have been include an explanation about the incentives and taxes that support the commercial reforestation; the idea is not consistent with the investment barrier ("*About 90% of commercial reforestations are supported by incentives and tax benefits given by the government*").	AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	supported by the CIF, this incentive is limited by the annual budget availability.	adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR8 The PP should to improve the assessment about common practice analysis, including explanation and justification regarding the description presented.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.14 Additionality AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 Common practice analysis modified.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR9 It is not clear the statement, on page 114 (PDD): "*Leave some potential planting area as natural ecosystem, including savannahs*". We can assume that the areas on the project boundary are a natural ecosystem (savannas). In this sense, according VCS Standard, activities that convert native ecosystems to generate GHG credits are not eligible	AFOLU Requirements, v3.4 Section 3.1.6	11 – 05- 2016 The cover vegetation in the project boundary are degraded savannahs, which have been historically intervened for cattle ranching purposes. The dominant food and main source of dietary energy for livestock are pastures with high level of	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
under the VCS Program.		lignification, therefore widespread slash-and-burn techniques and prescribed burns are used to encourage the regrowth of these pastures. These practices have generated fundamental changes in this ecosystem, including degradation and loss of biodiversity. It means that these are not natural but disturbed ecosystems that have been most significantly altered by anthropogenic pressure. Some changes were made in the PD in order to clarify this issue.	
Corrective Action Request CAR10 The AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Tool was adequately applied; however a complete source and justification of the information that confirms the assumptions and calculus is not presented in the pertinent report. Additionally, there are some aspects that were not appropriately considered in the analysis for the parameter M, in the tool (0.25). The presence of fires in the project area is high. In consequence, is necessary an adjustment, related to project in the Natural Risk Management, and the inclusion of the pertinent evidence.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.2.2 AFOLU Requirements VCS v.3.4 Section 2.1/Section 3.7	11 – 05- 2016 The AFOLU Non-Permanence Risk Report was modified and supporting information is now complete. Besides, the presence of fires in the project area is considered high in the tool: Likelihood: Less than every 10 years (the highest) Significance: Minor (5% to less than 25% loss carbon stocks). According to the information provided for the project owners, during the worst events 20% of the areas had been affected by	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed

Clarifications and corrective action requests	Reference	Summary of project proponent response	Validation Team conclusion
		the fires, and the impact has been greater on younger plantations (i.e. on stands with lower carbon stocks). Finally, the score applied for M is 0.5 (instead of 0.5).	
Corrective Action Request CAR11 There are some planted areas before 2011 (identified as the project start date), included in the project boundary. Those areas should be excluded; a cause of the compliance of the forest definition.	VCS Standard v.3.5(0) Section 3.14 Additionality AR-ACM0003 ver02.0 Section 3 A/R Methodological tool "Combined tool to identify the baseline scenario and demonstrate additionality in A/R CDM project activities" (Version 01)	11 – 05- 2016 These areas were excluded from the project boundary, and the information was updated in the PD and project boundary documentation.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed
Corrective Action Request CAR12 There is a property included in another carbon project, currently without registration. However, according VCS Standard, "*where projects are eligible to participate under one or more programs to create another form of GHG-related environmental credit, but are not currently doing so, a list of such programs shall be provided to the validation/verification body*".	VCS Standard, v3.5(0) Section 3.11.5	11 – 05- 2016 Currently the nucleus La Pedregoza is involved in another carbon project, using a local standard. The name of this program was added in the PD.	22-05-2016 The project proponent response adequately addresses the finding. Closed