

PV CLIMATE

PROJECT IDEA NOTE

Forests of the People: Naga's Traditional Landscape Management

Nagaland, India

Version 1.3
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Overview

Project Title:	Forests of the People: Naga’s Traditional Landscape Management
Location:	Nagaland, India
Project Coordinator:	<p>The project is designed and developed by Value Network Ventures (VNV) Pte. Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of Singapore and having its registered office at 10 Anson Road, #29-07 International Plaza, Singapore - 079903 with Registration ID 201903830Z in cooperation with The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), a private non-profit research institute registered under the Societies Registration Act, 1860 of India</p> <p>The contact personnels of both the entities are as follows: Sandeep Roy Choudhury - sandeep.roy@vnnv.com Jitendra Vir Sharma - jv.sharma@teri.res.in</p> <p>The project is implemented with the help of project participants organized under the institution named “Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB)”. Contact details is as below: Mr. Ivan Zhimo - ivanjimosukhai123@gmail.com</p>
Project Area:	<p>The current project areas are located inside the Zunheboto district in Nagaland. The communities living in the area have established 21 number of Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) with an area of 16,700 hectares.</p>  <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Figure 1: Project Areas</i></p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around;">   </div> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Figure 3: Tizu Valley Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Network</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Figure 2: YLK</i></p>

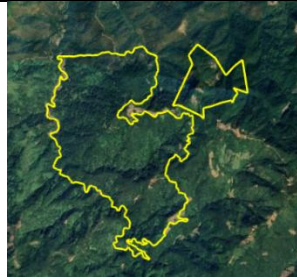


Figure 5: Ghosu Bird Sanctuary



Figure 4: Sukhalu

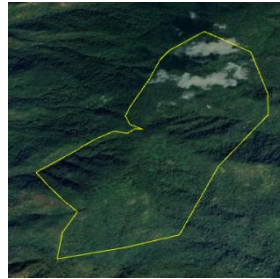


Figure 7: Hokiye



Figure 6: Asukhomi



Figure 8: Yemishe

Zunheboto, encompassing a geographical area of 1,255 sq. km, is home to a significant forest cover of 908.38 sq. km, accounting for 72.38 % of the state's total geographical area (ISFR 2021). Situated within the Indo-Malayan Region, it resides in one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots. The table below lists the project area which includes name of CCA, area of respective CCA, and the name of the village in which the CCA is present:

Name of CCA (Project Area)	Area of CCA (in ha)	Village
Tizu Valley Biodiversity Conservation and Livelihood Network	1,402	Sukhai, Kivikhu, Ghukhuyi
YLK	1,156	Yehemi, Litsami, Kiyetha
KAAC	46	Khumushi (B), Atungakugha, Akhakhu, Kikhevi
Satami Green Belt	349	Satami
Ikiye-Itovi	600	Itovi, Ikiye

	Ghosu Bird Sanctuary	758	Ghukiye, Nikuto
	Nanga Dikhu Green Zone	2,918	Sapotimi, Alaphumi, Sumi Settsu, Zaphumi, Lumami, Lumthsami, Lokobomi, Awotsakilimi, PHuye Old, Phuye New, Aichi Saghami, Surumi, Kholeboto, Zhekuto
	Asukhomi	293	Asukhomi
	Hovishe Arkha	489	Hovishe Arkha
	Naltoqa	518	Naltoqa
	Khekiye	600	Khekiye
	Thokihimi	432	Thokihimi
	Yemishe	436	Yemishe
	Shotomi	268	Shotomi
	Thakiye	1,633	Thakiye
	Hokiye	328	Hokiye
	Tsutoho	832	Tsutoho
	Khuvuxu	1,490	Khuvuxu
	Litta New	1,477	Litta New
	Phuleshetomi	460	Phuleshetomi
	Kilo Old	216	Kilo Old
Project Participants:	<p>In Nagaland, customary rights are protected under Article 371 A of the Indian Constitution, and the majority of natural habitats are owned and managed by individuals and/ or clans overseen by village councils, district councils and other traditional institutions.</p> <p>The land on which the project is being implemented is owned by the community (thereby termed as CCA) which is overseen by village councils. The village council is headed by a chairman elected by the village assembly.</p> <p>The current project includes population of 26,473 number of people and 5,473 number of Households present in 21 CCAs.</p>		
Project Intervention(s):	<p>The project aims to prevent the conversion of land from forest to non-forest (deforestation) and prevent degradation of the ecosystems. Various project intervention includes:</p> <p>Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishment of CCA- The project involves protection and conservation of forests in an area of approx. 16,700 hectares. The project area was historically a forest area where various forest resources were extracted and is also used for <i>jhum</i> (shifting cultivation where the forests were cleared and burned on rotational basis). The communities have willingly designated some areas as CCA where the deforestation due to <i>jhum</i> and forest degradation due to overexploitation of forest resources is now foregone. The area designated as CCA is protected by communities 		

	<p>and is left untouched. To meet the needs of the people various alternative livelihood generation activities are being taken up under the project. This will ensure that the communities still get to earn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patrolling- Regular patrolling is being done by the community members so that there are no illegal forest resource extraction, poaching, and felling. Forest guards are appointed among the village members as they are familiar with the forest and terrain. • Law Enforcement - TERI along with VNV is engaged with training, awareness building and facilitating forest protection activities with the CCAs. Fines are being imposed by the respective CCA committees if a person is found doing unauthorized activities. <p>Restoration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improved shifting cultivation – The majority of people living in selected villages are practising slash and burn agriculture (shifting cultivation or <i>jhum</i>). As per the current practice the rotation cycle or the fallow period of the <i>jhum</i> land is 6-8 years. The project apart from designating some of the area as CCA has also increased the fallow period of the <i>jhum</i> so that it becomes more sustainable. <p>Improved Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Forest fire management – In order to prevent and/ or minimize the damage caused by the forest fires triggered by anthropogenic activities (including <i>jhum</i>) various awareness generation programmes are being held in all the villages. Also, the project has set up a fire response squad/ team to ensure that forest fires are mitigated as soon as they occur and do not cause widespread harm within and outside the project areas. • Community based forest monitoring system- The project has marked youth as key to forest protection, conservation and monitoring. Individuals from the youth (ranging from age between 18 to 30 years) will be selected to be nodal person/ single point of contact for implementing project activities, measurement, reporting, and monitoring. This would help to empower youth the ensure that the future generation also continue the practice of forest protection and conservation. TERI along with VNV will provide necessary training, resource material, guidelines, etc to the selected youth. Furthermore, the youth involved will be working in close consultation and guidance of the village elders, and CCA committee for efficient and transparent functioning. • Preparation and regular updating of the management plan - To implement activities in a systematic manner a management plan is prepared with the help of CCA and village members. The management plan will help to implement activities, track progress based on indicators, allocate budget, designate responsibility to personnels, and ensure the project adheres to the expected timelines. <p>Reducing Forest Resource Dependency</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative livelihood generation – The project area includes population that majorly include farmers/ community members
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	<p>involved in agriculture and <i>jhum</i>. To reduce and/ or limit the emission from <i>jhum</i> various alternative livelihood activities are being implemented under the project. The activities include developing Agri & allied/ craft/ NTFP based enterprises. The alternative livelihood activities will be implemented after consulting the communities, conducting studies and keeping their interest in consideration.</p> <p>Training and Capacity building</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skill development – The necessary skills required for setting up and managing Agri & allied/ craft-based enterprises, use of GPS devices for carbon stock assessment and CCA area demarcation will be imparted to the communities. Apart from this basic computer training will be provided for ensuring the reports and documentation required by youth representative for community-based forest monitoring. • Carbon Stock Assessment – Laying permanent sample plots in forest areas, measurement of girth and height, calculation and analysis of 5 pools of carbon will be provided to the community members. • Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) for recording various flora and fauna in the forests. This will also document various traditional indigenous knowledge of the people so that it can be used by the next generations. • Public awareness – Various public awareness programs will be conducted that will inform people about the importance of forest protection and conservation. Also, awareness generation will be conducted about the current carbon finance project and how forest protection can also provide additional incentives to the communities.
<p>Expected Benefits:</p>	<p>The project is expected to bring following benefits:</p> <p>Carbon Benefits –The project will include forest areas under the CCAs established with the help of communities. The total area under the project is approximately 16,700 hectares across 21 CCAs. As per the Khasi hills REDD project registered under Plan Vivo having similar agro-climatic zone the recorded carbon sequestration rate is 455,770 tCO₂ eq. for an area of 17,028 hectares over a period of 9 years. Thus, annual carbon sequestration potential is 2.97 tCO₂ eq. per hectare per year.</p> <p>Thus, the current project in CCA of Nagaland can be expected to generate estimate of 49,666 tCO₂ eq. per year for an area of 16,700 hectares.</p> <p>Ecosystem Benefits – The project will further boast the efforts of the communities to enhance forest cover. Forest houses various flora and fauna thus the project by conserving forest will provide a safe habitat for the wildlife. By reducing deforestation and improving the productivity of the forests the project will help to stabilize and improve the soil fertility, improve vegetation diversity, increase groundwater level, species richness, regulate local climate, and help to combat climate change. The</p>

	<p>improvements will also be seen with respect to the increased ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural). The restoration of the native biodiversity will all help to restore the complex ecological relationship thereby increasing the overall resilience of the ecosystem.</p> <p>Livelihood benefits – The project activities are aimed to reduce the dependency of the communities on the forest by providing them with alternative livelihood options such as Agri-based and allied enterprises, or craft-based livelihoods. This will empower the communities by diversifying their income options and developing the capacities. Apart from this the communities will receive financial benefit from the implementation of direct and indirect emission reduction activities that are taken up as the part of the project.</p>
Methodology:	<p>The project will apply following methodologies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PT002- Estimation of carbon benefits from REDD in community managed forest • PU001- Estimation of baseline and GHG removals from carbon pools • PU002- Estimation of baseline and project GHG emissions from carbon pools in Plan Vivo projects • PU003- Estimation of baseline and project GHG emissions from emission sources in Plan Vivo projects
PIN Version:	PIN version number 03
Date Approved:	26/02/2026

1 General Information

1.1 Project Interventions

The project “Forests of the People: Naga’s Traditional Landscape Management” is a voluntary carbon market project developed for the Sumi community residing in the Zunheboto District of Nagaland. The year wise implementation of the project activities are as follows:

Year 1 (Dec 2023 - Dec 2024)	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	Year 3 (Dec 2025 to Dec 2026)	Year 4 (Dec 2026 to Dec 2027)
Awareness generation programs such as Chengu festival, stakeholder consultations	Preparation of a dedicated management plan for each CCA	Awareness generation programs such as Chengu festival, stakeholder consultations	Preparation of People Biodiversity Register (PBR)
Skill development training for youth on geo-spatial software such as google earth, GPS logger	Patrolling – community-based patrolling and watch towers.	Alternate livelihood set up activities	Community based monitoring of Project Intervention
Formation and formalization of New Community conserved areas (CCAs)	Physical boundary demarcation of CCAs	Procurement of Equipment	Alternate livelihood set up activities and operations
Digital boundary demarcation of CCAs	Installation of sign boards	Training of community for Carbon Stock Assessment	
	Awareness generation programs such as Chengu festival, stakeholder consultations	Improving Jhum Management	
	Baseline and value chain assessments for livelihoods planning		
	Training and capacity building for project monitoring		
	Establishment of community-based project monitoring team		

This initiative aims to enhance carbon sequestration by conserving and reducing pressure on the forests via implementation of the below mentioned project interventions:

Table 1.1 – Project Interventions

Intervention Type	Project Intervention	Expected Benefits
Protection	Establishment of CCA- The project involves conserving and restoring forests in an area of approx. 16,700 hectares. The project area was historically <i>jhum</i> land where the	Carbon Benefits – The project will include forest areas under the CCAs established with the help of communities. The total area under the project is approximately 16,700

	<p>forests were cleared on rotational basis. The communities have willingly designated some forest areas as CCA where anthropogenic interventions are prohibited. Thus, the forest area designated as CCA cannot be used for <i>Jhum</i>, and forest resource extraction such as food, NTFP etc. The CCA forms the untouched parcel of land that is being protected by community members. To meet the forest resource needs of the people cultivation in their homesteads, and sustainable agricultural practices are being promoted.</p> <p>Patrolling- The communities are largely included in making sure that the forest resources are being protected. This is done by patrolling the project area by the community members regularly. Patrolling is undertaken so that there will be no illegal forest resource extraction, poaching, overgrazing, and felling. Forest guards are appointed among the village members as they are familiar with the forest and terrain.</p> <p>Law Enforcement: TERI along with VNV is engaged with training, awareness building and facilitating forest protection activities with the CCAs to combat felling, illegal forest resource extraction, land conversion, overgrazing, and poaching that leads to deforestation, and forest degradation. Fines are being imposed by the respective CCA committees if a person is found doing unauthorized activities.</p>	<p>ha. As per the Khasi hills REDD project registered under Plan Vivo having similar agro-climatic zone the recorded carbon sequestration rate is 455,770 tCO₂ eq. for an area of 17,028 hectares over a period of 9 years. Thus, annual carbon sequestration potential is 2.97 tCO₂ eq. per hectare per year.</p> <p>Thus, the current project in CCA of Nagaland can be expected to generate estimate of 49,666 tCO₂ eq. per year for an area of 16,700 hectares.</p> <p>Ecosystem Benefits – The project will further boost the efforts of the communities to enhance forest cover. Forest houses various flora and fauna thus the project by conserving forest will provide a safe habitat for the wildlife. By reducing deforestation and improving the productivity of the forests the project will help to stabilize and improve the soil fertility, improve vegetation diversity, increase groundwater level, species richness, regulate local climate, and help to combat climate change. The improvements will also be seen with respect to the increased ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, supporting, and cultural). Conserving and protecting forest will also help in restoration of the ecosystem providing habitat for native biodiversity. Moreover, the project presents an opportunity to restore the complex ecological relationship thereby increasing the overall resilience of the ecosystem.</p> <p>Livelihood benefits – The communities will receive financial benefit from the implementation of direct and indirect emission reduction activities that are taken up as the part of the project. The</p>
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		<p>community members will be employed as the forest guards and will be patrolling the area for any unauthorized activities such as felling, overgrazing, forest resource extraction, and poaching.</p>
<p>Restoration</p>	<p>Improved <i>Jhum</i> – Shifting cultivation or <i>jhum</i> is a prevalent practice and a key source of livelihood of people living in Nagaland. A patch of forest land is selected, cleared of vegetation, and then burned. The patch of land is cultivated for various food crops and then the people shift to the new patch. As per the current practice the rotation cycle or the fallow period of the <i>jhum</i> land is 6-8 years. The project apart from designating some of the area as CCA has also increased the fallow period of the <i>jhum</i> to 10-15 years so that it becomes more sustainable. AS per Yuen et al., 2013, if done properly <i>jhum</i> fields over the entire cycle are carbon neutral as they sequester carbon emitted during field preparation, reduces soil erosion (Valentin et al., 2008), maintains hydrology of the landscape (Ziegler et al.), and enhance soil nutrients and Soil Organic Carbon (Bruun et al., 2006). Furthermore, shifting cultivation also have a high carbon sequestration potential as it facilitates recovery of the vegetation cover during the fallow period (Fox, 2000). After burning sustainable agriculture is practices are being promoted among the community members. A diversity of horticulture species and cash crops are encouraged.</p>	<p>Carbon Benefits –The project will increase the fallow period of the shifting cultivation serving two purpose (i) increased period of vegetative cover thereby sequestering more carbon; (ii) the increased period of burning will lead to decreased annual emissions. Brunn et al. (2009), estimated annual carbon stock of 74-80 tC/ha for <i>jhum</i> (with fallow period of more than 8 years). However, with fallow period of less than 4 years the carbon stock is decreased to 8-9 tC/ha. In Northern Thailand, shifting cultivation sequester 59,255 tCO₂ e per annum and emits 2,042 tCO₂ e per annum (AIPPF and IWGIA, 2012).</p> <p>Ecosystem Benefits – The long fallow period not only provides carbon benefits but also plays a pivotal role in maintaining the hydrological characteristics of the landscape and restoring the fertility of the soil. The regenerated vegetation in the fallow land provides a host of resources such as wild plants which can be extracted sustainably for self-consumption and sale. Furthermore, invasive species, insecticides, pesticides, and synthetic fertilizers are not used in the shifting cultivation (Springate-Baginski, 2013) thereby enriching the biodiversity.</p> <p>Livelihood benefits – The project does not prohibit people from <i>jhum</i> but ensures that the <i>jhum</i> is followed sustainably. The timber extracted from the <i>jhum</i> land is sold</p>

		<p>in the market for furniture and used for making household equipment’s. Also, after burning communities are encouraged to plant a mixture of horticulture crops and cash crops for livelihood and self-consumption.</p>
<p>Improved Management</p>	<p>Forest fire management – Forest fires are one of the causes of forest degradation. Generally, forest fires are a result of anthropogenic intervention (<i>jhum</i>) in the forest areas. If left unsupervised forest fires can spread to adjacent forest areas causing widespread destruction to both flora and fauna. A fire management plan will be put in place for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintenance of fire lines • Wireless communication to report forest fires in timely manner and taking necessary actions • Community participation in fire prevention and control • Cutting of grass/ shrubs instead of burning. <p>The project has set up a fire response squad/ team to ensure that the forest fires is mitigated as soon as it occurs and does not cause widespread harm within and outside the project areas.</p> <p>The Fire Response Squad is composed of local community members who have prior experience in fire management, particularly those who have worked with the forest department in the past. These individuals were identified during village-level consultations. Each Community Conserved Area (CCA) will have a designated team of 2-3 trained members. Their primary role is to ensure that fore outbreaks does not occur. These squads will also be supported through periodic training and will be equipped with basic firefighting tools.</p>	<p>Carbon benefits – Preventing fires will help in conserving mature forests and their biomass, ensuring long-term carbon storage. Activities developed for forest fire management are adapted from global best practices and are highly affective. One such example is the 40-57% reduction of Late-Dry Season (LDS) fires because of 3-year integrated fire management program imposed in Amazon forest¹.</p> <p>Regular monitoring and community engagement in forest management improve forest health, enhance carbon sequestration, and enable data-driven decisions that optimize carbon storage while reducing degradation risks. Furthermore, sustainable agriculture practices will complement these efforts by enhancing soil carbon sequestration potential.</p> <p>Livelihood benefits – By involving community members in fire response squads and training them in fire prevention, the project aims to create employment opportunities, builds skills, and promotes stewardship. Youth involvement in forest monitoring will empower them with skills and responsibility, while collaboration between youths and village elders will foster cohesive conservation efforts. Youth appointed as nodal person will also be provided with financial aid to take up the responsibilities.</p>

¹ [Forest Fire Management - Global Best Practices](#)

	<p>Preparation and regular updating of the management plan – One of the most important aspects for proper implementation of a project activity of a strategy is the preparation of the management plan. A management plan will have the following components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategy/ aim/ objective of the project activity • Present status • Action point/ project activities that will be implemented under the project. • Target set under the project activity • Target achieved • Budget allocated • Responsible personnel/ organization/ committee • Frequency of conducting project activity • Remarks/ feedback <p>A management plan will serve as the guidebook for systematic implementation of the project activities. It is very important that the community/ tribes involved in the implementation of the project activity. Thus, the management plan will be prepared and approved with the help of the communities/ villagers residing in the selected area. Feedback, suggestions, and interest of the communities will be considered while designing the area specific project activities. One of the essential components of the management plan will be the feedback received during the implementation of the project activity. Any feedback received will be reviewed and discussed with the community/ villagers and the necessary changes/ updates will be made periodically. The updates can be in the form of any new activity that can improve the current forest</p>	<p>Additionally, improved soil health and sustainable agriculture practices will contribute to food security and economic benefits for local communities by increasing agricultural productivity and reducing input costs.</p> <p>Ecosystem Benefits – Reducing the forest fire will help to conserve native biodiversity by preventing loss of habitat, loss of threatened or endangered species caused by forest fire. Also, adopting sustainable agricultural practices will enhance the diversity of soil biota which will further increase soil health.</p>
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	<p>protection and conservation practices or any improvement that can be made in the current practices will also be incorporated.</p> <p>Community based forest monitoring system – The project has recognized the importance/ role of youth in forest protection, conservation, management and monitoring. The implementation of the project activities along with the monitoring of the project activities will be done in collaboration with the community members. Individuals (youths) from each village will be selected as a nodal person/ single point of contact for providing the status of the project activities as described in the management plan. The individual will be responsible for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring timely completion of project activity • Providing the status of project activity • Coordinating with project coordinator for documentation • Reporting the action points as per management plans. <p>The youths will be provided monetary benefits for the work they will be doing. TERI along with VNV will provide necessary training, resource material, guidelines, etc to the selected youth to ensure that the responsibilities are fulfilled as per the project requirements. Furthermore, the youth involved will be working in close consultation and guidance of the village elders, CCA Chairman, and CCA committee for efficient and transparent functioning. This would help to empower youth and ensure that the future generation also continue the practice of forest protection and conservation.</p>	
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<p>Reducing Forest Resource Dependency</p>	<p>Alternative livelihood generation – Following on the holistic approach and ensuring that the communities/ villagers will have the required resources for their livelihood various alternative livelihood generation activities are undertaken. The aim of these activities is to reduce the dependency of the communities on forest resources thereby preserving and conserving forest resources and preventing forest degradation. The project area include population that majorly have farmers/ community members involved in agriculture and <i>jhum</i>. To reduce and/ or limit the emission from <i>jhum</i>, and ensure the communities still get to sustain various alternative livelihood activities are being implemented under the project includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craft based enterprises • Developing NTFP based enterprise • Agri and allied enterprises. <p>The alternative livelihood activities are implemented after consulting with the communities and keeping their interest and capacities in consideration.</p>	<p>Livelihood Benefits – The communities will receive financial benefit from the implementation of direct and indirect emission reduction activities that are taken up as part of the project. The project activities are aimed to reduce the dependency of the communities on the forest by providing them with alternative livelihood options such as agriculture, allied and craft-based enterprises. The direct economic benefits can be achieved by selling the products produced by these enterprises and employing community members for running of these social businesses. The periodic revenue will empower the communities by diversifying their income options and developing the capacities. This will be characterised by moving from an economy of farming to other sources of income, resulting in changing socio-economic condition of the communities. Apart from this the communities will receive financial aid for implementing project activities such as NTFP based enterprise development.</p>
<p>Training and Capacity Building</p>	<p>Skill development – The necessary skill required for craft and Agri/ allied enterprise development, use of GPS devices for carbon stock assessment and CCA area demarcation will be imparted to the communities. Apart from this basic computer training will be provided for ensuring the reports and documentation required by youth representative for community-based forest monitoring.</p> <p>Carbon Stock Assessment – The community members will also be involved in the monitoring of project activities with respect to the impact on forest resources. A capacity building and training workshop will be conducted for the community</p>	<p>Livelihood benefits – Through skill development programs, participants will acquire skills essential for operationalising and running social enterprises like improved production practices for Agri and allied activities, craft skilling trainings, basic accounting, computer skills training, etc. These new skills will enable structured social enterprises and enhance employability, open diverse job opportunities, and contribute to economic stability within the community. The trained community members will leverage their acquired knowledge and skills in/near their own CCA and create productive socio-cultural and economic</p>

	<p>members to impart knowledge about hoe to undertake the measurement of pools of carbon and get estimates of the impacts generated by the project activities on forests. The workshop will include activities such as laying permanent sample plots in forest areas, measurement of girth and height of trees, calculation of forest carbon stock and analysis of 5 pools of carbon.</p> <p>Preparation of Peoples Biodiversity Register (PBR) for recording various flora and fauna in the forests. This will also document various traditional indigenous knowledge of the people so that it can be used by the next generations.</p> <p>Public awareness – Various public awareness programs will be conducted that will inform people about the importance of forest protection and conservation. Also, awareness generation will be conducted about the current carbon finance project and how forest protection can also provide additional incentives to the communities.</p> <p>In order to prevent and/ or minimize the damage caused by the forest fires triggered by anthropogenic activities various awareness generation programmes are being held in all the villages.</p>	<p>structures and working for sustainable livelihoods. Project intervention will also target to reduce gender disparities, empower young tribal women, and increase their representation within their communities.</p> <p>Public awareness initiatives further ensure that communities are informed about the economic incentives linked to forest conservation, encouraging active participation in sustainable practices and long-term resource management.</p> <p>Ecosystem Benefits – Training in sustainable craft development, and responsible forest management further promotes sustainable practices, leading to healthier ecosystems and more resilient communities.</p> <p>The preparation of the People’s Biodiversity Register (PBR) helps in documenting and conserving local flora, fauna, and traditional knowledge, thereby promoting biodiversity and ecosystem health. Furthermore, public awareness programs aimed at forest fire prevention significantly reduce the risk of fire-induced damage, preserving forest ecosystems and protecting wildlife habitats.</p>
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1.2 Project Boundaries

Provide map(s) showing the boundaries of the proposed project region(s), project area(s), and protected areas within or adjacent to the project region(s). Include geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries in Annex 1 (optional).

Complete Table 1.2 to provide a summary of the location and extent of the proposed project region(s) and project area(s).

Table 1.2 Project Boundaries

Location:	India, Nagaland, Zunheboto District
Project Region(s):	The project region is the Zunheboto district of Nagaland
Project Area(s):	<p>The entire project is expected to consist of 21 number of CCA spread over 43 villages covering an area of 16,700 hectares. The activities developed will be implemented in these 21 CCAs in a phased manner. The detail of activity implementation schedule has been given in section 3.</p> <p>The overall aim of the project is to empower the Sumi community of Zunheboto district, Nagaland, assisting them in implementing sustainable development practices, involving them in forest protection and conservation and providing them with the related financial benefits. The operational approaches, technical knowledge, reporting, monitoring mechanism and benefit sharing mechanism will be developed along with the community members.</p> <p>The project activities commenced in December 2023 and will continue throughout the 30-year project duration.</p>
Protected Areas:	<p>Identify any legally designated protected areas within or adjacent to the project region(s).</p> <p>Pulie Badze Wildlife Sanctuary, in Kohima District of Nagaland, approx. 60 kilometer away from the project area</p> <p>Fakim Wildlife Sanctuary, in Tuensang district of Nagaland, approx. 50 kilometer away from the project area</p> <p>Ghosu Bird Sanctuary is one of the CCA of the project area. The communities have established this area on their own to protect the forests and ensure the biodiversity of the area. It is not legally recognized and protected under the guidelines of MoEFCC. The term is coined by communities as it is habitat of different birds in the area.</p>

1.3 Land and Carbon Rights

Describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights of the project area(s), and how these relate to the of project participants.

In India, the forest lands are majorly owned by the Government. The wildlife resources and forests are either owned or managed by the government via Forest Department or other government departments. The different classification of forests in India are:

1. Reserved forests- The reserved forests are restricted forests constituted by the state government on any forest land that is a property of the government. The government has full control over this land and is reserved to protect the abundant resources present in them. The local people are prohibited unless specifically allowed by the forest department of the region.
2. Protected Forests- The state government is empowered to designate any forest land other than reserved forests as protected forests over which the Government has only proprietary rights and the power to issue rules regarding the use of such forests. These are declared to protect the depletion of natural resources present on such lands.

3. Unclassed Forests- These are the types of forests that are not classified as either reserved or protected forests. Unclassed forests are not officially notified and can be government owned or privately held lands, or community forests.

As per The Constitution of India, article 371A, special provisions are provided to the state of Nagaland. It states that the land and its resources are owned and controlled by the local communities, individuals, clans, and tribes of the Nagaland. The land² governed by their customary laws and practices². In Nagaland, communities are traditionally territorial in nature and are closely associated with clearly demarcated customary boundaries. The Zunheboto district is predominantly inhabited by the Sumi (Sema) community, with no other tribal communities residing within this district. Consequently, all land included under this project falls within the customary jurisdiction and ownership of the Sumi community. Due to the presence of such provisions the rights of the benefits generated by the sale of carbon credits in voluntary carbon market generated via carbon sequestration (resource) will belong to the landowner which can be local communities, individuals, clans, and tribes. In this project all the land considered as the project area are owned, controlled, and managed by the local communities/ tribes in Zunheboto district of Nagaland meeting the land status, land tenure, user rights, and carbon rights criteria of Plan Vivo Standard. Every village administration is run by a village council, headed by Village Council Chairman (VCC), elected every five years. The council governs the activities in the village, supported by village development board. The council members comprise the clan representative of the village. Every village also has a village chieftain or Gaon Bora (GB) who is permanent. In the presence of CCA in a village, a separate CCA committee is formed for governing and managing the CCA. The committee is headed by CCA chairman and secretary, members of the committee consist of village council chairman, village chieftain, village development board secretary, village council members, and clan representatives. Many a times, two or more CCAs network together and form combined CCA or CCA network structure. In this case, CCA network structure is headed by a team leader (chairman) and consist of secretary, treasurer and CCA network members that include all GB and VCC of villages included in the CCA network, advisor, and village development board members.

To bring all the individual CCAs in the district to a common platform, Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB) was constituted which has the representations from different CCAs and constitutes local communities as the members. The Board is authorized to sign MoUs on behalf of the local communities. Carbon benefits that are generated out of the project would be wholly owned by the Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB) and would be used to cover the costs of mitigation activities and balance would be contributed to the village development funds that would be spent on village development activities in consultation with the community.

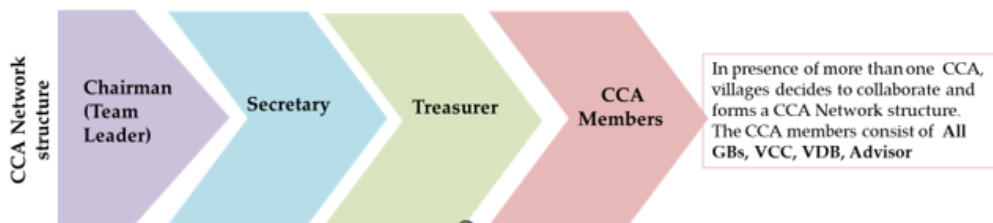
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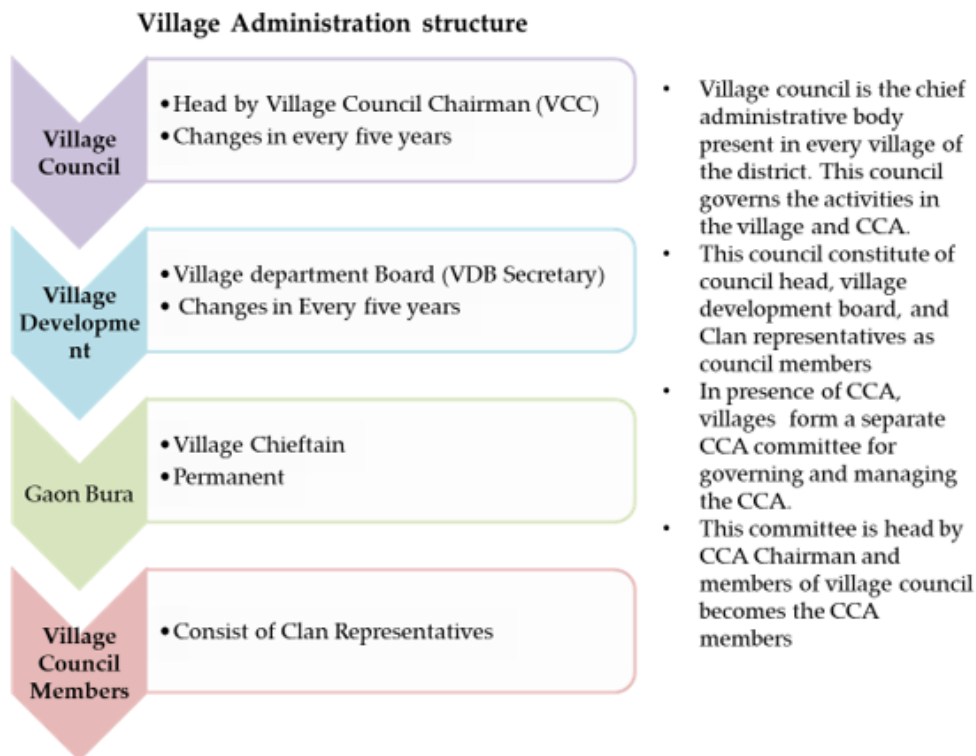
CCAs Management Committees and members:



Joint or Network CCAs



Local Institutions, Villagers, and community members



2 Stakeholder Engagement

2.1 Stakeholder Identification

Identify and describe the main stakeholder groups that could influence or be affected by the project. Describe the relationship of each stakeholder group to the project and state whether they are considered local stakeholders or secondary stakeholders (see Plan Vivo Glossary for definitions).

Identify any Indigenous Peoples or local communities that have statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the project area(s).

The current project activities to sustainably manage the Plan Vivo project area will be implemented by the local community members. One of the major components of the carbon project development is the designing of a forest management plan. Development of such plan involves a comprehensive stakeholder engagement process as well as Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). The stakeholders involved in the project are as below:

Local Stakeholder

CCA Land-owners- A village has numerous households each having a certain area of land under their ownership. A CCA is formed when an individual/ group of individuals are voluntarily willing to contribute a portion of their respective forest land for protection and conservation of forest resources.

The project aims to incentivize the community members with the help of carbon finance who have contributed towards forest protection and conservation.

Sub-District and Village- Apart from the forest land under CCA, a village also have other forested land from where they extract forest resources for their livelihood purposes. The whole village along with the forest land present in the village is governed and managed by the village council who designates which area is to be used for shifting cultivation, agriculture, NTFP extraction etc. except form the area designated as CCA. A management plan is prepared with the help of local communities to implement measures that reduces forest degradation and incorporate sustainable practices.

Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB)- To have a common representation of the people in the project and to bring all the individual CCAs to a common platform, a committee (ZDCFMB) is formulated with the consensus of all the stakeholders. The committee has the representatives from different villages and their respective CCAs. This committee is authorized to perform approve and sign documentation on behalf of the local communities. A tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has also been signed amongst Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB), Value Network Ventures (VNV) Pte. Ltd, and The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) outlaying the roles & responsibilities, and the institutional mechanism that will provide transparent flow of information among the different levels.

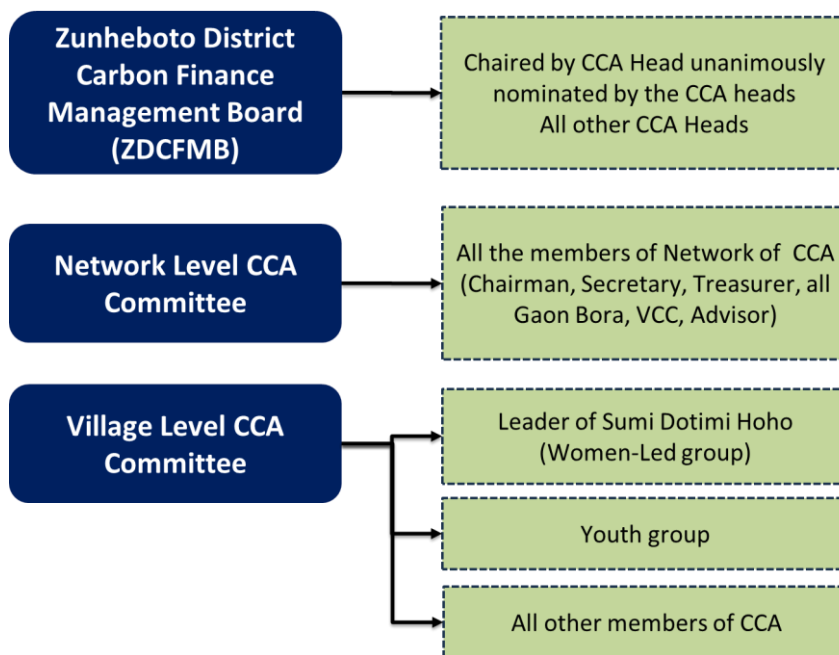


Figure 9: Institutional Mechanism

VNV - The project is designed and developed by Value Network Ventures (VNV) Pte. Ltd. who will be responsible for providing funding for the project activities. Along with this VNV will also assist in community engagement, capacity building, conducting stakeholder consultations, and providing Plan Vivo platform support for the entire project duration.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)- The implementation of the on-ground project activities, onboarding the local communities, capacity building, community engagement, conducting stakeholder consultations, and providing technical assistance regarding the carbon finance project development TERI will work in close coordination with the VNV, ZDCFMB, and local communities. The overall project documentation and Plan Vivo requirements will be fulfilled with the help of TERI.

Secondary Stakeholder

Other stakeholders can include Student Unions, Youth Organisations, Nagaland State Biodiversity Board (NSBB), Nagaland Forest Department, District Administration, Art and Cultural Department, Agriculture and Allied Department, Research institutes, University, researchers, and tourists.

2.2 Project Coordination and Management

Identify the project coordinator organisation that will take overall responsibility for the project, and any other organisations that will play a role in project coordination and management. Identify the parties responsible for each of the project coordination and management functions listed in Table 2.2.

Provide a summary of relevant experience that demonstrates proficiency in the in the assigned function(s) for the project coordinator and any other organisations listed in Table 2.2. Include details of skills and experience to allow for appropriate engagement with any indigenous vulnerable or disadvantaged peoples in the project region.

Provide a copy of the project coordinator's registration certificate in Annex 2.

If the applicant organisation identifies another organisation to act as the project coordinator, include a statement signed by the project coordinator acknowledging that the PIN was submitted with their full consent in Annex 2.

Project coordinator for this Plan Vivo project is Value Network Ventures (VNV) Pte. Ltd.

About the company- Value Network Ventures Pte. Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of Singapore and having its registered office at 10 Anson Road, #29-07 International Plaza, Singapore – 079903 with Registration ID 201903830Z, is operating through its Director in India, Mr. Sandeep Choudhury, having office at 41/1, Reyyan Towers, Church Street, Bangalore- 560001, Karnataka, India.

Long Term Goal- VNV's long-term vision is to stand as the leading global project developer at the intersection of carbon finance and climate adaptation—mobilizing markets to drive finance to the frontlines. VNV will enable community-rooted climate action across the Global South to build the resilience of smallholder farmers and coastal communities. By designing high-integrity nature-based projects and advising governments on forward-looking policy, we will drive capital flows to advance climate-positive futures while upholding robust carbon-market integrity.

Relevant Project Experience

VNV has successfully involved over 200+ businesses to take on the responsibility of environmental sustainability in their supply chains. Most recently, projects in line with the Paris Agreement and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to further the impact on the environment have been initiated. The projects are spread across 15+ countries across South Asia and East African regions, covering over 5 million hectares under land use and forestry and impacting around 7 million rural households. As on date VNV over 130+ projects are under development. Some of the projects undertaken by VNV in the capacity of project developer are:

1. Improved Cook stove Market Development in Rural Nepal
2. Energy Efficient Cooking Solution for Low Emission Development in Nepal – 2

3. Himalayan Oak Restoration Project, India
4. Household biogas plants in rural parts of Central India
5. Small scale Jhansi JFM A/R CDM Project on degraded lands in Jhansi Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh, India

Technical Advisory for this Plan Vivo project is The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

About the company- The Energy and Resources Institute, having its office at Darbari Seth Block, India Habitat Centre, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003, along with its regional centre at 6, VIP Road, Chachal, Six Mile, Guwahati, Assam 781036 will be overseeing this project.

Long Term Goal- TERI established in 1974, is a unique institution, deeply committed to every aspect of sustainable development. TERI combines its knowledge and research with experience to provide workable solutions, a platform for various segments of societies, both national and international, to address the challenges in the modern quest for sustainable development.

Brief history and Current Project- TERI is a not-for-profit think tank, actively engaged in multi-disciplinary research on natural resource management and conservation for over four decades. Owing to its extensive work in fostering forest management, biodiversity conservation, and contributing to rural and tribal livelihoods. TERI has close working relations with MoEFCC, and other ministries of Government of India. TERI has also worked extensively with local NGO, & NPO for conducting research for sustainable development. In this project TERI will assist in implementation of the on-ground project activities, onboarding the local communities, capacity building, community engagement, conducting stakeholder consultations, and providing technical assistance regarding the carbon finance project development TERI will work in close coordination with the VNV, ZDCFMB, and local communities. The overall project documentation and Plan Vivo requirements will be fulfilled with the help of TERI.

Relevant Project Experience

TERI has been working on diverse range of issues focusing on research, assessment, implementation and promoting sustainable forest management and biodiversity conservation. Community and participatory based natural resource governance and policy aspects. Emphasizing on mainstreaming biodiversity through enhanced community engagement with the involvement of a wide range of stakeholders, valuation of benefits from ecosystem services, using RS and GIS-based analysis for analysing developing effective strategies. Third Party Monitoring and Evaluation, various feasibility and scoping studies, training and capacity building of stakeholders on various natural resource management aspects. Value chain-based research on Non-timber Forest Produce (NTFPs). Providing solutions towards generating finance through forestry, mangrove and agroforestry-based carbon finance projects under REDD and ARR; supporting livelihoods of farmers, forest-dependent communities and promoting rural development. Some of the projects undertaken by TERI are:

1. Small scale Allahabad JFM A/R CDM Project on degraded lands in Allahabad Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh, India
2. Small scale Obra JFM A/R CDM Project on degraded lands in Obra Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh, India
3. Small scale Jhansi JFM A/R CDM Project on degraded lands in Jhansi Forest Division, Uttar Pradesh, India
4. Assessment of Carbon stocks of Forest areas of selected Van Panchayats under UFRMP, and facilitate these VPs in generating carbon finance

5. Capacity Building for Forest Based Carbon Assessments and Training of Personnel in Uttarakhand

Project Participant’s Organization for this Plan Vivo project is Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB)

Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB) established in 2023 is a board that brings together the Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland, with the aim of establishing a common platform for the mutual exchange of knowledge and ideas on forest and biodiversity conservation, support in terms of skill building, and deriving as well as equitable sharing of benefits from the conservation efforts, achieved through voluntary carbon markets. ZDCFMB is the project participant on behalf of the local communities. It will aid in the implementation of project intervention, capacity building, data collection, etc. and ensure benefit sharing of the revenue to the village development funds and to the villagers as per the Institutional mechanism.

The roles and responsibilities are enabled through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between:

1. Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB)
2. Value Network Ventures Advi Pte. Ltd (VNV)
3. The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

Table 2.2 Responsibility for Project Coordination and Management Functions

Project Coordination and Management Function	Responsible Party/Parties
Stakeholder engagement during project development and implementation	TERI
Ensuring conformance with the Plan Vivo Carbon Standard (PV Climate) and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations	TERI
Developing technical specifications, land management plans and project agreements with project participants	TERI
Ensuring that the PDD is updated with any changes to the project	TERI, VNV
Registration and recording of land management plans, project agreements and monitoring results	TERI, ZDCFMB
Recording of sale agreements	VNV
Managing project finances and dispersal of income to project participants as described by the benefit sharing mechanism	VNV
Managing Plan Vivo Certificates in the Plan Vivo Registry	VNV
Preparing annual reports and coordinating validation and verification events	TERI, VNV
Securing certificate sales and other means of funding the project	VNV
Assisting Project Participants to secure any legal or regulatory permissions required to carry out the project	TERI, ZDCFMB
Providing technical assistance and capacity building required for project participants to implement project interventions	TERI
Monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to project participants	TERI, ZDCFMB
Measurement, reporting and verification of carbon benefits	TERI, ZDCFMB

2.3 Project Participants

For each project intervention, identify the potential project participants and describe their location in relation to the project area(s) and project region.

Identify any potential project participants that are not resident within the project area, who do not manage land or natural resources within the project area for small-scale production, or who are structurally dependent on year-round hired labour for their land or natural resource management activities; and describe what measures are in place to ensure that the project areas they manage: i) Collectively make up less than 30% of the total Project Area at all times; ii) Were not acquired from smallholders or community groups for the purpose of inclusion in the Project; and iii) Have clear benefits to the Project, for example by increasing connectivity or benefits to local communities.

In Nagaland, every village administration is run by a village council, headed by village council chairman, elected every five years. The council governs the activities in the village, supported by village development board. The council members comprise the clan representative of the village. Every village also has a village chieftain or Gaon Bura who is permanent.

Community conserved areas (CCAs) in Nagaland are specific regions or territories within the state that local communities manage and protect to conserve biodiversity and natural resources. These areas exemplify community-driven conservation, where the active involvement of communities is vital for long-term success and sustainability. In the presence of CCA in a village, a separate CCA committee is formed for governing and managing the CCA. The committee is headed by CCA chairman and secretary, members of the committee consist of village council chairman, village chieftain, village development board secretary, village council members, and clan representatives. Many a times, two or more CCAs network together and form combined CCA or CCA network structure. In this case, CCA network structure is headed by a team leader (chairman) and consist of secretary, treasurer and CCA network members that include all Gaon Bura, and village council chairmen of villages included in the CCA network, advisor, and village development board members. In Naga culture, women play an important role in family and community life. While they may not always be part of formal village decision-making bodies, they are active in many other areas. Women play a significant role in financial, social, and cultural spaces through well-organized community structures. Every village usually has 6 to 7 Self Help Groups (SHGs), which are managed by women. These groups help women run small businesses such as making pickles, handlooms, and handicrafts. Each SHG carries out its own activity or business, helping members earn an income and support their families. To help SHGs grow, women's banks provide small loans that support their businesses. These SHGs are supported at the village level by the Village Council whenever needed. A Village Level Organization (VLO) supervise and supports these SHGs. The VLO includes a president, secretary, SHG representatives, and church members.

All SHGs in a village are collectively guided by a woman leader called Sumi Dotimi Hoho, which is elected by the village women themselves. Sumi Hoho works to protect women's rights and ensures that their voices are heard in village decisions. At the block level, a Block Level Federation exists to provide training, auditing, and capacity building for SHGs. At the state level, the Naga Mother Association acts as the main women's body, working for the welfare and upliftment of women across Nagaland.

All the proposed project interventions (Protection, Restoration, Improved Management, and Reducing Forest resource dependency) will be implemented by the local communities present in the selected villages in the Zunheboto district of Nagaland. The training and capacity building of the local communities will be done by TERI and VNV. This would include developing necessary skill required for socio-economic upliftment of the communities, generating awareness about forest protection and

conservation, and building their capacities on forest carbon stock assessment for estimation and monitoring for forest degradation.

2.4 Participatory Design

Describe the participatory process that will be followed to develop project interventions and define the project logic involving representatives of potential project participants and other local stakeholders. Include details of any measures to ensure the inclusion of those that may normally be excluded or marginalized because of gender, age, ethnicity, religion, or social status and to ensure that their concerns and aspirations were consistently understood and considered.

Zunheboto in Nagaland is situated within the Indo-Malayan Region and is one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots. During one of our visits in Nagaland, we discovered that the households in Zunheboto depends on agriculture for their subsistence, and very little produce is sold in the market due to limited road connectivity. Shifting cultivation is also highly practiced in the villages, wherein farmers leave their lands uncultivated during the fallow period and shift to other parcels of land. The fallow period observed while talking with the community varied from 6-8 years. And it was also observed that communities present in a village contributed some area of their lands to be named as CCA where forest is left untouched and conserved. But recently there has been a decline in the presence of CCA. The major factor for this is for subsistence of the households and the population of the village.

This formed the basis of development of the project design. The willingness of the communities to continue protecting their CCAs, develop new CCAs and further strengthen the conservation works, was discussed, on the condition that funds/ finances/ incentives will be provided by developing a carbon finance project in voluntary carbon markets.

Subsequent to these discussions various meetings, discussions, and stakeholder consultations were held with the community members of all the villages along with the village elders, and Gaon Bora to explore the possibility of developing a voluntary market-based carbon finance project. The first formal meeting took place in December 2022 in Kohima, where the institutional mechanism for project implementation and benefit sharing was presented and discussed.

To ensure that entire village and community were adequately informed about the different aspects of the projects numerous stakeholder consultations were conducted in the interested villages apprising the community members about the project objectives, proposed activities, management arrangements, and the associated benefits and risks, as well as their roles and responsibilities as participants. During these consultations, the communities were clearly informed about the requirement to provide their Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) for the project. As part of this process, an Institutional Mechanism (IM) for project governance was presented to the communities. Initially, a two-tiered structure was proposed, comprising a district-level management body and a village-level implementation body. This proposed structure was shared with community members, elders, CCA committee members, and other local stakeholders for their review and feedback. Through these discussions, the communities highlighted the need for a more nuanced governance structure that could better reflect on-ground realities, particularly the complexities associated with managing Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) that extend across multiple village boundaries.

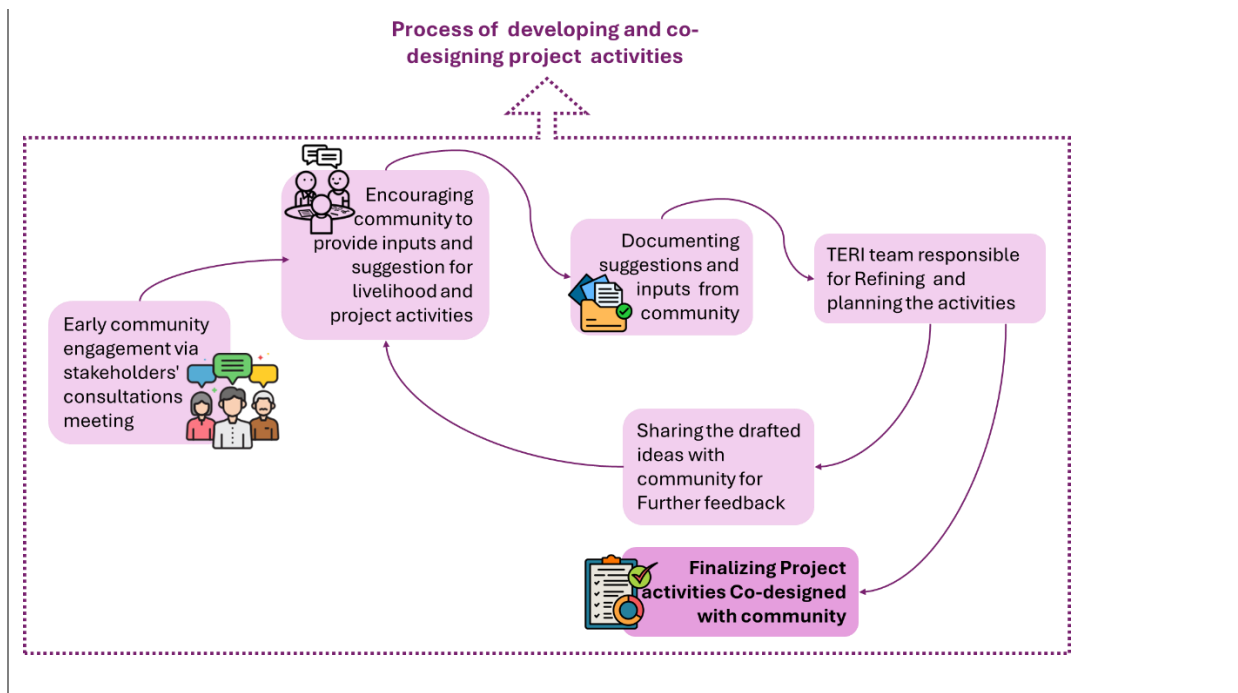
In response to this feedback, the Institutional Mechanism was revised to a three-tiered structure. A Network CCA-level committee was introduced to specifically manage CCAs shared by multiple villages, ensuring equitable decision-making, coordination across village boundaries, and strengthened inter-village collaboration. The Network CCA-level committee comprises members from the CCA network, including the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, all Gaon Bora, Village Council Chairmen, and an advisor. Additionally, based on community feedback, a nodal person was appointed at each tier of the Institutional Mechanism to act as a facilitator and a key point of contact between the communities and the respective committees.

During the stakeholder consultation held in June 2023 in Zunheboto, Nagaland, the revised Institutional Mechanism for project administration was finalized with community consent. All the suggestions and changes suggested by the participants in the IM were taken into consideration. The participants were also informed about carbon rights and carbon waiver. To ensure that each and every community and village member is aware about the project, takes ownership of the project, and becomes involved, stakeholder consultations were held in every village in December 2023. The community members were encouraged to ask questions, raise concerns, and provide feedback on the projects so that it could be addressed publicly. The project will be developed with the help of communities on a voluntary basis where every member of the village and community was asked if they want to be a part of this project. The stakeholder consultations would ensure collaboration between different stakeholders involved in the project and would also lead to effective implementation of the project activities.

During these consultations, community members were actively encouraged to share their ideas and preferences regarding potential livelihood activities and forest protection activities. Suggestions such as developing homestays or engaging in ecotourism-related services were proposed by the community themselves, based on their cultural context, geographic setting, and need to diversify the livelihood options. A separate stakeholder consultation report has been prepared to comprehensively document the consultation process and key discussion points. This report provides detailed information on the participating villages, the Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) associated with them, the list of participants, the information shared with the communities on project design, project activities, frameworks and management plan for project, the issues discussed, and the feedback received. All meetings were systematically documented and recorded for future reference.

All feedback and ideas were documented and reviewed by the technical team (TERI) to assess feasibility. TERI team drafted and refined the community suggestion and then returned to the community for additional feedback. Only after thorough discussion and mutual agreement were these activities finalized. This ensured that all proposed interventions were co-designed and voluntarily accepted by the community, not externally imposed. Thus, the alternative livelihoods presented in the PIN are a direct outcome of the participatory process with bottom-up approach and are grounded in the interests and voluntary consent of the project participants.

The project also acknowledges the need for proper infrastructure and capacity to operationalize these activities. Hence, implementation has been strategically planned in a phased manner. The detailed project implementation plan is described in the section 3.



A local team was involved in consultation with ZDCFMB, was trained and employed for mapping the area under all the CCAs who have voluntarily decided to participate in the project to get the geo-referenced boundaries. The team is also tasked with facilitation and conduction of the stakeholder consultations in all the villages encompassing the CCA. The demarcated areas are also reconfirmed with the community members during the stakeholder consultations. The name and contact details of the CCA chairman, and Village Council Chairman was also confirmed during the stakeholder consultation so that they can be consulted at any time during the implementation of the project.

The project follows a community-based collaborative approach wherein a management plan will be prepared for strategic and timely implementation of the project activities which will also highlight the personnel/ organization/ committee responsible for implementing the project activities. The management plan will be further updated periodically, and changes will be made (if required) based on the feedback received from the community members. Along with this training and capacity building workshops will be conducted for the community members with regards to field monitoring of the forest carbon stock. This will help in regular monitoring of the condition of the forest. Community members will also be involved for monitoring of other project activities. Individuals (youths) from each village will be selected as a nodal person/ single point of contact or providing the status of the project activities as described in the management plan. The individual will be responsible for:

1. Ensuring timely completion of project activity.
2. Providing the status of project activity.
3. Coordinating with project coordinator for documentation
4. Reporting the action points as per management plans

The youths will be provided monetary benefits for the work they will be doing. TERI along with VNV will provide necessary training, resource material, guidelines, etc to the selected youth to ensure that the responsibilities are fulfilled as per the project requirements. Furthermore, the youth involved will be working in close consultation and guidance of the village elders, CCA Chairman, and CCA committee for efficient and transparent functioning. This would help to empower youth and ensure that the future generation also continue the practice of forest protection and conservation.

Selection of Youths

During the stakeholder identification process, youth emerged as key actors for ensuring the sustained implementation of project activities. Accordingly, special emphasis is being placed on their training and capacity building. Through stakeholder consultations and field visits, youth have been engaged and informed about the project's objectives, expected benefits, and broader goals, including forest conservation, sustainable livelihoods, and climate awareness etc.

To strengthen their involvement, all interested youth are encouraged to nominate themselves for various tasks under the project such as KML preparation, primary and secondary data collection, bookkeeping, reporting, monitoring etc. Particular attention is being given to ensuring gender-balanced participation, with equal opportunities for both young men and women to contribute actively to project development.

2.5 FPIC Process

Describe the FPIC process that will be followed to enable a collective decision by Indigenous Peoples and local communities with statutory or customary rights to land or resources in the initial project area(s) to negotiate the conditions under which the project is designed, implemented, monitored and evaluated and grant or withhold consent to: i) consider the proposed project; ii) engage in the project design process; and iii) implement the project.

The project draws its strength from the community-based participatory approach and integrates ideas from the community itself for designing and implementing project activities that they themselves are willing to undertake for forest protection and conservation. In the initial project design phase, various stakeholder consultations, meetings and discussions were held in the villages with the community members. They were given an explanation about the project and the various interventions that can be undertaken as part of the project, as well as the benefits that can be availed. Furthermore, the village and community members were encouraged to ask questions or raise concerns about the project, which was clarified and taken into consideration during the project design.

The project is designed to be completely voluntary, and participation is based entirely on the free will of community members. No individual, household, or institution has been or will be forced to participate in any project activity. All interventions have been developed in the best interest of the communities, with the objective of delivering maximum benefits. Through the project, communities are expected to receive both monetary benefits as well as non-monetary benefits, including skill development, enhanced capacities, access to alternate livelihood options, and overall improvement in social and economic well-being. It was clearly communicated that participation is optional, and if at any point during the project implementation a community member chooses to withdraw, they are free to do so without any restrictions, obligations, or penalties. The communities expressed strong interest in becoming part of the project, recognizing that it has the potential not only to improve their current living conditions through enhanced livelihoods and capacity development, but also to contribute to long-term forest protection and environmental conservation. Also, the management plan that will be prepared will be with the help of communities incorporating the project activities that they are willing to partake in. The formalization of the ZDCFMB was explained to the communities and discussed that this board will be representative of the communities and will be responsible for

project related communications to the widespread population. A tripartite contract between ZDCFMB, VNV, and TERI was finalized which underlines the roles and responsibilities of each entity. In accordance with the Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) guidelines of Plan Vivo, ensure voluntary participation, transparency, and respect for community rights throughout the project crediting period, consent of the villages is obtained. The FPIC process is an integral part of the project implementation process as it respects the rights, interests, and knowledge of the local communities. FPIC ensures that communities impacted by a project have the right to give or withhold their consent prior to the commencement of the project that may affect their lands, resources, or livelihoods. This information, including the rights and roles of community members as project participants, was clearly communicated during FPIC processes and stakeholder consultation meetings.

The FPIC process would be ensured through the following activities during the preparatory phase and over the course of project implementation process:

1. All groups of stakeholders including community leader, elders, and members would be identified
2. All the stakeholders will be included in a meeting/ discussion where the local customs, traditions, and decision-making process will be understood.
3. The initial stakeholder consultations will be conducted in every village to explain the project's purpose, objectives, benefits, and potential risks. Discussions and feedback from the communities will be welcomed to ensure clarity and understanding. Community feedback will be respected and incorporated into project planning and designing.
4. Free- Village councils, and Goan Bora are free to decide whether they want to be a part of the project or not.
5. Prior- The meetings, stakeholder consultations, and discussions to explain the project design and benefits with the community members took place well before the start of the project activities.
6. Informed- An institutional mechanism is developed along with the establishment of ZDCFMB which has members from all the levels of stakeholders including TERI, VNV, VC Chairman, and community members to that the flow of information is transparent and in timely manner. The details of the project, development of management plan, project boundary demarcation, and awareness generation activities were spread with the help of ZDCFMB and the established institutional mechanism.
7. Consent- The consent forms were signed when the Village Council Chairman on behalf of the community members agrees to join the project voluntarily. It was also communicated during FPIC process that if at any point during the project implementation a community member decides to withdraw, they are free to do so. There are no restrictions, obligations, or penalties imposed on those who choose not to participate or who opt out later.

3 Project Design

The proposed carbon finance project in Zunheboto district of Nagaland seeks to restore and conserve community-managed forest landscapes through a holistic and participatory approach. The project is designed to address the forest degradation drivers such as degradation due to shifting cultivation (locally known as jhum), increasing dependency of local communities on forest due to limited infrastructure, large scale mining projects. The project aims to achieve this by supporting community-led efforts to conserve, protect and restore the forest. Project has introduced forest protection and enhancement activities such as increasing the fallow cycle of jhum lands, thereby allowing forests to regenerate, establishing the new CCA and formalizing and strengthening existing CCAs through inclusive governance structures. The project also introduces alternative livelihood interventions such

as Agri & allied/ craft/ forest-based small enterprises, to reduce the dependence of communities on forests for income and subsistence needs. This approach would help to restore ecosystem services, biodiversity, and improve the livelihood, and resilience of the local communities through adoption of more productive and sustainable agricultural practices.

The implementation of the project is structured in a phased manner, ensuring strong community ownership and informed participation at each stage. In the initial stages of the project, various stakeholder consultations, meetings, and discussions were held in the villages with the community members. They were given an explanation about the project, the various interventions that can be undertaken to be a part of the project and the benefits that can be availed. The Free, Prior, Informed Consent process was completed in all 21 CCAs. FPIC ensures that communities affected by a project have the right to give or withhold their consent prior to the commencement of the project that may affect their lands, resources, or livelihoods. The project has also completed the area demarcation activity. Few youths were trained to prepare the app based KML to demarcate the boundary of the CCAs. Subsequently, a comprehensive stakeholder mapping exercise was also conducted to identify key actors within the community, including village councils, traditional leaders, women group, youth representatives, and other local bodies. Various stakeholders’ consultation meetings were also organized in every village to discuss and revise the institutional mechanism, understanding the project activities needs from community and discussing the roles and responsibilities of the entities involved in the project. The project is currently under the phase to finalize the project intervention and field data collection for the baseline assessment. All the proposed project interventions (Protection, Restoration, Improved Management, and Reducing Forest resource dependency) are tailored to the local context, ensuring that both ecological and socio-economic needs are addressed.

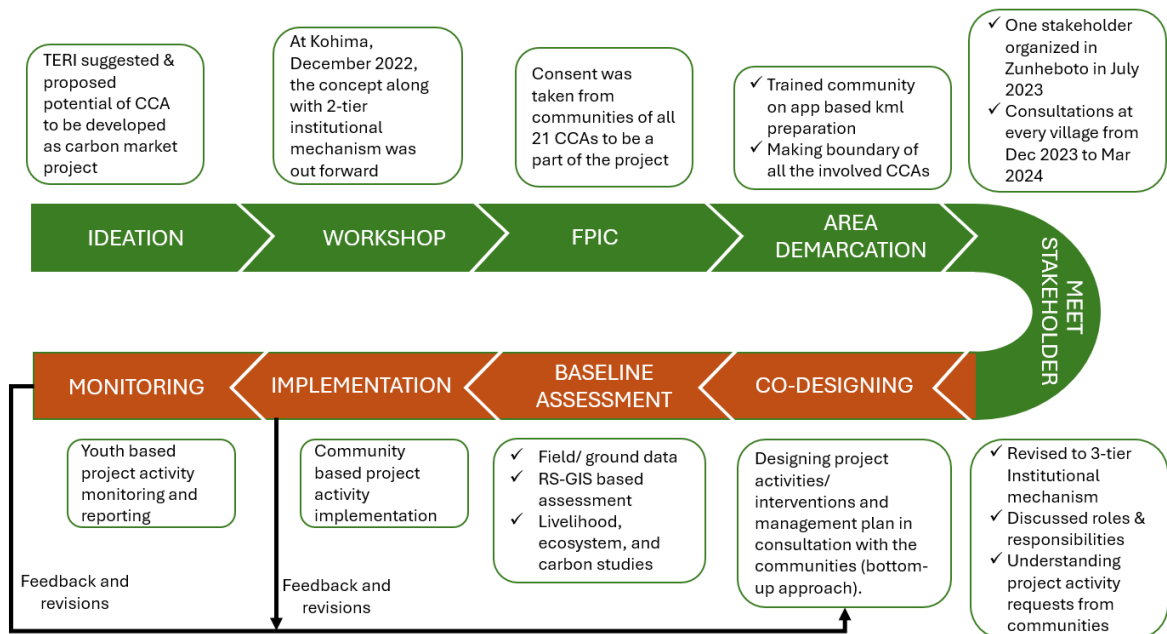


Figure 10: Project implementation timeline

The project adopts a phased implementation strategy to ensure smooth execution and long-term sustainability. The project activities are carefully spread across five years and are grouped under three thematic categories: Forest Protection & Restoration, Improved Management, and Reducing Forest Resource Dependency. In the initial years, the project activity focuses on carrying out essential groundwork such as formation and formalization of CCAs, mobilizing the communities, and

awareness-building activities. These foundational steps helped create a strong base for project success. In the subsequent phase, the project focus gradually moves towards capacity building, development of necessary infrastructure, and introduction of livelihood diversification activities. The Gantt chart outlines the timeline for each intervention, ensuring that the project progresses in a logical and community-driven manner, with clear linkages between activities across all categories.

Table 1: Year-wise REDD project activity implementation schedule

S.No.	Project Activities	Year 1 (Dec 2023-Dec 2024)				Year 2 (Dec 2024 – Dec 2025)				Year 3 (Dec 2025 – Dec 2026)				Year 4 (Dec 2026 – Dec 2027)			
		Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4	Q 1	Q 2	Q 3	Q 4
1	Awareness generation programs such as Chengu festival, stakeholder consultations	█				█				█				█			
2	Skill development training for youth on geo-spatial software such as google earth, GPS logger	█															
3	Formation and formalization of New Community conserved areas (CCAs)	█	█	█	█												
4	Digital boundary demarcation of CCAs	█	█	█	█	█	█	█									
5	Preparation of a dedicated management plan for each CCA						█	█									
6	Patrolling – community-based patrolling and watch towers.							█	█								

a central role in agriculture, forest product collection, handicrafts, and income-generating activities. Through groups such as the Sumi Dotimi Hoho, Women bank and Self-Help groups, women are leading efforts in community development and social mobilization. Recognizing this, the project embeds women's participation within its institutional framework, ensuring their representation in CCA committees. Furthermore, youth and women will also play a critical role in the monitoring of the project activity. Project intervention will also focus on enhancing women's and youth capacities through tailored training programs that will provide them with skills in sustainable resource management and conservation.

The project activity will actively seek to increase the economic status of community by supporting their involvement in small enterprises related to forest products, and handicrafts. Furthermore, the project will ensure that women's voices are represented in the design and implementation of the project activities, which will include creating platforms for their participation in decision-making processes related to conservation efforts. Through these initiatives, the project aims to empower every community member, create more opportunities for them in both the community and economic spheres, and reduce gender disparities by actively involving women in environmental conservation efforts.

To ensure meaningful gender inclusion, the project will implement a structured approach to monitor male and female participation across all activities. The following indicators can be adopted:

- The project will identify existing gender roles, participation patterns, and barriers to engagement in forest conservation and community decision-making.
- In every community meeting, training session and consultation, the project team will maintain attendance records, clearly noting female and male participation.
- For all project activities including forest patrolling, livelihood enterprises, and monitoring— participation by gender will be recorded and reviewed regularly.
- Participation in governance and decision-making bodies such as the CCA Management Committees will be tracked to ensure equitable representation of women and men.

If gender imbalance is observed in any activity, the project will take corrective actions such as focused awareness drives, women-only capacity-building sessions, or facilitated dialogues to encourage greater involvement of women.

To effectively manage and govern the interventions, a decentralized, three-tier institutional structure has been proposed. At the grassroots level, each participating village will have a CCA Management Committee comprising members of the Village Council, Gaon Buras (customary heads), women's organizations like the Sumi Dotimi Hoho, and youth representatives. These committees will oversee project activity implementation and will resolve any conflict or grievances of the community members. At the second tier, a network-level CCA committee is formed which comprises of chairman of the Village Councils, Secretaries, treasurer and Gaon Bora of all CCA villages for inter-village coordination and knowledge sharing. At the district level, a Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB) is formed with representation from all participating CCAs. The Board will provide strategic oversight and will ensure activities are implemented in a timely manner. Overall, the project envisions a self-sustaining model where ecological restoration, and carbon benefits are intrinsically tied to community well-being, cultural identity, and equitable governance. The project cycle is designed to be iterative and inclusive, with scope for continuous learning, local adaptation, and scaling across similar landscapes in Nagaland.

3.1 Baseline Scenario

Describe the expected future land use and land management of the project areas(s) in the absence of project intervention(s).

Baseline assessment is a critical analysis of the existing conditions in the project area against which the impact of project intervention will be assessed. This assessment serves as a reference point for determining actual reduction in GHG emissions or other socio-environmental impacts resulting from project’s implementation. The figure below shows the interlinkages between different factors leading to deforestation and forest degradation.



Figure 11: Anthropogenic activities leading to deforestation and forest degradation

Between 2002 and 2023, approximately 21.30 sq km of primary forest in Zunheboto has been lost, accounting for 9.7% of the region’s total tree cover loss³. The region is predominantly dependent on shifting agriculture and subsistence farming, with rice, chili, and various fruits and vegetables forming the core of local agricultural production. Given the geographical isolation of villages, lack of market access, and limited livelihood opportunities, it is highly probable that communities will continue to rely on shifting agriculture as their primary means of sustenance. However, this practice—driven by the necessity to clear new land for cultivation as soil fertility declines—directly contributes to deforestation and ecosystem degradation. Limited infrastructure development, day to day facilities, and alternative livelihood opportunities has left locals communities heavily reliant on the forest’s resources for their day-to-day sustenance. This growing dependence, coupled with population pressures, has created a cycle of overuse, leading to severe forest degradation. Furthermore, the lack of sustainable livelihood options has forced many community members to migrate to nearby cities in

³ <https://www.globalforestwatch.org/dashboards/country/IND/24/11/>

search of work. However, without stable employment or marketable skills, these migrants struggle with economic insecurity, making them even more vulnerable. If no structured intervention is introduced, the current scenario suggests that the region will continue experiencing progressive deforestation, soil depletion, and biodiversity loss, further exacerbating the challenges faced by local communities.

In addition to agriculture-driven deforestation, large-scale mining projects undertaken by landowners for economic gains are leading to the conversion of forest land at an increasing rate. Without any conservation-focused initiatives, these mining operations will likely expand, accelerating widespread deforestation and land degradation. Simultaneously, illegal and unregulated logging is wreaking havoc on the district's forests. The high commercial demand for timber, coupled with the attractive profits of illicit logging, has incentivized widespread tree felling without proper regulation or reforestation efforts. As a result, the region continues to suffer from severe forest cover loss and ecosystem deterioration.



Figure 12: Jhum land in Zunheboto, Nagaland

Without a structured forest management plan incorporating sustainable land-use practices, reforestation, and alternative economic opportunities, the current pattern of forest conversion, shifting cultivation, and extractive activities will persist. The result will be continuous deforestation, soil degradation, and loss of critical ecosystem services—ultimately threatening both biodiversity and long-term community resilience.

A carbon finance initiative presents a strong case for additionality by offering a financial mechanism that does not currently exist in the region. Funds generated under this project can provide a viable economic alternative to deforestation-driven activities, making forest conservation and sustainable land management financially attractive for local communities. Without such an initiative, communities would lack the economic means to transition away from destructive land-use practices, and mining, illegal logging, and unsustainable agriculture would continue unchecked. Furthermore, carbon revenue can be reinvested into community-led businesses, afforestation, and community-led conservation efforts, offering long-term income diversification while promoting climate resilience and ecosystem restoration.

The current economic landscape provides no incentive to halt deforestation, as the immediate financial benefits of mining, logging, and shifting cultivation far outweigh the intangible benefits of conservation. Carbon finance would change this equation by providing direct monetary incentives for

communities to protect, restore, and sustainably manage their forests. Without this intervention, the region will remain on a path of continuous deforestation, resource depletion, and socioeconomic vulnerability, making this project a clear case for additionality in the carbon market.

3.2 Livelihood Baseline

For each of the local stakeholder groups identified in Section 2.1, provide descriptions of livelihood status prior to the start of the project and how livelihood status is expected to change under the baseline scenario. Include details of access to and main uses of land and natural resources, typical assets, income levels and sources, livelihood activities, and other factors important in the context of the project region.

Zunheboto district is one of the eleven districts in the state of Nagaland in North-eastern region of India. As per Census 2011, the district has a population of 1,40,757, with over 80% residing in rural areas while the rest 19.6 per cent people reside in the urban areas. The primary source of livelihood is shifting cultivation, except for some communities residing near Tizu river practicing terrace farming⁴. More than half of its population are engaged in agricultural activities to earn their livelihood. The main agricultural products in the district are paddy, maize, millet, French bean, potato, pumpkin, cucumber, chilly etc. Farmers are also cultivating coffee in some of the villages. The district has several horticultural products such as apple, pear, plum, peach, orange, lemon, pomegranate, papaya, sweet lime, banana, guava, litchi, pineapple etc. Almost every household in the villages keep domestic animals such as Cattle, Pig Fowls etc. for the respective family consumption. Large scale rearing of animal for commercial purpose is yet to start. Nearly 80% of the population depends on agriculture and allied sector⁵.

The project is being implemented in 21 Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) comprising 43 villages within Zunheboto district. These villages account for a total of 5,473 households with a population of 26,473 individuals, out of which 13,461 are male and 13,012 are female. The average literacy rate among community members in the project area is approximately 68%, with male literacy at 70% and female literacy at 67%.

During the several stakeholder consultations and meetings conducted with the communities the socio-economic positioning of women, and youths were understood, including their occupation and potential role in the project. These insights have revealed that women are significantly involved in subsistence agriculture, collection of Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFP), handicraft and weaving, yet they have limited access to decision-making, and formal markets.

Despite their critical role in sustaining household livelihoods, women remain underrepresented in local governance and development initiatives. Therefore, the project will integrate targeted gender and social inclusion strategies, such as:

1. Forming and strengthening community-led organisations like Self Help Groups (SHGs) or producer groups/organisations in Agri, allied and craft sectors.

⁴ <https://dcmsme.gov.in/old/dips/DIPR-ZUNBEHETO-Final.pdf>

⁵

<https://zunheboto.nic.in/economy/#:~:text=The%20main%20livelihood%20of%20the,Tizu%20River%20practices%20Terrace%20cultivation.>

2. Providing skill development opportunities to women, and youth in forest management, food processing, and enterprise development
3. Ensuring the representation of women group and youths in the Institutional mechanism as outlined in Section 3.

Details of Micro and Small Enterprises and Artisan units in district is as below⁶:

1. Mfg of Food products & Beverages- 1 unit employing 4 people
2. Mfg.of Weaving Apparel- 3 units employing 6 people
3. Rubber, plastic & petro based- 2 units employing 4 people
4. Metal based (steel fab) – 19 units employing 38 people
5. Engineering units – 20 units employing 60 people
6. Other industries- 2 units employing 4 people
7. Total 116 people employed

Currently the district has following units/ centres⁷:

1. Bee keeping unit- 1
2. Lemon grass Distillation unit- 1
3. Rural artisan project training unit- 1
4. Steel trunk 4
5. Mini Rice mills 12
6. Handloom demonstration unit 4

Since there is no presence of major industry the growth trend in the district is very less having very low scope of employment. Along with this, deplorable road condition is hampering the expansion of potential economic activities in the district. Apart from this there is inadequate infrastructure and facilities such as service centres, training centres, hospitals etc. Thus, it is expected that the current socio-economic condition of the communities in the Zunheboto district would persist for decades to come. This includes the destructive trends in the forest areas to cater to the subsistence needs of the people, which in long run would lead to worsening of the local climatic condition thereby negatively affecting the agriculture activities also.

3.3 Ecosystem Baseline

For each project region, describe the ecological conditions prior to the start of the project and how ecological conditions are expected to change under the baseline scenario. Include details of the main ecosystems and habitat types present, and any species of conservation concern known or thought to be present.

The state of Nagaland harbours a total forest area of 9222 sq km which accounts for 55.62% of the state's geographical area (Nagaland FD, 2014). Geo-morphologically, the terrain can be broadly grouped into four topographic units - alluvial plains (150 to 200 meters above sea level.), low to moderate linear hills (200 to 500 meters above sea level), moderate hills (500 to 800 meters above

⁶ Directorate of Economics & Statics, Govt of Nagaland

⁷ <https://dcmsme.gov.in/old/dips/DIPR-ZUNBEHETO-Final.pdf>

sea level) and high hills (more than 800 meters above sea level). The main rivers that flow through the state are the Dhansiri, Doyang, Dikhu, Tizü and Melak.

Forest cover stats of last 10 years:

Forest Density	2021	2019	2017	2015	2013
VDF	82.57	83.64	84.0	85.0	85.0
MDF	355.70	363.35	369.0	383.0	385.0
OF	470.11	491.15	481.0	504.0	515.0
Total	908.38	938.14	934.0	972.0	985.0

Zunheboto district has been endowed with a wide variety of Forest Types on account of its unique geographic location and wide range of physiographic terrain. The following forest types are found in the district as per classification by Champion & Seth (1968).

a) Northern Sub-Tropical Broad Leaved Wet Hill Forest (8B/C1): These types of forests are found in the hill areas below 1,800 m and above 500 m in all the districts of Nagaland. The wet evergreen species are conspicuous by their absence, and the dominant species are mostly semi-deciduous. Some of the important timber species in this type are – Koroi (*Abelmoschus*), Pomas (*Chukrasia*), Sopas (*Magnolia*), Gamari (*Gmelina*), Hollock (*Terminalia*), Sam (*Betula nigra*), Aam (*Mangifera*), Badam (*Prunus*), Betula etc.

b) Northern Sub-Tropical Pine Forest (9/C2): These types of forests are found in hills with elevation of 1,000 m to 1,500 m in parts of the districts. Pine is the dominant species, and is found mixed with *Quercus*, *Schima*, *Prunus*, *Betula* and *Rhododendron*.

c) Northern Montane Wet- temperate Forest (11B): These types of forests are found on the higher reaches of the tallest mountains (above 2,500 m) area. The species that dominate are *Rhododendron*, Oaks (*Quercus*), Birch and *Juniperus* sp.

The main trees in the district include *Tectona grandis* (Teak), *Gmelina arborea* (Gamari), *Melia composite* (Ghora neem), *Terminalia myriocarpa* (Hollock), *Artocarpus chaplasi* (Sam), *Chukrasia tabularis* (Bogipoma), *Duabanga sonneratioides* (Khokan), *Anthocephalus cadamba* (Kadam), *Michelia champaca* (Tita chap), *Pinus petula*, *Pinus kesiya*, *Albizia procera* (Koroi) etc. (Nagaland FD, 2014). According to a survey conducted by the Forest Department of Nagaland, there are more than 340 species of orchids belonging to 87 genera and that is about 27% of India's 1,255 orchid species. This includes those orchid species that are most common and commercially valuable in the international and national market. The dominant orchid species are *Dendrobium*, *Bulbophyllum*, *Calanthe*, *Coelegyne*, *Liparis*, *Eria*, *Cymbidium*, *Oberonia*, *Pholidota*, *Goodyera*, *Habenaria* and *Peristylus*. The largest orchid genus found is *Dendrobium* which accounts for about 10.52 % of the total species. Besides these, there are many other rare, endangered and threatened species of orchids in Nagaland, such as *Arundina graminifolia* (Bamboo orchid), *Renanthera imschootiana* (Red vanda), *Rhynchostylis retusa* (Fox tail orchid), *Paphiopedilum insigne* (Lady's slipper orchid), *Vanda coerulea* (Blue vanda), *Cymbidium tigrinum*, *Dendrobium wardianum*, *Dendrobium thyrsiflorum*, *Ascocentrum ampullaceum*, *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* (Red chimney orchid), *Thunia* sp, *Phaius* sp and *Pleione* sp. Not less than 37 genera with a single species are known. *Cymbidium tigrinum* was first discovered in Nagaland and is rare even in this state. *Bulbophyllum rothschildianum* is another endangered and rare species in India. Nagaland also has several bamboo species; according to the Forest Department there are 22 species of bamboo in Nagaland.

Many surveys recorded a total of 503 bird species. However, records of 21 birds like the small buttonquail, Chestnut-bellied Partridge, Grey spotted Woodpecker, Grey bellied Cuckoo, River Tern, Long-tailed Sibia, White-naped Yuhina and many more that were recorded as being present in Nagaland by Ripley in 1952 have not been recorded recently. Herpetofaunal surveys conducted by the National Centre for Biological Sciences (NCBS) researchers documented 30 species of snakes and 5 species of lizards. Several snakes like the Burmese Rat Snake (*Maculophis bella bella*), Medo Pit Viper (*Viridovipera cf menadoensis*), Boulenger’s Water Snake (*Sinonatrix percarinata*), Kaulback’s Lance-headed Pit Viper (*Protobothrops kaulbacki*) turned out to be new species for the country while species like Jerdon’s Pit Viper (*Protobothrops jerdonii xanthomelas*) were new sub-species for the country. A total of 32 amphibian species were also recorded.

According to the survey conducted by NEPED and SACON to assess the distribution of Blyth’s Tragopan (*Tragopan blythii*) in 269 villages in 5 districts of Eastern Nagaland, 83 villages accounting for 31% reported the presence of this vulnerable bird. However, 41 villages indicated that it had become extremely rare, and that it only inhabits primary forests.

The ecological conditions under the baseline scenario are expected to deteriorate due to the continuation of current land use practices including reduce jhum cycles, unsustainable extraction, and forest to non-forest land transition. This would likely result in further:

- Loss of primary and secondary forest cover,
- Depletion of wildlife habitats, particularly for species dependent on undisturbed forest,
- Decline in biodiversity richness, including local and endemic species,
- Soil degradation and Reduced ecosystem services, such as carbon sequestration, water regulation, and non-timber forest product availability.

These anticipated changes will be described more comprehensively once the field assessments are complete. Each of the 21 Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) will be assessed through field surveys to collect quantitative and qualitative data on the local flora, fauna, habitat types, and forest condition prior to project intervention. These surveys will also incorporate community knowledge to document historical ecological trends and current pressures on ecosystems.

3.4 Project Logic

Complete Table 3.4 to provide an initial summary of the expected project outputs and outcomes and identify key assumptions and risks. Add rows for additional outputs as required.

Table 3.4 Initial Project Logic

Aim

Shifting cultivation or jhum is a prevalent practice and a key source of livelihood of people living in Nagaland. A patch of forest land is selected, cleared of vegetation, and then burned. The patch of land is cultivated for various food crops and then the people shift to the new patch. As per the current practice the rotation cycle or the fallow period of the jhum land is 6-8 years. Due to the increased population, and limited livelihood opportunities people have no way to diversify their income source thereby making them reliant on shifting cultivation. Furthermore, as the population increase more and more CCA (the areas that are designated by the communities that are meant to

be untouched and protected) are converted to jhum lands by the communities for catering to their daily needs. Furthermore, during the stakeholder consultations and frequent visits in Zunheboto, it was observed that large landowners instead of contributing their area as CCA have been resorting mining for economic gains. If this trend continues then, there will be widespread deforestation in the area.

The project aims to protect and conserve the forest resources by a multi-faceted approach: by increasing the fallow period of shifting cultivation and secondly by establishing new areas as Community Conserved Areas (CCA). To bridge the income, gap the project proposes various alternative livelihood options such as Agri and allied & craft-based enterprises that would help to diversify the income of the communities. This approach would help to restore ecosystem services, biodiversity, and improve the livelihood, and resilience of the local communities through adoption of more productive and sustainable agricultural practices.

The finances required for the project activities will be provided by VNV with the intention of enhancing the productivity of the forests and implementing practices leading to sustainable development. Based on the current discussion the project will be certified through with Plan Vivo to generate carbon credits that will be used to further invest in more project activities that will help in protection and conservation of forest, as well as providing a source of income for the forest dependent communities.

	Description	Assumptions/Risks
Outcomes – Intended overall project aim		
Carbon Benefit	<p>The project seeks to reduce the loss of Carbon through the management of forest in the 21 villages covering an area of 16,700 hectares. The project will include forest areas under the CCAs established with the help of communities as well as other forested areas of the village. As per the Khasi hills REDD project registered under Plan Vivo having similar agro-climatic zone the recorded carbon sequestration rate is 455,770 tCO₂ eq. for an area of 17,028 hectares over a period of 9 years. Thus, annual carbon sequestration potential is 2.97 tCO₂ eq. per hectare per year.</p> <p>Thus, the current project in CCA of Nagaland can be expected to generate estimate of 49,666 tCO₂ eq. per year for an area of 16,700 hectares.</p>	<p>The carbon benefits depend on community efforts to arrest forest degradation and deforestation. Thus, active community participation over the project life cycle is must. For these various measures such as awareness generation, training and capacity building, alternative livelihood generation opportunities, and community-based forest management approach wherein involving community members are involved in each and every stage of the project.</p>
Livelihood Benefit	<p>The community from the youths will be employed on full time basis and provided a stipend for monitoring and reporting on the progress of the project activity.</p> <p>The households will profit from the alternative livelihood opportunities. Relevant livelihood-based training and assistance will</p>	<p>The livelihood benefits depend largely on community’s active involvement in skills development and capacity building workshops provided by TERI, and VNV. To ensure that the livelihood benefits are</p>

	<p>be provided to the communities so that their skills can be enhanced.</p> <p>The project will also generate carbon credits which will be purchased by the corporations, the monetary benefits generated by the sale of carbon credits will be provided to the communities directly.</p>	<p>availed by the community periodic monitoring of the project activities is put in place and feedback will be taken into consideration. Based on the feedback and the challenges faced by the communities in limiting their benefit suitable actions or alternatives will be provided in consultation with the community members.</p>
Ecosystem Benefit	<p>As more and more areas will be designated as CCA the forest areas will be protected and conserved. This will increase the productivity of the forest as well as increase the fauna of the region.</p>	<p>The successful implementation of the project would encourage more and more landowners to protect forest and contribute their forest area to be designated as CCA. This in turn would enhance the forest cover thereby benefiting the ecosystem services and biodiversity of the area.</p>
Outputs		
Output 1	<p>Approximately 16,700 hectares of forest land would be managed to enhance carbon sequestration and ecosystem services</p>	<p>Any grievance of the communities will be resolved with the help of ZDCFMB which is specially formed having the members from the communities with the view of managing the project activities.</p>
Output 2	<p>About 5,473 households residing in and around 21 CCAs in Zunheboto district would get social, economic, and environmental benefits from the project activities.</p>	<p>Any grievance of the communities will be resolved with the help of ZDCFMB which is specially formed having the members from the communities with the view of managing the project activities.</p>

3.5 Additionality

Complete Table 3.5 providing a description of the current barriers to implementing the proposed project (e.g. lack of finances, lack of technical expertise) and an explanation of how the project will overcome these barriers. Include Financial/Economic, Technical, Institutional, Social/Cultural, and Other barriers where relevant. Add a row for each project intervention.

As per the baseline scenario described in Section 3.1, there are many anthropogenic activities such as reduced *jhum* fallow period, mining, unsupervised burning during *jhum* leading to uncontrolled forest fires and overexploitation of forest resource prevalent in Zunheboto district of Nagaland. If this trend

continues then the scenario in the future will be conversion of forest land to non-forest land leading to loss of forest area and forest fragmentation. Additionally, unsustainable forest resource extraction will lead to forest quality loss (degradation).

The project with the aim to prevent such a scenario will implement activities such as forest protection and restoration, improved management, and alternative livelihood generation (detailed in section 1.1) which will lead to increase in forest cover, enhanced forest quality, and also provide communities with alternative livelihood options to improve their socio-economic condition and reduce forest dependency. The same is described in figure below:

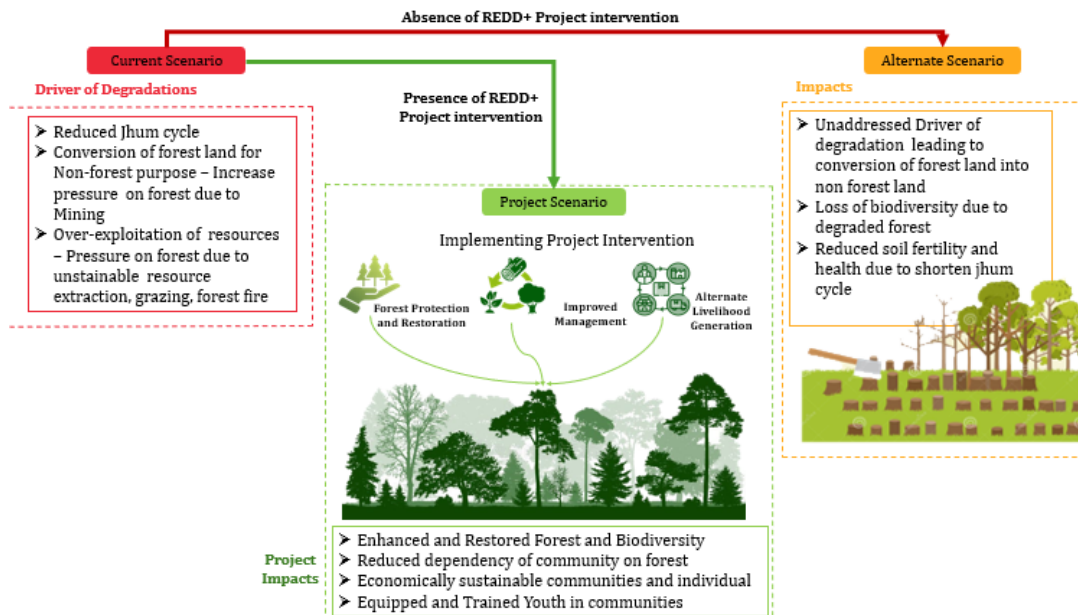


Figure 13: Project scenarios with and without the implementation of the REDD project

Table 3.5 Initial Barrier Analysis

Project Intervention	Main Barriers	Activities to Overcome Barriers
Protection and Restoration	We believe that the major barrier while implementing any type of forest conservation activity is the procurement of funds, and technical expertise required to carry out the intervention in the best possible manner. This is mainly due to the lack of exposure, knowledge, and lack of income generating opportunities which is necessary for any investment by the local communities which by far is still engaged in subsistence-based agriculture and shifting cultivation. The limited funds	VNV will provide the financial support necessary to for the conceptualization and implementation of the project. Along with TERI VNV will bring forward both the necessary knowledge and technical expertise to implement protection and restoration activities. In the future, after successful implementation of the project the local communities may plan and implement such projects in other areas of Nagaland.

	<p>and relevant knowledge can pose limitation with respect to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Forest conservation activities - Monitoring the forest condition - Conservation of biodiversity - Transitioning from forest-based livelihood to other alternative livelihoods generation activities. 	
Improved Management	<p>From the traditional and cultural point of view the forest areas have been used for hunting, or for forest resource extraction purpose. The consumption of resources is often unsustainable leading to forest degradation and deforestation. Therefore, there is an urgent need for a cultural shift by mainstream sustainable forest resource extraction and protection of wildlife. This can be done by having and following a proper management plan that will ensure optimal forest resource consumption and protection of wildlife.</p>	<p>Over the last few decades, the growing exposure to the information regarding the negative effects of climate change and the importance of forests to combat these negative effects has made it easier for people to accept the project aimed to recover the forest productivity. This is especially true for the youths and younger generation which is a focal point of action of this project. The youths will lead charge of the monitoring and ensure proper implementation of the project activities. They will be involved in implementing community-based forest protection and management while ensuring that project milestones are met as per the management plan.</p>
Reducing Forest Resource Dependency	<p>Due to limited livelihood options for the communities, most depend on subsistence based shifting cultivation. With limited infrastructure and facilities there is restriction among the industries for establishing market in Zunheboto. This has led to a low socio-economic condition of the communities. For meeting their daily needs, the communities have no choice but to depend on the forest resources for their subsistence and daily requirements.</p>	<p>With only implementation of forest protection, restoration, and a management plan alone it would be very difficult for the communities to overcome the subsistence and livelihood-based challenges. Thus, the project undertakes a holistic approach whereby after reducing the forest resource and to meet the gap left by forgoing the forest produce it provides communities with alternative livelihood opportunities in craft, Agri and allied sectors. The</p>

		<p>communities will be employed for different activities in the project, will be provided with necessary training, skills, and documentation to execute their roles in the project effortlessly. This will improve their income and reduce their dependency on forest resources.</p>
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3.6 Exclusion List

Indicate whether the project could include any activities listed in the Plan Vivo Exclusion List (see Annex 3). Provide a complete Exclusion List in Annex 3.

Exclusion list is provided in Annex 3

3.7 Environmental and Social Screening

Add project coordinator responses to the environmental and social screening report in Annex 4. More information about the purpose of the screening and guidance on filling it out is available in Annex 4.

Environmental and Social Screening is required.

The Environmental and Social risk is as below:

Risk Area	Potential Risks
Vulnerable Groups	<p>Potential risks mainly related with perpetuation of income-related inequality and lack of representation. In general livelihood conditions are well understood by the project coordinator, and technical advisor. The activities designed are in such a way that any and all members of the communities are encouraged to be a part of the project without any discrimination.</p>
Gender Equality	<p>The project offers range of alternative livelihood opportunities such as working in different roles of sales, administration, accounts, procurement/ production, etc. in Agri, allied and craft based enterprises These are the jobs which are encouraged to be undertaken by both the genders. While division of labour and in a household in a traditional family can vary but in the future the project will monitor the male to female</p>

	participation in the activities. And necessary actions will be taken to ensure gender equality.
Human Rights	The project does not involve any activity or present a situation which would prevent the local communities from their basic human rights.
Community, Health, Safety & Security	The project activities do not cause any social conflicts and are implemented on the lands owned by the communities only.
Labour and Working Conditions	The project will at all times align with national labour laws.
Resource Efficiency, Pollution, Wastes, Chemicals and GHG emissions	There is no risk involved related to pollution of environment, causing waste and hazardous material disposal, polluting water resources, chemical and effluent discharge, or increasing GHG emissions.
Access Restrictions and Livelihoods	The project activities are designed and implemented on land that are owned by the communities having customary rights over access to land, and natural resources.
Cultural Heritage	The project does not pose any risk to the cultural heritages. Furthermore, the project activities and management plan are prepared with the help of communities so that there is no harm to the cultural, and traditional practices.
Indigenous Peoples	The project is being implemented on the land owned by the Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLC). The necessary FPIC have been undertaken by the project coordinator to be a part of the project. The project is aimed to enhance the socio-economic status of these communities, and these communities are at no risk due to project activities.
Biodiversity and Sustainable Use of Natural Resources	No risks as project do not promote introduction of non-native trees or overuse of natural resources
Land Tenure Conflicts	No risk as in Nagaland, customary rights over land and natural habitat are protected under Article 371A of the Indian Constitution, overseen by village councils, district councils, and other traditional institutions
Risk of Not Accounting for Climate Change	The project site falls in a hilly terrain in Northeast India observing an annual average rainfall of 2289.8 mm in 2022 ⁸ . The

8

[https://hydro.imd.gov.in/hydrometweb/\(S\(yj134cfd4onpnz45gh3jneil\)\)/PRODUCTS/Publications/Rainfall%20Statistics%20of%20India%20-%202022/Rainfall%20Statistics%20of%20India%202022.pdf](https://hydro.imd.gov.in/hydrometweb/(S(yj134cfd4onpnz45gh3jneil))/PRODUCTS/Publications/Rainfall%20Statistics%20of%20India%20-%202022/Rainfall%20Statistics%20of%20India%202022.pdf)

	<p>agriculturally practice of the communities are generally rainfed, thus any changes in rainfall might affect the productivity of the project activity. Furthermore, as it is a hilly terrain there is a potential risk associated with landslides which can restrict the movement of communities for implementing project activities.</p>
Other – e.g. Cumulative Impacts	

3.8 Double Counting

Identify any greenhouse gas emission reduction projects, programmes or initiatives that overlap with the proposed project region(s) and explain why there is no potential for generating transferable emission reduction or removal credits from carbon pools or emission sources included in the project. Include any national, jurisdictional, or sub-national program or project that emission reductions or removals achieved by the project will contribute to (including Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement) and explain why carbon benefits achieved by the project will not be included in any other form of greenhouse gas emissions trading.

Complete Table 3.8 to describe the status of relevant legislation policies and instruments in the host country. Provide details of how these could affect the project.

There are currently no REDD+ project that are being implemented in the Zunheboto district of Nagaland. Also, the project participants confirmed during the stakeholder consultation that they are not a part of any other carbon finance or REDD project. It was also informed to the project participants that after being part of this project they cannot be a part of any other future REDD+ carbon finance projects on the same land.

The project lands are community-owned or privately held and fall under customary governance arrangements protected by Article 371A of the Indian Constitution. These lands are distinct from those managed by the Nagaland Forest Department (NFD) and are therefore not automatically included within the jurisdiction of national or state forest management schemes. India’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) commits to creating 2.5–3 GtCO₂e of additional carbon sink through forests and tree cover by 2030. While the project will contribute to this national target by reducing deforestation and degradation and enhancing carbon stocks on community-managed lands, the carbon benefits generated will be uniquely attributable to the project. Since these lands are under customary ownership and not governed by the NFD, communities retain the right to manage them according to the rules and regulations established by village councils. The project will maintain transparent parcel-level mapping, tenure documentation, and monitoring systems to ensure that emission reductions and removals remain distinct and verifiable.

Several national and state-level legislations and policies form the broader context in which the project operates. The Forest Rights Act (FRA) of 2006, where applicable, further strengthens community tenure rights over forest lands, while the Forest (Conservation) Act of 1980 regulates diversion of forest land for non-forest use. In Nagaland, however, the application of such laws is mediated through Article 371A, giving precedence to customary rights. Wildlife Protection and Biodiversity laws remain relevant where restoration activities interact with protected habitats or species, requiring adherence to conservation safeguards. Environmental Protection legislation also provides the overarching

framework for environmental clearances, though the project’s focus on low-impact forest management and restoration minimizes the likelihood of triggering major regulatory requirements.

At the state level, the Nagaland Forest Department’s policies apply primarily to state-managed forests and do not extend to community-owned areas. Nonetheless, early engagement and transparent communication with the Department will be maintained to ensure complementarity with any state-led or jurisdictional forest programs. In addition, emerging national frameworks such as the Carbon Credit Trading System (CCTS) may influence how forestry-based credits are transacted in the future. While the project does not rely on these mechanisms at present, it will track policy developments to ensure alignment with evolving national market structures.

Table 3.8 National Level Legislation, Policies and Instruments

	Yes/No/Unsure	Details
Is there a national registry for land-based carbon projects?	No	
Are carbon rights defined in national legislation?	No	
Are there any carbon pricing regulations existing or in development (e.g. emissions trading scheme or carbon tax)	No	
Does the country receive or plan to receive results-based climate finance through bilateral or multilateral programs?	No	
Are there any other relevant regulations, policies or instruments?	Yes	India has prepared their own REDD+ strategy and have submitted their Forest Reference Level (FRL) to UNFCCC. India has also set the NDC target for the forestry sector i.e., “to create an additional carbon sink of 2.5 to 3 billion tonnes of CO2 equivalent through additional forest and tree cover by 2030.”

4 Governance and Administration

4.1 Governance Structure

Describe the project’s governance structure and decision-making process with details of how input from project participants is managed and how project participant and other local stakeholder representatives will be selected. Where possible, provide an organigram to demonstrate how the project coordinator, project participants and other stakeholders will be involved in the project.

The governance structure of the project “Forests of the People: Naga’s Traditional Landscape Management” of Zunheboto, Nagaland includes a steering committee consisting of Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB), Ther Energy and Resources Institute (TERI), and Value Network Ventures (VNV) Advisory. All of the members in the steering committee will be responsible:

1. Conceptualizing and designing project implementation strategies

2. Responsible for operationalizing finances for project activities
3. Incorporating necessary feedback from the communities in the project design
4. Establishing and implementing grievance redressal mechanism
5. Providing technical inputs related to the certification and project development
6. Establish communication channels for flow of information among all the stakeholders

The district coordinator will be the TERI Guwahati regional centre that will be compile and consolidate the project related updates from the youth representatives from each village. Any difficulties, technical advice, and support required for the youth representatives will be taken care of by the district coordinator. Regular meetings and discussion will be held by the district coordinator to ensure the project activities are proceeding as per the management plan.

The on-site project coordination, and supervision will be done by the youth representatives selected by the village members from every village. The youth representatives will be there to encourage and involve community members to provide active participation in the project interventions. The youth representative will be helped and guided by a team of Village elders, Village Council Chairman, CCA Chairman, and Gaon Bora so that all activities proceed in systematic, and culturally acceptable manner. The youth representatives will also be trained on how to collect the monitoring data of the project interventions to see the overall impact of the project. The necessary training regarding the forest carbon stock assessment will be provided to the youth representative and the community members which will be conducted periodically to assess the condition of the forest due to project interventions. Youth representatives can also recommend/ suggest and take in volunteers from schools, NGO, and other local organizations to support the project intervention during various stages of the project.

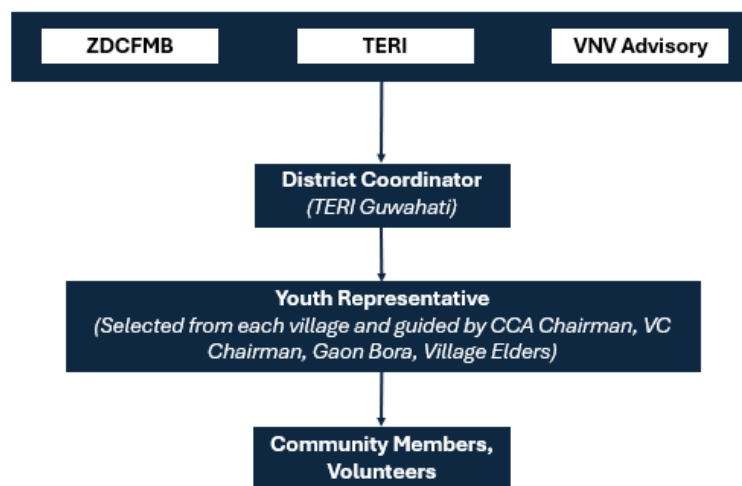


Figure 14: Project implementation structure

ZDCFMB Members

S.No.	Name	Gender	Designation
1.	Ivan Zhimo	Male	Convenor
2.	Kakishe S. Muru	Male	Co-convenor
3.	Kivika Zhimo	Male	Secretary General

4.	Kavitoli Zhimomi	Female	Secretary
5.	Bonoli Zhimomi	Female	Joint Secretary
6.	Tokugha Sapoti	Male	Treasurer
7.	Vetoli H.Chophy	Female	Joint Treasurer
8.	Linto Zhimomi	Female	Joint Secretary Finance
9.	Litoli Muru Bokato	Female	Secretary Organization
10.	Khekishe Yeptho	Male	Joint Secretary Organization
11.	Pikato V.Jimo	Male	Technical Director
12.	Juvi H.Zhimi	Male	Legal Advisor
13.	Khekihe Zhimomi	Male	Technical Consultant
14.	Jekugha Assumi	Male	Advisor
15.	Hekhushe Shikhu	Male	Advisor
16.	Tokugha Sukhai	Male	Advisor
16.	Dr Hutoka	Male	Member
17.	G. Zhekuto Zhimomi (Rtd. Divisional Forest Officer)	Male	Member

The institutional mechanism developed for the project follows a multi-tiered, participatory structure that ensures inclusive decision-making, coordination, and accountability at all levels—from the grassroots village councils to the district-level governance and management board. This mechanism is designed to enable effective implementation and monitoring of project activities across all CCAs in Zunheboto District. At the foundational level, each village has its own CCA Committee, which plays a crucial role in the day-to-day implementation of activities. This committee comprises all members of the CCA, ensuring holistic representation of all gender, age, caste and tribe. Project design has given special emphasis to inclusive participation. In village level CCA committee, the Leader of the Sumi Dotimi Hoho (a women-led group) and youth groups are also involved. These groups are responsible for representing the women and youth in the decision-making process for the conservation activities. The village level committee is responsible for local-level implementation, organizing meetings, reporting progress, and coordinating conservation and livelihood activities with community members.

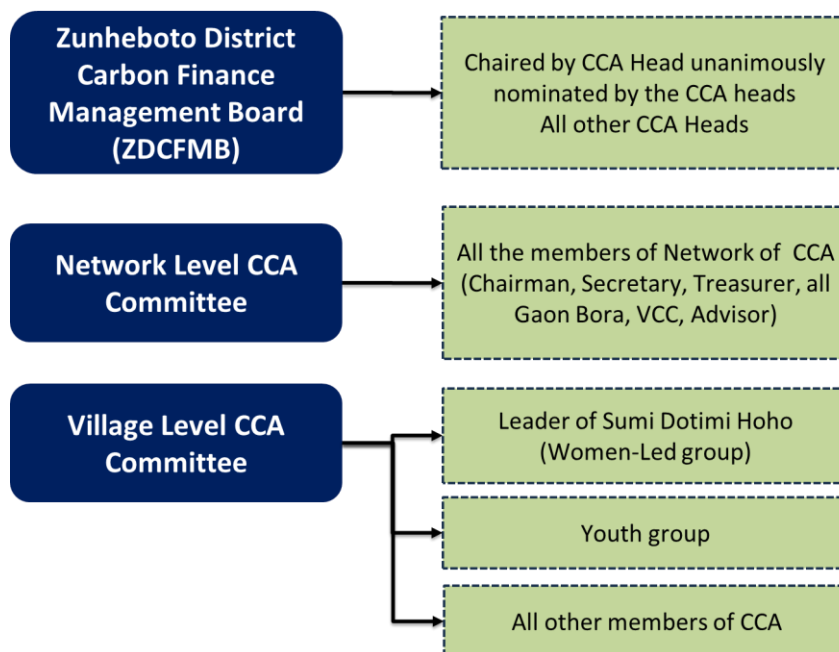
Above the village-level bodies is the Network Level CCA Committee. Many a times, two or more CCAs come together, and form combined CCA or CCA network structure. In such cases, it is important to include representatives from all the villages to manage that CCA collectively. This platform brings together representatives from multiple villages including the Chairman, Secretary, Treasurer, Gaon Boras (village elders), Village Council Chairpersons (VCCs), and Advisors. This committee serves as a coordination body, helping to align the work of different villages, resolve inter-village issues, and ensure consistency in implementing project interventions. At the apex level, a district-level institutional body, Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (ZDCFMB), is established to oversee the overall management and governance of the carbon finance project. This board is chaired by a CCA Head who is unanimously nominated by all other CCA Heads in the district. All the heads of the participating CCAs are members of this board. The ZDCFMB is tasked with district-wide coordination, strategic planning, and grievance redressal. This three-tiered institutional structure ensures a bottom-up approach, where local voices guide planning and implementation, and higher-level bodies provide oversight, support, and guidance. The institutional mechanism developed for ensuring transparency, communication flow and grievance redressal during the project implementation is illustrated in the figure below.

Feedback/Grievance Redressal mechanism

To ensure that community opinions are consistently heard, respected, and incorporated into project implementation, a formal feedback mechanism has been embedded within the institutional framework of the project. This mechanism is designed to promote transparency, inclusivity, and continuous community engagement across all stages of the project.

If any community member has a grievance, suggestion, or feedback related to the project implementation or specific activities, they are encouraged to raise their concerns directly with the respective Village-Level Committee (VLC). These committees are responsible for considering community opinions and forwarding them to the District-Level Committee (DLC) for further review and necessary action. Similarly, in the case of cross-village or network-level concerns, the feedback is routed through the Village Councils of all the concerned villages to the Network-Level Committee (NLC), ensuring that issues affecting multiple villages are addressed in a collaborative manner.

In addition to this structured feedback pathway, regular stakeholder meetings are conducted at the village and district levels. These meetings serve as an essential platform for open dialogue between the project coordinators and the communities. The core agenda of these meetings is to share updates on project implementation, discuss ongoing challenges, and collect community input for refining project design, activities, and structure.



Benefit Sharing Mechanism

The benefit sharing mechanism has been devised for the project in consultation with all the relevant stakeholders. During the initial consultation meetings, a draft version of the BSM was presented, and each of its components was explained in detail to the community representatives and relevant stakeholders. All the feedback, suggestions, and concerns raised during these discussions were carefully documented and fully incorporated into the final design of the mechanism.

Following these consultations and subsequent negotiations, the final BSM was agreed upon and was formalized through a tripartite Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) signed between:

1. VNV – Project Coordinator and entity responsible for managing and transacting carbon credits
2. Zunheboto District Community Forest Management Board (ZDCFMB) – Representative body for all participating Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)
3. TERI – Technical partner (not involved in credit sharing)

The MoU clearly outlines the roles and responsibilities of each party, including the details of credit issuance, sale, and benefit distribution. All the Carbon Credits units shall be issued in the name of VNV in VNV's Carbon registry account. All the carbon credits shall be sold by VNV and the sale proceeds shall be distributed as per below-mentioned mutually agreed share.

Credit Issuance and Sale

1. All Plan Vivo Credits (PVCs) generated under the project shall be issued in the name of VNV and registered in VNV's carbon registry account.
2. VNV will be solely responsible for the sale of carbon credits on behalf of the project participant (ZDCFMB), ensuring a guaranteed minimum price of \$4–5 per credit, or the prevailing market rate, whichever is higher. This minimum assured price has been set to safeguard the community against market volatility and price fluctuations. In the event that carbon credits are traded at a higher market value, the full benefit of the higher selling price will be passed on to the community. Conversely, if market conditions are unfavourable and credits are sold at lower rates, the community will not bear the financial risk and will continue to receive the minimum assured price.

Revenue Distribution

1. 75% of the total revenue from the sale of carbon credits will be transferred to the communities (CCAs) via ZDCFMB.
2. 25% of the revenue will be retained by VNV to cover project coordination and management services.
3. TERI's expenses and funding requirements will be settled separately, as per the bilateral agreement between TERI and VNV, and are not included in the benefit-sharing revenue structure.

Fund Flow

The revenue generated through sale of credits will be transferred to ZDCFMB, which will further be allocated to the CCAs. The Institutional Mechanism established for the project plays a central role in ensuring that the flow of funds to the community is transparent, fair, and efficient. This multi-tiered mechanism includes representatives from all stakeholder groups, ensuring inclusion across gender, age, and village representation. Furthermore, the benefits derived from the sale of carbon credits will support community to continue project interventions including livelihood enhancement and forest protection activities.

4.2 Legal and Regulatory Compliance

Identify the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region. Include evidence that they have been informed of the project in Annex 5, and explain how they will be engaged during project development.

Provide a statement that the project will operate in full compliance with all national and international policies, laws and regulations.

India is a member of the UNFCCC (United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change). The Project complies with this regulatory framework, because in the AFOLU scope, REDD is one of several mechanisms by which GHG emissions are expected to be reduced.

The project is compliant with the applicable national and regional legal framework of the Government of India. The development of the project is based on guidelines included in environmental regulations and laws in force in the country.

To demonstrate that the project activities are in compliance with all the applicable legal and regulatory requirements, the applicable laws and regulations which are implemented in the country till date are scrutinized.

1. Forest (Conservation) Act (1980) The primary objective of this act is to conserve forest by regulating and controlling the diversion of forest land for non-forest purposes. Under the provisions of this Act, prior approval of the Central Government is mandatory for diverting any forest land. The project activities do not violate any provision of the act.

2. Environment Protection Act (1986) – This Umbrella Act provided the framework for the regulation of activities that have adverse environmental impacts and established the environmental standards. It enables the govt. to declare ecologically sensitive areas as protected areas and control industrial emissions. The project activities do not violate any provision of the Act rather the project activities would enhance the quality of environment and protect soil from erosion in the project area and therefore contribute to the environment protection.

3. National Forest Policy (1988) This policy focuses on maintaining ecological balance, conserving forests and promoting sustainable forest management by involving communities. It also incorporated industrial and developmental needs. The project activities would contribute to protect and enhance forest cover in the project area.

4. National Biological Diversity Act (2002) The Biological Diversity Act (BDA), 2002 was enacted to protect biological diversity, sustainable use of its components, and fair and equitable sharing of benefits. The act was enacted to meet the obligations under the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity signed at Rio de Janeiro on the 5th day of June 1992. The project activities do not violate any provision of the act.

4.3 Financial Plan

Describe how the finance required to fund project development will be obtained.

The major focus of the project intervention is the protection, conservation and enhancement of forests in the Project Area. The project intervention for the project area will be decided in consultation

with the community during the stakeholders’ consultation, and other discussions that will be held throughout the project design phase. The finalized intervention will later be implemented in the project area with the help of funds provided by the VNV. A tentative amount that will be spent on these interventions during the project cycle is mentioned in the table below:

Activity	Planned Year	Cost (INR)
Area demarcations (digital)	Year 1 (Dec 2023 - Dec 2024)	2,000,000
Formation and Formalization of New Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)	Year 1 (Dec 2023 - Dec 2024)	-
Physical Boundary Demarcation of CCAs	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	2,500,000
Stakeholder consultations program in all CCA villages	Year 1 (Dec 2023 - Dec 2024)	5,000,000
Installing sign boards	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	300,000
Deployment of Forest Guards	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	3,500,000
Installation of Watch towers	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	1,500,000
Skill development for community	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	1,000,000
Preparation of a dedicated management plan for each CCA	Year 2 (Dec 2024 - Dec 2025)	500,000

5 Annexes

Annex 1 – Project Boundaries

Provide geospatial data files for project region and project area boundaries.

Annex 2 –Registration Certificate

Provide a copy of the project coordinator registration certificate.



Certificate Confirming Incorporation of Company

THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED TO

VALUE NETWORK VENTURES PTE. LTD.

(name change effective from 27 Aug 2024)

OF UEN

201903830Z

The company was incorporated under the Companies Act 1967, on and from **31 Jan 2019**, and is a **PRIVATE COMPANY LIMITED BY SHARES**.

THE COMPANY WAS FORMERLY KNOWN AS:

Previous Name(s)	Effective From
VALUE NETWORK VENTURES ADVISORY SERVICES PTE. LTD.	31 Jan 2019

Only the 5 most recent former names are listed. Any change in name effected before 13 Jan 2003 will not be listed.



TAN YONG TAT
ASST REGISTRAR OF COMPANIES & BUSINESS NAMES
ACCOUNTING AND CORPORATE REGULATORY
AUTHORITY SINGAPORE

RECEIPT NO. : ACRA240827179676
DATE : 27 AUG 2024

Verify Document Instantly

Check if this document is issued by ACRA and is up-to-date.

https://www.acratrustbar.gov.sg/verify/mX4bD6A2_r



Annex 3 – Exclusion List

Complete the exclusion list by responding ‘Yes’ if the activity is included in the project and ‘No’ if the project does not include the activity.

Activities	Included in Project ('Yes' or 'No')
Any project activities leading to or requiring the destruction [1] of critical habitat [2] or any forestry project which does not implement a plan for improvement and/or sustainable management.	No
Any activity which could be associated with the significant impairment of areas particularly worthy of protection of cultural heritage (without adequate compensation in accordance with international standards).	No
Trade in animals, plants or any natural products not complying with the provisions of the CITES/Washington convention [3].	No
Illegal, harvesting or trading in any wildlife resources.	No
Destructive fishing methods or drift net fishing with a net more than 2.5 km in length, explosives and/or poison.	No

Large-scale commercial logging operations for use in primary tropical moist forest.	No
Production or trade in wood or other forestry products other than from sustainably managed forests [4].	No
Exploitation of diamond mines and marketing of diamonds where the host country has not adhered to the Kimberley Process, and exploitation of other conflict minerals [5]	No
Activities involving harmful or exploitative forms of forced labour, [6] harmful child labour [7], modern slavery and human trafficking [8].	No
Projects that include involuntary physical displacement and/or forced eviction.	No
Production or activities that encroach on lands owned, or claimed or occupied by Indigenous Peoples, without full documented Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of such peoples [9].	No
Harmful and unsafe production, use, sale or trade of pharmaceuticals, ozone layer depleting substances [10], and other toxic [11] or dangerous materials such as asbestos or products containing PCB's [12], wildlife or products regulated under CITES, including all products that are banned or are being progressively phased out internationally	No
Production or trade of arms, ammunition, weaponry, controversial weapons, or components thereof (e.g., nuclear weapons and radioactive ammunition, biological and chemical weapons of mass destruction, cluster bombs, anti -personnel mines, enriched uranium).	No
Procurement and use of firearms.	No
Provision of finances to military institutions involved in conservation or security activities.	No
Production or trade of strong alcohol intended for human consumption or other alcoholic beverages (excluding beer and wine).	No
Production or trade of tobacco and other drugs	No
Gambling, gaming establishments, casinos or any equivalent enterprises and undertaking [13].	No
Any trade related to pornography, prostitution or sexual exploitation of any form.	No
Production or trade in radioactive material. This does not apply to the procurement of medical equipment, quality control equipment or other application for which the radioactive source is insignificant and/or adequately shielded	No
Production or trade in unbound asbestos. This does not apply to the purchase or use of cement linings with bound asbestos and an asbestos content of less than 20%.	No
Production, trade, storage, or transport of significant volumes of hazardous chemicals, or commercial scale usage of hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals include gasoline, kerosene, and other petroleum products.	No
Transboundary trade in wastes, except for those accepted by the Basel Convention and its underlying regulations [14].	No
Any activity leading to an irreversible modification or significant displacement of an element of culturally critical heritage [15].	No
Production and distribution, or investment in, media that are racist, antidemocratic or that advocate discrimination against a part of the population.	No
Projects involving the planting or introduction of invasive species	No

Projects that increase the dependency of primary participants and other stakeholders on fossil fuels.	No
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Notes:

[1] Destruction means (1) the elimination or severe reduction in the integrity of a habitat/area caused by a major and long-term/prolonged change in land-use or water resources or (2) the modification of a habitat such that this habitat's ability to fulfil its function/ role is lost.

[2] The term critical habitat encompasses natural and modified habitats that deserve particular attention. This term includes (1) spaces with high biodiversity value as defined in the IUCN's classification criteria, including, in particular, habitats required for the survival of endangered species as defined by the IUCN's red list of threatened species or by any national legislation; (2) spaces with a particular importance for endemic species or whose geographical range is limited; (3) critical sites for the survival of migratory species; (4) spaces welcoming a significant number of individuals from congregatory species; (5) spaces presenting unique assemblages of species or containing species which are associated according to key evolution processes or which fulfil key ecosystem services; (6) and territories with socially, economically or culturally significant biodiversity for local communities. Primary forests or high conservation value forests must also be considered as critical habitats

[3] <https://cites.org/eng/disc/text.php>

[4] Sustainably managed forests are forests managed in a way that balances ecological, economic and socio-cultural needs.

[5] Conflict minerals, including tin, tungsten, tantalum and gold, can be used to finance armed groups, fuel forced labour and other human rights abuses, and support corruption and money laundering. See the EU Regulation on conflict minerals:

https://policy.trade.ec.europa.eu/development-and-sustainability/conflict-minerals-regulation/regulation-explained_en

[6] Forced labour means all work or service, not voluntarily performed, that is extracted from an individual under threat of force or penalty.

[7] Harmful child labour means the employment of children that is economically exploitive, or is likely to be hazardous to, or to interfere with, the child's education, or to be harmful to the child's health, or physical, mental, spiritual, moral, or social development. Employees must be at least 14 years of age, as defined in the ILO's Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (C138 – Minimum Age Convention, Article 2), unless local laws require compulsory school attendance or a minimum working age. In such circumstances, the highest age requirement must be used.

[8] Modern slavery is comprised two key components: forced labour and forced marriage. These refer to situations of exploitation that a person cannot leave or refuse due to threats, violence, deception or coercion. (https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---ipec/documents/publication/wcms_854733.pdf)

[9] <https://www.fao.org/indigenous-peoples/our-pillars/fpic/en/>

[10] Any chemical component which reacts with, and destroys, the stratospheric ozone layer leading to the formation of holes in this layer. The Montreal Protocol lists Ozone Depleting Substances (ODS), their reduction targets and deadlines for phasing them out.

[11] Including substances included under the Rotterdam Convention, Stockholm Convention and WHO "Pharmaceuticals: Restrictions in Use and Availability".

[12] PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) are a group of highly toxic chemical products that may be found in oil-filled electrical transformers, capacitors and switchgear dating from 1950 to 1985.

[13] Any direct financing of these projects or activities involving them (for example, a hotel including a casino). Urban improvement plans which could subsequently incorporate such projects are not affected.

[14] Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their disposal (1989).

[15] "Critical cultural heritage" is considered as any heritage element recognised internationally or nationally as being of historical, social and/or cultural interest.

Annex 4 - Environmental and Social Screening

Complete the table below by answering each risk question. Where relevant include details of any activities that will be carried out to better understand or mitigate potential risks.

Guidance on use

Background

- The questionnaire includes questions aligned with the Plan Vivo Cabron Standard (PV Climate) Environmental and Social Safeguards (Section 3.9, V5.0) and other Safeguard Provisions that are embedded in PV Climate (namely Stakeholder Engagement, Stakeholder Consultation, Free Prior and Informed Consent, Grievance Mechanism).
- The questionnaire also draws from the Plan Vivo Environmental and Social Policy Framework (ESPF).
- The questionnaire is structured around the IUCN ESMS Questionnaire, which itself is designed to be aligned with the IUCN ESMS (2016), and the World Bank Environmental and Social Framework (2017), including World Bank Standards 1-10.
- The number of questions has been limited in this version of the questionnaire to ensure that it is practical and user-friendly.
- The purpose of the questionnaire is to establish: 1) the project risk rating; 2) the significance of risks and impacts; 3) alignment with safeguard provisions; 4) the need for further E&S assessment during project design; 5) the likely safeguard plans that should be developed.
- Due to the early stage in project design, the questionnaire is not designed to assess alignment with PV Climate requirements, but rather prompt projects as to what will be expected regarding those requirements that relate to E&S safeguards.
- Any social and environmental risks must inform the design of the *Project*.

Requirement

- As per PV Climate V5.0 every project must conduct a screening of environmental and social risks and impacts at the PIN stage of project design. The questionnaire and screening report are to be submitted alongside the PIN to the Plan Vivo Foundation.

Process for use of the E&S questionnaire

- The Project Coordinator is to fill in the “Project coordinator response” section of the questionnaire. This is the column shaded light grey.
- Once completed by the Project Coordinator, the Plan Vivo Foundation Project Officer and E&S reviewer is to fill in the “E&S reviewer comments” section of the questionnaire. This includes filling in the “E&S reviewer conclusions”.
- The screening report is then completed at the end by the Plan Vivo Foundation E&S reviewer, and the results are shared and discussed with the Project Coordinator.

Establishing significance of risks and impacts

Table 1 illustrates how risk significance can be established based on an estimate of likelihood of something happening, and the impact should it occur. This likelihood-magnitude matrix can be used by the Project Officer and the E&S reviewer to estimate the risk and impact significance of the E&S risk areas

indicated in the E&S questionnaire **Section B**, below. Note that while the questionnaire focuses on key topics and issues that are common to natural resource management projects, the project coordinator should include other known E&S risks and impacts associated with the planned project.

Likelihood represents the possibility that a given risk event is expected to occur. The likelihood should be established using the following five ratings:

- Very unlikely to occur (1)*
- Not expected to occur (2)*
- Likely – could occur (3)*
- Known to occur - almost certain (4)*
- Common occurrence (5)*

Impact (or consequence) refers to the extent to which a risk event might negatively affect environmental or social receptors – see below criteria distinguishing five levels of impacts:

<i>Severe (5)</i>	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of very high magnitude , including very large scale and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), cumulative, long-term (permanent and irreversible) ; receptors are considered highly sensitive ; examples are severe adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; severe adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with long-term consequences on peoples’ livelihood; impacts give rise to severe and cumulative social conflicts with long-term consequences.
<i>Major (4)</i>	Adverse impacts on people and/or environment of high magnitude , including large scale and/or spatial extent (large geographic area, large number of people, transboundary impacts), of certain duration but still reversible if sufficient effort is provided for mitigation; receptors are considered sensitive; examples are adverse impacts on areas with high biodiversity value; adverse impacts to lands, resources and territories of indigenous peoples; significant levels of displacement or resettlement with temporary consequences on peoples’ livelihood; impacts give rise to social conflicts which are expected to be of limited duration.
<i>Medium (3)</i>	Adverse impacts of medium magnitude, limited in scale (small area and low number of people affected), limited in duration (temporary), impacts are relatively predictable and can be avoided, managed and/or mitigated with known solutions and straight forward measures.
<i>Minor (2)</i>	Adverse impacts of minor magnitude, very small scale (e.g. very small affected area, very low number of people affected) and only short duration, may be easily avoided, managed, mitigated.
<i>Negligible (1)</i>	Negligible or no adverse impacts on communities, individuals, and/or on the environment.

Table 1: Rating significance of a risk area (Source: IUCN ESMS questionnaire, 2020)

		<i>Likelihood of occurrence</i>				
		<i>Very unlikely to occur (1)</i>	<i>Not expected to occur (2)</i>	<i>Likely – could occur (3)</i>	<i>Known to occur - almost certain (4)</i>	<i>Common occurrence (5)</i>
<i>Magnitude</i>	<i>Severe (5)</i>	Moderate	Substantial	High	High	High
	<i>Major (4)</i>	Low	Moderate	Substantial	Substantial	High
	<i>Medium (3)</i>	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate	Substantial
	<i>Minor (2)</i>	Low	Low	Moderate	Moderate	Moderate
	<i>Negligible (1)</i>	Low	Low	Low	Low	Low

Establishing project risk category

The project risk category will be determined based on an understanding of the types of potential E&S risks and impacts associated with the project, and the availability of appropriate and known mitigation measures. Most Plan Vivo projects are thought to be of either low or moderate risk. If high risk projects are identified, the E&S impact assessment would look to understand the alternative project designs available to reduce the potential risks and impacts.

Table 2: Rating significance of a risk area (Source: IUCN ESMS questionnaire, 2020)

Risk Category	Definition
Low	Insignificant or low potential environmental and social risks and impacts have been identified. No additional management measures are required; no Environmental and Social Management Plan (ESMP) section of the PDD required.
Moderate	Moderate and/or substantial potential adverse risks and impacts have been identified, in one or more risk areas. These risks and impacts can be mitigated through known mitigation measures, such as a Stakeholder

	Engagement Plan, livelihood restoration plan, or through the project's ESMP.	
High	High risks and impacts that are potentially diverse and irreversible, and for which standard solutions are not sufficient to manage, and for which specialist safeguard plans and expertise is required.	
<p>Alignment with safeguard provisions</p> <p><i>Section C of the questionnaire refers to PV Climate safeguard provisions which are integrated into the Standard. These include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder engagement and consultation • Free, Prior and Informed Consent • Grievance Redress Mechanism <p><i>The project coordinator will answer the questions related to these provisions, and clarify the project's intentions to meet these Standard requirements during the project design phase.</i></p> <p>Environmental and Social Assessment</p> <p><i>The E&S questionnaire should determine what E&S assessment is required during the project design phase (PDD development). For low and moderate risk projects, a tailored E&S assessment is required. For high-risk projects, an Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) is required. The project coordinator should consider in responses what further assessment of risks and impacts is required, and the E&S reviewer will comment on this and include a summary in the Screening Report section.</i></p> <p>Safeguard Plans</p> <p><i>The E&S questionnaire should determine which Safeguard Plans are required by the project. For low risk projects, it is unlikely that an ESMP will be required. For moderate risk projects, an ESMP will be required. Projects will, according to the Standard, also require a mandatory Stakeholder Engagement Plan and a Grievance Redress Mechanism.</i></p> <p><i>Some projects might require specialist plans, such as an Indigenous Peoples Plan (IPP) or a Livelihood Restoration Plan.</i></p>		
SECTION A: PROJECT INFORMATION		
Project title:	Forests of the People: Naga's Traditional Landscape Management	
Project coordinator:	VNV Contact person: Sandeep Roy Choudhury – sandeep.roy@vnv.earth	

Country:	India
Geography/ landscape:	Zunheboto district of Nagaland lies in the northeastern part of India. It is situated within the Indo-Malayan Region and is one of the world's 35 biodiversity hotspots. The landscape consists of hilly terrain spread across all the project areas.
Project summary:	<p><i><Provide a short summary of the project, including aim and objectives, expected outcomes, activities, the main project sites, and project partners></i></p> <p>Shifting cultivation (locally known as <i>jhum</i>) is a widespread and traditional livelihood practice in Nagaland, where forest land is cleared, burned, and cultivated for a few years before moving to a new patch. Due to rising population pressures and limited alternative income sources, the fallow cycle has reduced to 6–8 years, placing increasing pressure on forest resources. As a result, even Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)—traditionally protected by local communities—are now being converted to farmland. Additionally, large landowners are turning to mining for short-term economic gain, further accelerating deforestation.</p> <p>This project aims to conserve and restore forest landscapes in Zunheboto district through a multi-pronged approach. Key strategies include extending the fallow period of shifting cultivation, establishing new CCAs, and introducing alternative livelihoods such as income-generating activities in Agri, allied and craft sectors. These interventions are designed to reduce pressure on forests, enhance biodiversity, restore ecosystem services, and improve the socio-economic resilience of local communities.</p> <p>The project is supported financially by VNV, which will fund on-ground activities aimed at increasing forest productivity and promoting sustainable development. The project will be registered under the Plan Vivo Climate Standard, enabling the generation of carbon credits. Revenue from these credits will be reinvested into the community to scale conservation efforts and livelihood programs. To ensure financial stability, VNV has guaranteed a minimum assured carbon credit price of USD 4–5 (as per the MoU), helping communities remain committed to the project even if market prices fluctuate.</p> <p>Project Sites</p> <p>The project site includes CCAs present in the Zunheboto district of Nagaland. These are namely TVBCLN, YLK, KAAK, Satami Green belt, Ghosu Bird Sanctuary, Nanga Dikhu Green Zone, Asukhomi, Hovishe Arkha, Naltoqa, Khekiye, Thokihimi, Shukhalu, Yemishe, Shotomi, Thakiye, Hokiye, Tsutoho, Khuvuxu, Litta New, Phuleshetomi, Kilo Old.</p> <p>Project activities</p> <p>The project activities include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Establishment of CCA 2. Forest protection and management (Patrolling, law enforcement, preparation of management plan, forest fire management) 3. Improved sustainable <i>Jhum</i> by increasing rotation cycle to 10-15 years

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Community based forest management and monitoring 5. Alternative livelihood activities 6. Skill development 7. Preparation of PBR and documentation of Traditional Indigenous Knowledge (TIK) 8. Awareness Generation <p>Expected Outcomes The expected outcome of the project is 49,666 tCO2 eq. per annum</p>		
Name and role of project coordinator staff member filling this questionnaire:	Dr. Atri Shaw Head – REDD+		
Confirm that the Plan Vivo Exclusion List is appended to this E&S questionnaire:	Yes		
SECTION B: POTENTIAL E&S RISKS AND IMPACTS			
Topic	Question	Project coordinator response	E&S reviewer comments
E&S Risks and Impacts			
Vulnerable Groups	Are there vulnerable or disadvantaged groups or individuals, including people with disabilities (consider also landless groups, lower income groups less able to cope with livelihood shocks/ stresses) in the project area, and are their livelihood conditions well understood by the project?	<i>Yes, the project participants belong to lower-income groups and primarily depend on agriculture for their subsistence. The proposed project activities are designed to enhance their livelihoods by diversifying income sources and reducing their reliance on forest resources.</i>	<i>Agreed. While it is stated in the PIN that the project will integrate targeted gender and social inclusion strategies, the conditions and needs of vulnerable groups to fully participate and engage in the Project must be described in detail at the PDD stage.</i>
	Is there a risk that project activities disproportionately affect vulnerable groups, due to their vulnerability status?	<i>No, the project activities are co-designed with local communities, particularly low-income groups, to holistically</i>	<i>Agreed that the project activities are co-designed with local communities, and that this risk remains low. A more detailed description of how</i>

		<i>improve their socio-economic well-being.</i>	<i>these communities were and are engaged with through the project design process should be provided at PDD stage.</i>
	Is there a risk that the project discriminates against vulnerable groups, for example regarding access to project services or benefits and decision-making?	<i>No, the project does not discriminate against vulnerable groups. Instead, it actively includes them in all decision-making processes through established institutional mechanisms.</i>	<i>It would be beneficial to outline how the project will ensure that this risk will continually remain controlled. More evidence of this will be required at PDD stage.</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – Given the high number of disadvantaged, low-income groups engaging in the project, these risks could occur.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - The Project's stakeholder engagement and participatory approach has been designed and implemented to ensure the effective involvement of vulnerable groups.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
Gender equality	Is there a risk of adverse gender impacts due to the project/ project activities, including for example discrimination or creation/exacerbation or perpetuation of gender-related inequalities?	<i>No. The project area is predominantly inhabited by the Sumi tribe, where women play a key role in daily activities. The project aims to build on this existing social structure to promote active participation of women at all stages.</i>	<i>Agreed, however it is a risk that should be continually managed and monitored. As part of the project's gender and social inclusion strategy, it will provide skill development opportunities to women and ensure the representation of women's groups and youths in its Institutional mechanism.</i>
	Is there a risk that project activities will result in adverse impacts on the situation of women or girls, including their rights and livelihoods? Consider for example where access restrictions disproportionately affect women and girls due to their roles and positions in accessing environmental goods and services?	<i>No. On the contrary, the project aims to strengthen existing women-led institutions and enhance women's participation in decision-making and access to benefits.</i>	<i>As above.</i>

	<p>Is there a risk that project activities could cause or contribute to gender- based violence, including risks of sexual exploitation, sexual abuse or sexual harassment (SEAH)? Consider partner and collaborating partner organizations and policies they have in place. Please describe.</p>	<p><i>The institutional mechanism includes representatives from various village groups—such as youth associations, village councils, and women’s institutions—to address community concerns, including cases of sexual harassment or abuse. The project is gender-inclusive and does not contribute to gender-based violence.</i></p>	<p><i>Agreed. It is referenced in the PIN that ‘women may have limited representation in official decision-making due to traditional patriarchal customs’ in the local context. While I agree that the project has a gender-inclusive approach, there is a risk that the project’s aims might be perceived differently by those who wish to maintain those customs, which is something for the project to how consideration in the development of the PDD.</i></p>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur due to the developer’s understanding of the local context, as well as its aims to strengthen existing women-led institutions and enhance women's participation in decision-making.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 -Given the local context, the impacts are of medium magnitude, but the project has conveyed its intention to utilise a gender-sensitive approach (a ‘targeted gender and social inclusion strategy’) in the project design to ensure the involvement of women throughout.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
<p>Human Rights</p>	<p>Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from fulfilling their economic or social rights, such as the right to life, the right to self-determination, cultural survival, health, work, water and adequate standard of living?</p>	<p><i>The project aims to create alternative livelihood opportunities for local communities, promoting economic and social stability. It also seeks to empower community-based institutions to participate in decision-making and exercise their traditional rights, and cultural practices.</i></p>	<p><i>Agreed.</i></p>

	Is there a risk that the project prevents peoples from enjoying their procedural rights, for example through exclusion of individuals or groups from participating in decisions affecting them?	<i>No, the project actively involves community-based institutions at all stages through an institutional mechanism, ensuring no individuals or communities are excluded from decision-making.</i>	<i>Agreed. In the PDD, it would be useful to explain how this risk will be monitored on a continual basis.</i>
	Are you aware of any severe human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years?	<i>No, there have been no human rights violations linked to project partners in the last 5 years.</i>	<i>OK.</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i></p> <p><i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - Not expected to occur, although there is a risk (albeit a low one) that the project's activities could inadvertently impact those individuals in the local communities whom do not wish to engage in the project, and, for example, do not wish for their land to be designated as part of a CCA, or for their land to be withdrawn from a CCA at a later date.</i></p> <p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – Were these risks to occur, it is arguable that the impacts would be relatively high given the population in the project region.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
Community, Health, Safety & Security	Is there a risk of exacerbating existing social and stakeholder conflicts through the implementation of project activities? Consider for example existing conflicts over land or natural resources, between communities and the state.	<i>By design, the project engages communities from the outset, with activities co-developed in collaboration with them, minimizing any risk of conflict. Additionally, the selected project areas are community-owned, eliminating the potential for land or resource disputes.</i>	<i>Agreed. This collaboration is great to hear about - a description and evidence of this community engagement in the project design process should be provided at PDD stage.</i>
	Does the project provide support (technical, material, financial) to law enforcement activities? Consider support to government agencies and to Community Rangers or members conducting monitoring and patrolling. If so, is there a risk that these activities will	<i>The project will provide technical and material support to community members involved in forest protection, and monitoring of the project</i>	<i>Agreed, although given that the Youth Groups in particular will be engaged in monitoring and patrolling activities, the health, safety and security of these</i>

	<p>harm communities or personnel involved in monitoring and patrolling?</p>	<p><i>activities. This includes training and capacity building programs, and provision of necessary equipment to support community-based efforts.</i></p> <p><i>All the activities are community led and rooted in traditional governance structures, ensuring that they are inclusive, transparent, and respectful of local rights.</i></p> <p><i>The project has carefully considered potential risks and has put in place safeguards and grievance redressal mechanisms to ensure the safety and well-being of community members involved. As a result, the risk of harm to communities or individuals participating in monitoring and forest protection is mitigated.</i></p>	<p><i>individuals should be managed carefully. The PDD should outline how the project coordinator and its partner organisations will ensure these risks are mitigated and managed (e.g. what training will be given, and what safeguards will be put in place). It is not clear to me at this point how the grievance redressal mechanisms will help with the security and safety of those undertaking monitoring and patrolling activities.</i></p>
	<p>Are there any other activities that could adversely affect community health and safety? Consider for example exacerbating human-wildlife conflict, affecting provisioning ecosystem services, and transmission of diseases.</p>	<p><i>During project implementation, there is no risk of human-wildlife conflict, and disease transmission to the community. On the contrary the project increases the ecosystem</i></p>	<p><i>The local communities rely on the CCAs and surrounding environment for access to important resources such as non-timber forest products. The PDD should include a more</i></p>

		<i>services such as carbon sequestration.</i>	<i>detailed assessment of the risks here.</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur, but the health, safety and security of those undertaking monitoring and patrolling activities should be continually managed with care.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 4 – Were risks to occur, the impacts would be significant.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
Labour and working conditions	Is there a risk that the project, including project partners, would lead to working conditions for project workers that are not aligned with national labour laws or the International Labor Organization's (ILO) Declaration on the Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work (discriminatory working conditions, lack of equal opportunity, lack of clear employment terms, failure to prevent harassment or exploitation, failure to ensure freedom of association etc.)?	<i>The project is designed in alignment with government norms, ensuring equal terms and opportunities for both men and women. Gender inclusivity is embedded in the project's framework from the outset.</i>	<i>OK.</i>
	Is there an occupational health and safety risk to project workers while completing project activities?	<p><i>Under the project the community members will be provided training and capacity building programs, and provision of necessary equipment to support community-based efforts.</i></p> <p><i>The project has carefully considered potential risks and has put in place safeguards and grievance redressal mechanisms to ensure the safety and well-being of community members involved. As a result, the risk of harm to communities or individuals participating in monitoring and forest protection is mitigated.</i></p>	<i>More information on these safeguards and mitigation methods will need to be explained in the PDD.</i>

	<p>Is there a risk that the project support or be linked to forced labour, harmful child labour, or any other damaging forms of labour?</p>	<p><i>No, the project does not involve child labour or any other damaging forms of labour. The list of all the involved community members along with their details will also be shared during PDD stage.</i></p>	<p><i>OK.</i></p>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur, but the health, safety and security of those undertaking monitoring and patrolling activities should be continually managed carefully.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 4 – Were risks to occur, the impacts would be significant.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
<p>Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions</p>	<p>Is there a risk that project activities might lead to releasing pollutants to the environment, causing significant amounts of waste or hazardous waste or materials?</p>	<p><i>None of the project activities result in the release of pollutants or the generation of significant waste or hazardous materials. On the contrary, the project is specifically designed to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and promote environmental sustainability.</i></p>	<p><i>Agreed – no chemicals or hazardous materials appear to be part of the project activities.</i></p>
	<p>Is there a risk that the project will lead to significant consumption of energy, water or other resources, or lead to significant increases of greenhouse gases?</p>	<p><i>None of the project activities involve significant consumption of energy, water, or other resources that would increase GHG emissions. On the contrary, the project is specifically designed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and promote environmental sustainability.</i></p>	<p><i>Agreed – the risk here is low.</i></p>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 1 – Very unlikely to occur, as far as can be seen in the PIN.</i></p>			

<p><i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 1 – Negligible impacts occurring from the project's proposed activities.</i></p> <p><i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
<p>Access restrictions and livelihoods</p>	<p>Will the project include activities that could restrict peoples' access to land or natural resources where they have recognised rights (customary, and legal)? Consider projects that introduce new access restrictions (e.g. creation of a community forest), reinforce existing access restrictions (e.g. improve management effectiveness and patrolling of a community forest), or alter the way that land and natural resource access restrictions are decided (e.g. through introducing formal management such as co-management).</p>	<p><i>No, the project will not restrict access to land or natural resources where communities have recognized customary or legal rights. On the contrary, the creation of the Community Conserved Area (CCA) is being done in full consultation with local communities, ensuring their rights, traditions, and needs are respected and upheld.</i></p> <p><i>The project aims to strengthen community stewardship over natural resources by promoting participatory planning.</i></p> <p><i>Rather than imposing new restrictions, the project enhances the community's capacity to sustainably manage and benefit from their resources. Clear institutional mechanism is put in place to resolve conflicts, uphold traditional access rights, and ensure equitable sharing of benefits.</i></p>	<p><i>While the project may arguably be perceived as altering the way that the communities access local land and natural resources, this is being done in direct consultation with the communities. The institutional mechanism is designed to mitigate conflicts or disagreements that may arise as a result of the interventions and activities pertaining to land access. A description of this extensive consultation with communities on the CCAs should be thoroughly stated and evidenced at PDD stage.</i></p>

		<i>In this way, the project safeguards both the ecological integrity of the conserved area and the socio-economic well-being of the communities who depend on it.</i>	
	Is there a risk that the access restrictions introduced /reinforced/altered by the project will negatively affect peoples' livelihoods?	<i>No, the project intervention does not negatively affect people's livelihood. In fact, the project proposes various alternative livelihood options for communities enhancing their resilience towards environmental challenges.</i>	<i>Understood. It would be good to know in the PDD if an assessment has been carried out to ascertain if there are any possible negative consequences to people's livelihoods through the creation of the CCAs.</i>
	Have strategies to avoid, minimise and compensate for these negative impacts been identified and planned?	There is no negative impact resulting from the implementation of project activities. Additionally, the establishment of an institutional mechanism ensures that any grievances or suggestions from the communities are taken into account, avoiding any possible negative impacts.	<i>OK.</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur due to the way the Project Areas (CCAs) have been formed, inclusive of community engagement and decision making.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Impacts are low, given that the project aims to enhance the community's capacity to sustainably manage and benefit from their resources, and benefit from alternative livelihood practices.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
Cultural heritage	Is the Project Area officially designated or proposed as a cultural site, including international and national	<i>No</i>	<i>OK.</i>

	<p>designations?</p> <p>Does the project site potentially include important physical cultural resources, including burial sites and monuments, or natural features or resources of cultural significance (e.g. sacred sites and species, ceremonial areas) and is there risk that the project will negatively impact this cultural heritage?</p>	<p><i>No, the project areas do not include any known cultural resources. This conclusion is based on direct consultations conducted by the project coordinator with local communities in and around the project areas during village-level stakeholder meetings, FPIC processes, and participatory planning discussions. These consultations involved community members, elders, and traditional leaders, and specifically addressed the presence of burial sites, monuments, sacred groves, culturally significant natural features or species, and ceremonial areas. Community members confirmed that there are no known cultural heritage sites within the project boundaries that would be affected by the proposed project activities. The project sites and activities have been co-designed in close collaboration with local communities, with full consideration of their traditions, heritage, and</i></p>	<p><i>OK. It is good that this has been discussed and assessed with the local communities.</i></p>
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		<p><i>cultural values, ensuring that these are respected and preserved throughout the implementation process.</i></p>	
	<p>Is there a risk that the project will negatively impact intangible cultural heritage? Consider for example cultural practices, social and cultural norms in relation to land and natural resources.</p>	<p><i>Yes, the project coordinator has considered the potential for negative impacts on intangible cultural heritage arising from project activities and interventions. During stakeholder consultations and meetings, attention was given to understanding local cultural practices, customary norms related to land and natural resource use, traditional governance systems, and social dynamics within and between communities.</i></p> <p><i>Based on these consultations, no immediate or foreseeable risks to intangible cultural heritage have been identified. The project interventions have been designed to align with existing community practices and to strengthen, rather than alter or replace, customary systems of forest management and resource use. Participation in all project activities is</i></p>	<p><i>OK, and thank you for the context provided here; it is great that this has all been considered by the community and project coordinator team. Any further reflections on this should be included in the PDD.</i></p>

		<p><i>voluntary, and no changes to traditional practices, access rights, or cultural norms are imposed through the project.</i></p> <p><i>Nevertheless, the project recognizes that social and cultural dynamics may evolve over time. To address this, potential risks to intangible cultural heritage will be continuously monitored throughout project implementation through regular community engagement, feedback mechanisms, and grievance redress processes. Any emerging concerns will be addressed through adaptive management, including modification or suspension of specific activities if required.</i></p> <p><i>Reflections on potential risks, monitoring measures, and mitigation approaches related to intangible cultural heritage will be explicitly documented in the PDD</i></p>	
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur, however the extent to which the project will impact cultural heritage sites and practices should be given further explanation and justification in the PDD.</i></p>			

Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Impacts are low, given the participatory and community co-design approach.

Risk significance: Low

<p>Indigenous Peoples</p>	<p>Are there Indigenous Peoples living within the Project Area, using the land or natural resources within the project area, or with claims to land or territory within the Project Area?</p>	<p><i>The project area is primarily owned by the Indigenous Peoples⁹ i.e., Sumi Naga tribe of Nagaland, who have customary rights over land and natural resources. These communities own, use, and manage the land collectively based on traditional systems of governance, as protected under Article 371A of the Indian Constitution.</i></p> <p><i>The project has been co-designed in close consultation with these communities and their traditional institutions to ensure their full, prior, and informed consent (FPIC). All activities are aligned with their customary laws, cultural practices, and social structures, and aim to strengthen community-led conservation and livelihood development.</i></p> <p><i>The project does not infringe on any land or resource rights. Instead, it supports Indigenous Peoples' stewardship and</i></p>	<p><i>Please can you confirm if the Sumi Naga are the only Indigenous group living in the Project Region and involved in the project? I believe it has been referenced that all community members belong to the Sumi tribe (if that still remains the case), but for local context it would be beneficial to understand this.</i></p>
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⁹ https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/wp-content/uploads/sites/19/2018/11/UNDRIP_E_web.pdf

	<p>Is there a risk that the project negatively affects Indigenous Peoples through economic displacement, negatively affects their rights (including right to FPIC), their self- determination, or any other social or cultural impacts?</p>	<p><i>respects their sovereignty over traditional territories.</i></p> <p><i>No, the project does not pose any risk of negatively affecting Indigenous Peoples, including through economic displacement, infringement of their rights, or any form of social or cultural disruption.</i></p> <p><i>The project has been co-designed with full participation of the communities through existing traditional institutions such as village councils and community-based organizations. Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been completed from all the involved CCAs, and their rights were respected from the planning stage, ensuring that the voices are fully acknowledged and integrated.</i></p> <p><i>The project activities are aligned with customary laws, support community land ownership, and are designed to enhance local livelihoods without displacing or excluding any group. By building on existing social structures,</i></p>	<p><i>OK. The FPIC process described in the PIN should be expanded upon and continued through the project design phase, and described and evidenced in detail in the PDD. It's great to see the work done in consulting and involving the community in the project design process so far.</i></p>
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		<i>promoting inclusive decision-making, and strengthening community-based governance, the project aims to empower Indigenous Peoples and contribute positively to their self-determination and well-being.</i>	
	Is there a risk that there is inadequate consultation of Indigenous Peoples, and/or that the project does not seek the FPIC of Indigenous Peoples, for example leading to lack of benefits or inappropriate activities?	<i>The project has undergone the process of stakeholder consultation informing the communities about the project and its benefits. Afterward FPIC process has been completed with the communities. After obtaining their consent village level stakeholder consultations were again conducted to inform communities about their role,</i>	<i>OK. Please ensure the FPIC-relevant sections of the PDD are filled out in detail to reflect the stakeholder consultation processes, with evidence to support the meetings that have already taken place.</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Not expected to occur, however it is assumed that all Project Participants identify as Indigenous Peoples, and therefore their claims to land or territory in the Project Region, their self-determination, and their continual consultation is continually upheld and prioritised by the Project Coordinator.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 – Impacts are low as long as the project maintains its co-design approach and ensures full participation of the communities through the existing traditional institutions.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	Is there a risk that project activities will cause adverse impacts on biodiversity (both in areas of high biodiversity value, and outside of these areas) or the functioning of ecosystems? Consider issues such as use of pesticides, construction, fencing, disturbance etc.	<i>The project includes activities that that reduces emissions from deforestation and forest degradation such as demarcating areas a CCA, forest patrolling, alternative livelihood activities to diversify</i>	<i>OK. Please note that the PDD should include an assessment of the impacts of project activities on biodiversity, reported through the use of ecosystem monitoring indicators.</i>

		<i>income of communities and reduce their forest dependency etc. These activities have no adverse impacts on biodiversity and other ecosystem services. Furthermore, the development of watch towers as forest protection and conservation will be done in a sustainable manner wherein wooden and/or bamboo structures will be used.</i>	
	Is there a risk that the project will introduce non-native species or invasive species?	<i>The project does not include any activity that introduces non-native or invasive species in the region.</i>	<i>OK.</i>
	Is there a risk that the project will lead to the unsustainable use of natural resources? Consider for example projects promoting value chains and natural resource-based livelihoods.	<i>The livelihood activities will be done in a sustainable manner for which a management plan will also be prepared. Monitoring of the resources extracted forest the forest will help in sustainable use of the forest resources.</i>	<i>OK. The PDD will need to give detail on the monitoring plan for the resources extracted from the forest (presumably these are for NTFPs).</i>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - Not expected to occur, however more rigorous ecosystem monitoring and reporting is required at PDD stage to present a more accurate assessment.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - Impacts would likely be low but that is based on the information presented thus far in the PIN.</i> <i>Risk significance: Low</i></p>			
Land tenure conflicts	Has the land tenure and use rights in the project area been assessed and understood?	<i>The project activities will be undertaken in the lands owned by the communities and hence</i>	<i>OK.</i>

	<p>Is there a risk that project activities will exacerbate any existing land tenure conflicts, or lead to land tenure or use right conflicts?</p>	<p><i>there will be no conflicts related to land tenure.</i></p>	
		<p><i>No, the project activities are undertaken after obtaining consent from the communities and none of the project activities have any implication on the land tenure rights.</i></p>	<p>OK.</p>
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions</i> <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - Not expected to occur due to the ownership of the land belonging to the communities in the Project Region.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – If any potential conflict were to occur, this would have a significant impact on a large number of people, however the project has mitigated this risk through receiving consent and assurances on land tenure rights from the communities accordingly.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
<p>Risk of not accounting for climate change</p>	<p>Have trends in climate variability in the project areas been assessed and understood?</p>	<p><i>Community perceptions, local knowledge, and lived experiences of climate variability have been systematically documented during stakeholder consultations, FPIC processes, and participatory discussions. Community members shared observations related to changing rainfall patterns, shifts in agricultural seasons, increased intensity of rainfall events, and longer dry periods. These insights have been used to develop a contextual understanding of climate-related risks relevant to the project area. A more detailed technical assessment of climate</i></p>	<p>OK.</p>

		<p><i>trends will be undertaken at the PDD stage to further inform project planning and implementation.</i></p>	
	<p>Has the climate vulnerability of communities and particular social groups been assessed and understood?</p>	<p><i>Climate vulnerability has been explored through participatory consultations and socio-economic assessments, with a focus on communities and households dependent on forest resources and ecosystem services. The findings of the assessment will be incorporated at the PDD stage.</i></p>	<p>OK.</p>
	<p>Is there a risk that climate variability and changes might influence the effectiveness of project activities (e.g. undermine project-supported livelihood activities) or increase community exposure to climate variation and hazards? Consider floods, droughts, wildfires, landslides, cyclones, etc.</p>	<p><i>While climate variability presents potential risks such as impacts from extreme rainfall, landslides, or forest fires, the project has been designed to minimize these risks. Project interventions focus on ecosystem restoration, forest protection, and climate-resilient livelihood options that enhance ecological stability and reduce community vulnerability. Climate-related risks will be monitored throughout project implementation, and adaptive management measures will be applied to modify activities as necessary to maintain effectiveness and avoid</i></p>	<p>OK.</p>

		<i>increasing exposure to climate hazards.</i>	
<p>E&S reviewer conclusions <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 - Associated risks could occur within the Project Region, given the overall increase in climate-exacerbated weather impacts.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – The community and project would be significantly impacted were any extreme weather events to take place. However, the project has taken steps to ensure such impacts are mitigated should they occur.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	Is there a risk that the project will contribute cumulatively to existing environmental or social risks or impacts, for example through introducing new access restrictions in a landscape with existing restrictions and limited land availability?	<i>The project activities are designed following a holistic approach. Upon designating an area as CCA the alternative livelihood options will reduce the dependency of the communities on the forest resources. Thus, there will be no cumulative negative environmental, and social risks.</i>	<i>One of the main objectives of the project is to reduce the overall dependence on natural forest ecosystems across the landscape (through alternative livelihood practices), and not to shift extraction activities to other areas.</i>
	Are there any other environmental and social risks worthy of note that are not covered by the topics and questions above?	<i>No.</i>	<i>OK.</i>
<p>E&S reviewer conclusions <i>Estimated likelihood of risks (1-5) & justification: 2 - Not expected to occur, although it should be noted that ecotourism has been referred to as a possible future alternative livelihood for participants as part of the project, which has been socialised and discussed with community members in prior consultations. Were this to be revisited, the risk to likelihoods here would likely increase.</i> <i>Estimated magnitude of risks (1-5) & justification: 3 – Impacts would be moderate were pressure to be exerted onto other forested areas and alternative livelihoods introduced to the communities that were detrimental to their way of life.</i> <i>Risk significance: Moderate</i></p>			
SECTION C: SAFEGUARD PROVISIONS			
Stakeholder engagement: requirements 2.1.1-2.1.3	Has a stakeholder analysis been conducted that has identified all stakeholders that could influence or be affected by the project, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	<i>Stakeholder analysis has been done, and the roles and responsibilities for each of the stakeholder group in the project</i>	<i>OK.</i>

		<i>is provided in Section 2.1. In case any other stakeholder is involved in the future it will be updated in the annual reports, and future revisions to PDD.</i>	
	Are the local community and indigenous peoples statutory or customary rights to land or resources within the project area already clear and documented, or is further assessment required? Please describe.	<i>Yes, the rights of the local communities over their lands have already been assessed. All the lands in the project belong to community under the Section 371A of the constitution of India.</i>	<i>Documentation to support this, including regional government recognition of these rights, should be provide at PDD stage.</i>
	Are local governance structures and decision-making processes described and understood (including details of the involvement of women and marginalized or vulnerable groups), or is further assessment required? Please describe.	<i>Yes, the local governance structure of the villages is well understood and is detailed in section 4.1</i>	<i>Agreed.</i>
	Are past or ongoing disputes over land or resources in the project area known and documented, or is there need for further assessment? Please describe.	<i>There are no land disputes in the project area.</i>	<i>Understood.</i>
Stakeholder consultation: requirements 2.5.1 and 2.5.2	Does the project have a Stakeholder Engagement Plan with clear measures to engage Vulnerable Groups, or is this plan still to be developed? Please describe.	<i>The stakeholder engagement plan is detailed in Section 2.</i>	<i>Agreed.</i>
	Has the Project Coordinator informed all stakeholders of the project, through providing relevant project information in an accessible format, or does this still need to be completed? Please describe.	<i>As a part of stakeholder engagement process a regional stakeholder consultation was conducted in Zunheboto, afterwards Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) has been taken. To ensure that all the community members are aware about the project, its goal, and its objectives stakeholder consultations were</i>	<i>Understood. Evidence of these meetings will be required at PDD stage.</i>

		<i>conducted in each village. PPT and information brochure was also provided to the village members.</i>	
Free, Prior and Informed Consent: requirements 2.6.1-2.6.4	Has the project analysed and understood national and international requirements for Free Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)? Please describe.	<p><i>Yes, the project has fully adhered to the principles of Free, Prior, and Informed Consent (FPIC) in alignment with both national and international standards.</i></p> <p><i>Free- Communities are free to be a part of the project and it's entirely a voluntarily initiative.</i></p> <p><i>Prior- Consent from the communities was sought well before the initiation of any project activities.</i></p> <p><i>Informed –Detailed information regarding the project, its objectives, associated activities, potential benefits, and the role of the communities was shared and discussed extensively in advance. Communities were also made aware of the benefit-sharing process through a well-defined institutional mechanism and their role across all three tiers of this structure.</i></p> <p><i>Consent- Only after ensuring that the process was free, prior, and informed, formal consent</i></p>	<i>Understood.</i>

	<i>was obtained from the communities.</i>	
Has the project identified potential FPIC rightsholders and potential representatives in local communities and among indigenous peoples, or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	<i>The project has successfully identified the rights holders and/or local community representatives. Multiple stakeholder consultations have been conducted, including dedicated meetings in each village. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between the ZDCFMB, VNV, and TERI, clearly outlining the roles and responsibilities of each entity (refer to the MoU in Annex 5 and Section 2.1). Additionally, formal consent has been obtained from every Village Council Chairman (VCC).</i>	<i>Noted and with thanks for providing the updated Agreement.</i>
Has the project worked with rightsholders and representatives of local communities and indigenous peoples to understand the local decision-making process and timeline (ensuring involvement of women and vulnerable groups), or is this still to be completed? Please describe.	<i>Yes, the project team has been engaged with the local communities to understand the local decision-making process and timelines. The details of the discussion have been provided in stakeholder consultation report (provided as a separate document).</i>	<i>I note that the stakeholder consultation report has not yet been provided, and it is assumed that this will be received as part of the PDD.</i>
Has the project sought consent from communities to 'consider the proposed Project', and if so, where is this in principle consent documented? Please describe.	<i>The consent form has been signed by the local village leaders i.e., Village Council Chairman (VCC). The consent</i>	<i>As above, this consent form has not yet been submitted for review, and it is assumed will be an annex to the PDD.</i>

		<i>form has been provided as a separate document).</i>	
Grievance Redress Mechanism: requirements 3.16.1	Does the project already have a Grievance Redress Mechanism (GRM), or is this still to be established? Please describe.	<p><i>A grievance redressal mechanism has been established and is embedded within the project's institutional framework.</i></p> <p><i>Any grievance raised by a community member is first addressed at the village-level committee, chaired by the Village Committee Chairman.</i></p> <p><i>If the issue remains unresolved, it is escalated to the CCA-level committee, led by its respective Chairman.</i></p> <p><i>Should the grievance persist, it is then brought before the top-tier committee, the ZDCFMC. The ZDCFMC collaborates closely with VNV and TERI to ensure effective and efficient project implementation.</i></p>	<i>Understood. A more detailed process explanation of the grievance redressal mechanism will be required in the PDD.</i>
	For projects with a GRM, is this accessible to project affected people? Please describe.	<i>Yes, the grievance redressal mechanism is accessible by the communities. The grievance redressal is established from the members of community themselves as provided above. The detailed grievance mechanism and their members</i>	<i>OK.</i>

		<p><i>will be further detailed at the PDD stage.</i></p>	
<p><i>E&S reviewer conclusions for safeguard provisions</i></p> <p>Based on the screening comments above, these are the risk factors that require further actions/information at PDD stage:</p> <p>Vulnerable Groups – Details on how the conditions and needs will be/are being met for vulnerable groups to fully participate and engage in the Project must be described in detail at the PDD stage, along with a more detailed description of how these communities were and are engaged with through the project design process. Details on how community members will not be excluded from decisions affecting them as the project goes on are also expected at PDD stage.</p> <p>Gender Equality – Details on how the project will manage the risk of the project’s aims being perceived negatively by those who wish to maintain local gender customs should be explored in the PDD.</p> <p>Community, Health, Safety & Security - The PDD should outline how the project coordinator and its partner organisations will ensure that risks associated with the Youth Group’s monitoring and patrolling activities are mitigated and managed effectively.</p> <p>Labour and Working Conditions - More substantive information on the safeguard and mitigation methods will need to be provided in the PDD.</p> <p>Access Restrictions and Livelihoods – A clear description of the extensive consultation with communities on the CCAs should be thoroughly stated and evidenced at PDD stage. It would also be valuable to ascertain in the PDD if an assessment has been carried out to determine any possible negative consequences to people’s livelihoods through the creation of the CCAs, as well as any negative impacts that may arise from the project’s activities or interventions more broadly.</p> <p>Indigenous Peoples - It is important that all Indigenous Peoples residing in the Project Region and engaging in the project are fully incorporated into the stakeholder engagement plan, which must show inclusivity with all local groups. The FPIC process described in the PIN should be expanded upon and continued through the project design phase, and described and evidenced in detail in the PDD, accompanied with evidence to support the meetings that have already taken place.</p> <p>Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources - The PDD should include an assessment of the impacts of project activities on biodiversity, reported through the use of ecosystem monitoring indicators, along with details on the monitoring plan for the resources extracted from the forests.</p> <p>Stakeholder engagement - Documentation that supports the rights of the local communities over their lands, including regional government recognition of these rights, should be provide at PDD stage. As above, evidence of the stakeholder engagement meetings must be provided at PDD stage. The stakeholder consultation report that has been referred to will also be expected at PDD stage, along with copies of the consent forms that have been signed by the local village leaders.</p> <p>Grievance Redress Mechanism – This should be finalised and submitted at PDD stage.</p>			

The E&S screening had enough detail to assess the risk at this stage of the project's development and stage in PV Climate certification. Any updates or changes to any of the risk factors should be reported to us either by the project coordinator at PDD stage and subsequently through annual reports.

SECTION D: SCREENING REPORT (NOT TO BE COMPLETED BY PROJECT: FOR USE OF PV E&S REVIEWER)

Name of E&S reviewer	Calum Davies		
Date of E&S screening:	08/11/2025		
Project risk rating:	Moderate risk		
Principle risks and impacts	Summary of key risk factors		
	E&S topic/ risk area	Likelihood (1-5)	Magnitude (1-5)
	Vulnerable Groups	3	3
	Gender equality	2	3
	Human Rights	2	3
	Community, Health, Safety & Security	2	4
	Labour and working conditions	2	4
	Resource efficiency, pollution, wastes, chemicals and GHG emissions	1	1
	Access restrictions and livelihoods	2	2
	Cultural heritage	2	2
	Indigenous Peoples	2	2
	Biodiversity and sustainable use of natural resources	2	2
	Land tenure conflicts	2	3
	Risk of not accounting for climate change	3	3
	Other – e.g. cumulative impacts	2	3

<p><i>E&S assessment required</i></p>	<p>The project coordinator should conduct a field-based E&S risk assessment alongside the development of the PDD and overall project design focusing on any risks rated moderate above: Vulnerable Groups, Gender Equality, Human Rights, Community, Health, Safety & Security, Labour & working Conditions, Land tenure conflicts those under 'Other – e.g. cumulative impacts'.</p>
<p><i>Likely safeguard plans required</i></p>	<p>The following safeguard measures should be included in the PDD:</p> <p>Grievance redressal mechanism – details on the grievance mechanism that has been referred to, how that is made accessible for all participants, and channels for anonymous and accessible feedback.</p> <p>Benefit-sharing mechanism – details on community consultation and consensus on the benefit-sharing mechanism, how elite capture is avoided (especially if ecotourism is implemented through the project) and how the benefit-sharing mechanism ties into a clear and well-communicated project agreement.</p> <p>An environmental and social risk assessment, resulting in the production of an environmental and social risk management plan (ESMP), focusing on the mitigation and management of the risks assigned as 'moderate' above.</p>

Annex 5 – Notification of Relevant Authorities

Provide a copy of any correspondence addressed to the authorities with overall responsibility for land management and greenhouse gas emissions assessment within the project region informing them of the project.

Agreement: VNV x TERI x ZDCFMB

**AGREEMENT
AMONGST**

**ZUNHEBOTO DISTRICT CARBON FINANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD
(ZDCFMB)**

AND

**VALUE NETWORK VENTURES ADVISORY SERVICES PTE. LTD
(VNV)**

AND

**THE ENERGY AND RESOURCES
INSTITUTE (TERI)**

AGREEMENT

This Agreement (hereinafter referred to as the “Agreement”) is made and entered into on 09th May 2023 (hereinafter the “Effective Date”), by and between:

Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board, having its office at [Zunheboto, Nagaland] hereinafter referred to as ‘ZDCFMB’ (which expression shall unless it be repugnant to the context or meaning thereof mean and include its successors in business and permitted assigns) of the One Part.

AND

The Energy and Resources Institute, having its office at Darbari Seth Block, Habitat Place, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003 (herein after referred to as “TERI”), (which expressions, where the context admits, shall include its, representatives, administrators and successors)

AND

Value Network Ventures Advisory Services Pte. Ltd., a company incorporated under the laws of Singapore and having its registered office at 10 Anson Road, #29-07 International Plaza, Singapore - 079903 with Registration ID 201903830Z (herein after referred to as “VNV”) thru its Director in India Mr. Sandeep Roy Choudhury , having office at, 41/1, Reyyan Towers, Church Street, Bangalore - 560001, Karnataka, India

ZDCFMB, TERI and VNV, hereinafter individually referred to as “Party” & collectively as “Parties”.

PURPOSE & OBJECTIVES:

The purpose of this Agreement is to clearly lay down the terms and conditions and identify the roles and responsibilities of each Party as they agree to work towards **Developing Voluntary Carbon Market Projects for Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland**. The Parties agree that VNV shall invest in the aforementioned Project based on the terms herein after contained. The Parties shall aid in undertaking all/any necessary actions as required by the Applicable Standards and work together to provide the resources necessary to initiate and implement this Project and support this goal. The Parties should ensure that the aforementioned development Project will be conducted by ensuring the compliance with the applicable Federal and State laws, rules and regulations. This project implementation shall be effected through a systematic organizational arrangement as attached in **Appendix-A**.

The Project Descriptions are as follows:

Project Title:	Developing Voluntary Carbon Market Projects for Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland
Project Location:	Project will be implemented in Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland
Technology Description:	REDD +



WHEREAS:

- a. "Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board" established in 2023 is a board that brings together the Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland, with the aim of establishing a common platform for the mutual exchange of knowledge and ideas on forest and biodiversity conservation, support in terms of skill building, and deriving as well as equitable sharing of benefits from the conservation efforts, achieved through voluntary carbon markets.
- b. "TERI" established in 1974, is a unique developing country institution, deeply committed to every aspect of sustainable development. "TERI" combines knowledge and research with experience to provide workable solutions, a platform for various segments of societies, both national and international, to address the challenges in the modern quest for sustainable development.
- c. "VNV" is established with an objective to facilitate climate resilient programs that empower vulnerable communities to adapt and transform to the changing climatic patterns. VNV with various stakeholders to address the issue of responsibility towards natural capital and ecosystems.

WHERE, ZDCFMB, TERI and VNV being the stakeholders in the Project, it is desired by the Parties to enter into this Agreement to identify and lay out the broad roles and responsibilities of the Parties in relation to the Project.

NOW THEREFORE, the Parties hereby agree as follows:

INTERPRETATION AND DEFINITIONS

INTERPRETATION

In this Agreement, unless the context indicates a contrary intention:

- (a) headings are for convenience only and do not affect interpretation;
- (b) a clause is a reference to a clause of this Agreement, and the Appendix(s) to this Agreement form a part of this Agreement;
- (c) an "authorization" includes an authorization, permit, consent, approval, resolution, license, exemption, filing, registration or notarization;
- (d) a reference to any Party includes that Party's executors, administrators, successors and permitted assigns, including any person taking by way of novation and, in the case of a trustee, includes any substituted or additional trustee;
- (e) words importing the singular include the plural (and vice versa), and words indicating a gender include every other gender; and
- (f) the word "includes" in any form shall be construed without limitation
- (g) References to time are to local time in India.

DEFINITIONS



- (a) **“Agreement”** means this Agreement executed between ZDCFMB, TERI and VNV including any appendixes, any annexures and schedules attached hereto and as may be amended from time to time
- (b) **“Applicable Laws”** means all legally binding laws, rules, regulations or orders that apply to anyone or more of the Parties or the terms of this Agreement in INDIA
- (c) **“Applicable Standards”** means the carbon standards as per the Project requirement.
- (d) **“Business Day”** means any day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) in which commercial banks are open for general business in India and Singapore.
- (e) **“Confidential Information”** means this Agreement, all information relating to this Agreement, the Project or the Parties, the Data, Technologies, and any other information which could reasonably be expected to be regarded as confidential by the provider provided such information is not in the public domain.
- (f) **“Carbon Credits”** means a certificate Issued by a recognized regulatory body, confirming that an Emission Reduction has occurred, equal to one Carbon Dioxide Equivalent. It includes, inter alia, VERs, Domestic Carbon Credits, International Carbon Credits and VERs.
- (g) **“Carbon Dioxide Equivalent”** means a metric measure used to compare the effects from emissions of various GHG based on their global warming potential.
- (h) **“Carbon Waiver Agreement(s)”** means agreed form(s) signed by the farmer's engaged providing consent and waiving off their rights to the carbon credits so generated from this project for the entire duration of the Project to ZDCFMB Trust.
- (i) **“Cost of Development”** is the total cost incurred on registering the project and subsequent issuance of Carbon Credits. This includes fees for carbon consultancy, Baseline Studies, Validation, Registration, Verification, and Issuance fees.
- (j) **“Communications Agreement”** means an agreement entered or to be entered into between VNV and ZDCFMB, pursuant to which VNV will, among other things, be designated as an “Authorized Representative” with respect to the Project and be authorized to communicate and transact with the Registry and to instruct the Registry to transfer all VCUs issued by the Registry relating to the Project directly to VNV's Registry Account.
- (k) **“Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)”** can be described as, natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values and ecological services voluntarily conserved by indigenous and local communities, through customary laws or other effective means.
- (l) **“Crediting Period”** mean the period chosen as per the carbon standard during which the Project can claim Emission Reductions/Removals.
- (m) **“Emission Reduction/Removal” or “ER”** means all existing and future legal and beneficial rights arising from one GHG Reduction.
- (n) **“Effective Date”** means the date this Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by each of the Parties.
- (o) **“Force Majeure”** means any cause, event of circumstance, beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party, which results in or causes the failure of the affected Party to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement. By way of illustration, Force Majeure shall include, without limitation, (a) any act of God, fire, flood, earthquake,



natural disaster, lightning, storm, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (b) act of public enemy, war (declared or undeclared), threat of war, terrorism, riots, civil disorders, insurrections, blockades, revolutions, civil commotion, public demonstration; (c) arrests or restraints, interruptions by government or court orders; (d) valid orders of any regulatory body having proper jurisdiction; (e) any changes in procedure or methodology in the Applicable Standards or changes in order, rules and regulations of Applicable Standards (f) or any other cause or event or circumstance whatsoever that is beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party acting (and having acted) as an RPO, which results in or causes the failure of the affected Party to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement. Provided however, that, for the avoidance of doubts Force Majeure does not include a lack of funds.

- (p) **“Governmental Authority”** means any (i) nation or government, any federal, state, province, city, town, municipality, county, local or other political subdivision thereof or thereto and any department, commission, board, bureau, instrumentality, agency or merger control authority, (ii) federal, state, provincial, local or non-U.S. court or tribunal, (iii) self-regulatory organization (including any national securities exchange), or (iv) other governmental, quasi-governmental, supranational or regulatory entity created or empowered under a statute (or rule, regulation or ordinance promulgated thereunder) or at the direction of any governmental authority, including those set forth in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) of this definition, and that is empowered thereunder or thereby to exercise executive, legislative, judicial, taxing, regulatory or administrative powers or functions of or pertaining to government.
- (q) **“GHG Reduction”** means the removal, limitation, reduction, avoidance, sequestration or mitigation of one metric tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent by the Project Activity relative to the Baseline.
- (r) **“Issuance”** means the issuance of VCUs for the Project Activity by the Registry administrator into the account in the Registry; and **“Issued”** shall be construed accordingly.
- (s) **“Implementation Partner”** means the party engaged by VNV to work on ground with the feasibility assessment/preparation of PDD and other documentation required for fulfilling the listing, verification and registration requirement(s) of the Project(s).
- (t) **“Material Breach”** shall mean a breach by either Party of any of its obligations under this Agreement which has or is likely to have a Material Adverse Effect on the Project and which such Party shall have failed to cure.
- (u) **“Monitoring”** means the process of collecting and recording data in accordance with the Monitoring Plan and the International Rules (if applicable) to allow the assessment of the GHG Reductions resulting from the Project pursuant to the Monitoring Plan.
- (v) **“Monitoring Report”** means a report provided to the registry setting out the number of GHG Reductions that the Project generated during the previous Reporting Period as Monitored in accordance with the Monitoring Plan; and all other data that such Monitoring Plan requires to be collected and recorded, and that shall serve as the Monitoring report required to be provided for Verification under the International Rules.
- (w) **“Monitoring Systems Report”** means a report commissioned before the Project Commissioning Date to ensure that all data collection and management systems required by the Monitoring Plan are in place to allow subsequent successful Verification and Certification of GHG Reductions generated by the Project Activity;
- (x) **“Person”** means an individual, corporation, partnership, limited liability company, association, company, joint venture, estate, trust, association other entity or organization



of any kind or nature, including a Governmental Authority or arbitrator (public or private), or group or any other entity or organization.

- (y) **“Project”** means the project activity from which the Verified Emission Reductions are being generated.
- (z) **“Project Description” or “PD”** means the final document, containing the description of the Project and submitted for Validation.
- (aa) **“Project Operation Costs”** means the costs associated with the operation of the Project including costs relating to the installation, operation and maintenance of all monitoring equipment and the collation and review of all project information to the required specification.
- (bb) **“Project longevity”** is the number of years beginning from the project start date that project activities will be maintained, which may be longer than the project Crediting Period where projects can demonstrate the activities that maintain carbon stocks on which GHG credits have previously been issued will continue beyond the project crediting period.
- (cc) **“Reasonable and Prudent Operator” (RPO)** means a Person seeking in good faith to perform its contractual obligations and in so doing and in the general conduct of its undertaking exercising that degree of skill, diligence, prudence and foresight which would reasonably and ordinarily be expected from a skilled and experienced operator complying with all applicable laws, engaged in the same type of undertaking, under the same or similar circumstances and conditions, and taking into account relevant economic considerations, and any reference to the Standards of a Reasonable and Prudent Operator shall be construed accordingly.
- (dd) **“Registry”** means the registry where these carbon credits or VCUs from the below mentioned project will be registered and issued from.
- (ee) **“Representative”** means any shareholder, director, officer, employee, adviser, partner, consultant, joint venturer, contractor or sub-contractor of a Party or an Affiliate.
- (ff) **“Subsidiary”** means, with respect to any Person, another Person (other than a natural Person), of which such first Person (i) owns directly or indirectly (a) an aggregate amount of the voting securities, other voting ownership or voting partnership interests to elect or appoint a majority of the board of directors or other governing body or (b) if there are no such voting interests, a majority of the equity interests therein or (ii) has the right to appoint a majority of the directors or managers.
- (gg) **“Validation”** means the process of independent evaluation of the Project by an Operational Entity pursuant to requirements of VERRA in accordance with the International Rules.
- (hh) **“Validation and Verification Bodies” or “VVB”** means a Person designated as qualified (a) to Validate in the same sector as the Project Activity or (b) to Verify and Certify GHG (Green House Gas) Reductions from the proposed carbon project.
- (ii) **“VCU”** means Verified Carbon Units.
- (jj) **“Verification”** means the independent review and ex-post determination by an Operational Entity of GHG Reductions in accordance with the criteria specified by the Buyer.
- (kk) **“VERPA”** means a Voluntary Emission Reductions Purchase Agreement.



1. **AGREEMENT TERM AND TERMINATION:**

The Agreement shall be valid for a period of 30 years (Thirty) years from the Effective Date of this Agreement, unless it is terminated earlier in accordance with the provisions of this Agreement. This Agreement shall be extended further for another 30 years as per mutually agreed terms on completion of first 30 years term.

Each Party ("Non-Defaulting Party") is entitled to terminate this Agreement by giving thirty (30) days written notice to the other Party ("Defaulting Party"), if the Defaulting Party commits a breach of terms of this Agreement and fails to remedy that breach within sixty (60) days of being required to do so following written notice served on the Defaulting Party. If this Agreement is terminated by the Non-Defaulting Party pursuant to this clause, then, upon such termination, the obligations of the Parties under this Agreement shall come to an end and all future obligations of the Parties under this Agreement from the Termination Date shall be deemed discharged, save that:

- a. the Defaulting Party shall be liable to pay the Non-Defaulting Party's dues, and shall pay the same within 30 (thirty) Business Days from the Termination Date;
- b. termination happens for reasons other than force majeure, then the Defaulting Party shall be liable to compensate against any direct damages to be incurred by the Non- defaulting Party. The amount of damages shall have to walked out based on mutually accepted mechanism.
- c. any rights and obligations accrued prior to the Termination Date shall remain in full force and effect.

In the event of the Agreement being delayed or unable to implement due to circumstances outside the control of either Party, such as political or civil unrest, war or other conflict, extreme weather conditions, strikes, etc., neither Party shall be held liable and this Agreement may be terminated without penalty, if the delay, in the opinion of both Parties, has rendered the Agreement no longer feasible.

ZDCFMB and VNV hereby agree to enter into a revenue-sharing agreement for with detailed terms and conditions anytime during the validity of this Agreement on the same terms of sale and payments as included in this AGREEMENT.

Since the CCAs are also the stakeholders, it is understood that CCAs would take consent of the respective Village Council Heads for this Project. If one CCA or Village Head withdraws the consent, it shall not be deemed as Termination. The Parties to this Agreement shall continue to do the business/continue with this project for the rest of the CCAs allocated for the project.

2. **REMEDIALTION FOR MATERIAL BREACH:**

In case of any material breach including non-payment of dues, a Party shall seek remediation from other Party who is in default by giving remediation notice of 60 days, and if the default is not remedied after the exhaustion of the remediation period then the aggrieved Party may terminate the Agreement following the written notice as per the Agreement Term and Termination Clause.

3. **CONFIDENTIALITY:**

The Parties agree that they shall not, at any time or under any circumstances, without the prior written consent of the other Party, directly or indirectly communicate or disclose to any person confidential information of the other Party or the existence and terms of this Agreement (other than to their employees, agents, auditors and representatives). However such obligation shall not apply in the following eventualities:



- (a) Information already in the possession of the other Party;
- (b) Information which is or becomes generally available to the public;
- (c) Information that is independently developed by the other Party;
- (d) Information disclosed to a Party by a third party who is not subject to any confidentiality restriction.
- (e) Information that is required to be disclosed by law or under a court order or by the applicable regulations or policies of any Regulatory / Statutory agency of competent jurisdiction or any Stock Exchange.

The Parties agree and bind themselves to the fact that all or any of the information, which is property of the other Party or is disclosed by the Party in pursuance of this Agreement, shall be treated as Confidential Information. Each Party agrees to keep in confidence and to use the same degree of care as would do with respect to its own proprietary data to prevent disclosure to third parties of all technical information, data and confidential business information and no Party shall disclose the said information without the prior approval of other in writing.

The provisions of this Clause here in above pertaining to the said confidential information shall survive the termination or expiration of this Agreement for a period of 30 years from the date of such termination or expiration of this Agreement excepting the legal and Govt. requirements, if any.

4. SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ZDCFMB:

- ZDCFMB shall be the Co-Project Proponent.
- ZDCFMB shall be responsible for the implementation and execution of the aforementioned Project with regards to development of a carbon offset project for CCAs in Zunheboto District of Nagaland.
- ZDCFMB shall provide VNV with all or any documents, data, reports related to the Project as and when required by VNV for successful implementation of the Project and subsequent registration of the Project with the Applicable Standards.
- ZDCFMB shall guide all the CCAs in protection of forest resources by interventions such as regulations on hunting, log felling, fishing and jhum cultivation in the CCA and to conserve biodiversity, prevent fragmentation and manage the area for sustainable use of bio-resources by the community.
- ZDCFMB must ensure to provide an equal and just platform for all CCAs and associated Village Councils for sharing of knowledge with respect to forest and biodiversity conservation, addressing their grievance and equitable distribution of the benefits to all its stakeholders.
- ZDCFMB shall facilitate TERI in conducting the Carbon finance project, and in design of relevant documents including but not limited to the Project Information Note (PIN) & Project Description (PD) by TERI.
- ZDCFMB shall extend support to TERI and VNV in primary and secondary data collection and monitoring systems such as sample plots and stakeholder consultations through the entire Crediting Period of the Project. The VNV team will be working along with the guidance of the ZDCFMB team to deliver such data to registries/auditors/investors.
- ZDCFMB shall facilitate TERI, VNV, and VVB (at no cost) for validation and verification visits, administrative support, consultant visits and monitoring activities, as well as in



obtaining support letters or any form of documentation as will be required by the international standard/buyers of credit from concerned regulatory authorities as and when required.

- ZDCFMB shall help in completing the procedural requirements of the selected standard as well as the emission attribute adjustments that need to be made in national registries for the same.
- ZDCFMB shall apprise all the CCAs that this project work on the principle of Ecosystem-Based Values Creation and that the credits generated will be dependent on the level of conservation activities undertaken by the local communities and the benefits coming from the sale of credits must be channelized for further forest protection and conservation activities.
- ZDCFMB shall obtain requisite consent including Carbon Waiver from the CCAs engaged to conduct this Project and it shall also obtain permission to inspect the site and do any activity by the parties to this Agreement for the purpose of this Project.
- ZDCFMB shall ensure that the CCAs engaged in the Project developments shall maintain the Project longevity as required by the Applicable Standards and Project requirements. ZDCFMB shall ensure that the CCAs engaged in the Project development shall maintain the forest resources as per the sustainable forest management plan to be discussed during stakeholder engagement.
- ZDCFMB shall recruit all the technical experts required for the initiation and implementation of the Project.
- ZDCFMB shall coordinate and provide VNV with high-resolution images/factsheet/videos/marketing material related to this Project from the field/project area as and when required and requested by VNV.
- ZDCFMB shall provide updates on the progress of the Project implementation, all field activities and relevant project activities according to the agreed upon timeline of deliverables and report on a monthly basis to VNV in a framework as provided by the later.
- ZDCFMB assures that it will perform all services required hereunder in accordance with the prevailing standard of care by exercising the skill and care normally required of entities performing the same or similar services, under the same or similar circumstances, in the said Project location for the implementation of the Project. To this end, ZDCFMB will undertake the following actions without additional consideration during the term of this Agreement (a) create awareness, and social engineering to manage the Project, (b) necessary revisions or corrections to resolve any errors and omissions on the part of ZDCFMB limited to obligations under this Agreement.
- ZDCFMB shall make all efforts to check and ensure that the project objectives including benefit sharing are fulfilled.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF TERI:

- TERI shall act as a Carbon Development Expert.
- TERI shall collect and collate all primary and secondary data required as per standard and methodology in coordination with ZDCFMB. The TERI team will be working under the guidance of the ZDCFMB to deliver such data to registries/auditors/investors.
- TERI, with support from VNV, will assist CCAs in strategic planning and identification of alternate livelihood activities, including eco-tourism activities, which can be undertaken by the village councils to reduce pressure on forest resources.



- TERI, with support from VNV, will assist in the documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and preparation of micro-plans for CCAs.
- TERI shall work with ZDCFMB to conduct stakeholder consultations and develop suitable institutional mechanism at Village Clusters, District, State levels.
- TERI shall conduct baseline survey at sample locations for relevant carbon pools.
- TERI shall develop PDs as per the village clusters across the State based on the extent of plantations done in two years.
- TERI shall review progress over time and develop MR and assist VVB in validation and verification process.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF VNV:

- VNV shall act as the Project Proponent.
- VNV shall gather all necessary inputs from ZDCFMB to calculate the estimated annual credits for the Project.
- VNV shall aid in undertaking all the required actions required by any Applicable Standards.
- VNV will financially support the CCAs for implementing activities leading to enhanced protection of forest and biodiversity in CCAs, enhanced livelihood options, and preparation of micro-plans for CCAs.
- VNV will financially support TERI, in the form of professional fees, for the implementation of interventions and developing of voluntary carbon project.
- VNV shall facilitate conducting validation and verification of the project by appointing a third-party independent assessor.
- VNV shall have a Carbon Registry Account and will undertake all the required actions on the Plan VIVO/ Verra platform.
- VNV will be signing a Communications Agreement with ZDCFMB trust towards the operating the certification process and subsequent issuance of credits to the former party's Registry Account.
- Identifying suitable methodology and taking suitable actions on Plan VIVO/Verra platform.
- VNV shall work extensively to brand and market the Project. VNV shall prepare the pitch books as well as collect marketing material relevant to sale of credits and VNV shall find a suitable buyer for the VERs that are generated from the Project.

5. RIGHTS & AUTHORITIES:

- VNV reserves the right to negotiate the terms and conditions with the service providers such as the designated operational and other third parties.
- VNV shall be a signing authority to the VERPA/ relevant Agreement.

6. CARBON CREDITS SALE AND PAYMENT MODALITIES:

- All funding and expenses incurred by TERI would be paid by VNV separately as per the agreement signed between TERI and VNV.
- All the Carbon Credits units shall be issued in the name of VNV in VNV's Carbon registry account.
- All the carbon credits shall be sold by VNV and the sale proceeds shall be distributed as per below-mentioned mutually agreed share:
 - 25 % share of carbon credits sale revenue shall be retained by VNV
 - 75% of share of carbon credits sale revenue shall be transferred to CCAs via ZDCFMB



- VNV will be transacting the VCUs (Carbon Credits) on behalf of the Co-Project Proponent and assuring the minimum price of \$ 4-5 to ZDCFMB as per the prevailing market price, whichever is higher.
- VNV or its sister concern shall not charge any brokerage from the buyer of carbon credits of this project.

7. **REPRESENTATIONS AND WARRANTIES:**

7.1 Each Party represents and warrants to the other Party, on the date of execution of this Agreement, that:

- a. This Agreement constitutes legal, valid, and binding obligations of the Party enforceable in accordance with its terms;
- b. It is duly organised and validly existing under the laws of the jurisdiction of its organisation or incorporation;
- c. It has the power to execute this Agreement and any other documentation relating to this Agreement to which it is a Party, to deliver this Agreement and any other relevant documentation and to perform its obligations under this Agreement, and has taken all necessary action to authorise such execution, delivery and performance;
- d. All material consents, governmental approvals, permits and consents from any third party and from the shareholders of the Party which are necessary for it to perform its obligations under this Agreement have been obtained and are in full force and effect, and it has not received any notice of violation of any material consents;
- e. The entry into, and observance and performance of its obligations under this Agreement do not violate or conflict with or require any consent or waiver under any of the terms or conditions in its governing documents or any material contract to which it is a party or by which any of its material assets are bound or affected, or any applicable law presently in force;
- f. There are no bankruptcy events pending or being contemplated by it or, to its knowledge, threatened against it;
- g. There are no claims, actions, proceedings or investigations pending or, to its knowledge, threatened against or relating to it before any competent authority that may adversely affect its ability to perform this Agreement;
- h. It is entering into this Agreement as principal (and not as agent or in any other capacity);
- i. It is not relying upon any representations except those expressly set forth in this Agreement;
- j. It has consulted with its own legal, regulatory, tax, business, investments, financial and accounting advisors to the extent that it has deemed necessary, and it has made its own investment and trading decisions based upon its own judgment and upon any advice from such advisors as it has deemed necessary and not upon any view expressed by the other Party or any of its Affiliates or agents;
- k. It is entering into this Agreement with a full understanding of the terms, conditions and risks thereof and it is capable of and willing to assume those risks;
- l. It is not subject to any threatened or existing actions or suits or liabilities which may affect its capacity to observe or perform any material term or condition of this Agreement.

8. **LIABILITY**

LIABILITY OF TERI:

TERI shall execute the work as mentioned in Clause 4 of this Agreement with meticulous planning by ensuring all compliances. Due to lapse, willful misconduct or gross negligence by TERI within the given scope of the Agreement the damages if any, shall be the sole responsibility and liability of TERI.



TERI accepts liability for any omissions or circumstances that were within the scope and control of TERI that are attributable to any losses for VNV in connection with the activities obligation described in Clause 3 of this Agreement. This liability shall be expressly limited to an Agreement equal to VNV's payment obligation in relation to the funding made towards the Project.

LIABILITY OF VNV:

VNV shall stand absolved from any liability for any losses or breach arising out of ambiguity or inaccuracy in the data/reports related to the Project provided by ZDCFMB in pursuance of this Agreement.

In the event the aforementioned Project fails to get successfully registered with the Applicable Standards due to non-submission of any the documents/data/reports related to the Project by ZDCFMB to VNV, VNV shall stand absolved from any liability arising out of the same.

NO CONSEQUENTIAL LOSS:

Neither Party shall be liable to the other Party, whether in contract, tort (including negligence and breach of duty) or otherwise at law, for any business interruption or loss of use, profit, contracts, production, or revenue or for any consequential or indirect loss or damage of any kind howsoever arising, save where such business interruption or loss of use, profit, contracts, production, or revenue or consequential or indirect loss or damage was caused by gross negligence, fraud, wilful misconduct or criminal conduct of that Party.

9. BUSINESS ETHICS

Acceptance/execution of this Agreement shall be deemed to be (a) a confirmation by the Parties that no benefit, either in cash or in kind, has been provided by it to any officer or employee, or any relative/associate of any officer or employee, of the ZDCFMB or of any of its associate companies, in order to secure this Agreement, and (b) an undertaking by the Parties not to provide any benefit, either in cash or kind, to any such officer/employee/relative/associate as reward or consideration either for securing this Agreement or any other matter relating to this Agreement.

10. COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS:

All the Parties to this Agreement shall comply with all the applicable Laws of India including the Laws relating to Environment, Safety, Labour Laws, Taxation etc. and shall also comply with international Rules and Regulations if any applicable. The non-complying Party shall indemnify others to the extent of such non-compliance and the loss/damage arising from such non-compliance.

11. DISPUTE RESOLUTION:

Any disputes arising out of this Agreement shall be settled mutually or by negotiations amongst the parties by either giving to other a notice raising the dispute and calling upon for its resolution mutually. In case the parties failed to mutually resolve the dispute within a period of 30 (thirty) days from the date of such notice, the party aggrieved by such failure shall have the right to raise the dispute in a Court of Law within the jurisdiction of the Court at Bengaluru, India.

12. ANTI-BRIBERY AND ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING:

None of the Parties or any of its Subsidiaries or any of their respective directors, officers, employees or, to the Company's Knowledge, agents or any other Person acting on their behalf has, directly or indirectly, made any bribes, rebates, payoffs, influence payments, kickbacks, illegal payments, illegal political contributions, or other payments, in the form of cash, gifts, or



otherwise, or taken any other action, in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act of 1977, the UK Bribery Act of 2010 or any other anti-bribery or anti-corruption Law (collectively, the "Anti-Bribery Laws"). Neither the Company nor any of its Subsidiaries is or has been the subject of any investigation or inquiry by any Governmental Body with respect to potential violations of Anti-Bribery Laws.

13. NOTICES:

Any notice under this Agreement must be in writing in the English language and served by leaving it at or sending it by prepaid registered post, third party courier service. It is clearly understood that Notices by Email or any other Electronic Mode are not acceptable.

<p>Name: Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board</p> <p>Address: Sukhai, Zunheboto District, Nagaland</p> <p>Attention: Ivan Zhimo</p> <p>Contact: 8974860809</p> <p>Email: ivanjimosukhai123@gmail.com</p>	<p>Name: Value Network Ventures Advisory Services Pte. Ltd.</p> <p>Address: 41/1, Reyyan Towers, Church Street, Bangalore - 560001, Karnataka, India</p> <p>Attention: Mr. Sandeep Roy Choudhury (Director)</p> <p>Email: sandeep@vnvadvisory.com</p>
<p>Name: The Energy and Resources Institute</p> <p>Address: Darbari Seth Block, Habitat Place, Lodhi Road, New Delhi 110003</p> <p>Attention: Mr VK Jayakumar (Senior Manager–Project Monitoring Unit – PMU, TERI)</p> <p>Email: vkjkumar@teri.res.in</p>	

14. FORCE MAJEURE:

Non-performance by either Party will be excused to the extent performance is rendered impossible due to causes beyond such Party's reasonable control and not caused by its gross negligence or willful misconduct, including, without limitation, pandemic, riot, invasion, war, civil commotion, malicious damage or any overriding emergency procedures, accident, fire, explosion, terrorism, sabotage, flood and storm, earthquake, subsidence, any changes in procedure or methodology in the Applicable Standards or changes in order, rules and regulations of Applicable Standards or any equivalent circumstances that is beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party.

15. TRADEMARKS AND LOGO:

During the term of this Agreement, no Party shall use the other Party's trademarks and/or logos without its prior written consent. If an agreement is given by one of the Party in this respect, in accordance with the foregoing, the other Party shall have the right to use, free of any cost and on the conditions defined hereunder, the trademarks and/or logos of the other Party, including, as a basis of reference, for commercial advertising, public relations and / internal communications purposes.

However, the Parties prohibit association of their trademarks or their logos to any allegation likely to constitute misleading advertising or likely to mislead customers on the nature of their respective products and services.



More broadly, each Party undertakes not to use the trademarks, logos, and/or other visuals of the other Party than in connection with this Agreement, for the purpose and term of this Agreement, and undertakes that the use that it shall make of such trademarks and logos shall never be likely to lead to confusion in the mind of the public regarding the ownership of said trademarks, logos and/or visuals.

It is understood that such use does not grant any right to one or the other of the Parties on the reproduced elements belonging to the other Party other than those granted by this Agreement.

16. ENTIRE AGREEMENT:

Unless otherwise provided herein, this Agreement constitutes the entire understanding and Agreement between the parties with respect to the subject matter herein and supersedes and cancels any and all prior contemporaneous (current) oral and written Agreements, statements, understandings, representations and warranties, if any, between the Parties on or relating to the subject matter of this Agreement, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Agreement.

17. SEVERABILITY:

If any one or more of the provisions of this Agreement is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable in any respect, the validity, legality and enforceability of the remaining provisions contained herein will not in any way be affected or impaired thereby, and the Parties shall endeavor to replace any invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision with one or more valid, legal and enforceable provisions, the economic effect of which comes as close as reasonably possible to that of the invalid, illegal or unenforceable provision.

18. LANGUAGE:

This Agreement is executed in the English language and this English text shall prevail in the event of inconsistencies, if any, with subsequent translations.

19. MISCELLANEOUS:

Headings in this Agreement are for convenience only and shall not affect the interpretation hereof. Each party agrees to refrain from representing itself as being the agent of the other party in performing or acting in pursuance of this Agreement. Neither party shall have the power or authority to bind or otherwise commit the other party to or with third parties.





**OFFICE OF THE
ZUNHEBOTO DISTRICT CARBON FINANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD**

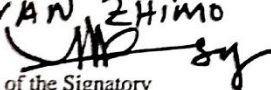
H.Q. Zunheboto Town, Pin. No. - 798620

Ref. No. NIL


Dated 12th May 23

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, this Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by each of the Parties, as of the date written above


For and on behalf of
Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board

Ivan Zhimo

Name of the Signatory **CONVENOR**
(Designation) **CONVENOR**
District Carbon Finance Management Board

For and on behalf of
The Energy and Resource Institute


Mr VK Jayakumar
(Senior Manager- Project Monitoring Unit - PMU)

For and on behalf of,
Value Network Ventures Advisory Services Pte. Ltd.


Sandeep Roy Choudhury
(Director)



OFFICE OF THE
ZUNHEBOTO DISTRICT CARBON FINANCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

H.Q. Zunheboto Town, Pin. No. - 798620

Ref. No.*NIL*.....

APPENDIX-A

Dated*12/14 May 20*.....

The aforementioned project implementation shall be effected through a systematic organizational arrangement. For hassle free implementation and seamless monitoring, there shall be organizational structure as follows.

**Zunheboto District
Carbon Finance
Management Board
(District Level CCA
Committee)**

Chaired by CCA Head unaniAgreemmentsly
nominated by all the CCA heads

**CCA Level
Committees**

Comprising of the CCA Head along with the
Village Heads from all the respective villages in
that CCA and members

The details of the members of **Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board** is shown below. The Board has authorized the management Board to sign tripartite AGREEMENT.

S.NO	NAME	DESIGNATION	CONTACT NUMBER	ADDRESS
1	Ivan Zhimo	Convenor	8974860809	Sukhai
2	Kakishe S, Muru	Co-Convenor	09862144399	Kivikhu
3	Kivika Zhimo	Secretary General	0856251018	Nikuto
4	Tokugha Sapoti	Treasurer	09612869347	Sapoti
5	Hekhushe Shikhu	Advisor	09862362527	Yehemi
6	Tokugha Sukhai	Advisor	07630855764	Sukhai
7	Juvi H. Zhimo (Advocate)	Legal Advisor	09436028505	Sukhai
8	Khekishe Yeptho	Joint Secretary	08014780528	Yemishe
9		Member		Khukishe
10	Khekaho Yeptho Vcc Thokihi	Member	07005045968	Thokihi
11	Hekuto Yeptho	Member	09362368680	Sukhalu
12	Dr Hutoka	Member	08787791471	Asukhomi

16



[Signature]
CONVENOR
District Carbon Finance
Management Board

APPENDIX – B


ESTIMATED EMISSION REDUCTION VALUES PROVIDED BY TERI

Year	Estimated GHG Emission Reductions or Removals (tCO2e)
Baseline year	0
1	500,000
2	500,000
3	500,000
4	500,000
5	500,000
6	500,000
7	500,000
8	500,000
9	500,000
10	500,000
11	500,000
12	500,000
13	500,000
14	500,000
15	500,000
16	500,000
17	500,000
18	500,000
19	500,000
20	500,000
21	500,000
22	500,000
23	500,000
24	500,000
25	500,000
26	500,000
27	500,000
28	500,000
29	500,000
30	500,000
Total	15,000,000



¹⁰ The initial stakeholder consultation, as outlined in project design, took place in December 2022. All attending CCA members, along with others informed about the project, expressed willingness to participate at that time. This consensus led to an initial credit estimate of 5 lakh, based on community dialogues where members were consistently informed that credits would range from 2 to 3 per hectare. However, as project preparedness progressed, not all community members completed the FPIC process. Many opted to defer participation, preferring to observe actual project impacts and benefits before committing. Consequently, the credit estimates in the updated PIN reflect only those CCAs that provided formal written agreement during the FPIC process.

Amended Agreement



AMENDMENT AGREEMENT

This **AMENDMENT AGREEMENT** to the Original Agreement (hereinafter referred to as "**Amendment**") is dated as of 09th September 2025 ("Effective Date") by and among Value Network Ventures Pte. Ltd (**VNV**), Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board (**ZDCFMB**) and The Energy and Resources Institute (**TERI**).

VNV, ZDCFMB and TERI hereinafter individually referred to as "Party" & collectively as "Parties".

WHEREAS:

(a) VNV, ZDCFMB and TERI have entered into a Tripartite Agreement ("hereinafter referred to as the "Original Agreement") on 9th May 2023, which inter alia records the agreement entered between the Parties for development of a carbon offset project titled "*Developing Voluntary Carbon Market Projects for Community Conserved Areas (CCAs) in Zunheboto District of Nagaland*" ("**Project**").

(b) The Parties wish to amend the Original Agreement to incorporate certain terms and conditions.


NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the rights and obligations contained herein, and for good and valuable consideration, the adequacy of which is hereby acknowledged, the Parties agree as follows:

1. Capitalized terms mentioned herein and not defined shall have the same meaning as provided under the Original Agreement.
2. It is hereby acknowledged that VNV has officially changed its legal entity name from "Value Network Ventures Advisory Services Pte. Ltd" to "Value Network Ventures Pte. Ltd", effective as of the date of **27th August 2024**. Accordingly, all references to "Value Network Ventures Advisory Services Pte. Ltd" in the Original Agreement, as well as in any and all ancillary documents executed or to be executed pursuant to the Original Agreement, shall be deemed to refer to as "**Value Network Ventures Pte. Ltd**".
3. The Definition clause under Original Agreement shall be amended and replaced as follows:


Definitions:

a) "**Agreement**" means this Agreement executed between VNV, ZDCFMB and TERI including any appendixes, any annexures and schedules attached hereto and as may be amended from time to time".

Registered office: 10, Anson Road, #29-07, International Plaza, Singapore - 079903
Head office: 41/1, Rayyan Towers, Church Street, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India - 560001



www.vnv.earth


11.9.2025
Convenor
Zunheboto District Carbon
Finance Management Board



- b) **"Annual Report"** means report submitted to Plan Vivo with details of Project activities, finances and monitoring; and any changes to the Project design made during a specified Reporting Period.
- c) **"Applicable Laws"** means all legally binding laws, rules, regulations or orders that apply to anyone or more of the Parties or the terms of this Agreement in India.
- d) **"Applicable Standards"** means the international carbon standards as per the Project requirement i.e. Plan Vivo Climate.
- e) **"Business Day"** means any day (other than a Saturday or Sunday) in which commercial banks are open for general business in India.
- f) **"Carbon Benefit"** means net-increase in carbon stocks and/or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the carbon baseline as a result of a Project Intervention.
- g) **"Carbon Dioxide Equivalent"** means a metric measure used to compare the effects from emissions of various GHG based on their global warming potential.
- (g) **"Community Conserved Areas (CCAs)"** can be described as, natural and/or modified ecosystems containing significant biodiversity values and ecological services voluntarily conserved by indigenous and local communities, through customary laws or other effective means." For the purposes of this Agreement, CCAs shall be deemed Project Participant, meaning they enter into a Project Agreement with the Project Coordinator to implement Project Interventions and benefit from the sale of PVCs.
- (h) **"Cost of Carbon Cycle Development"** is the total cost incurred on registering the Project and subsequent issuance of PVCs. This includes fees for carbon consultancy, Baseline Studies, Validation, Registration, Verification, and Issuance fees.
- (i) **"Crediting Period"** means the period for which the Carbon Benefits achieved or expected within a Project area are eligible for issuance of PVCs. The minimum period over which a Project Participant agrees to implement a Project Intervention with the support of the Project Coordinator, and over which Carbon Benefits shall be monitored.
- (j) **"Effective Date"** means the date this Agreement has been duly executed and delivered by each of the Parties
- (k) **"Force Majeure"** means any cause, event of circumstance, beyond the reasonable control of the affected Party, which results in or causes the failure of the affected Party to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement. By way of illustration, Force Majeure shall include, without limitation, (a) any act of God, fire, flood, earthquake, natural disaster, lightning, storm, epidemic, pandemic or explosion; (b) act of public enemy, war (declared or undeclared), threat of war, terrorism, riots, civil disorders, insurrections, blockades, revolutions, civil commotion, public demonstration; (c) arrests or restraints, interruptions by government or court orders; (d) valid orders of any regulatory body having proper jurisdiction; (e) any changes in procedure or methodology in the Applicable Standards or changes in order, rules and regulations of Applicable Standards (f) or any other cause or event or circumstance whatsoever that is beyond the reasonable control of the affected

Handwritten signature and date: 11-9-25
Convener
 Zunheboto District Carbon
 Finance Management Board





Party acting (and having acted) as an RPO, which results in or causes the failure of the affected Party to perform any of its obligations under this Agreement. Provided however, that, for the avoidance of doubts Force Majeure does not include a lack of funds.

- (l) **"Governmental Authority"** means any (i) nation or government, any federal, state, province, city, town, municipality, county, local or other political subdivision thereof or thereto and any department, commission, board, bureau, instrumentality, agency or merger control authority, (ii) federal, state, provincial, local or non-U.S. court or tribunal, (iii) self-regulatory organization (including any national securities exchange), or (iv) other governmental, quasi-governmental, supranational or regulatory entity created or empowered under a statute (or rule, regulation or ordinance promulgated thereunder) or at the direction of any governmental authority, including those set forth in clauses (i), (ii) or (iii) of this definition, and that is empowered thereunder or thereby to exercise executive, legislative, judicial, taxing, regulatory or administrative powers or functions of or pertaining to government.
- (m) **"GHG Reduction"** means the removal, limitation, reduction, avoidance, sequestration or mitigation of one metric tonne of Carbon Dioxide Equivalent by the Project Activity relative to the Baseline.
- (n) **"Issuance"** means the issuance of PVCs for the Project Intervention by the Registry administrator into the account in the Registry; and **"Issued"** shall be construed accordingly.
- (o) **"Monitoring"** means the process of collecting and recording data in accordance with the monitoring plan and the International Rules (if applicable) to allow the assessment of the Carbon Benefit resulting from the Project pursuant to the monitoring plan.
- (p) **"Plan Vivo Certificate (PVC)"** means certificate issued to a Project by Plan Vivo for a verified Carbon Benefit of one tonne (also called a metric tonne) of carbon dioxide equivalent.

Henceforth, all references to "Carbon Credits" throughout the Original Agreement shall be construed as PVCs in conformity with the revised definition provided above.

- (q) **"Project"** means PV Climate project consisting of one or more Project Interventions applied to Project area(s) in specified Project region(s), supported by a Project Coordinator under a common governance structure, as described in a single Project Design Document.
- (r) **"Project Agreement"** means contract between a Project Coordinator and Project Participant(s) that grants the rights to Carbon Benefits to the Project Coordinator and that specifies the terms and conditions and rights and responsibilities of Project Participants and the Project Coordinator over a specified agreement period.
- (s) **"Project Coordinator"** means a legal entity, that takes overall responsibility for day-to-day management ((monitoring, recruitment, reporting to Plan Vivo etc.) and coordination of the Project and supporting the implementation of Project Interventions by Project Participants and most often develops the Project
- (t) **"Project Design Document" or "PDD"** means document describing the Project design and implementation process, and details that demonstrate conformance with PV Climate.

Handwritten signature and date:
11.9.2025
Printed text:
Convener
Zunheboto District Carbon
Finance Management Board






- (u) **"Project Intervention"** means set of activities designed to protect, restore or improve management of land or marine areas, increase carbon storage or reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and have positive impacts on local livelihoods and ecosystems.
- (v) **"Project Participant"** means an individual or group that enters into a Project Agreement with the Project Coordinator to implement Project Interventions and benefit from the sale of Plan Vivo Certificates.
- (w) **"PV Climate"** means the carbon standard developed and managed by the Plan Vivo Foundation, designed to support land-based climate solutions that deliver measurable Carbon Benefits while also prioritizing social and environmental co-benefits.
- (x) **"Reasonable and Prudent Operator" (RPO)** means a Person seeking in good faith to perform its contractual obligations and in so doing and in the general conduct of its undertaking exercising that degree of skill, diligence, prudence and foresight which would reasonably and ordinarily be expected from a skilled and experienced operator complying with all applicable laws, engaged in the same type of undertaking, under the same or similar circumstances and conditions, and taking into account relevant economic considerations, and any reference to the Standards of a Reasonable and Prudent Operator shall be construed accordingly.
- (y) **"Reporting Period"** means the period covered by an Annual Report.
- (z) **"Registry"** means the registry where these PVCs from the above-mentioned Project shall be registered and issued from.
- (aa) **"Validation"** means the assessment of a Project's design and governance structure for conformance with PV Climate, carried out by an approved Validation and Verification Body (VVB) for macroscale projects, or by Plan Vivo with the support of an approved Independent Expert for microscale projects.
- (bb) **"Validation and Verification Bodies" or "VVBs"** means an auditing organisation that meets the minimum criteria of, and has been approved by Plan Vivo to Validate and/or Verify Projects
- (cc) **"Verification"** means assessment of ongoing conformance of the Project to PV Climate, and verification of Carbon Benefits achieved.

Clause 4 of the Original Agreement outlining the responsibilities of ZDCFMB, TERI and VNV shall be amended and replaced by the following:

RESPONSIBILITIES OF ZDCFMB:

- 4.1 ZDCFMB shall act as the Project Participant.
- 4.2 ZDCFMB shall be responsible for the implementation, execution and subsequent development of the Carbon Benefit Project for CCAs/Project Participant in Zunheboto District of Nagaland.


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- 4.3 ZDCFMB shall ensure that the Institutional mechanism developed under the project is formalized and put into action.
- 4.4 ZDCFMB shall provide VNV with all or any documents, data, reports related to the Project as and when required by VNV for successful implementation of the Project and subsequent registration of the Project with the PV Climate Standard.
- 4.5 ZDCFMB shall guide all the CCAs/Project Participant in protection of forest resources by implementing interventions as outlined under the project management plans and to conserve biodiversity, prevent fragmentation and manage the area for sustainable use of bio-resources by the community.
- 4.6 ZDCFMB must ensure to provide an equal and just platform for all CCAs/Project Participant and associated Village Councils for sharing of knowledge with respect to forest and biodiversity conservation, addressing their grievance and equitable distribution of the benefits to all its stakeholders.
- 4.7 ZDCFMB shall facilitate TERI in conducting the aforementioned Project, and in design of relevant documents including but not limited to the Project Information Note (PIN) & Project Design Document (PDD) by TERI.
- 4.8 ZDCFMB shall extend support to TERI and VNV in primary and secondary data collection and monitoring systems such as sample plots and stakeholder consultations through the entire Crediting Period of the Project. The VNV team shall be working along with the guidance of the ZDCFMB team to deliver such data to registries/auditors/investors.
- 4.9 ZDCFMB shall facilitate TERI, VNV, and VVB (at no cost) for validation and verification visits, administrative support, consultant visits and monitoring activities, as well as in obtaining support letters or any form of documentation as shall be required by the international standard/buyers of PVCs from concerned regulatory authorities as and when required.
- 4.10 ZDCFMB along with TERI shall assist CCA's/Project Participant to secure any legal or regulatory permission required to carry out the Project.
- 4.11 ZDCFMB shall help in completing the procedural requirements of the PV Climate standard as well as the emission attribute adjustments that need to be made in national registries for the same.
- 4.12 ZDCFMB shall apprise all the CCAs/Project Participant that the Project work on the principle of Ecosystem-Based Values Creation and that the PVCs generated shall be dependent on the level of conservation activities undertaken by the local communities and the benefits coming from the sale of PVCs must be channelized for further forest protection and conservation activities.

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- 4.13 ZDCFMB shall obtain requisite consent through a Project Agreement from the CCAs/Project Participant engaged to conduct this Project and it shall also obtain permission to inspect the site and do any activity by the Parties to this Agreement for the purpose of this Project.
- 4.14 ZDCFMB shall ensure that the CCAs/Project Participant engaged in the Project developments shall maintain the Project longevity as required by the PV Climate and Project requirements. ZDCFMB shall ensure that the CCAs/Project Participant engaged in the Project development shall maintain the forest resources as per the sustainable forest management plan to be discussed during stakeholder engagement.
- 4.15 ZDCFMB shall recruit all the technical experts required for the initiation and implementation of the Project.
- 4.16 ZDCFMB shall coordinate and provide VNV with high-resolution images/factsheet/videos/marketing material related to this Project from the field/project area as and when required and requested by VNV.
- 4.17 ZDCFMB shall provide updates on the progress of the Project implementation, all field activities and relevant project activities according to the agreed timeline of deliverables and report on a monthly basis to VNV in a framework as provided by the later.
- 4.18 ZDCFMB along with TERI shall be responsible for monitoring progress indicators, livelihood indicators and ecosystem indicators and providing ongoing support to Project Participants.
- 4.19 ZDCFMB along with TERI shall be responsible for measurement, reporting and verification of Carbon Benefits.
- 4.20 ZDCFMB assures that it shall perform all services required hereunder in accordance with the prevailing standard of care by exercising the skill and care normally required of entities performing the same or similar services, under the same or similar circumstances, in the said Project location for the implementation of the Project. To this end, ZDCFMB shall undertake the following actions without additional consideration during the term of this Agreement (a) create awareness, and social engineering to manage the Project, (b) necessary revisions or corrections to resolve any errors and omissions on the part of ZDCFMB limited to obligations under this Agreement.
- 4.21 ZDCFMB shall make all efforts to check and ensure that the project objectives including benefit sharing are fulfilled.

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RESPONSIBILITIES OF TERI:

Registered office: 10, Anson Road, #29-07, International Plaza, Singapore - 079903
Head office: 41/1, Bayyan Towers, Church Street, Bengaluru, Karnataka, India - 560001

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- 4.22 TERI shall act as a Technical Advisor/Technical Knowledge Partner.
- 4.23 TERI along with ZDCFMB shall develop technical specifications, land management plans and Project Agreements with CCAs/Project Participant.
- 4.24 TERI shall collect and collate all primary and secondary data required as per standard and methodology in coordination with ZDCFMB. The TERI team shall be working under the guidance of the ZDCFMB to deliver such data to registries/auditors/investors.
- 4.25 TERI shall ensure that the Project Design Document (PDD) is duly updated to reflect any modifications or changes made to the aforementioned Project.
- 4.26 TERI along with ZDCFMB shall be responsible for registration and recording of land management plans, Project Agreements and monitoring results.
- 4.27 TERI, with support from VNV, shall assist CCAs/Project Participant in strategic planning and identification of alternate livelihood activities, which can be undertaken by the village councils to reduce pressure on forest resources.
- 4.28 TERI, with support from VNV, shall assist in the documentation of Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) and preparation of management plans for CCAs/Project Participant.
- 4.29 TERI shall provide technical assistance and capacity building required for Project Participants to implement Project Interventions
- 4.30 TERI shall conduct stakeholder consultations during project development and its implementation.
- 4.31 TERI shall ensure the aforementioned Project's conformance with the PV Climate standard and compliance with applicable policies, laws and regulations.
- 4.32 TERI shall conduct baseline survey at sample locations for relevant carbon pools.
- 4.33
- 4.34 TERI along with VNV shall prepare Annual Reports and coordinating the Validation and Verification required under PV Climate Standard.


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RESPONSIBILITIES OF VNV:

- 4.35 VNV shall act as the Project Coordinator.
- 4.36 VNV shall act as the governing organization to oversee and manage the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures, Environmental Social and Governance systems and framework of livelihood engagement.
- 4.37 VNV shall manage and coordinate the overall design strategy for the aforementioned Project.
- 4.38 VNV shall gather all necessary inputs from ZDCFMB to calculate the estimated annual PVCs for the Project.
- 4.39 VNV shall aid in undertaking all the required actions required by any PV Climate standard
- 4.40 VNV shall financially support the CCAs/Project Participant for implementing activities leading to enhanced protection of forest and biodiversity in CCAs/Project Participant, enhanced livelihood options, and preparation of micro-plans for CCAs/Project Participant.
- 4.41 VNV shall financially support TERI, in the form of professional fees, for the implementation of interventions and developing of the aforementioned Project.
- 4.42 VNV shall manage project finances and dispersal of income to CCAs/Project Participant (directly or routed through TERI upon mutual consensus) as described by benefit sharing mechanism in PDD.
- 4.43 VNV shall facilitate conducting Validation and Verification of the aforementioned Project by appointing a third-party independent assessor.
- 4.44 VNV shall have a Registry Account and shall undertake all the required actions on the PV Climate platform including managing PVCs
- 4.45 VNV shall be sign any required agreement/deed ZDCFMB towards operating the certification process and subsequent issuance of PVCs to the former party's Registry Account.
- 4.46 Identifying suitable methodology and taking suitable actions on PV Climate platform.
- 4.47 VNV shall secure sale of PVCs and other means of investment for the Project.


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- 4.48 VNV shall work extensively to brand and market the aforementioned Project. VNV shall prepare the pitch books as well as collect marketing material relevant to sale of PVCs and VNV shall find a suitable buyer for the Carbon Benefits that are generated from the Project.
- 4.49 VNV shall be responsible for entering into project sale agreements for the sale of PVCs generated under the Project.
5. The Parties hereby reaffirm that no other terms or conditions of the abovementioned Original Agreement, not otherwise modified or amended hereby, shall be negated or changed as a result of this Amendment.
6. Except as set forth in this Amendment, the Original Agreement is unaffected and shall continue to be in full force and effect in accordance with its terms.
7. This Amendment may be executed and delivered in one or more counterparts, and by the different parties hereto in separate counterparts, each of which when executed shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which, taken together, shall constitute one and the same agreement.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties hereto have duly executed this Amendment to the Original Agreement as of the day and year first written above.

For and on behalf of VNV
Value Network Ventures Pte. Ltd

SANDEEP ROY
CHOU DHURY

Digitally signed by
SANDEEP ROY
CHOU DHURY
Date: 2025.09.11 13:08:01
+05'30'

Sandeep Roy Choudhury
Director



For and on behalf of TERI
The Energy and Resources Institute

Name: Jayakumar V K
Title: Chief Manager-PMU





For and on behalf of ZDCFMB
Zunheboto District Carbon Finance Management Board


Name: IVAN
Title: ZHIMOMI
Convenor
Zunheboto District Carbon
Finance Management Board

