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**Validation Report**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Project name** |  |
| **Project location and area** |  |
| **Client** |  |
| **Project ID** |  |
| **Biodiversity protocol version** |  |
| **Methodology** |  |
| **Project duration** |  |
| **Validated area** |  |
| **Validated crediting period** |  |
| **Main eligible activity** |  |
| **Date of preparation of the validation report** |  |
| **Document prepared by** |  |
| **Contact information** |  |
| **Approved by** |  |
| **Work performed by** |  |

The IEP may add rows it considers important in this section.

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Instructions for completing this document

When completing this document, please delete this instruction.

The content presented here is mandatory, but the IEP may add fields if considered necessary. If for any reason a section or sub-section does not apply, do not delete it but indicate that it does not apply.

Once you have added all the necessary content, regenerate the table of contents of this document (right click somewhere in the table of contents, in the pop-up menu select “Update fields” and finally choose “Update entire table”).

The **Validation Report** must be delivered in Acrobat (.pdf) format. In Microsoft Word, when generating the document in this format (*Save as*, pdf format), **activate** the option “Create bookmarks using: Headings”.

**Doing so will facilitate the work and reduce the IEP's and certifier's management time**.

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Acronyms and abbreviations

Insert in alphabetical order acronyms and abbreviations used in the report.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **BCP** | Biodiversity Crediting Project |
| **CBCP** | Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme |
| **IEP** | Independent Experts Panel |
| **PMP** | Project Management Plan |

Scope, spatial and temporal limits of the validation report

Explain the scope of the validation process, how it is carried out and the spatial and temporal limits covered.

Level of assurance and materiality

State the degree of confidence or certainty in the accuracy and reliability of the information and data associated with the project. It involves assessing the robustness of the methods used to collect, measure, and verify biodiversity-related information:

**Reasonable Assurance**: This level of assurance implies a high degree of confidence in the accuracy and reliability of the information. Rigorous methods of data collection and verification are employed.

**Limited Assurance**: Limited assurance suggests a moderate level of confidence. While efforts are made to verify the data, the information may have limitations or uncertainties.

**Basic Assurance**: Basic assurance indicates a lower level of confidence. The data may be collected and reported, but the level of scrutiny and verification is minimal. This level of assurance implies that the project cannot be validated.

Basic project data

Project holder and other institutional participants' information

**Project holder information**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name(s) |  |
| Name of institution (if applicable) |  |
| Roles or responsibilities |  |
| Identification |  |
| Location |  |
| Telephone number(s) |  |
| E-mail address |  |

**Information from other project institutional participants**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Full name(s) |  |
| Name of institution (if applicable) |  |
| Roles or responsibilities |  |
| Identification |  |
| Location |  |
| Telephone number(s) |  |
| E-mail address |  |

Project location and limits, spatial and temporary limits of the project

Indicate whether the location, geographical and temporal limits of the project presented in the Project Management Plan (PMP) correspond to reality. Review if the project presents and gathers all the aspects of georeferencing, graphic and narrative for the identification of its location.

Total project area or processes

For non-area based projects, please adjust the titles to refer to the definition of the target species/ecosystem, the identification of key biodiversity components, and the assessment of biodiversity stakeholders and their interests.

Holdership or right of use of the area or facility

Check and indicate if the submitted supports correspond to the holdership or property rights over the area(s) or process where the project will be implemented.

Validation procedures

IEP validation team

Describe the personnel in charge of the validation process.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Full names | Role(s) or responsibility(s) | Type(s) of activity(ies) carried out\* |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

\* Specify who oversees the information review; on-site, remote, or mixed visit; technical review or preparation of this report.

Assessment criteria

State the criteria under which the project is validated, including, but not limited to:

1. Protocol: indicate the version of the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol under which the project is developed.
2. Methodology: indicate the methodology selected by the project.
3. Legal framework: indicate if the project follows applicable laws, decrees, resolutions, or other regulatory frameworks.
4. Other relevant.

It is important to detail in the standards or legal documents, their date of publication and version (if applicable). In both cases they must be valid.

Evidence collection

Describe the evidence collection plan for each activity related to the validation of the project on which conclusions are based.

IEP requests for the project

If made, describe any requests made to the client for clarification, misstatements or non-conformities, intentional errors or non-compliance with laws or regulations, as well as details of any requests for further action.

Resolution of findings

If made, describe whether the requests made to the client were satisfactorily dealt with.

Validation results

Compliance with applicable policies and laws

Explain whether the project complies with the laws, statutes and regulatory frameworks under which it operates (local, regional and national).

Compliance with CBCP core principles

Explain whether the project complies with the eight principles of the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol.

Nature-oriented

Additional

Local to global alignment

Long-term

Prioritise on-the-ground actions

Community-based approach and benefits distribution

Transparency

Landscape approach

Methodological elements

Selected methodology

Review and assess the components of the selected methodology and indicate whether it is appropriate for the project in accordance with the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol.

Additionality

Review whether the project meets the additionality criteria set out in Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol.

Non-double-counting compliance

Check whether the project is registered (partially or fully) in other biodiversity programmes and verify possible overlaps with other projects.

Baseline scenario

Identify and review the baseline scenario determined for the project and describe the criteria to validate it.

Crediting period

Describe under what evidence the project accreditation period is granted.

Eligibility of proposed actions

Check whether the actions proposed by the project are feasible within the timeframe and comply with local and international environmental regulations. In addition, identify whether the actions are specific, measurable and realistic, and contribute effectively to conservation.

Expected biodiversity gains

Assess how the proposed project actions will contribute to the conservation or restoration of endangered ecosystems and species. Consideration should be given to whether the activities will result in improvements in habitat quality, increase connectivity between areas or promote the recovery of key species.

Expected project category

Review whether Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum categorisation proposed by the project is in accordance with the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol and how the IEP has defined the differentiation factors to determine whether the category chosen by the project is the correct one.

Proposed credit calculation indicators and monitoring tools

Assess whether indicators for the calculation of biodiversity credits have been correctly established and whether monitoring tools are appropriate.

Evaluation of the proposed monitoring plan

Identify the data or parameters to be monitored and describe the criteria to validate the designed monitoring system (i.e., process and timeline for obtaining, recording, compiling, and analysing the monitored data or parameters).

Review the proposed monitoring plan, especially the following elements:

* The list of parameters to be measured or monitored.
* The types of data and information, including units of measurement.
* The source of the data.
* The monitoring methods (including estimation, modelling, measurement, calculation, and uncertainty approaches).
* The frequency of monitoring.
* Monitoring roles and responsibilities, including procedures for authorisation, approval, and documentation of changes to recorded data.
* Controls including internal checking of input, transformation and output data, and procedures for corrective actions.

Provide an overall conclusion on the adequacy of the monitoring plan in relation to the requirements of the selected methodology and the Cercarbono's Biodiversity Certification Programme Protocol.

Proposed methodological deviations

Identify the methodological deviations applied to the project and describe the procedures performed to assess each deviation and whether it is approved in the validation process. Detail if any deviations negatively impact the expected mitigation outcomes.

Target biodiversity gains and biodiversity metrics

Assess whether the proposed biodiversity gains are well defined, both in terms of increased abundance of key species and improved habitat quality. In addition, analyse whether the project has identified appropriate metrics to measure progress, such as biodiversity indicators, ecosystem regeneration rates or the status of endangered species. It is essential that the metrics are specific, measurable and relevant, allowing for accurate tracking of progress and adjustments needed to ensure long-term success in biodiversity conservation.

Stakeholder consultation

If applicable, assess whether the project made the necessary efforts to disseminate the public consultation to stakeholders and check whether the document resulting from the consultation detailed the results achieved and the follow-up that will be done to what was agreed between the project and the stakeholders.

Safeguards

Review whether the project complies with the guidelines set out in the Safeguarding Principles and Procedures of Cercarbono's Certification Programme document.

Contributions to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals

Indicate whether the contributions to the selected UN's Sustainable Development Goals are actually related to the project activity.

Risk assessment and management

Review whether the project identifies potential threats that could affect the success of the proposed actions; furthermore, review whether the project has clear and effective strategies in place to minimise these risks, including contingency plans and ongoing monitoring.

Grouped projects

Indicate whether the project is designed as grouped; if so, check whether the areas or processes that comprise it, as well as the time aggregation evolution is appropriate.

Conclusion of the validation

Resolution of findings

Describe the process for the resolution of findings (corrective actions, clarifications, future actions, or other findings) raised by the IEP during validation.

Indicate the total number of corrective action requests, clarifications and future actions, and other findings raised during the validation.

Provide a summary of each finding, including the issue raised, the responses provided by the client and the conclusion, and any resulting changes to the project documents. If this item becomes too long, the information can be entered and appended in a complementary way.

Validation opinion

Write the validation opinion based on the evidence gathered during the process. If the opinion is favourable, in addition to the report, generate a duly signed statement with the most relevant data of the validation process.

Facts discovered after validation

The validator shall obtain sufficient appropriate evidence and identify relevant information up to the date of its validation opinion. If the validator discovers facts or new information that could materially affect the validation opinion after the date on which the validation opinion was given, the validator shall take appropriate action, including communicating the matter as soon as possible to the holder of the project and biodiversity programme.

References

List all references used in the development of the validation report.

Document history (Validation Report)

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Comments or editions** |
| 1.0 | Day.month.year | Initial version. |
|  |  |  |

Template history

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| --- | --- | --- |
| **Version** | **Date** | **Comments or changes** |
| 1.0 | 14.01.2025 | Initial version. |