

PLAN  VIVO

PV Nature

# Validation And Verification Requirements

*Version 1.0*

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## INTRODUCTION

As part of the Plan Vivo certification process under the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard (PV Nature), *Validations* and *Verifications* evaluate the compliance of *Projects* with the *Project Requirements* and the applied *PV Nature Methodology* in order for *Projects* to become registered and/or to issue *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)*.

*Projects* may choose to complete *Validations* and *Verifications* using a PV Nature approved *Validation and Verification Body (VVB)*, or via the Independent *Validation and Verification* process.

The Independent *Validation and Verification* process is performed by an appropriately qualified and approved *Independent Expert (IE)* with the support of Plan Vivo. The *IEs* carry out site visits and report non-conformances. Once any non-conformances have been closed, the *IEs* will elaborate a *Validation and Verification* report with support from Plan Vivo.

*VVBs* are qualified, independent organisations that are approved by Plan Vivo prior to performing *Validations* and *Verifications*.

*IEs* are qualified independent actors that are approved by Plan Vivo prior to performing *Validation* and *Verifications*.

### TECHNICAL REVIEW PANEL

The PV Nature *Technical Review Panel (TRP)* consists of a collection of international technical reviewers that review the appropriateness of *Project Interventions* and associated biodiversity monitoring and data collection during the technical review process.

The review by the *TRP* occurs after the submission of a *Project's Project Design Document (PDD)*, of which they provide an assessment against the *Project Requirements* and applied *PV Nature Methodology*. This is completed by the Plan Vivo Secretariat with the support of *Technical Reviewers* from the PV Nature *TRP*. The objective of the review is to check the appropriateness of a *Project's* proposed biodiversity monitoring, the proposed interventions, and biota associated within the geographic region of the *Project*. Passing the *TRP* process gives confidence to the proposed biodiversity monitoring so that the *Project* may begin collection of biodiversity data collection prior to or in conjunction with *Validation*.

## VALIDATION

A *Validation* occurs after the *TRP* process. Details provided in the *PDD* will be checked for conformance with the PV Nature *Project Requirements* through desk-based review, *Stakeholder* interviews and a *Project* visit. The *Validator* will assess the accuracy, completeness, quality, and veracity of information recorded in the *PDD*, as well as the knowledge, capacity and functionality of the *Project Coordinator* and *Project Participants*.

## VERIFICATION

A *Verification* occurs after a *Project* is *Registered*, with primary aim to verify the impacts that the *Project* has been reporting since the last audit. The *Verifier* will assess the accuracy, completeness, quality, and veracity of the information provided in *Annual Reports* and any revisions to the *PDD* made during the *Verification Period* through a desk-based review, *Stakeholder* interviews, a *Project* visit, and input from *Technical Reviewers* where appropriate. This includes verifying the number of *PVBCs* generated by the *Project* during the *Verification Period*.

The *Verifier* will also assess conformance of the *Project* with the procedures and processes described in the *PDD* and re-assess the validity of key information in the *PDD*, as well as the knowledge, capacity, and functionality of the *Project Coordinator* and *Project Participants*.

# Requirements

## 1 Biodiversity Monitoring Review Process

### Requirements

- 1.1 Any *New Information Request (NIR)* or *Corrective Actions Request (CAR)* raised in the *Technical Review Panel (TRP)* process must be resolved before the *Validation* of the *Project*.
- 1.2 Any *Forward Actions Request (FAR)* raised in the *TRP* process must be resolved at *Validation*.

## 2 Validation

### Requirements

- 2.1 All *Projects* must have passed the *Technical Review Panel (TRP)* process prior to entering *Validation* stage.
- 2.2 All *Projects* must be *Validated* by a PV Nature approved *VVB* or the *Independent Expert Validation* process before registration and issuance of *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)*.
- 2.3 Any *New Information Request (NIR)* or *Corrective Actions Request (CAR)* raised in the *Validation* process must be resolved before registration of the *Project*.
- 2.4 Any *Forward Actions Request (FAR)* raised in the *Validation* process must be resolved within a timeframe agreed by Plan Vivo and (where applicable) the *VVB*.

## 3 Verification

### *Requirements*

- 3.1 All *Projects* must be *Verified* at least every 5-years throughout the *Crediting Period*, and there must be a final *Verification* at the end of the *Crediting Period*.
- 3.2 *Projects* must be *Verified* by a PV Nature approved *VVB* or through the *Independent Expert Verification* process.
- 3.3 Any *NIRs* or *CARs* raised in the *Verification* process must be resolved before further issuance of *PVBCs*

## 4 VVB Requirements

### *Requirements*

- 4.1 All *VVBs* and their audit teams must be approved by Plan Vivo for PV Nature, prior to entering into contracts for *Validation* or *Verification* services against PV Nature.
- 4.2 Any planned *Validations* and *Verifications* of *Projects* must be approved by Plan Vivo by submitting details of proposed audit teams and declaring any potential conflict of interest.
- 4.3 *VVBs* must follow the *Validation* and *Verification* Terms of Reference when carrying out *Validations* and *Verifications*.
- 4.4 All *Validation* and *Verification* reports produced by *VVBs* must be approved by Plan Vivo prior to the issuance of *Validation* or *Verification* statements.

## 5 Independent Validation and Verification Process

### *Requirements*

- 5.1 *Independent Experts (IEs)* contracted as part of the *Independent Validation and Verification* process must be approved by Plan Vivo.
- 5.2 *IEs* must use the *Validation* or *Verification* Terms of Reference when carrying out *Validation* or *Verification* activities.
- 5.3 All *Validation* and *Verification* reports produced by *IEs* must be approved by Plan Vivo prior to the issuance of *Validation* or *Verification* statements.

### *Guidance*

- Independent *Validation* and *Verification* processes are undertaken by an appropriately qualified and approved *Independent Expert (IE)* with the support of the Plan Vivo. The *IE* will carry out the *Validation* and *Verification* of the *Project* and conduct the site visit. The *IE* must engage with the *Validation* or *Verification* until all *CARs/ NIRs* have been resolved, and the final *Validation* or *Verification* report has been issued.