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| **G.1 – Original Conditions in Project Area** | | | |
| The original conditions at the project area and the surrounding project zone before the project commences must be described. This description, along with baseline projections (G2), will help to determine the likely impacts of the project. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| General Information | 1. The location of the project and basic physical parameters (e.g., soil, geology, climate).  2. The types and condition of vegetation within the project area.  3. The boundaries of the project area and the project zone. | |  |
| Climate Information | 4. Current carbon stocks within the project area(s), using stratification by land-use or vegetation type and methods of carbon calculation (such as biomass plots, formulae, default values) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s 2006 Guidelines for National GHG Inventories for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Use5 (IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU) or a more robust and detailed methodology. | |  |
| Community Information | 5. A description of communities located in the project zone, including basic socio-economic and cultural information that describes the social, economic and cultural diversity within communities (wealth, gender, age, ethnicity etc.), identifies specific groups such as Indigenous Peoples and describes any community characteristics.  6. A description of current land use and customary and legal property rights including community property in the project zone, identifying any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes and identifying and describing any disputes over land tenure that were resolved during the last ten years (see also G5). | |  |
| Biodiversity Information | 7. A description of current biodiversity within the project zone (diversity of species and ecosystems11) and threats to that biodiversity, using appropriate methodologies, substantiated where possible with appropriate reference material.  8. An evaluation of whether the project zone includes any of the following High Conservation Values (HCVs) and a description of the qualifying attributes:  8.1. Globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values;  a. protected areas  b. threatened species  c. endemic species  d. areas that support significant concentrations of a species during any time in their lifecycle (e.g. migrations, feeding grounds, breeding areas).  8.2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;  8.3. Threatened or rare ecosystems;  8.4. Areas that provide critical ecosystem services (e.g., hydrological services, erosion control, fire control);  8.5. Areas that are fundamental for meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g., for essential food, fuel, fodder, medicines or building materials without readily available alternatives); and  8.6. Areas that are critical for the traditional cultural identity of communities (e.g., areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in collaboration with the communities). | |  |

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| **G.2 – Baseline Projections** | | | |
| A baseline projection is a description of expected conditions in the project zone in the absence of project activities. The project impacts will be measured against this ‘without-project’ reference scenario. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Community | 4. Describe how the ‘without project’ reference scenario would affect communities in the project zone, including the impact of likely changes in water, soil and other locally important ecosystem services. | |  |
| Biodiversity | 5. Describe how the ‘without project’ reference scenario would affect biodiversity in the project zone (e.g., habitat availability, landscape connectivity and threatened species). | |  |

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| **G.3 – Project Design Goals** | | | |
| The project must be described in sufficient detail so that a third-party can adequately evaluate it. | | | |
| Projects must be designed to minimize risks to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits and to maintain those benefits beyond the life of the project. Effective local participation in project design and implementation is key to optimizing multiple benefits, equitably and sustainably. Projects that operate in a transparent manner build confidence with stakeholders and outside parties and enable them to contribute more effectively to the project. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Summary of Objectives | 1. Provide a summary of the project’s major climate, community and biodiversity objectives. | |  |
| Impacts and Objectives By Project Activity | 2. Describe each project activity with expected climate, community and biodiversity impacts and its relevance to achieving the project’s objectives. | |  |
| Project Boundaries | 3. Provide a map identifying the project location and boundaries of the project area(s), where the project activities will occur, of the project zone and of additional surrounding locations that are predicted to be impacted by project activities (e.g. through leakage). | |  |
| Implementation Schedule and Timeline | 4. Define the project lifetime and GHG accounting period and explain and justify any differences between them. Define an implementation schedule, indicating key dates and milestones in the project’s development. | |  |
| Project Risks | 5. Identify likely natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits during the project lifetime and outline measures adopted to mitigate these risks. | |  |
| Maintenance/ Enhancement of HCVs | 6. Demonstrate that the project design includes specific measures to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the high conservation value attributes identified in G1 consistent with the precautionary principle. | |  |
| Maintenance of Benefits beyond Project Lifetime | 7. Describe the measures that will be taken to maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime. | |  |
| Ongoing Participation and Consultation | 8. Document and defend how communities and other stakeholders potentially affected by the project activities have been identified and have been involved in project design through effective consultation, particularly with a view to optimizing community and stakeholder benefits, respecting local customs and values and maintaining high conservation values. Project developers must document stakeholder dialogues and indicate if and how the project proposal was revised based on such input. A plan must be developed to continue communication and consultation between project managers and all community groups about the project and its impacts to facilitate adaptive management throughout the life of the project. | |  |
| Publication of Project Documents and Process for Public Comments | 9. Describe what specific steps have been taken, and communications methods used, to publicize the CCBA public comment period to communities and other stakeholders and to facilitate their submission of comments to CCBA. Project proponents must play an active role in distributing key project documents to affected communities and stakeholders and hold widely publicized information meetings in relevant local or regional languages. | |  |
| Process for Unresolved Conflicts and Stakeholder Grievances | 10. Formalize a clear process for handling unresolved conflicts and grievances that arise during project planning and implementation. The project design must include a process for hearing, responding to and resolving community and other stakeholder grievances within a reasonable time period. This grievance process must be publicized to communities and other stakeholders and must be managed by a third party or mediator to prevent any conflict of interest. Project management must attempt to resolve all reasonable grievances raised, and provide a written response to grievances within 30 days. Grievances and project responses must be documented. | |  |
| Adequate Flow of Funds | 11. Demonstrate that financial mechanisms adopted, including projected revenues from emissions reductions and other sources, are likely to provide an adequate flow of funds for project implementation and to achieve the anticipated climate, community and biodiversity benefits. | |  |

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| **G.4 – Management Capacity and Best Practices** | | | |
| The success of a project depends upon the competence of the implementing management team. Projects that include a significant capacity-building (training, skill building, etc.) component are more likely to sustain the positive outcomes generated by the project and have them replicated elsewhere. | | | |
| Best practices for project management include: local stakeholder employment, worker rights, worker safety and a clear process for handling grievances. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Clear Roles and Responsibilities | 1. Identify a single project proponent which is responsible for the project’s design and implementation. If multiple organizations or individuals are involved in the project’s development and implementation the governance structure, roles and responsibilities of each of the organizations or individuals involved must also be described. | |  |
| Management Expertise | 2. Document key technical skills that will be required to implement the project successfully, including community engagement, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills. Document the management team’s expertise and prior experience implementing land management projects at the scale of this project. If relevant experience is lacking, the proponents must either demonstrate how other organizations will be partnered with to support the project or have a recruitment strategy to fill the gaps. | |  |
| Employee Orientation and Training | 3. Include a plan to provide orientation and training for the project’s employees and relevant people from the communities with an objective of building locally useful skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. These capacity building efforts should target a wide range of people in the communities, including minority and underrepresented groups. Identify how training will be passed on to new workers when there is staff turnover, so that local capacity will not be lost. | |  |
| Opportunities for Local Employment | 4. Show that people from the communities will be given an equal opportunity to fill all employment positions (including management) if the job requirements are met. Project proponents must explain how employees will be selected for positions and where relevant, must indicate how local community members, including women and other potentially underrepresented groups, will be given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained. | |  |
| Compliance with Worker’s Rights | 5. Submit a list of all relevant laws and regulations covering worker’s rights in the host country. Describe how the project will inform workers about their rights. Provide assurance that the project meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regulations covering worker rights and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved. | |  |
| Worker Safety | 6. Comprehensively assess situations and occupations that pose a substantial risk to worker safety. A plan must be in place to inform workers of risks and to explain how to minimize such risks. Where worker safety cannot be guaranteed, project proponents must show how the risks will be minimized using best work practices. | |  |
| Financial Resources | 7. Document the financial health of the implementing organization(s) to demonstrate that financial resources budgeted will be adequate to implement the project. | |  |

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| **G.5 – Legal Status and Property Rights** | | | |
| The project must be based on a solid legal framework (e.g., appropriate contracts are in place) and the project must satisfy applicable planning and regulatory requirements. | | | |
| During the project design phase, the project proponents should communicate early on with relevant local, regional and national authorities in order to allow adequate time to earn necessary approvals. The project design should be sufficiently flexible to accommodate potential modifications that may arise as a result of this process. | | | |
| In the event of unresolved disputes over tenure or use rights to land or resources in the project zone, the project should demonstrate how it will help to bring them to resolution so that there are no unresolved disputes by the start of the project. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Compliance with National and Local Laws | 1. Submit a list of all relevant national and local laws and regulations in the host country and all applicable international treaties and agreements. Provide assurance that the project will comply with these and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved. | |  |
| Approval from Appropriate Authorities | 2. Document that the project has approval from the appropriate authorities, including the established formal and/or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities. | |  |
| Free and Informed Consent from Affected Rights Holders | 3. Demonstrate with documented consultations and agreements that the project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property, or government property and has obtained the free, prior, and informed consent of those whose rights will be affected by the project. | |  |
| Involuntary Relocation | 4. Demonstrate that the project does not require the involuntary relocation of people or of the activities important for the livelihoods and culture of the communities. If any relocation of habitation or activities is undertaken within the terms of an agreement, the project proponents must demonstrate that the agreement was made with the free, prior, and informed consent of those concerned and includes provisions for just and fair compensation. | |  |
| Illegal Activities | 5. Identify any illegal activities that could affect the project’s climate, community or biodiversity impacts (e.g., logging) taking place in the project zone and describe how the project will help to reduce these activities so that project benefits are not derived from illegal activities. | |  |
| Ownership of Carbon Rights | 6. Demonstrate that the project proponents have clear, uncontested title to the carbon rights, or provide legal documentation demonstrating that the project is undertaken on behalf of the carbon owners with their full consent. Where local or national conditions preclude clear title to the carbon rights at the time of validation against the Standards, the project proponents must provide evidence that their ownership of carbon rights is likely to be established before they enter into any transactions concerning the project’s carbon assets. | |  |

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| **CM1 – Net Positive Community Impacts** | | | |
| The project must generate net positive impacts on the social and economic well-being of communities and ensure that costs and benefits are equitably shared among community members and constituent groups during the project lifetime. | | | |
| Projects must maintain or enhance the High Conservation Values (identified in G1) in the project zone that are of particular importance to the communities’ well-being. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Appropriate Methodology | Use appropriate methodologies to estimate the impacts on communities, including all constituent socio-economic or cultural groups such as indigenous peoples (defined in G1), resulting from planned project activities. A credible estimate of impacts must include changes in community well-being due to project activities and an evaluation of the impacts by the affected groups. This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions about how project activities will alter social and economic well-being41, including potential impacts of changes in natural resources and ecosystem services identified as important by the communities (including water and soil resources), over the duration of the project. The ‘with project’ scenario must then be compared with the ‘without project’ scenario of social and economic well-being in the absence of the project (completed in G2). The difference (i.e., the community benefit) must be positive for all community groups. | |  |
| Maintenance of HCVs | 2. Demonstrate that no High Conservation Values identified in G1.8.4-642 will be negatively affected by the project. | |  |

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| **CM2 – Offsite Stakeholder Impacts** | | | |
| The project proponents must evaluate and mitigate any possible social and economic impacts that could result in the decreased social and economic well-being of the main stakeholders living outside the project zone resulting from project activities. Project activities should at least ‘do no harm’ to the well-being of offsite stakeholders. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| ID Impacts | 1. Identify any potential negative offsite stakeholder impacts that the project activities are likely to cause. | |  |
| Describe Impacts | 2. Describe how the project plans to mitigate these negative offsite social and economic impacts. | |  |
| Mitigate Impacts | 3. Demonstrate that the project is not likely to result in net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups. | |  |

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| **CM3 – Community Impact Monitoring** | | | |
| The project proponents must have an initial monitoring plan to quantify and document changes in social and economic well-being resulting from the project activities (for communities and other stakeholders). The monitoring plan must indicate which communities and other stakeholders will be monitored, and identify the types of measurements, the sampling method, and the frequency of measurement. | | | |
| Since developing a full community monitoring plan can be costly, it is accepted that some of the plan details may not be fully defined at the design stage, when projects are being validated against the Standards. This is acceptable as long as there is an explicit commitment to develop and implement a monitoring plan. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Variable selection | 1. Develop an initial plan for selecting community variables to be monitored and the frequency of monitoring and reporting to ensure that monitoring variables are directly linked to the project’s community development objectives and to anticipated impacts (positive and negative). | |  |
| Variable assessment | 2. Develop an initial plan for how they will assess the effectiveness of measures used to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values related to community well-being (G1.8.4-6) present in the project zone. | |  |
| Monitoring commitment | 3. Commit to developing a full monitoring plan within six months of the project start date or within twelve months of validation against the Standards and to disseminate this plan and the results of monitoring, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and are communicated to the communities and other stakeholders. | |  |

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| **GL2 – Exceptional Community Benefits** | | | |
| Innovative approaches that enable poorer households to participate effectively in land-based  carbon activities. | | | |
| Project will ‘do no harm’ to poorer and more vulnerable members of the communities, by establishing that no member of a poorer or more vulnerable social group will experience a net negative impact on their well-being or rights. | | | |
| **Project Indicators to Ensure Compliance to Principle** | | | |
| Theme | Indicator | Reference | Requirement for Verification |
| Location Adjacent to Poorer Populations | 1. Demonstrate that the project zone is in a low human development country OR in an administrative area of a medium or high human development country in which at least 50% of the population of that area is below the national poverty line. | |  |
| Benefits for Poorer Households | 2. Demonstrate that at least 50% of households within the lowest category of well-being (e.g., poorest quartile) of the community are likely to benefit substantially from the project. | |  |
| Increase Flow of Benefits to Poorer Households | 3. Demonstrate that any barriers or risks that might prevent benefits going to poorer households have been identified and addressed in order to increase the probable flow of benefits to poorer households. | |  |
| Mitigate Negative Project Impacts for Poorer Households | 4. Demonstrate that measures have been taken to identify any poorer and more vulnerable households and individuals whose well-being or poverty may be negatively affected by the project, and that the project design includes measures to avoid any such impacts. Where negative impacts are unavoidable, demonstrate that they will be effectively mitigated. | |  |
| Social Impact Monitoring with Differentiated Approach | 5. Demonstrate that community impact monitoring will be able to identify positive and negative impacts on poorer and more vulnerable groups. The social impact monitoring must take a differentiated approach that can identify positive and negative impacts on poorer households and  individuals and other disadvantaged groups, including women. | |  |