

Panama Forest Protocol for Offset Credits of the Climate Action Reserve V1.0 Workgroup Meeting 1: Eligibility

March 2, 2023

### Introduction





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## Housekeeping



- Workgroup members have the opportunity to actively participate throughout the meeting
  - Ask that you keep yourselves muted unless / until would like to speak
- We will ask and take questions throughout the session
  - Please use the raise your hand function
- All other attendees/observers are in listen-only mode
- Observers are free to submit questions in the question box
- We will follow up via email to answer any questions not addressed during the meeting
- The slides and a recording of the presentation will be posted online

## Agenda



- 1. Presentations
- 2. Process Overview
- 3. Key Considerations for Eligibility
  - 1. Project and activity areas
  - 2. Eligible activities
  - 3. Safeguards
  - 4. Land Tenure
- 4. Questions, comments, and next steps



### THE CLIMATE ACTION RESERVE

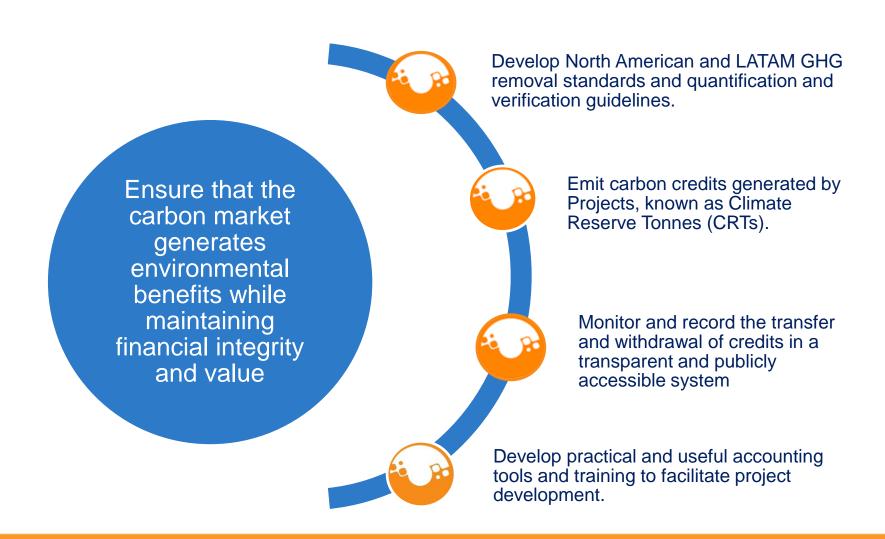
### Climate Action Reserve



- Mission: to develop, promote and support innovative, credible marketbased climate change solutions that benefit economies, ecosystems and society
- Develop high-quality, stakeholder-driven, standardized carbon offset project protocols across North America and Latin America
- Accredited Offset Project Registry under the California cap-and-trade program
- Serve compliance and voluntary carbon markets
- Reputation for integrity and experience in providing best-in-class registry services for offset markets

### The Climate Action Reserve









Livestock

Livestock (ARB)

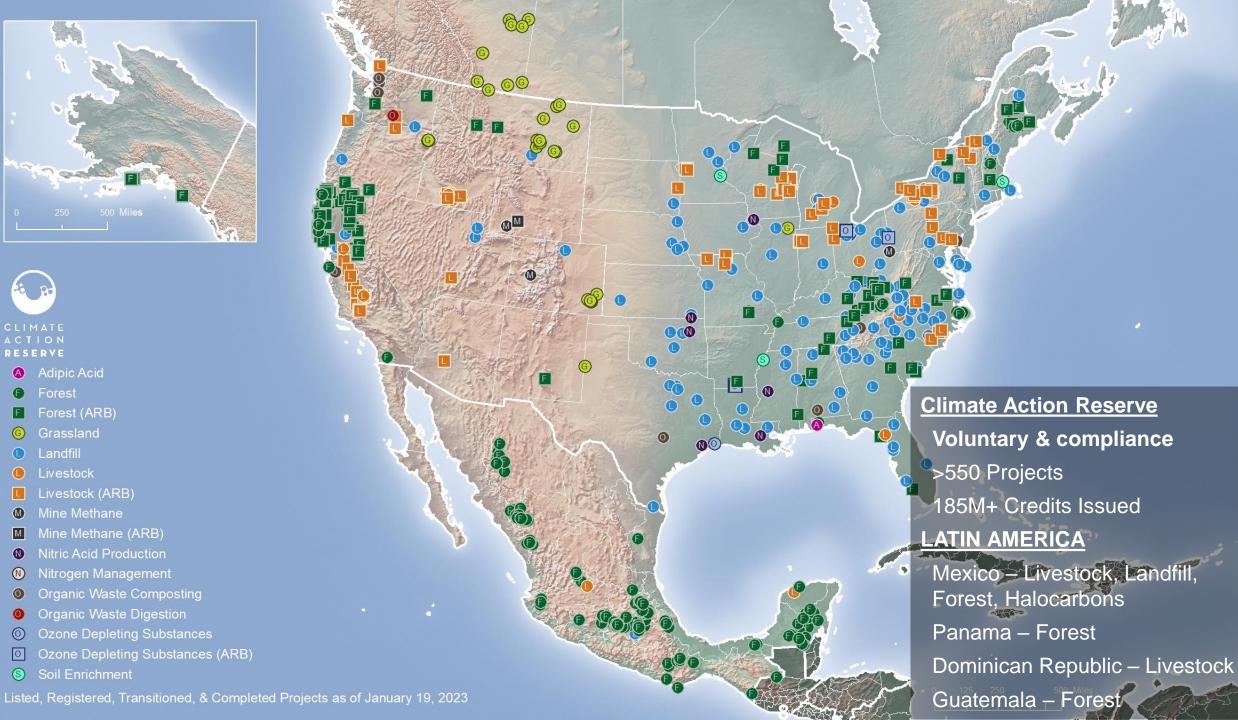
Mine Methane

Nitric Acid Production

Ozone Depleting Substances

Ozone Depleting Substances (ARB)

Soil Enrichment





Development process

# PANAMA FOREST PROTOCOL FOR OFFSET CREDITS

# Workgroup Members



Organization (Alphabetical)	Name
Asociación Nacional de Técnicos Forestales de Panamá - ANTEFORP	Jose Angel Rojas Gamboa
BAM	Juan Carlos Flores Del Castillo
Bioforestal Innovación Sustentable	Jesus Morales
BRET CONSULTORES	Teresa Tattersfield
CO2 Cero	Andrés Silva
Comarca Ngäbe-Buglé	César Bernal
Congreso General Guna	Jorge Andreve
Consultora de proyectos de Carbono Forestal	Adriana Abondado Pineda
Consultores Ecológicos Pnameños SA (CEPSA)	Ramon Alvarado
Earthshot Labs	Andrew Coates
Ecotopia Teak	Carlos Maestre
Fac. Ciencias Agropecuarias - Universidad de Panamá	Dimas Arcia
Fundación Natura	Rosa Montañez
Futuro Forestal	María Gallegos
Geo Forestal, S.A	Jacobo Melamed
Instituto Nacional de Investigaciones Forestales Agrícolas y Pecuarias	Geronimo Quiñonez Barraza
MiAmbiente	Verónica González
Ministry of the Environment, the Fight Against Climate Change, Quebec	Philippe Gregoire
Panama Teak & Forestry Inc	Itzel Ivon Rodriguez
South Pole	Maria Fernanda Buitrago Acevedo
Terra Global Capital	Gregory C. Ives
Universidad Tecnológica de Panama	Carlos Espinosa Peña
Wetlands International	Andrés Fraiz
World Resources Institute (WRI)	René Ibarra

## Purpose



- To familiarize workgroup members with offset protocol development process – what we typically want in an offset protocol
- To present and solicit feedback from workgroup members on key considerations for the Panama Forest Protocol for Offset Credits Version 1.0
- Provide draft protocol for reference and then revisions

### Protocol Development Overview



- ➤ GOAL: To create a robust Panama Forest Protocol that provides best practices for GHG accounting to generate Climate Reserve Tonnes (CRTs)
- Ensure high quality carbon credits that guarantee the environmental and social integrity of the project.
- Align the protocol with the laws and regulations of Panama.
- Incentivize activities that increase carbon sequestration in the forestry sector.
- Generate co-benefits (social and environmental).
- Leverage lessons learned from the Reserve's US and Mexico Forest protocols
- Solicit and incorporate expert stakeholder feedback.

# Timeline



Steps	Details	Feb	March	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct
	kick-off meeting									
Formation of the Working Group	Submit the SOI: February 10, 2023									
	Meeting: Eligibility		2							
	Meeting: Additionality		15?							
	Meeting: Quantification									
Workgroup	Meeting: Land									
	Meeting: Land Tenure, adaptation to Panama									
	Meeting: MRV									
Draft Protocol Development										
Work Group Review										
	Public Comment Period									
	Review of comments and									
Public Comment Period	update of the protocol									
Approval by the Board of										
Directors of the Reserve	October 2023									

### Workgroup Process and Expectations



#### **CAR/Process:**

- Manage the protocol development process
- Hold ~5 workgroup meetings
- Reserve staff identify and solicit feedback on specific protocol criteria
  - Specific questions for WG will be highlighted in red
- Reserve staff will share the draft protocol with WG
- Revise protocol based on feedback

#### **WG/Expectations:**

- Attend all (~5) workgroup sessions
- Be active participants: provide input and ask questions on protocol concepts and language
- After meetings, share additional input and expertise as needed
- Review draft protocol and provide written feedback to Reserve staff
- Be constructive, collaborative, and productive



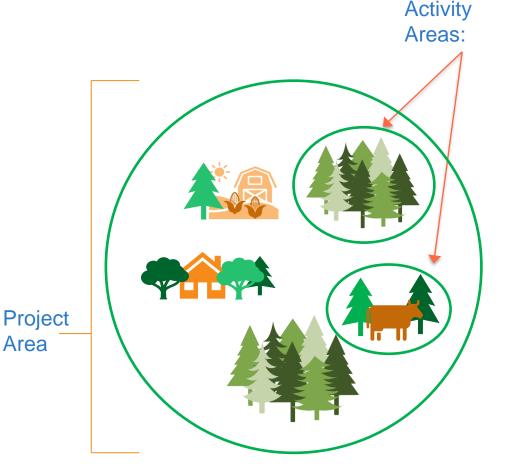
### **Eligibility**

# PROTOCOL DEVELOPMENT CONSIDERATIONS

### Project Area and Activity Area



- Project Area: Includes the entire area within a property
- Activity Area: Specific areas where the defined activities that lead to a quantifiable increase in carbon stocks are carried out
- Purpose:
  - Allows for the inclusion of multiple activities within one Project
  - Can reduce administrative and project development costs for activities
  - Activities that are traditionally not economically viable can be incentivized
  - Allows for different levels of monitoring:
    - Project area: monitoring of leakage
    - Activity area: quantification of carbon stocks/removals
- Does the WG agree with this design?



### Potential Activities



- To facilitate adaptation of the protocol, include only those activities that result in carbon increases (i.e. removals/sequestration) are considered.
- "Activities" are discrete management actions that increase carbon sequestration in forests and forest products above the baseline.
- Potential activities include:
  - Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems
  - Improved Forest Management
  - Reforestation
  - Restoration
  - Urban Forests
- Does the WG agree with these eligible activities?



### Definition of Activities: Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems



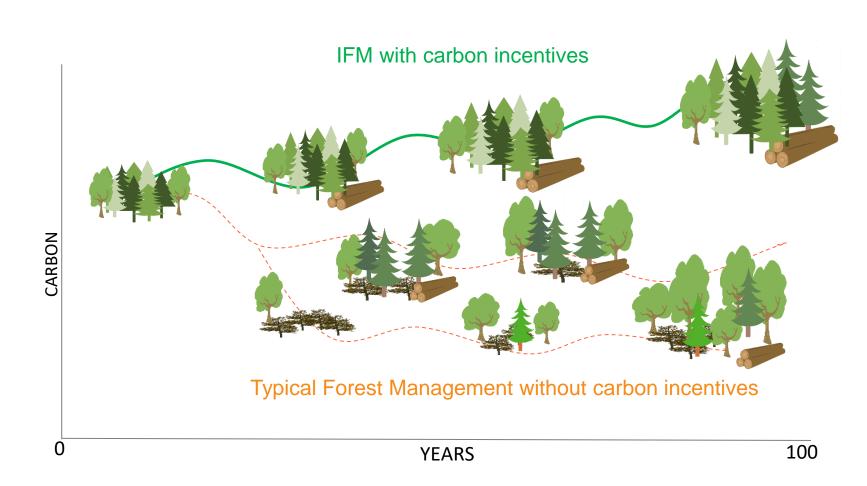
<b>Activity Area</b>	Description
Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Systems	<ul> <li>Agroforestry is the intentional integration of trees into non-tree crop and animal farming systems.</li> <li>The main human activity is agriculture and/or livestock</li> <li>Land cover is defined as agriculture or grassland</li> <li>Trees are planted or natural regeneration is promoted</li> <li>Trees may exist amongst, or adjacent to the cultivated crops and grazing areas, and may be harvested as allowed by law.</li> </ul>

Comments?

### Definition of Activities: Improved Forest Management



- Economic returns are important drivers for forest management.
- Carbon finance provides an incentive to invest in tree thinning to maintain healthy and growing trees and defer timber revenue until forests grow in maturity and productivity.



### **Definition of Activities**



<b>Activity Area</b>	Description	Criteria
Improved Forest Management	A set of management actions that enhance sequestration and resiliency of sequestered carbon in forest landscapes under harvest management plans.  Activities that lead to carbon enhancements in managed forests, may include, but are not limited to, the following actions:  Increase the harvest rotation age towards optimum rotation age.  Harvest selection while thinning to retain the best genotypes and phenotypes to improve the rate of sequestration.  Control stocking to manage competition, and the related effects on forest growth and resiliency.  Increase stocking in understocked areas within the managed forest.  Reduction of litter and surface fuels in fire-prone ecosystems to enhance resiliency.	The primary land cover is forest, which may be present in varying densities and sizes, and the forest has a forest management program authorized for the purposes of commercial timber harvest.

- What is the government agency that authorizes the forest management programs in Panama?
- Do the forest management programs allow for harvest of up to 100% annual growth?
- If not, how is the authorized volume determined? Can an example be provided?
- Other comments?





<b>Activity Area</b>	Description	Criteria
Reforestation	Direct planting of native tree seedlings or site preparation activities that result in forest regeneration of native species, resulting in enhanced carbon sequestration.	<ul> <li>Can occur on landscapes that have been out of forest cover for the past 5 years</li> <li>OR have recently been impacted by a natural disturbance that has reduced the canopy cover to less than 50%.</li> <li>Can occur within protected areas.</li> </ul>

Comments?

### **Definition of Activities**



Activity Area	Description	Criteria
Restoration	<ul> <li>Restoration is a set of actions applied to increase carbon stocks and canopy cover on degraded natural forests.</li> <li>Actions may be direct and include tree planting, authorized thinning for disease and infestation, or other silviculture action to increase forest cover.</li> <li>Actions may also be indirect and focused on reducing ongoing actions that led to degraded forest conditions, thereby enabling natural forest succession to enhance carbon stocks.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Restoration is an eligible activity in any natural forest, including protected areas, that does not have an authorized Forest Management Program for commercial timber harvest and/or where commercial harvesting is prohibited due to a law, regulation, or norm.</li> <li>Actions implemented may not contradict any regulation or management plan governing the Activity Area.</li> </ul>

Comments?

### **Definition of Activities**



Activity Area	Description	
Small Urban Forests	<ul> <li>The direct planting and management for increased forest cover within urban areas.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Can only occur on lands zoned as urban.</li> <li>Include urban areas less than 10 contiguous hectares with a minimum 10% canopy cover and can include the planting of street trees.</li> </ul>
Large Urban Forests		<ul> <li>Can only occur on lands zoned as urban.</li> <li>Occur on urban landscapes that are at least 10 contiguous hectares with a minimum of 10% canopy cover.</li> </ul>

- What is the appropriate government agency or data source for defining urban areas?
- Other comments?

### Eligible Forest Owners



Are there clear land tenure rights and documentation for the following classifications? Are there time limits imposed on ownership? Other considerations?

- Private lands
  - Rights of possession
- State lands
  - State granted concessions
  - State protected areas
- Collective property
  - Indigenous territories or comarcas
  - Rural communities
  - Collective lands ("tierras colectivas")



### All projects must:



Maintain or increase carbon stocks



Use of native species



Sustainable harvesting practices



No decreasing forest cover in the Project Area



Maintain natural soil cover





Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
ES1 Maintenance of forest carbon stocks	All	Activity Areas must maintain or increase standing live and dead carbon stocks over the project life, as determined by a running 10-year average of carbon stocks within the Activity Areas. Exceptions may be granted for cases of natural disturbances or silviculture activities aimed at reducing an imminent risk of disease or pest infestation.
ES6 Maintenance of natural land cover	Reforestation	Forest Projects should take into consideration the effects of project activities on ecological processes; where project activities result in the conversion of natural land cover, the Forest Owner must provide justification to be approved by the Reserve.

Comments?



Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
Large Agree	IFM, Restoration, Reforestation	<ul> <li>Demonstrate progress towards achieving 95% native species within the AAs, as measured by average trees/ha.</li> <li>The use of native species outside of their historic range is permitted if the use is intended as an adaptation strategy against climate change. In such cases, a letter stating the use of the particular species is required from the appropriate MiAmbiente office.</li> <li>For IFM and Restoration: must be met within 50 years.</li> <li>For Reforestation: must be met immediately following the establishment of a new forest stand.</li> </ul>
	Large Urban Forestry	May not reduce the percent of native species throughout the project life.
	Agroforestry and Silvopastoral	<ul> <li>For Agroforestry and Silvopastoral AAs in excess of 30% tree canopy cover, the tree composition must comply with 80% native species as measured by trees/ha and determined on any 5 ha within the AA.</li> <li>Agroforestry AA's must meet this requirement at the AA's start date.</li> </ul>

- Is MiAmbiente the appropriate agency to issue a letter allowing the use of a non-native species for climate change adaptation purposes?
- Other comments?



Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
ES3 Composition of Native Species	·	<ul> <li>Must demonstrate progress towards meeting the composition of native species.</li> <li>For IFM and Restoration: must be met within 50 years.</li> <li>For Reforestation: must be met immediately following the establishment of a new forest stand.</li> <li>Exceptions to the composition of native species are accepted through a letter signed by the appropriate MiAmbiente office that ecological rationale justifies an alternative composition of native species.</li> </ul>
	Large Urban Forestry	<ul> <li>If a single species comprises more than the proportion indicated, the proportion of the dominant species may not be intentionally increased throughout the project life.</li> </ul>
	Agroforestry and Silvopastoral	<ul> <li>For Agroforestry and Silvopastoral Activity Areas in excess of 30% tree canopy cover, as determined on any 5 ha within the Activity Area, the composition of native species shall meet the requirements within 25 years of the start date.</li> </ul>

- Is MiAmbiente the appropriate agency to issue a letter allowing the use of a non-native species for climate change adaptation purposes?
- Other comments?





Project Activity Areas*	Native Species Composition Requirements (Trees per Hectare)
Up to 10 hectares	Up to 100% can be in one species.
>10 to ≤50 hectares	Up to 90% can be in one species.
>50 to ≤100 hectares	No more than 80% can be in one species. The balance must be made up of at least two other species.
>100 to ≤1,000 hectares	No more than 70% can be in one species. The balance must be made up of at least two other species.
Greater than 1,000 hectares	No more than 60% can be in one species. The balance must be made up of at least three other species.

<sup>\*</sup>The area is determined by the sum of hectares in each Activity Area.

#### Comments?



Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
ES4 Maintenance or increase of tree canopy cover throughout the Project Area	IFM, Restoration, Reforestation, Agroforestry, Silvopastoral	<ul> <li>Tree canopy cover throughout the PA must not decrease as a result of human activities over the project life relative to the start date.</li> <li>If a decline in tree canopy cover in excess of 5% is detected, as measured through remote sensing, the project must rectify the tree canopy cover loss through reforestation in the subsequent 6 RPs.</li> <li>Declines in tree canopy cover resulting from wildfire or other natural disturbances that are not the result of gross negligence are exempt.</li> <li>Forest Owners that are able to provide evidence that tree canopy cover declines in excess of 5% (by area) are planned and approved activities sanctioned by municipal, state, or federal agencies are also exempt from this requirement.</li> </ul>



Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
ES5 Sustainable harvesting practices	IFM	<ul> <li>Where harvest occurs within the AAs in a contiguous area larger than 5 hectares, a tree, or group of trees, representative of the age cohort that was harvested, can be no further than 100 meters from other trees, either within the harvest area or outside of the harvest area in order to provide refugia for plants and animals.</li> <li>Should these retained trees fall due to wind events, the fallen trees may be harvested. Retained trees may not be felled intentionally until the regenerated stand reaches 10-years of age.</li> <li>Exceptions, related to safety, ecological, or other rationale, to this requirement may be granted if the request is made to the Reserve in writing prior to the exception occurring.</li> </ul>

Comments?



Environmental Safeguard	Applicable Activities	Guidance
ES7 Soil disturbance during site preparation for tree planting	All	<ul> <li>Site preparation using deep ripping is prohibited from affecting more than 1% of an AA in any year as determined by the area encompassed by the channels produced by a single ripper.</li> <li>Such channels are defined by the width of the ripper tine used, plus 0.5 meter on each side.</li> <li>In cases where deep ripping does exceed 1% of an AA in a given year, crediting for any increases in forest carbon stocks will be suspended for the number of RPs equivalent to the proportion of the AA affected, rounded up to the nearest percentage point.</li> <li>For example, if deep ripping on a 100-hectare AA is performed over a combined channel length of 22,000 meters using a ripper with a tine width of 0.1 meter, resulting in 2.4% of the AA being affected, crediting would be suspended for the AA for three RPs, including the RP during which deep ripping occurred.</li> </ul>

### Social Safeguards



#### Requirements for compliance with social safeguards include:

Free, prior and informed consent

- Have one or a series of assemblies where project issues are discussed before the vote
- Have a vote to approve the project
- In Panama, it is regulated in Law No. 37

Notification, Participation and Documentation

- Describe how assemblies are announced
- Have spaces for participation
- Publicly document assemblies

**Project governance** 

 Identify a project coordinator to represent the community with the verifiers and the Reserve

Should social safeguards apply for all project types or only communal properties?

### Social Safeguards: Free, Prior, and Informed Consent



#### **Free, Prior, and Informed Consent**

- Prior to project registration, Forest Owners must hold an Assembly to comply with FPIC.
- Provisions must be made to ensure non-Spanish speaking participants can understand the material and communicate during assemblies.
- Assemblies must be announced in a manner to ensure that the information reaches all community members, including vulnerable groups like women and young people.
- The Assembly Acts and proof of the Assembly (through photographs or signatures) must be included in the Project Report.
- These assemblies must adhere to proper notification, participation, and documentation requirements in the section on Notification, Participation, and Documentation below.
- Aligned with Law No. 37?
- On collective property in Panama, including indigenous comarcas, collective lands, and rural communities, how are collective decisions made?
- Is there a general assembly and elected governance structure?
- Is there a legal documentation of these assemblies such as an assembly act? Are they notarized or registered with a government registry?





Social Safeguard	Description
SS1 Forest Carbon Project Concepts	The rationale behind the participation in a forest carbon project must be discussed prior to the initial approval of the Forest Project. Presentations must address the following topics:  Climate change associated with GHGs Role of forests in mitigating climate change Opportunities (economic and environmental) for participation in carbon project Methods to enhance forest carbon stocks Requirements associated with the project, including additionality and permanence Importance of maintenance of native biodiversity General project costs and how project design may affect project profitability

Comments?

# Social Safeguards: FPIC



Social Safeguard	Description
SS2 Anticipated Costs	<ul> <li>Anticipated costs must be discussed and documented prior to project registration, including:</li> <li>Site preparation</li> <li>Provision of and planting of forest seedlings</li> <li>Inventory and monitoring</li> <li>Project governance</li> <li>Project verification</li> <li>Changes in land use and access to resources</li> <li>Administrative costs for the Forest Project</li> <li>Division of costs between the project developer, Forest Owner, and other parties involved</li> <li>Division of labor required by parties involved</li> </ul>
SS3 Anticipated Benefits	<ul> <li>Anticipated economic benefits must be discussed and documented prior to project registration, including:</li> <li>Local environmental benefits, i.e. biodiversity, water quality, soil conservation, and recreation</li> <li>Economic benefits associated with carbon, along with sources for estimated carbon prices</li> <li>Distribution of benefits to the community, including anticipated timing of distributions, and division of benefit payments to other actors, including project developers, aggregators, and other parties involved</li> <li>Credit pricing information and where it was sourced</li> </ul>

# Social Safeguards: FPIC



Social Safeguard	Description
SS4 Credit Sales and Use of Funds	<ul> <li>All credit sales and use of funds generated by the project must be discussed and documented prior to each reporting period, including:</li> <li>How decisions will be made regarding the use of funds generated by the project</li> <li>The dynamics that determine market prices of voluntary carbon credits and sources used</li> <li>Credit pricing information and where it was sourced</li> <li>If the project has previously sold credits, the extent of any negotiations and all considered offers and credit pricing</li> <li>If the project has previously sold credits, purchase agreements and related contracts must be presented on and made available to community members</li> <li>If the project has previously sold credits, how the funds from those credits were used</li> </ul>
SS5 Project Approval	After the topics to comply with SS1-SS4 have been presented in an Assembly, the project must be approved prior to project registration through:  • Established formal and/or traditional authorities  • An Assembly Act with consensus (>50%) of all present community members in favor

# Social Safeguards: FPIC



Social Safeguard	Description
SS6 Project Developer Approval & SS7 Aggregate Approval	<ul> <li>When working with a separate project developer or joining an aggregate, the decision must be approved through:</li> <li>Established formal and/or traditional authorities</li> <li>An Assembly Act with consensus (&gt;50%) of all present community members in favor</li> <li>A contract that determines the scope of project developer/aggregator services, the terms of payments, and the division of costs and benefits must be made available. Contracts must clearly establish the rights to CRTs and future credit payments, as well as terms for contract renewal, renegotiation, or termination, including measures to reassess the terms of contract on an ongoing basis or in the event of noncompliance with the terms of the contract. The contract will be maintained as a confidential document on the Reserve registry.</li> <li>For aggregates, the contract cannot define terms for a landowner beyond 6 years without requiring a new vote.</li> </ul>

# Social Safeguards: Notification, Participation & Documentation



#### Notification, Participation, and Documentation

Assemblies (at least once a year) are held to discuss critical elements associated with project activities. Assemblies must prove that vulnerable groups are included. Each Assembly must include the following items on the agenda:

- Forestry activities (management actions, environmental issues, grievances, other concerns/opportunities)
   Programmatic events (MRV)
- Credits issued
- Benefit sharing arrangements
- Finances

In addition to community Assemblies, community participation in the project development and verification processes is critical to ensure the longevity of the Forest Project.

Comments

# Social Safeguards: Notification, Participation & Documentation



Social Safeguard	Description
SS8 Proper Notification	Describe how notices of Assemblies take place in order to include as many people as possible
SS9 Participation	<ul> <li>Assemblies must provide a sign-in sheet so that attendance can be monitored</li> <li>Opportunities for all community members to share opinions, both in writing and orally</li> <li>Describe how members of the community are incorporated in the design, development, and ongoing MRV of the Forest Project</li> </ul>
SS10 Assembly Documentation	<ul> <li>An Assembly Act must document the discussions associated with each required item on the agenda</li> <li>Describe how Assembly Acts will be publicly available as part of the project record</li> </ul>

Comments?

### Social Safeguards: Project Governance



#### **Project Governance**

Forest carbon projects require an organizational structure that will endure for long periods of time. A Project Coordinator must be selected by the community to represent the Forest Owner with the project developer, verifiers, and Reserve staff. The Project Coordinator is responsible for:

- Ensuring all project-related documentation is in order and up to date
- Ensuring Assemblies include the required elements above and providing the corresponding act
- Organizing logistics with verifiers and Reserve staff

Comments?

# Social Safeguards: Project Governance



Social Safeguard	Description
SS11 Identification of a Project Coordinator	<ul> <li>A description of the nomination process and the selection/election process must be documented in the Project Report</li> <li>PC must be approved with a &gt;50% vote of the community present</li> <li>For communities, must be a member</li> </ul>
SS12 Role and Participation of the PC	<ul> <li>The PC should be included as the Account Manager for the Forest Owner account on the Reserve registry</li> <li>The PC should be included in all communications between the project developer and the Reserve and/or verification body as well as communications regarding the sale of credits issued</li> <li>The PC should be included in all project MRV processes</li> </ul>
SS13 Term of a PC & SS14 Replacing a PC	<ul> <li>The length of the term of PC must be defined in the Project Report</li> <li>The Project Report must identify whether the position of PC can be renewed and, if so, for how many terms</li> <li>To address potential disputes associated with the PC and/or Forest Project, a dispute resolution process and process to replace the PC from the position must be documented in the Project Report</li> </ul>



### **SUMMARY AND NEXT STEPS**

## Timeline of protocol development





### Next steps



#### For Interested Stakeholders:

- Still can submit Local Engagement Form
- Email interest to sign up for updates as an observer
- Email us feedback anytime

#### For Reserve:

- Compile summary notes on discussion
- Post recording, notes, and presentation to the webpage
- Start drafting protocol with workgroup considerations
- Prepare for next workgroup meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup>?

#### • For Workgroup:

- Email feedback on today's discussion by March 10<sup>th</sup>
- Look out for invitation for next meeting: March 15<sup>th</sup>



### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?**

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