



PV Nature

Requirements for Approval of Validation and Verification Bodies and/or Independent Experts

Version 1.0

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Requirements for Validation and Verification Bodies (VVBs)

VVBs working in Plan Vivo Biodiversity Standard (PV Nature) must demonstrate the following:

- Accreditation to ISO/IEC 17029:2019, Conformity assessment — General principles and requirements for VVBs, by a member of the International Accreditation Forum (IAF);
- Experience in a field related to biodiversity, ecology, conservation or environmental science, environmental project development or initiative aimed at providing social and/or environmental benefits.

VVB Approval Process

VVBs must be approved by Plan Vivo Secretariat prior to the start of any *Validation* or *Verification* activities under PV Nature. VVBs may apply at any time for approval to conduct *Validation* or *Verification* activities. The VVB application form may be found on the [Plan Vivo website](#) and shall be submitted along with all required supporting documentation:

- Evidence of accreditation;
- CV(s) of all lead auditors and essential team members, including training and skills;
- Evidence of professional service liability insurance.

The documentation for the approval process should be sent to:

biodiversity@planvivofoundation.org

At the point of submission for VVB approval, a VVB must outline the staff members who will be lead validators/verifiers and *Validation/Verification* team members. At least two lead validators/verifiers must be submitted, since each *Validation* and *Verification* requires one lead auditor and one senior internal reviewer. The VVB can also contract an *Independent Expert* (IE) who has been approved by Plan Vivo to conduct the *Validation* and *Verification* process.

When a VVB has been contracted to undertake a *Validation* or *Verification*, a Conflict-of-Interest (COI) form must be submitted to the Plan Vivo Secretariat on behalf of the proposed audit team. The CVs/Qualification Report of the audit team and other team members must be submitted and subsequently approved together with the COI form by Plan Vivo in advance of any *Validation* or *Verification* activities.

Requirements for IEs

Independent Experts (IEs) can be expert individuals or teams of experts. *IEs* are embedded in the *Validation* or *Verification* audit conducted by Plan Vivo by carrying out site visits and recording findings in the *Validation* or *Verification* report. These *IEs* can also be contracted by a VVB to carry out the *Validation* and *Verification* process. The *IE* application form can be found on the [Plan Vivo website](#).

IEs must have the following qualifications:

- Education - Master's degree or higher in a subject relevant to the evaluation; for example, biology, marine sciences, ecology, environmental engineering/ environmental sciences or similar;
- Work Experience - At least three (3) years of work experience in a field related to biodiversity, ecology or environmental science, environmental project development or initiative aimed at providing social and/or environmental benefits, or at least two years of undertaking audits of such projects or initiatives;
- Country-specific knowledge/language skills;
- Interviewing, listening, and observing skills;
- Sensitivity towards socioeconomic matters and environmental and social safeguards.