



PV Nature

Glossary

Version 1.1

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INTRODUCTION

This document provides a glossary of terms used in the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard (PV Nature) and supporting documents. Glossary terms used in PV Nature documents are capitalised and italicised. It is not necessary to follow this convention in documents submitted to Plan Vivo, but the use of defined terms must be consistent with this document.

Definitions

- **Additionality** - The benefits from a *Project Intervention* are considered to be additional if they would not be achieved in the absence of the *Project*.
- **Annual Report** - 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*.
- **Avoidable Loss** - An actual or potential loss of verified *Biodiversity Benefits* or reduction in expected *Biodiversity Benefit* that is caused by activities that could have otherwise been avoided through appropriate implementation of the *Project*, such as improper management, or *Project Participant* leaving the *Project*.
- **Baseline Scenario** - The most likely future scenario for land use and land or aquatic management in a *Project Area* in the absence of *Project Intervention(s)*.
- **Benefit Sharing Mechanism** - A description of the allocation of income from the sale of *Plan Vivo Certificates* or *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates* to the *Project Participants*, *Project Coordinator* and other parties.
- **Biodiversity¹** - The variability among living organisms from all sources including terrestrial, marine and other aquatic ecosystems and the ecological complexes of which they are a part. This includes variation in genetic, phenotypic, phylogenetic, and functional attributes, as well as changes in abundance and distribution over time and space within and among species, biological communities and ecosystems.
- **Biodiversity Baseline** - The initial survey of biodiversity present on a site including the *Pillar Metric* values calculated from the data collected via that survey. It should include information on triggered *Key Biodiversity Area (KBA)* or *Important Plant Area (IPA)* criteria if relevant (see conservation project eligibility criteria).

¹IPBES 2015 :

<https://www.ipbes.net/glossary/biodiversity#:~:text=The%20variability%20among%20living%20organisms,which%20they%20are%20a%20part.>

- **Biodiversity Benefit(s)** - An improvement or maintenance in *Biodiversity* relative to the *Biodiversity Baseline* as a result of a *Project Intervention(s)*.
- **Carbon Benefit** - Net-increase in carbon stocks and/or reduction in greenhouse gas emissions relative to the carbon baseline as a result of a *Project Intervention*.
- **Carbon Pool** - A system that has the capacity to store or release carbon, including above-ground biomass, below-ground biomass, litter, dead wood, soil organic carbon and harvested wood products.
- **Certified** - The status of a *Project* that signifies its compliance with PV Nature. Can be used interchangeably with *Registered*.
- **Community Group** - An association of individuals in a common geographical area established to deliver a specific service or purpose for the broader community.
- **Community Wealth and Wellbeing**² - The combination of social, intellectual, economic, environmental, cultural, and political conditions identified, owned and controlled by a community that enable the community to care for one another and the natural environment which is essential for them to flourish and fulfil their potential.
- **Conservation Project** - A *Project* aimed at protecting existing areas of globally significant *Biodiversity*.
- **Corrective Action Request (CAR)** - A request by a *Validator* or *Verifier* for activities or changes to documentation to be implemented to ensure conformance with the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard.
- **Crediting Period(s)** - The period for which the *Biodiversity Benefits* achieved within a *Project Area* are eligible for issuance of *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)*. The minimum period over which a *Project Participant* agrees to implement a *Project Intervention* with the support of the *Project Coordinator*, and over which *Biodiversity Benefits* will be monitored.

² Adapted from Wiseman and Brasher, 2008 <https://doi:10.1057/jphp.2008.16>

- **Data Analytic Provider (DAP)** - An independent organisation approved by Plan Vivo to conduct the services of data analysis for the calculation of *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)* for *Projects* in line with the *PVNature Methodology* and requirements.
- **Data Collection Tool** - A checklist and procedures (e.g., device specification, calibration and collection protocol) used to collect any specific type of species, habitat or environmental data applied under the [PV Nature Methodology](#).
- **Double Counting** - Where more than one party claims the same *Biodiversity Benefit* to comply with their targets, or double issuance – where more than one *Biodiversity Benefit* is measured for the same *Project Area* under different mechanisms, this can result in Double Claiming.
- **Ecoregion³** - The list of terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems as defined by the World Wildlife Fund.
- **Environmental Baseline** – A description of the environmental conditions, including *Carbon Pools* and greenhouse gas emissions, expected to change under the *Baseline Scenario* in the *Project Region*.
- **Environmental Benefits** - *Environmental Indicators* that are maintained or improved in the *Project Region* relative to the *Environmental Baseline* as result of *Project* activities. e.g. soil quality improvement, watershed improvement, reduction in nitrate pollution.
- **Environmental Indicators** - Indicators used to monitor environmental conditions and threats in the *Project Region* relative to the *Environmental Baseline*.
- **Financial Reserve** - A portion of finances set aside for *Unavoidable Loss* events.
- **Forward Action Request (FAR)** - A request by a *Validator* or *Verifier* for activities or changes to documentation to be implemented within a defined timeframe to ensure future conformance with the Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard.

³ As defined by Olsen et al. 2001 [https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568\(2001\)051\[0933:TEOTWA\]2.0.CO;2](https://doi.org/10.1641/0006-3568(2001)051[0933:TEOTWA]2.0.CO;2)

- **Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC)** - is a principle protected by international human rights standards that state, 'all peoples have the right to self-determination' and – linked to the right to self-determination – 'all peoples have the right to freely pursue their economic, social and cultural development'.

FPIC is a specific right that pertains to indigenous peoples and is recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), which must also be upheld in Plan Vivo *Projects* where applicable.

In Plan Vivo *Projects*, the term FPIC is used to describe the principles for the negotiation of conditions under which a *Project* is designed, implemented, monitored, and evaluated:

- **Free** = consent is given voluntarily and without coercion, intimidation, or manipulation.
- **Prior** = consent is sought sufficiently in advance of any authorization or commencement of activities to allow time to understand, access, and analyse information on the proposed activity.
- **Informed** = information provided prior to seeking consent is accessible, objective, and complete.
- **Consent** = a collective decision ("Yes", "No", or "Yes with conditions") made by the rights-holders following their own timelines and decision-making processes with the option to reconsider if the proposed activities change or if new information relevant to the proposed activities emerges.
- **Grievance Mechanism**⁴ - A grievance mechanism is a set of arrangements that enable *Project Participants* and *Local Stakeholders* to raise grievances with the *Project* and seek redress when they perceive a negative impact arising from the *Project's* activities. It is a way to mitigate, manage, and resolve potential or realised negative impacts of the *Project*, as well as fulfil obligations under international human rights law and contribute to positive relations with communities and employees.
- **Habitat** - A place where organisms live. There are multiple available classification systems for habitat. The chosen system must be specified.

⁴ Adapted from <https://olc.worldbank.org/system/files/Grievance%20Redress%20Mechanisms%20%2819%29.pdf>

- **Important Plant Area (IPA) Criteria⁵** - Well-established and globally standardised criteria used to designate key sites for exceptional botanical richness; rare, threatened and socio-economically valuable plant species; and rare and threatened habitats.
- **Independent Expert (IE)** - An individual or a team of experts carrying out site visits as part of the Independent Expert *Validation* and *Verification* processes.
- **Indigenous People(s)⁶** - Indigenous peoples are inheritors and practitioners of unique cultures and ways of relating to people and the environment. They have retained social, cultural, economic and political characteristics that are distinct from those of the dominant societies in which they live.
- **Invasive Species⁷** - Invasive species are those that are not native to the location in which they are observed and that cause harm via their ability to spread out of control and outcompete native species. They are one of the major sources of pressure on biodiversity globally.
- **Key Biodiversity Area (KBA) Criteria⁸** - Well-established and globally standardised criteria used to designate areas of international importance of the most important places in the world for species and their habitats.
- **Land Management Plan(s)** - A description of the *Project Intervention(s)* to be implemented in the *Project Area(s)* managed by a *Project Participant*.
- **Leakage** - A reduction in *Biodiversity* or increased habitat degradation outside the *Project Area*, as a result of *Project* activities. Note that this definition excludes 'positive leakage'.
- **Leakage Discount** - A reduction in *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)* issued to provide insurance against the risk of *Leakage*.

⁵ Source: [https://www.plantlife.org.uk/protecting-plants-fungi/important-plant-areas/#:~:text=Important%20Plant%20Areas%20\(IPAs\),first%20IPA%20criteria%20in%202001](https://www.plantlife.org.uk/protecting-plants-fungi/important-plant-areas/#:~:text=Important%20Plant%20Areas%20(IPAs),first%20IPA%20criteria%20in%202001).

⁶ Adapted from <https://www.un.org/development/desa/indigenouspeoples/about-us.html>

⁷ IPBES 2019. <https://www.ipbes.net/glossary-tag/invasive-alien-species>

⁸ Source: <https://www.keybiodiversityareas.org/>

- **Loss Event** - An unplanned event that leads to a loss of verified *Biodiversity Benefits*. *Loss Events* can result in *Avoidable Losses* or *Unavoidable Losses*.
- **Marginalised People** - Individuals or groups of people prevented from full participation in social, economic and political life. Social, economic and political barriers can all contribute to the marginalisation of an individual or group, and people can be marginalised due to multiple factors such as geography, ethnicity, religion, caste, sexual orientation, gender, displacement, conflict or disability.
- **Multimetric** -The function that summarises the five *Pillar Metrics* to produce a single value representing site-level *Biodiversity* change. It is the cumulative sum of percent change across the *Pillar Metrics*.
- **Native Species** - Plant or animal species that occurs naturally within the *Project Region*, or is now regarded as naturalised.
- **New Information Request (NIR)** - A request by a *Validator* or *Verifier* for evidence or information that has not yet been provided.
- **Non-native Species⁹** - Any animals and plants that have been moved to a location outside their native range by human action, whether intentionally or not.
- **Opportunity Costs** - The foregone value of land or resources used under the *Baseline Scenario* that is lost as a result of the *Project*.
- **Outcome(s)** - The benefits the *Project* is designed to deliver during the *Project Period*.
- **Output(s)** - The direct results of *Project* activities that lead to the achievement of *Outcomes* e.g. number of trees planted or people trained.
- **Permanence** - ensuring the longevity and durability of *Biodiversity Benefits* within the management of the *Project Region*, taking into account the risk of *Reversal*.

⁹ Source: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/non-native-species-code-practice/>

- **Pillar Metric** - A metric that tracks change in one specific aspect of site-level *Biodiversity*. The *Pillar Metrics* are aggregated into the *Multimetric* to produce a single value representing site-level biodiversity change.
- **Plan Vivo Certificates (PVCs)** - A certificate issued to a *Project* by Plan Vivo for a verified (vPVC), reported (rPVC) or planned future (fPVC) *Carbon Benefit* of one tonne (also called a metric tonne) of carbon dioxide equivalent. Note that fPVCs can only be issued for removals that are expected to be achieved within the *Project's Crediting Period*, and cannot be issued for expected emission reductions.
- **Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)** - A certificate issued to a *Project* by Plan Vivo for a verified *Biodiversity Benefit* using the *PV Nature Methodology*.
- **PV Climate** – The Plan Vivo Carbon Standard
- **PV Nature Registry** - An independent, third-party environmental registry.
- **Progress Indicator(s)** – Indicator describing the level of progress towards expected *Biodiversity Benefits* and/or risk mitigation. Examples may include the number of:
 - Trees planted and number of trees survived
 - Patrols
 - Fences removed
 - Invasive trees removed
 - Animal traps removed
- **Project** - A Plan Vivo 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*.
- **Project Agreement** - A contract between a *Project Coordinator* and *Project Participant* (s) that grants the rights to *Biodiversity 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.
- **Project Area** - A discrete area (terrestrial or aquatic) within which one or more *Project Intervention*(s) is applied across the entire area and across which biodiversity is being quantified. *Projects* may be composed of more than one *Project Areas* within a defined

Project Region, and in grouped *Projects*, additional *Project Areas* that meet defined eligibility criteria can be added to the *Project* during the *Project Period*. Sometimes used interchangeably with 'site' or 'site-level'.

- **Project Coordinator** - A legal entity that takes overall responsibility for management and coordination of the *Project* and supporting the implementation of *Project Interventions* by *Project Participants*.
- **Project Design Document (PDD)** - Document describing the *Project* design and implementation process, and details that demonstrate conformance with PV Nature.
- **Project Employee** - An individual employed by the *Project Coordinator* or another party, to conduct *Project* activities.
- **Project Idea Note (PIN)** - A concept note for the *Project* submitted to Plan Vivo for approval prior to development of a *PDD*.
- **Project Intervention(s)** - A set of activities designed to conserve or restore land or aquatic areas, and have positive impacts on *Biodiversity* and environmental conditions, in addition to positive *Socioeconomic Benefits* and/or *Community Wealth and Wellbeing*.
- **Project Logic** - A description of the causal links between *Project* activities and expected *Biodiversity*, *Socioeconomic* and *Environmental Benefits* relative to the *Baseline Scenario*.
- **Project Participant** - 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 Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)*.
 - **Type I** = Project participants that are smallholders or community groups that reside within the *Project Area*;
 - **Type II** = Project participants that are not resident within the *Project Area*, do not manage land or natural resources within the *Project Area* for small-scale production, or are structurally dependent on year-round hired labour for their land or natural resource management activities.
- **Project Period** - The period from the earliest *Start Date* to the end of the last *Crediting Period*.

- **Project Region** - A discrete geographical area within which *Project Areas* are or could be located as part of a *Project*, and that includes any leakage buffers.
- **Project Scenario** – The scenario that involves implementation of *Project Intervention(s)* within a *Project Area*.
- **PV Nature Methodology** - The biodiversity quantification methodology for PV Nature, by which *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)* are quantified and quality checked. It sets minimum standards on *Biodiversity* data quality and sampling protocols, and it defines the *Pillar Metrics* via which *Biodiversity* data is aggregated into a *Multimetric* and then converted into numbers of *PVBCs*. Under the methodology, projects must collect and report data on a number of broad *Target Groups*, across a range of trophic levels.
- **Registered** - The point in the certification process at which a *Project* can be considered compliant with PV Nature. Can be used interchangeably with *Certified*.
- **Reporting Period** - The period covered by an *Annual Report*.
- **Restoration Project** - A *Project* aimed at restoring and regenerating previously degraded ecosystems.
- **Reversal** - A situation where the net *Biodiversity Benefit* for a *Project* within a *Verification Period* is negative.
- **Risk Buffer** - *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)* that are left unsold as insurance against the risk of *Reversal of Biodiversity Benefits* and managed through a pooled risk buffer.
- **Species¹⁰** - A group of organisms that can reproduce with one another in nature and produce fertile offspring.

¹⁰ Source: <https://www.nature.com/scitable/definition/species-312/>

- **Socioeconomic Baseline**- A description of the socioeconomic status of potential *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* prior to the start of the *Project*, and how these are expected to change under the *Baseline Scenario*. For *Type II Project Participants*, reference to *Community Wealth and Wellbeing* should be made.
- **Socioeconomic Benefit(s)** - Improvement of the socioeconomic status of *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* relative to the *Socioeconomic Baseline* as a result of *Project* activities and *Project Interventions*. Benefits must contribute to long-term livelihood improvement. Other considered *Socioeconomic Benefits* include (but are not limited to): salaries of local staff, local procurement, support to local education and other services, support for local development projects, and contributions to local development funds/charities, etc.
- **Socioeconomic Indicator(s)** – Indicator(s) used to monitor the socioeconomic status of *Project Participants* and other *Local Stakeholders* relative to the *Baseline Scenario*, with reference to *Community Wealth and Wellbeing*.
- **Stakeholder(s)**
 - **Local Stakeholder(s)** - An individual or group that is resident within the *Project Region* and could be affected by *Project* activities.
 - **Primary Stakeholder(s)** – An individual or group affected by the *Project* or that has potential influence on it. This includes all *Indigenous Peoples*, *Community Groups*, and local communities with customary user rights or historical access to the land or resources, and/or others who are directly affected by and use the biodiversity/land. *Primary Stakeholder(s)* must include anyone who uses the land, legally or illegally.
 - **Secondary Stakeholder(s)** – An individual or group with an indirect interest in the *Project*. For example government authorities, politicians, religious leaders, civil society organisations and groups with special interests, the academic community, and others who have a more indirect interest in the *Project*.
- **Stacking** - The issuance of both carbon credits and *Plan Vivo Biodiversity Certificates (PVBCs)* by the same *Project*.

- **Start Date** - The *Start Date* for a *Project Area* is the date on which the *Project Intervention* was first implemented.
- **Target Group** - A broad assemblage of species that will be surveyed using the same *Data Collection Tool*. This is for example, 'fish' rather than a specific type of fish.
- **Technical Reviewer** – An external expert that is part of the *Technical Review Panel (TRP)* and reviews the appropriateness of a *Project's* submitted *PDD* and associated monitoring and biodiversity data collection methods in line with the *PV Nature Methodology*.
- **Technical Review Panel (TRP)** – A collection of international *Technical Reviewers* that reviews the appropriateness of *Project Interventions* and associated biodiversity monitoring and data collection. They provide an assessment of the submitted *PDD* against the PV Nature Project Requirements and applied *PV Nature Methodology*.
- **Technical Specification** - A detailed description of the activities that will be carried out to implement and monitor the *Biodiversity Benefits* of a *Project Intervention*, and the *Biodiversity Benefits* expected to be achieved.
- **Unavoidable Loss** - An actual or potential loss of verified *Biodiversity Benefits* or reduction in expected *Biodiversity Benefits* that is caused by activities that the *Project Coordinator* cannot have been reasonably expected to manage, for example extreme weather events or civil unrest.
- **Uplift** – An increase in *Biodiversity Benefits* in the *Project Scenario* associated compared to the *Baseline Scenario*, caused by the *Project* activities.
- **Validation** - Assessment of conformance of the project design and governance structure with PV Nature.
- **Validation and Verification Body (VVB)** - An organisation approved by Plan Vivo to conduct *Validation* and *Verification* activities to determine conformance to PV Nature.
- **Validator** - An auditor or audit team approved by Plan Vivo to conduct a *Validation*.

- **Verification** - Assessment of on-going conformance of the *Project* to PV Nature, and verification of *Biodiversity* and *Socioeconomic Benefits* achieved.
- **Verification Period** - The period from the earliest *Start Date* to the end of the *Reporting Period* prior to the first *Verification*, or the period from the end of the last *Verification Period* to the end of the *Reporting Period* prior to the next *Verification*. A *Verification Period* cannot be longer than 5 years.
- **Verifier** - An auditor or audit team approved by Plan Vivo to conduct a *Verification*.
- **Vintage** - The period within which the *Biodiversity Benefit* of a *PVBC* is achieved.
- **Vulnerable and/or Disadvantaged People** - Individuals who may be more likely to be adversely affected by the *Project's* impacts and/or more limited than others in their ability to take advantage of the *Project's* benefits. These individuals may be more likely to be excluded from participating in the *Project* and may require specific support to do so. These individuals may also be considered *Marginalised People*.

Annex 1 – Version Control

Version Number	Date of release (DD/MM/YYYY)	Changes and additions since previous version
V1.1		• Addition of a new definition for Data Analytic Providers