

Plan Vivo Verification Report
Document Prepared by Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc.

Project Name:	Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project (Sirebe)
Plan Vivo Project #	PV_2020_027
Aster Global Project Number:	20085.00
Report Issuance Date:	09 August 2021 (v1)

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Verification Report

Name of Verifier(s)	Date of Review
Aster Global Environmental Solutions Inc.	08 December 2020 to 09 August 2021

Project Description

As stated in the Babatana PDD Part A “The Babatana Rainforest conservation Project aims to deliver enduring benefits to participating tribal communities through the provision of payments (compensation) for the Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project loss of income from avoiding industrial logging. The Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project is designed to be a ‘grouped project’ that affords an opportunity for tribal groups within the Babatana Project Area to register and join the project, subject to new entrant criteria. As part of the project, community governance systems have been strengthened in order to effectively manage a community forest carbon project. This project will enable tribal associations to manage carbon revenue in a manner that brings sustainable benefits for communities in the form of community development initiatives and through administering the distribution of member dividends.

The core project aim is to reduce carbon emissions to the atmosphere by changing forest management in the eligible areas from commercial logging to forest protection. The project will also protect watersheds resulting in the maintenance of healthy river systems as a high-quality source of drinking water and as habitat for aquatic species. Forest protection will reduce the vulnerability of local communities to climate related risk through reducing the impact of extreme rainfall events on soil erosion and flooding, and the impacts of drought on water security.”

The GHG assertion provided by the Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project (Sirebe) and verified by Aster Global has resulted in the GHG emission reductions or removals of 108,895 tCO₂ equivalents (CO₂e) by the project during the reporting/monitoring period (01-January-2015 to 31-December-2019). A buffer withholding (21,780 tCO₂e total) was allocated based on the 20% risk buffer specified in the methodology and leading to a PVC issuance of 87,115 tCO₂e.

Document	Outstanding Corrective action	Activity against CAR
N/A	<i>There are no Outstanding Corrective Actions.</i>	N/A

Description of field visits (including list of sites visited and individuals/groups interviewed)

Description of field visit: The primary objectives of the site visit as stated in the Plan Vivo Validation ToR are to “Verify that the project’s physical site description and governance structure is as described in the project design document and technical specification(s)

- Identify objective evidence of conformance with each of the requirements in the Plan Vivo Standard by:
 - Interviewing and interacting with the project coordinator (in-country

- manager)
- Interviewing relevant stakeholders such as participating householders, community members and leaders, local government officials, government forestry agencies and extension services and other projects working in the same area
- Identifying and assessing available supplementary project documentation and tools e.g. planning documentation, databases, templates, legal agreements etc.
- Cross-checking results from interviews with project documentation to ensure that documentation reflects ground realities and staff awareness of project goals and procedures.
- Fully understand the project context and the views of other local stakeholders and experts regarding the project's likely impact and benefits”

Aster Global Environmental Solutions Inc (herein referred to as Aster Global) developed a site visit plan for the Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project (Sirebe) validation/verification as the site visit is a required tool to help the Validation and Verification Body (VVB) reach reasonable assurance. It will also allow the VVB to; understand application of the methodology on-site, confirm the implementation of Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project (Sirebe) project activities, and to identify possible sources of error to focus desktop validation/verification efforts.

For the field sampling effort, direct measurement re-creation, observation, interviews and review of the carbon losses and community elements in the key areas were determined to be some elements with the largest risk and were prioritized. Survey locations were selected and sampled based on access, safety, and material risk to the project. While conducting sampling efforts, the VVB visited examples (wherever possible) of other project activities that have been implemented.

Interviews were performed during the validation/verification site inspection and as part of the overall validation/verification process. The Aster Global verification team met with individuals with various roles in the project. This included a series of interviews with on-site and in-country staff that support the mission of the project and other conservation objectives.

Due to the COVID-19 global pandemic, the core Aster Global audit team was unable to travel to the Solomon Islands. However, the site visit was performed in the conventional manner with interviews and observations performed by Aster Global's in-country subcontractor, Dr. Richard Pauku.

Onsite interviews and informal discussions were conducted with The Nakua Programme (Programme Operator) staff, Natural Resources Development Foundation – NRDF (Project Coordinator) staff, the Sirebe Tribe (Project Owner) members and leaders, rangers (responsible for monitoring activities), and community groups.

In addition to the interviews that were conducted on-site the VVB also conducted various site inspections of the project area. These included visits to potential areas of deforestation that the VVB identified using remotely-sensed data and remeasurement of one forest inventory plot.

During the site visit, the audit team inspected two different potential areas of deforestation located within the project area. These areas were identified using remotely sensed data and marked as areas of potential deforestation to be visited during the site visit.

As part of the validation process, the VVB requested that one inventory plot be remeasured under the inspection of Dr. Pauku. The purpose of this exercise was to ensure that the Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for inventory plot installation were correctly followed ensuring high quality data formed the basis for carbon quantification.

List of individuals interviewed:

Individual	Affiliation	Role	Date
Robbie Henderson	Nakau Programme	CEO	Throughout audit
Michael Dyer	Nakau Programme	PES & Tech Officer	Throughout audit
Wilko Bosma	Natural Resources Development Foundation	Team Leader	Throughout audit
Linford J Pitatamae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Member of Executive Team	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Elijah Qalolilio	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Washington Rukumana	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Ismael Norokesa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Clinton Gatavae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Bendly Qalovaka	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Moses Zoleveke	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Ismael Norokesa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Junior Venqo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Fostina Ngengele	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Hansol Pitavoqa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Ranger	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Linford J Pitatamae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Bartholomew P Qalo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Elijah Qalolilio	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Warren Pitatamae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021

Washington Rukumana	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Thompson Poloso	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Mathew Pitavato	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Ismael Norokesa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Goldie Venqo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Hudson Rusa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Judd Warren	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Gregan Mark	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Elijah Spencer Jnr	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Danston Grey Silepapa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Clinton Gatavae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Hansol Pitatamae	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Bendly Qalovaka	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Rocking Mozokana	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Samson Taburi	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Bendly Pitakaji	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Lucy Jajo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Julie Jajo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Karan Qalo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Mary Qilatina	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Ivy Barikolo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Judith Qilalilio	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Madalyn Qilabari	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021

Margaret Velo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Margret Rhoda	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Alison Lupa	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Alina	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Juliet K	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Diana Qilapani	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
June Kokekurisi	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021
Gwen Qalo	Sirebe Tribal Association	Sirebe Tribe Community Member	08 February 2021 – 11 February 2021

Table 1. Summary of major and minor Corrective Actions (Insert CAR Text)

Theme	Major CARs	Minor CARs	Observations	Status
Project's Eligibility				
Ecosystem Benefits				
Project Coordination and Management				
Participatory design				
Quantifying and Monitoring Ecosystem Services				
Risk Management				
Livelihoods Impacts				
PES Agreement				

Table 2 - Report Conformance (Delete Yes/No as appropriate)

Theme	Conformance of Draft Report	Conformance of Final Report
Project's Eligibility	Yes	Yes
Ecosystem Benefits	Yes	Yes
Project Coordination and Management	Yes	Yes

Participatory design	Yes	Yes
Quantifying and Monitoring Ecosystem Services	Yes	Yes
Risk Management	Yes	Yes
Livelihoods impacts	Yes	Yes
PES Agreement	Yes	Yes

Verification Opinion: After completion of a site inspection and review of all project information, procedures, calculations, and supporting documentation, Aster Global Environmental Solutions, Inc., confirms the Project is accurate, consistent, and complies with all criteria in the Plan Vivo Standard 2013 and the selected methodologies (Nakau Methodology Framework and Technical Specifications Module: (C) IFM-LtPf v1.1: Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for the Nakau Programme). Aster Global confirms the *Babatana Rainforest Conservation Project PDD* (Version 1.2, dated 17 June 2021) and Monitoring report (*Babatana (Sirebe) Monitoring Report 1 D3.3 (1) (Version 1.2* dated 17 June 2021) has been implemented in accordance with Plan Vivo Standard 2013 criteria. Additionally, Aster Global confirms that the project documents represent an accurate and clear description of the project and its activities-based monitoring.

PROJECT'S ELIGIBILITY

Requirement: Project directly engage and benefit community groups

Verification Question: 1 and 2

1.1 Project interventions are still taking on land where smallholders and/or community groups have clear land tenure (1.1)

1.2 Land that is not owned by or subject to use rights has included in the project area because (1.2):

- It represents less than a third of the project areas at all times
- No part of the area was acquired by a third party from smallholders or community groups for the purpose of inclusion in the project
- Its inclusion will have clear benefits to the project by creating landscape level ecosystem benefits such as biodiversity corridors.
- There is an executed agreement between owners/managers of such land and participants regarding the management of the area consistent with these requirements

A. Findings (describe)	As allowed by Plan Vivo, this first verification event was conducted at the time of validation. During the validation, the audit team confirmed that the entire project area is owned by the Sirebe Community. The audit team reviewed customary ownership documents from the national government of the Solomon Islands recognizing the Sirebe Community as the landowner. The audit team also reviewed the Protected Area Certificate issued by the government of the Solomon Islands demonstrating that the project area has been protected in perpetuity through this governmental program. Aster Global confirms
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	that the Sirebe Community has clear land tenure to the entire project area.		
B. Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first verification.		
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.		
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.		

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Requirement: Project generates ecosystem service benefits and maintains or enhances biodiversity.

Verification Questions: 1, 3 and 5

- 2.1 Project interventions are maintaining or enhancing biodiversity (2.2)
- 2.2 Project interventions have not led to any negative environmental impacts (2.3)
- 2.3 Any trees being planted to generate ecosystem services are native or naturalised species and are not invasive (2.4)

A. Findings (describe)	This project is a logged to protected forest project, as a result there is no tree planting that occurs within the project area. The project activity will maintain the biodiversity that already exists within the forest. The audit team reviewed multiple biodiversity reports from the project area and greater surrounding area. It is clear from the findings in these reports that forest protection is necessary to maintain biodiversity in the project area. During the site visit the audit team found no evidence that biodiversity is being harmed as a result of the project activity. Additionally, due to the type of project activity there are no expected negative effects on biodiversity.		
B. Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first		

	verification.
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.

PROJECT COORDINATION AND MANAGEMENT

Requirement: Project is managed with transparency and accountability, engagement of relevant stakeholders and in compliance with the law of the Host Country.

Verification Questions: 1, 2 and 6

- 3.1** The project coordinator still has the capacity to support participants in the design of the project interventions, select appropriate participants for inclusion in the project, and develop effective participatory relationships including providing on-going support to sustain the project **(3.4)**
- 3.2** The project coordinator still has the legal and administrative capacity to enter into PES Agreements with participants and to manage the disbursement of payments for ecosystem services **(3.5)**
- 3.3** A transparent mechanism and procedures for the receipt, holding and disbursement of PES funds is applied, with funds intended for PES earmarked and managed through an account established for this sole purpose, separate to the project coordinator's operational finances. **(3.9)**
- 3.4** The project coordinator has accurately described the progress, achievements and problems encountered by the project in the Annual Reports. The Annual Reports transparently report sales figures and demonstrate resource allocation in the interest of target groups **(3.10; 3.11)**

A. Findings (describe)	<p>During the course of the joint validation and first verification, the VVB conducted interviews with the project coordinator, programme operator, and the Sirebe Community. The audit team confirms that the project coordinator still has the capacity to support the Sirebe Community in the implementation of this project. Additionally, the audit team confirms that there continues to be an effective participatory relationship between all groups participating in the project.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the legal standing of the Sirebe Community, NRDF (project coordinator), and the Nakau Programme (Programme Operator) and found no evidence that any of these organizations does not have the legal and/or administrative capacity to enter into the PES agreements. The PES agreement and PDD clearly describe how payments will be disbursed and the requirements for each organization to receive payments.</p> <p>The audit team confirms that a transparent mechanism and procedures are in place to effectively manage the disbursement of payments. Plan Vivo has already validated the Nakau Methodology Framework and Technical Specifications module. During this</p>
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	<p>verification, the audit team confirmed that the validated methodology as related to transparent systems for the disbursement and monitoring of payments is implemented correctly. Additionally, the Sirebe Community has a clear and transparent business plan that will continuously be updated by the community to manage the project and determine how payments will be used and allocated to community households.</p> <p>As the current verification occurred simultaneously with the validation and a simplified monitoring procedure (as allowed by the validated methodology) was used for this monitoring period, to date there have been no disbursements of payments. The disbursement of payments is contingent on the successful validation and verification of the project. However, the audit team confirms that the systems in place for monitoring disbursements and reporting progress, challenges, and achievements are in place. Additionally, all three organizations participating in the project understand their project roles and responsibilities. Aster Global reviewed the annual report and monitoring report and confirms that these documents are accurate.</p>			
B. Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>	
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first verification.			
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.			
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.			

PARTICIPATORY DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN VIVO

Requirement: the project has demonstrated community ownership: communities participate meaningfully through the design and implementation of plan vivos that address local needs and priorities.

Verification Questions: 1, 2 and 6

- 4.1 A voluntary and participatory planning that address local needs and inform the development of technical specification is taking place (4.1; 4.6; 7.1.). Barriers to participation are being identified and measures taken to encourage participation (4.3)
- 4.2 Smallholders or communities are not being excluded from participation in the project on the basis of gender, age, income or social status, ethnicity or religion, or any other discriminatory basis (4.2)
- 4.3 The project is not undermining the livelihood needs and priorities or reduce the food security of the participants (4.7; 7.1; 7.5)

4.4 There exists a system for accurately recording and verifying location, boundary and size of each plan vivo **(4.8)**. Participants have access to their *plan vivos* in an appropriate language and format **(4.9)**

4.5 Participants are being provided with a forum to periodically discuss the design and running of the project with other participants and raise any issuance or grievances with the project coordinator **(4.12)**. A robust grievance redressal system is in place **(4.14)**

A. Findings (describe)	<p>Aster Global confirms that the planning process was voluntary and participatory. During the course of the verification, the audit team interviewed the Nakau Programme, NRDF, community members and reviewed evidence to determine if the project used a community led approach to planning. During the early planning phases of the project, efforts were taken to inform the communities about the PES projects and how they function. The formation of the ownership group and associated communities, establishment of the Protected Area, determination of project management roles, establishment of the PES agreement and associated benefit sharing plan, and development of the management plan were all planning activities in which the community was involved. The audit team reviewed meeting reports and minutes documenting how the community was involved in the different aspects of planning as described in the PDD Part A. During interviews with community members and leaders, the community indicated that it was supported by the Nakau Programme and NRDF in establishing the project but it was the community that wanted to find a way to protect their community forest. Importantly, garden areas used by the community have been excluded from the eligible forest area and a sufficient buffer has been implemented around these garden areas to allow for expansion without negatively affecting the ability of the project to maintain intact the forest area that drives the PES crediting.</p> <p>As clarified by the Nakau Programme and NRDF the communities reach out to NRDF and the Nakau Programme about joining the project. Therefore, the audit team confirms that all communities have the opportunity to participate in the project if they meet the eligibility requirements. The audit team confirms that no communities were excluded from the project as a result of any of the factors stated in 4.2.</p> <p>As stated previously, the Sirebe Community was deeply involved in the project planning. Garden areas were mapped out of the eligible forest area with room for expansion as to maintain these areas as a source of food for the Sirebe Community. Additionally, within the text of the Protected Area Agreement with the Solomon Islands the taking of NTFP (non-timber forest products) is allowed by the Sirebe Community within the eligible forest area to maintain communal access to traditional food sources. The audit team found no evidence that the project would undermine the livelihood needs and priorities or reduce the food security of the participants. Aster Global is reasonably assured that the project is not undermining the livelihood needs and</p>
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	<p>priorities of the Sirebe Community.</p> <p>The Sirebe community has access to maps of the project area and their input into the project area boundaries was necessary for the project to proceed as they understood the community forest area boundaries. All aspects of the project location are described in the PDD and accurately mapped using digital spatial files, which were reviewed and confirmed by the audit team. During the course of the verification the audit team confirmed that most of the members of the Sirebe Community understand english and that the local dialect is not readily written or read by the community but is primarily a spoken language. The comprehensive management plan was pared-down to a one page summary that was translated into the local dialect to ensure all community members had this information in multiple different forms.</p> <p>The PES agreement that has been signed by the Sirebe Community, NRDF, and the Nakau Programme describes a robust grievance system that is in place to guide the project on how to deal with any grievances that are raised. As described in the PDD Part A there are annual project monitoring and management workshops where any member of the community can freely raise issues that occur within the project. Aster Global confirms that there exists multiple forums to periodically discuss the running of the project and there is a robust grievance management framework in place.</p>
B. Conformance	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>No <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first verification.
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.

QUANTIFYING AND MONITORING ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

Requirement: project generates real and additional ecosystem service benefits that are demonstrated with credible quantification and monitoring

Verification Questions: 2, 3 and 4

5.1 Sources of data used to quantify ecosystem services, including all assumptions and default factors, have been specified and updated, when possible, with a justification why they are appropriate (5.1; 5.2)

5.2 The project coordinator has been conducting ground-truthing activities in order to

<p>collect real data and field measurements from the project sites that have been or will be used to update the project's PDD and technical specifications, including the quantification of climate benefits (5.3)</p> <p>5.3 A clear and consistent Standard Operating Procedure (SOP), or equivalent, for remote sensing analysis has been elaborated by the project coordinator.</p> <p>5.4 The results of the remote sensing analysis are not in stark conflict with the results of Activity-Based Monitoring and there is a high level of correlation between the two monitoring methods. Reasons for any discrepancy have been accurately justified.</p> <p>5.5 Ecosystem services forming the basis of the Plan Vivo project are still additional (5.4).</p> <p>5.6 To avoid double counting of ecosystem services, the project interventions are not being used for any other project or initiative (5.14)</p> <p>5.7 A monitoring plan has been correctly implemented and a system for checking its robustness is in place, where (5.9; 7.2.; 7.3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Activity-Based Monitoring indicators and performance targets directly or indirectly linked to the delivery of ecosystem services. ABM provides sufficient evidence that the project is on track to deliver the expected impacts and to reduce the drivers of deforestation. • Corrective actions and contingency plans are described when performance targets have not been met • The validity and assumptions of the technical specifications have been correctly tested • Communities have been actively participating in monitoring activities • Monitoring has been regularly shared and discussed it with the participants 	
A. Findings (describe)	<p>As the first verification and validation are occurring jointly, there have been no updates to sources of data used for quantifying ecosystem services. However, during the course of the audit process the audit team reviewed all default factors and assumptions (that were not already included in the Plan Vivo validated methodology) and confirmed their appropriateness.</p> <p>During the audit process the audit team watched as the project's rangers remeasured one of the forest inventory plots. These inventory plots form the basis of the carbon quantification. The audit team confirmed that the SOPs for the forest inventory as detailed in the PDD were followed and implemented correctly. During the site visit the audit team, accompanied by the project's rangers and the project coordinator, performed boundary inspections to ensure boundaries near the garden areas were not being deforested. As a part of the simplified monitoring procedures as allowed by the Plan Vivo validated methodology, a remote sensing analysis was performed to highlight areas that have been deforested. The audit team reviewed this analysis and conducted our own independent assessment to confirm its accuracy. Also, as part of this review the audit team reviewed and confirmed appropriate the remote sensing SOPs. The results of the remote sensing analysis were not different from the results of the site visit conducted by the audit team. Although as stated before, the activity-based monitoring has not taken place as the project has elected for the simplified monitoring procedure as allowed by the</p>

	<p>validated methodology.</p> <p>The audit team confirms that the project activity is additional. Additionality was reviewed in-depth as part of validation. The review of additionality is described in detail in the validation report.</p> <p>The audit team found no evidence of double counting and confirms that there is a system in place for the preventing double counting in the future.</p> <p>Aster Global confirms that a robust monitoring system is in place and conforms to the monitoring requirements of the validated methodology. Although the project has elected to apply the simplified monitoring procedure for the first verification, the audit team confirmed that steps have been taken to ensure that the Sirebe Community is able to conduct the ABM. Specifically, rangers from the community have been hired and some training has taken place. Through interviews with the Sirebe Community the audit team confirmed that the community understands the monitoring that is to be conducted and that the monitoring is a requirement to receive disbursements from the project. Additionally, the project coordinator understands the monitoring requirements and has the capacity to supply training and oversee the ABM. As stated in the PDD Part A in Section 2.13.6.1, the Nakau Programme and NRDF will transfer more responsibilities for the monitoring and running of the project to the community as the project progresses. Updates to the responsibilities of each party in the PES agreement will be updated as the transfer of skills and responsibilities progresses. Each year these responsibilities will be discussed with all participants at the annual Project Management Meeting and Project Monitoring Workshop.</p>		
B. Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first verification.		
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.		
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.		

RISK MANAGEMENT

Requirement: The project manages risks effectively throughout its design and implementation.

Verification Questions: 2 and 4

- 6.1 Where leakage is likely to be significant, i.e. likely to reduce climate services by more than 5%, an approved approach has been used to monitor leakage and subtract actual leakage from climate services claimed, or as a minimum, a conservative estimation of likely leakage has been made and subsequently deducted from the climate services claimed (6.1; 6.2)
- 6.2 The level of risk buffer that has determined using an approved approach is adequate and is a minimum of 10% of climate services expected (6.3)
- 6.3 Does the project maintain a buffer account and is the cumulative total of credits deposited in the account equal to the total reported in the latest annual report? (6.3)

A. Findings (describe)	<p>Through multiple discussions with the project and supported by evidence provided by the project, Aster Global is reasonably assured that both market leakage and activity shifting leakage has been appropriately accounted for and are below the 5% threshold as required by the Plan Vivo Standard.</p> <p>The PDD states that all forested and non-forested land owned by the Sirebe tribe will be subject to their Conservation Management Plan and protected under the Protected Areas Act of 2010. The audit team reviewed the Conservation Management Plan and confirmed that it is in place and the community members are aware of the plan. As a result, the audit team is reasonably assured that there is no activity shifting leakage occurring.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the assessment of Total Market Leakage (Appendix 11 of the PDD Part B). Based on interviews with the Nakau Programme and NRDF and evidence in the form of news articles, government reports, and published literature the audit team is reasonably assured that due to the high rate of logging in the Solomon Islands there will be no market leakage due to the project activity.</p> <p>The project applies the 20% risk buffer required by the validated methodology. The audit team confirms that this buffer is applied and calculated correctly. The buffer credits will be set aside in the Plan Vivo Foundation Buffer Account. For this monitoring period 21,779 buffer credits will be moved to the Plan Vivo Buffer account. The number of buffer credits is reported correctly in the Monitoring Report (Babatana (Sirebe) Monitoring Report 1 D3.3 (1) v1.2 17062021.pdf).</p>
B. Conformance	<p>Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> N/A <input type="checkbox"/></p>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	<p>All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first</p>

	verification.
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.

PES AGREEMENT AND BENEFIT SHARING	
Requirement: project shares benefits equitably and transact ecosystem services benefits through clear PES Agreements with performance-based incentives.	
Verification Questions: 1, 2 and 6	
<p>7.1. Procedures for entering into a PES Agreement with participants are being applied correctly (8.2)</p> <p>7.2. Participants are entering into PES agreement voluntarily and according to the principle of free, prior, informed consent, in an appropriate language and format (8.3)</p> <p>7.3. PES Agreements are not removing, diminishing or threatening participant's land tenure (8.4)</p> <p>7.4. A fair and equitable benefit-sharing mechanism is in place and has been agreed with the participation of communities involved, identifying how PES funding will be distributed among participants (8.8; 8.9; 8.10)</p> <p>7.5. The project has committed to deliver at least 60% on average of the proceeds of the sales of Plan Vivo Certificates. Where less than 60% has been delivered, the project has justified why this was not possible (8.12)</p>	<p>A. Findings (describe)</p> <p>As required by the validated methodology and the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013, the PDD describes procedures for entering into PES Agreements. The audit team reviewed meeting minutes from multiple meetings in which the community was involved in the decision-making process for establishing the Protected Area, developing the management plan, and signing of the PES Agreement. Based on a review of the evidence and interviews with the community members and leaders the audit team is reasonably assured that the Sirebe Community entered these agreements voluntarily and according to the principle of free, prior, and informed consent (FPIC).</p> <p>The PES Agreement clearly describes the benefit sharing mechanism and has been agreed to by the Sirebe Community. Additionally, the Sirebe Community has a business plan that describes how members of the community will receive benefits and how the expenditures will be transparently tracked.</p> <p>The audit team confirms that the project has committed to deliver at least 60% of the proceeds from sales of Plan Vivo Certificates to the community. As a result of the joint validation and verification, there have been no sales of Plan Vivo Certificates to date.</p>

B. Conformance	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>	N/A <input type="checkbox"/>
C. Corrective Actions (describe)	All Corrective Actions that were identified based on the Plan Vivo Standard, 2013 are listed in the Validation report. Additionally, Annex 1 of this report contains all Corrective Actions and the Project's responses that were identified in the combined validation and first verification.		
D. (Insert Project Coordinator's Name) Response	Please see Annex 1.		
E. Status	All corrective actions have been closed.		

The Verifier: (Aster Global Environmental Solutions Inc.)

Signature: (the Verifier)  **Date:** 09 August 2021

Lead Verifier: Shawn McMahon

ANNEX 1: Corrective Actions Issued During the Validation and 1st Verification

Item Number	1
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	3. Project coordination and management
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	3.5. The project coordinator must have the legal and administrative capacity to enter into PES agreements with participants and to manage the disbursement of payments for ecosystem services.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A section 2.13.4
Findings - Round 1	Evidence has been provided that the project coordinator has the legal and administrative capacity to enter into PES agreements with participants and to manage disbursements of payments for ecosystem services. However, the audit team understands the programme operator is responsible for PES disbursements and not the project coordinator. It is unclear whether the current structure is appropriate given Criteria 3.5 of the Plan Vivo Standard.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please clarify how the project satisfies this Plan Vivo requirement.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The validated NMF states (section 4.2.4) that if agreed by the Project Coordinator and Project Owner, and approved by the Project Operator, projects in the Nakau Programme may nominate a trusted 3rd party to administer the Project Trust Account on their behalf. The Nakau Programme has been appointed to operate the Project trust Account in this project. This appointment is confirmed in the tri-party PES agreement. Furthermore, we understand now that this is the most practical way to administer funds coming into nakau projects generally, and will make future amendments to the NNMF to confirm this as the preferred option.
Findings - Round 2	After discussion with Plan Vivo it is clear that although this criteria is not satisfied the approach taken by the project proponent is satisfies the intent of this criteria. No further action is needed.
Item Number	2
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	3. Project coordination and management

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	3.7. Relevant local, national or international laws and regulations that impact on the project design and management must be identified by the project coordinator and documented including, how the project design has taken them into account to ensure compliance with the law.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.13.10
Findings - Round 1	5 laws/regulations have been identified. However, there is no to little description of "how the project design has taken them into account to ensure compliance with the law"
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please add additional language to this section to satisfy the 3.7 of the Plan Vivo Standard.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	PD Part A Section 2.13.10 has been updated.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD Part A and confirms the project has taken the relevant laws and regulations into account in the project design and management. This criteria is satisfied.
Item Number	3
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	3. Project coordination and management
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	3.10. A project budget and financial plan must be developed by the project coordinator and updated at least every three months, including documentation of operational costs and PES disbursed, and funding received, demonstrating how adequate funds to sustain the project have been or will be secured.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 4.2 Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	Although there is significant detail in the PD Part A and associated business plan, these items do not appear to have been updated within the last 3-months.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please update the budget and financial plan to reflect the most recent expenditures of the project to satisfy the requirement 3.10.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The project budget and financial plan is updated after first verification event. The financial plan is reviewed and if needed updated quarterly. The project budget and financial plan was not updated in the first project monitoring report because it follows the Simplified Monitoring Report Template, where only the first budget and financial plan is show. In future annual reports, the budget and monitoring report will reflect updates and revisions, according to expenditure and PES sales.

Findings - Round 2	After discussion with Plan Vivo it is clear that although this criteria is not satisfied the approach taken by the project proponent is satisfies the intent of this criteria. No further action is needed.
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Item Number	4
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	3. Project coordination and management
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	3.13. Community members, including women and members of marginalized groups, must be given an equal opportunity to fill employment positions in the project where job requirements are met or for roles where they can be cost-effectively trained.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.13.16
Findings - Round 1	The audit team understands that where possible marginalized groups will be given equal employment opportunities as stated in the PD. However, the PD notes that cultural sensitivity will be applied in respecting customs of the Sirebe tribe. Although the audit team understands the importance of respecting customs of the project owners it is unclear if this is allowable based on criteria 3.13.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please clarify how this criteria is met. Additional evidence such a gender breakdown of the current employees within the tribe could be useful in showing compliance with this criteria.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Although the project owner has not commenced with the sales of credits yet and no income has been received by the tribe the organizational management structures, linked to expected project employment have been set-up. For the Company only 2 managers are appointed: the Financial Manager (Female) and the Operational Manager (Male). Furthermore the Association of the Tribe, who is the sole shareholder of the company, holds 4 women positions. The project coordinator has observed that women in Choiseul are marginalized due to cultural aspects and restrictions but has taken efforts to include women in the management structures as much as possible. To improve this situation NRDF has recruited its first Women Development Officer who will help to build capacity amongst women and girls to enable them to take part in project management and find employment opportunities in the project itself and beyond. This year training sessions in financial management, computer skills and project administration will be provided for females from project owners within the Babatana project. Besides employment the Project Coordinator helps to set-up and strengthen women saving clubs and has asked the Sirebe Company to set aside a certain percentage of their annual income from credits for exclusive women development projects. Inclusiveness and gender are subject to continues monitoring by the project coordinator and Programme owner.

Findings - Round 2	Based on the project proponent's response to the finding it is clear that significant efforts are being taken to give equal opportunity to marginalized groups. Furthermore, the project proponent has demonstrated that a number of positions have been designated to be filled by women. This will be confirmed at future verifications. This criteria is satisfied.
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Item Number	5
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	4. Participatory design and development of plan vivos
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	4.9. Participants must have access to their plan vivo in an appropriate format and language.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team if this criteria has been satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please provide verifiable evidence that this criteria has been satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The English language is understood by most (if not all) members of the Sirebe Tribe. Whilst we encourage members to read through the entire management plan, a one page management plan has been developed and must be read and understood as a requirement of the PA Declaration process. This one-page management plan consists of a PA area map, a list of rules & regulations and some brief background information on the PA. It is printed as a poster and displayed on a village notice board and will also be available as a handout. Further explanation added to PD Part A Section 3.1.2.1 p 66/67, and 3.1.4.2 p. 76.
Findings - Round 2	The project proponent has clarified that the Babatana and Solomon Islands Pidgin is not readily written by community members. Therefore, it is clear that translating a technical document into these languages is not possible and would not be very useful. However, meetings with the project owner group are often conducted in the local languages. As a result, it is clear that English is an appropriate format for the technical documents as it is widely understood in the project owner's group. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	6
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	5. Quantifying and monitoring ecosystem services

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.9.1. Performance indicators and targets to be used and how they demonstrate if ecosystem services are being delivered. Performance targets may be directly or indirectly linked to the delivery of ecosystem services, e.g. based on successful implementation of management activities or other improvements but must serve to motivate participants to sustain the project intervention
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 8
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear where the specific performance indicators and targets are as required by the Plan Vivo standard.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied or add additional language to satisfy this criteria.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Performance indicators and targets have been added to the PD Part B, sections: 8.1.1 (Carbon) , 8..2.1 (community) and 8.3.1 (biodiversity). These targets and indicators are consistent with the monitored parameters and monitoring techniques, hence some are qualitative or simple. E.g. Biodiversity monitoring is simply to record presence of significant species, therefore the target is "persistence of significant species..."
Findings - Round 2	The audit team confirms that the performance indicators and targets have been added to the appropriate parts of the PD. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	7
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	5. Quantifying and monitoring ecosystem services
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.9.4. Duration of monitoring
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 8.1
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to determine from language in the PD the duration of monitoring.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please add additional language to the PD to clarify the duration of the monitoring.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Updated the text to describe that the monitoring occurs every 3 to 5 years, at a maximum of 5 year intervals. Described that each parameter is monitored annually, biannually or once during each monitoring period.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team confirms that additional language has been added to the appropriate parts of the PD. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	8
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	5. Quantifying and monitoring ecosystem services
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.9.5. How the validity of any assumptions used in technical specifications are to be tested.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The assumptions used in the technical Specifications were tested through the validation audit (3rd party and Plan Vivo TAC) who validated the technical specification applied. Other potential assumptions (e.g. data to be applied to the TS module) are the subject of other specific questions within the findings (these findings) and tested through the audit.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team confirms that because the TS Module was validated by Plan Vivo, the audit team is reasonably assured that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	9
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	5. Quantifying and monitoring ecosystem services
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.9.6. Resources and capacity required
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 8.1.8
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to determine from language in the PD the duration of monitoring.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please add additional language to the PD to clarify the duration of the monitoring.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 8.1.8 updated to include text on the during and frequency of monitoring, referring to table 8.1.8 which outlines when the monitoring occurs.
Findings - Round 2	Table 8.1.7 and Section 8.1.8 of the PD describe the resources and capacity required for monitoring.

Item Number	10
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	5. Quantifying and monitoring ecosystem services
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.9.8. How results of monitoring will be shared and discussed with participants
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 8.1.8.2
Findings - Round 1	The PD Part B states "Community monitoring outputs are recorded in annual Project Management Reports prepared and approved by the Project Owner with the assistance of the Project Coordinator. Project Management Reports are submitted for approval to the Project Coordinator and the Programme Operator on an annual basis. The Project Coordinator collates the content of annual Project Management Reports into Project Monitoring Reports. Project Owners and the Project Coordinator approve each Project Monitoring Report before being submitted to the Programme Operator for approval. Once approved by the Programme Operator the Project Monitoring Report is submitted for a verification audit." However, it is unclear to the audit team from this section how results will be shared with participants.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please include additional language to the PD to clarify how results will be shared with project participants.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Text in Section 8.1.9.2 Sharing the Results of Community Monitoring has been updated. The results of the survey will be shared with the community and project participants through a number of ways. Through quarterly project meetings and through project management meetings annually. It is the responsibility of the project owner and project coordinator to share the results with the community. The project operator supports the project coordinator when required.
Findings - Round 2	Additional text in section 8.1.9.2 has been added and describes how the results of the monitoring will be shared with project participants.
Item Number	11
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	7. Livelihood impacts
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	7.5. The project must strive to avoid negative impacts on participants and nonparticipants, especially those most vulnerable. Where negative socioeconomic impacts are identified, these must be reported to the Plan Vivo Foundation and a participatory review of project activities undertaken with the participants/communities to identify steps to mitigate those impacts.

Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to find any mention of negative impacts on program participants.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify for the audit team if there are potential negative impacts to project participants. If there are no potential negative impacts to project participants please state this clearly in the PD.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Paragraph 5.2.2.3 and 5.2.2.4 of PD part A describes the expected impacts of the project on the livelihoods of the Sirebe people and for nearby community members (non-owners). The Project has identified only one possible negative impacts on the livelihoods and food security of the people of the Sirebe Tribe, which is not expected to impact neighboring communities. The likelihood of this impact is answered in section 5.2.2.4 and it will be closely monitored and addressed, as described in section 5.2.3.6. The project answers to the long time wish of the Sirebe people to conserve and manage their forest resources for now and in the future. The project provides them a with a way of legal protection against logging, mining and also protects the tribe against any unlawful land claims by other tribes, mitigating the well known negative social and environmental impacts of these alternative land uses. At the same time the project will support the people in their social-economic development aspirations managed and governed by the tribe itself.
Findings - Round 2	In section 5.2.2.4 of the PD Part A there is one potential negative impact described and mitigation steps as well as how this impact will be monitored. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	12
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.2.1. The quantity and type of ecosystem services transacted
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A and PES agreement.
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to determine where in the PES agreement the quantity of ecosystem services transacted is listed.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please address in line with the findings.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	An exact quantity of units could not be included within a PES agreement prior to completion of the audit and verification because it is not known until the audit is completed and verification approved. Schedule 2, clause 3 'volume of units' states that Nakau will attempt to sell "every unit that is available," which refers to credits issued. Nakau is happy to commit to improving the PES agreement and including a volume of credits to be transacted, but is unable to do this prior to the conclusion of the verification audit.
Findings - Round 2	After discussion with Plan Vivo it is clear that although this criteria is not satisfied the approach taken by the project proponent is satisfies the intent of this criteria. Specifically, as stated by the project proponent prior to the verification of credits it is impossible to state the quantity of credits that will be transacted. No further action is needed.

Item Number	13
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.2.8. Any impacts of the agreement on rights to harvest food, fuel, timber or other products
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A and PES agreement.
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to confirm where this criteria is satisfied within the PES agreement.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify for the audit team how this criteria is satisfied or included the necessary language in the PES agreement.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>The PES agreement Background / Introduction Section (B) states (p3.): "This Agreement does not alter or transfer in any way pre-existing customary rights of ownership, access to or use of resources over the land to which this Agreement relates." This recognizes customary rights under Solomon Islands law and safeguards rights to access food, fuel, timber or other products. Further, PES Section 5.2 (a) requires that the project owner implement the project according to the PD. Schedule 2 clause 2 (d) allows the Nakau program to withhold payment in the case of non-compliance with the NMF or the PD. The PES agreement therefore refers to these documents which provide safeguards for food security and subsistence resource use. E.g. PD A section 4.1.1.8 Impacts of PES Agreement on Rights to Food, Fuel, Timber, it states: The Project will not impact the right of landowners to harvest resources for their needs outside of restrictions noted in the Sirebe Protected Area Management Plans (Appendix 5) and the Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM-LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0. NB: the TS module allows for di-minimis harvesting (subsistence use) within the eligible area of up to 5% of timber. The Conservation management Plan under the PA Act allows for subsistence use. The land use plan identifies and removes garden areas from the area managed for carbon.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>Thank you for the clarification. Although the PES agreement does not explicitly state the potential impacts to harvest food, fuel, timber or other products. The PES agreement states that the customary rights to the land are maintained. Furthermore, the PES agreement ensures compliance with the PD which clearly states the potential impacts and mitigation measures taken to protect the rights to harvest food, fuel, timber or other products. This criteria is satisfied.</p>

Item Number	14
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.5.2. A proven track record in identifying funders or buyers in ecosystem markets or from other sources
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	<p>The audit team was unable to locate the "First issuances from Nakau Programme Drawa and Loru project. Additionally, the audit team was unable to locate the established sales and purchase agreements discussed in the PD.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide verifiable evidence of the items mentioned in the finding.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Nakau has now signed an emissions reduction purchase agreement with MyClimate for vintages 2017 - 2023. Please find agreement added to the PD Part A appendices folder (shared drive) as Appendix 25. Also please refer to the Drawa Annual Report on the Plan Vivo website that includes records of all credits sold (p.17 of the report). This provides previous sales evidence. https://www.planvivo.org/Handlers/Download.ashx?IDMF=5c525545-7ee8-429b-be9f-130b05f1e39c
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the sales that have been conducted by the Nakau program for the Drawa project and the audit team is reasonably assured that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	15
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.6. Where a greater number of smallholders or community groups wish to enter PES agreements than the project coordinator is able to engage, e.g. because of lack of resources, a fair process for selecting participants must be defined. The process should take into consideration the potential for tensions or disputes being created within or between communities.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how the PD satisfies this criteria.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	NRDF as project Coordinator does not select its partners (project owners) but receives applications from tribes that are genuine interested in Forest conservation and object to logging. They also need to fulfill to some criteria so that a partnership is practically possible. A partnership means that NRDF will assist the tribe in going through the Protected Area Process first and reach declaration under the Protected Area ACT. This process is a difficult and time consuming process. Once a Tribe has been declared PA the development of a carbon projects starts and a PES agreement is signed. NRDF has enough capacity to assist in both processes and there is certainly no "competition" between tribes on who is included or not in the project. It is all based on whether or not a tribe reaches their PA status and is ready to develop a carbon project under the Babatana project.
Findings - Round 2	Thank you for the clarification. The audit team understands that the project owner groups approached NRDF to go through the Protected Area Process which is a prerequisite for entering into a PES agreement with the project coordinators and the program operator. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	16
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Plan Vivo Standard 2013 Section	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.9. Details of the benefit-sharing mechanism must be made available to participants in an appropriate format and language.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>There are between sixty and seventy languages spoken in the Solomon Islands. The official language is English however the most commonly used language to communicate is Solomon Island Pijin. Babatana, also spelled Mbambatana, is the principal indigenous language of Choiseul Province and the Babatana project area. Although native to the South Choiseul coastline area between Sepa and the Manggo Bay area, the use of this language has spread across much of Choiseul Island and it is generally understood, much like Solomon Islands Pijin, across the province as a second or third language. Solomon Islands pidgin is very close to English and in many cases referred to as "broken English". To make all documentation clear and readable for all tribe members and stakeholders, the English language is used in all final documents.</p> <p>During all awareness meetings, tribal meetings and technical training Solomon Islands Pidgin was used. If needed, coordinators translated in babatana language. The babatana language is not a written language and not many people are able to read babatana and likewise, for Solomon Islands Pidgin. Most project documents cover many technical terms that are hard to translate in both Babatana and Pidgin. It is for that reason that english was used in all documents to make sure the content of the documentation is understood by all people involved in the project, and also so that it is legally sound.</p>
Findings - Round 2	The project proponent has clarified that the Babatana and Solomon Islands Pidgin is not readily written by community members. Therefore, it is clear that translating a technical document into these languages is not possible and would not be very useful. However, meetings with the project owner group are often conducted in the local languages. As a result, it is clear that English is an appropriate format for the technical documents as it is widely understood in the project owner's group. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	17
Plan Vivo Standard 2013	8. PES Agreements (transacting ecosystem services) and benefit sharing

Section	
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	8.10. The project coordinator must provide justification for any payments for ecosystem services delivered in kind or in the form of equipment or resources other than money.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	A PES agreement is in place and has been approved and signed by the Programme Operator, Project Coordinator, and Project Owner. Additionally, the project owner has developed a business plan and the requisite formal entities to guide how PES funding is distributed to different members of the Project Ownership Group. To date the audit team is not aware if there have been PES funds disbursed in the form of equipment or resources other than money. However, the audit team understands based on conversations with the Programme Operator and Project Coordinator that monitoring equipment has been purchased and the audit team is requesting to better understand how these items were paid for.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify if there has been a disbursement of PES funds in the form of equipment or resources other than money.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	In section 8.3.3 of PD part B 'it is outlined that, Financial support for in depth and robust biodiversity assessment, monitoring and inventories will be sought after by the project coordinator and project operator.' The monitoring equipment was procured and paid for by Nakau and provided to NRDF and the Sirebe Tribal Association, through a regional GIZ grant for the project REDD+ - Forest Conservation in Pacific Islands Countries II, under the agreement number 81251422. Nakau Provided two mobile devices with covers, glass and waterproof pouches, to NRDF and a laptop for the data collection and GIS aspects of monitoring. All items procured were agreed to in the GIZ budget and were procured with 81251422 project funds. Each item as a receipt and invoice, from Nakau or NRDF. To-date no PES funds has been distributed among different parties and no PES funds have been disbursed in the form of equipment or resources.
Findings - Round 2	Although the program operator has procured equipment through procuring grants to fund the purchase of these items, it is clear that these items were not delivered as in kind PES. Additionally, no PES payments have been made as the project is currently going through validation. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	18
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.3.2 Geology and Soils

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	All projects shall describe (with reputable references) the geology and soils of the Project Area and surrounding environs.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.3.1
Findings - Round 1	This criteria is satisfied. However, the audit team notes this information is erroneously included in section 2.3.1.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please update the numbering in the PD to reflect sections and subsections that are in a proper order.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 2.3.1 has been updated now reflects that the content is in the appropriate sections
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	19
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.4.1 Project Area (PA)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	All projects shall define the Project Area (PA). The Project Area may be composed of more than one land parcel that are aggregated to form a single project. Each Project Area land parcel shall be depicted in a map image with land tenure boundaries.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.4.1.1 and 2.4.1.2, Spatial files, See Project Boundaries Data Check
Findings - Round 1	<p>The audit team reviewed the project area boundaries, garden boundaries, and eligible forest area. The audit team found discrepancies between the reported area in the PD and area that is referenced in the spatial files. The audit team found that the total project area is 853.31 ha, the gardens area is 22.13 ha, and the eligible forest area is 831.18.</p> <p>Additionally, the audit team notes that the total project area boundary includes non-forest area as the boundary is placed in the middle of the river on the eastern side of the project area.</p>

Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR Please ensure that the eligible forest area includes only forested areas.</p> <p>MCAR Please update the area calculations for the project area, eligible forest area, and garden areas.</p>
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Nakau and NRDF believe the error in the in the eligible forest area likely comes down to differences in the use of projections and datums and the basic systems in which the land boundaries are mapped in the land registry in the Solomon Islands. The project boundary that being the Sirebe boundary, meets in the middle of rivers and other features. NRDF and Nakau have sought to systematically resolve the issue as accurately as possible, as to only include forest areas. First, we reviewed the where the GPS points to map the boundary had been collected and in what coordinate reference system. We made sure the boundary and data was in the correct coordinate reference system, UTM Zone 57s. We then overlaid the boundary over spatial imagery, used for monitoring. We digitized the boundary using the vertex editor tool in QGIS, and added vertexes and changed their positions to only include forest areas, moving the boundary away from the center of the river and riverside vegetation. We particularly focused on the north-east and east sections of the Sirebe border, where the boundary was overlapping with the river and riverine zone. Now the boundary of the eligible area has changed, only to include forest areas. We then recalculated the area of both the eligible area and the gardens and subtracted gardens from the total. We ensured the area was calculated in the coordinate reference system, WGS/UTM ZONE 57s and datum WGS 1984 using the area function in QGIS, in the field calculator. The resulting area was 806.19 hectares. The updated shapefiles, for boundary, gardens and areas of interested have been sent with the responses to these findings.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>The audit team reviewed the updated project area using the new shapefiles and confirms that the eligible forest area as described in Appendix 4 is correct, 806.19 hectares. The audit team noted that multiple values in both parts of the PD and MR need to be updated.</p>
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR: Please ensure that all values in the PDD and MR are updated to reflect changes to the eligible forest area, carbon credits, etc.,</p>
	<p>MD</p>
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	<p>The Protect Area and Project Area has remained at 856 but the area generating carbon credits is 806.19. We have updated the PDDs and the MR with the eligible area figure of 806.19 hectares. We have then updated the carbon accounting to include this figure.</p>
Findings - Round 3	<p>The audit team reviewed the updated PDD and MR and confirmed that the correct eligible project area is stated.</p>

Item Number	20
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.5 PROJECT ECOSYSTEM SERVICE STRATEGY

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	2.5 PROJECT ECOSYSTEM SERVICE STRATEGY
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.5
Findings - Round 1	This section does not appear to have project related details.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please ensure all required sections by the NMF are filled out.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Amended in PD
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	21
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.11 PROJECT TIMESCALES
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<p>All projects shall describe the following project temporal boundaries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project Period (including Project Start Date and Project End Date) • Project Crediting Period (if different from the Project Period) • Project Monitoring Period • Project Management Period
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.11
Findings - Round 1	The audit team notes that the project period end date is listed as 2045; however, it appears the end date should be 2044.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please update in line with the findings.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Amended in PD
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	22
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Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.11 PROJECT TIMESCALES
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Project Management Period: The Project Management Period comprises each annual project management cycle, starting on the Project Start Date.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.11
Findings - Round 1	There is no project management period specified.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please update in line with the findings.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Amended in PD. Management period added.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	23
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.13.6 Transfer of Skills and Responsibilities
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The roles and responsibilities of the Project Coordinator and Project Owner must be examined annually at each Project Management Workshop (see 3.1.6) and at the conclusion of each monitoring period at the Project Monitoring Workshop (see 3.1.7). Agreed changes to any services provided by the Project Coordinator that can be transferred to the Project Owner should be adopted through a variation to the PES Agreement.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to find verifiable evidence that annual Project Management Workshops have taken place.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide verifiable evidence that this criteria has been satisfied.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 3.1.7 states 'These reports will be completed and presented through a project management workshop to landowner participants annually, commencing one year after validation and first verification of each sub-project within the Babatana Grouped Project'. Section 3.1.8 has been updated. The Project Management Workshops have not occurred and are anticipated to occur, one year after the verification event, which is now reflected in the text.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands that the because the project has not been validated and gone through the first verification. As a result, the Project Management workshops will start once the project has been successfully validated and verified.

Item Number	24
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.13.6 Transfer of Skills and Responsibilities
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Table 2.13.6
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	MR
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to find where updates on capacity building were reported in the MR.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please add this section to the MR.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	See notes above on section 3.17 and 3.1.8, were updates on the roles and responsibilities will be discussed and determined annually, after the first verification event. Currently, NRDF has had some increases in capacity through AVENZA and field monitoring training, which as also been shared with the project owners. The AVENZA training and capacity strengthening will continue and roles will discussed at project management meetings.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understand that because the initial verification occurs at the time of validation the project applies the Simplified Monitoring as allowed by the methodology and this criteria will be addressed the subsequent verification events.

Item Number	25
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Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.13.7.5 Instrument of Protection
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Each project is required to include an Instrument of Protection to safeguard the integrity of the project activity and prevent baseline activities. The Instrument of Protection will vary depending on the project type and the legal or customary circumstances in the host country. The Instrument of Protection must be finalized prior to first verification, however it is sufficient to provide a draft or description of the instrument that will be applied at PD validation stage.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A and Associated Appendices
Findings - Round 1	The audit team confirmed that the Sirebe Tribe has registered the project area under the Protected Areas Act 2010.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Is there currently a publicly available data set of registered participants or spatial files showing which areas have been protected under the Protected Areas Act?
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Yes, there are datasets held in regional and global level for reporting against UNCBD targets (Aichi/NBSAP) by state members. NRDF submits the protected area boundary to the Solomon Islands Government and it is their mandate to submit to publicly available databases.</p> <p>In the region, PA data are often shared (either by ECD or other partners) to SPREP. Currently we are revising the 92 datasets to update it as some sites no longer are active or not yet consented to be shared with the public audience (point and polygons).</p> <p>This data is often audited with the World Database on Protected Areas (WDPA) platform.</p> <p>You can access the PA datasets at both sites:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pacific Islands Protected Areas Portal : https://pipap.sprep.org/country/sb 2. WDPA: https://www.protectedplanet.net/country/SLB <p>The Protected areas data national is stored in ECD and also will be accessible on https://solomonislands-data.sprep.org/search?query=protected%20areas</p>
Findings - Round 2	Thank you for providing the requested information. The audit team reviewed the publicly facing websites and confirms this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	26
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Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	2.13.16 Inclusiveness
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	All projects must demonstrate compliance with Section 3.13 of the Plan Vivo Standard (2013). This requirement is cross-referenced to the inclusiveness arrangements presented in Section 3.4.2, 3.4.3, and 3.4.4 of this document (i.e. detailed information to be provided in Sections 3.4.2, 3.4.3, and 3.4.4 of the PD to cover this requirement, but noted as a cross reference in this section for transparency and ease of auditing).
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A Section 2.13.16
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to find sections 3.4.2-3.4.4 in the PD, should these be included?
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please address in line with the finding.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The reference was incorrect, it has now been amended in the PD to refer to section 3.1.2.2. The section "scope and reach" provides information on inclusion of women, youth and marginalized groups (i. e. those who rely on the site but lack customary user rights).
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	27
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	3.1.5.1 Capacity Benchmarks For Informed Participation
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Table 3.1.5.1
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	
Findings - Round 1	This table is not found in the PD.

Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR It is unclear to the audit team why this table demonstrating evidence to support the statements made in the above sections is not included in the PD.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The information found in the table is discussed in sections 3.1.5 to 3.1.5.4 and satisfies the benchmarks for the FPIC process.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	28
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	3.1.7 Project Management Workshops
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Key outputs of Project Management Workshops are approval of Project Management Reports and Project Business Reports. The authors of the Project Management Report and Project Business Report (e.g. Project Coordinator and individuals within the Project Owner community) shall send these reports to the Project Owner committee no less than 8 working days prior to the Project Management Workshop.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team whether these annual meetings have taken place since the start date.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify if these meetings have taken place annually since the start date and provide verifiable evidence to support.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 3.1.7 states 'These reports will be completed and presented through a project management workshop to landowner participants annually, commencing one year after validation and first verification of each sub-project within the Babatana Grouped Project'. Section 3.1.8 has been updated. The Project Management Workshops have not occurred and are anticipated to occur, one year after the verification event, which is now reflected in the text.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	29
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.2.3 PES Unit Sales

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Sales ≥ USD\$50,000 shall be administered through an escrow arrangement.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD, PES Agreement
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to verify if this criteria is satisfied through the current PES Agreement.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The requirement is not included. When the NMF was developed the Plan Vivo Foundation offered an ESCROW service but no longer do so. We have also found that ESCROW is not needed in practice as the transfer of credits under Markit provides appropriate protections for the seller and buyer. Nakau requests our omission of ESCROW be allowed as a 'methodology deviation' with confirmation from Plan Vivo. We intend to remove this requirement in the next version of the NMF (currently under review)
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands that Plan Vivo no longer offers an ESCROW service and it is not feasible to set up an ESCROW account. The audit team is reasonably assured that buyer and seller protections are maintained under the Markit account. The audit team notes that this is a methodology deviation and needs to be described in the appropriate section of the monitoring report.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	mcAR: Please add this methodology deviation to the appropriate section of the MR and PDD. Additionally, provide detail as necessary to described why this this methodology deviation is appropriate.
	RH
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	We have updated the PPD section 4.2.1 in PD A and Section 2.2.2 of the MR. Highlighting that the project has adopted this methodology deviation but it does not effect the project outcomes because the Markit registry has sufficient safeguards for buyers and sellers.
Findings - Round 3	The audit team reviewed the PDD and MR and confirms that the Methodology Deviation is included and justified appropriately. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	30
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.2.10 Financial Discipline and Transparency

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The Programme Operator must produce the following reports every quarter based upon Project Trust Account activity: a. Cash Flow b. Profit & Loss c. Balance Sheet
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD, PES Agreement
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to locate where this language is written into the PES Agreement.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The PES agreement schedule 2, clause (c) states " <i>the quarterly disbursement of sales income (if any) to the Project Owner (the Sirebe Community Company) shall include full disclosure of resale pricing data and the project sales register by the Nakau Programme. However this is limited to the sale of credits by the Nakau Programme and will not include sales data of any subsequent trading by other parties.</i> " In practice this includes all cash flow, profit & loss and balance sheet data from the Project Trust Account. it includes the bank statement and records of all payments and balances. Note that the account is not used for any other purpose, so the account statement includes all required information. Data has not been provided to Sirebe as yet because sales have not been transacted. The language will be amended in future versions of the NMF, however we believe the PES agreement already complies.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team confirms that the program operator will distribute account statements that will provide on the information contained the reports required by the criteria. This requirement is satisfied.

Item Number	31
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.2.10 Financial Discipline and Transparency
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The Programme Operator shall also document any further operational costs of the project that are financed separately from the Project Trust Account.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD, PES Agreement

Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to locate verifiable evidence that this criteria is satisfied. For example, documentation related to how the current validation/verification is paid for.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The wording of this requirement is possibly unclear and has been misinterpreted. The intended meaning is that any additional (i.e. 'further') spending from the <i>project trust account</i> that is separate to that budget or agreed will be reported. It is not referring to 'separate' spending from other accounts or sources of income. Therefore the spending on the verification audit from a separate source does not need to be reported. There is no spending from the Project trust Account to date as it does not receive income until first credit sales are transacted.
Findings - Round 2	Thank you for the clarification. The audit team understands that we originally misinterpreted the requirement. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	32
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.2.10 Financial Discipline and Transparency
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Table 4.2.10
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD, PES Agreement
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to locate verifiable evidence that this criteria is satisfied. For example, documentation related to how the current validation/verification is paid for.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	As above; the audits and all project development costs to date are paid from accounts that are separate to the project trust account and local project accounts. I.e. these form part of a 'project development' exercise by Nakau and NRDF as supporting organizations. The costs of project development and initial verification are financed separately from the actual PES project that will become operational once verification /validation is complete. Therefor there is nothing to report until the project transacts credit sales.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands that the project development costs are financed by NRDF and the Nakau Programme and there have been no project costs because PES payments have yet to occur as this is the initial validation and first verification. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	33
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.3.1 Project Owner Business Plan (Overview)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The Project Owner Business Plan must form a condition (appendices) of the PES Agreement signed between the Project Coordinator and Project Owner.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify for the audit team how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The PES agreement clause 5.2 (a) states that the Sirebe company <i>is responsible for covering the costs of meeting the Sirebe Community Company's obligations under this Agreement, including but not limited to expenses listed within the Sirebe Business Plan budget (updated from time to time)</i> . Further under 5.2 (h) Sirebe company agrees to <i>Develop a Project Owner Business Plan in accordance with the Project Owner Business Model as specified in the Nakau Methodology Framework and the PD</i> . The actual business plan was not included as an appendices because (as mentioned above) it is "updated from time to time." We believe this achieves the methodology intent, however, we will commit to clarifying the requirement in the NMF review. The current requirement is not practical because the business plan is a living document that is regularly updated.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands that the business plan will be updated continuously as a "living" document and this it is impractical to include the most recent version in the PES agreement and have it signed every time it changes. The audit team confirms that there is clear language in the PES agreement referencing the Sirebe Business Plan and Budget. However, given the explicit nature of this requirement the audit team believes that a methodology deviation is necessary.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	mcAR: Please add this methodology deviation to the appropriate section of the MR and PDD. Additionally, provide detail as necessary to describe why this methodology deviation is appropriate.
	RH

Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	We have updated section 4.3.1 of PD A and section 2.2.2 in the MR, to reflect the methodology deviation and describe its justification. It is not practical to sign the PES agreement every time the business plan is updated, as the business plan is a living document. The project meets the intention of the methodology through the safeguards described in the PES agreement, such as period project management meetings. Each party is aware of their obligations under the project, including those in the business model.
Findings - Round 3	The audit team reviewed the PDD and MR and confirms that the Methodology Deviation is included and justified appropriately. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	34
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.3.3.1 Calculating the Business Money target:
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The Project Owner business must retain sufficient cash to enable it to keep performing its roles and responsibilities (defined in the PES agreement) until further income is received.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team if this is a necessary prior the issuance of the first set of funds from the sale of carbon credits.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify for the audit team how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Can be formulated in the operational phase when money is to be received.
Findings - Round 2	This item will be issued as a forward action request for the next verification. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	35
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.3.3.1 Calculating the Business Money target:

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	If the Project Owner was to sell greater than one year's volume of units within a 12-month period, provision must be made to increase the business money target to ensure that the business can remain viable until the following monitoring period and unit issuance.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to confirm that this criteria was satisfied.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify where in the PES Agreement or the Project Owner Business Plan this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The PES agreement refers to the PD and NMF - hence needs to be compliant with the benefit sharing approach. Please refer to finding 13 (above) that identified the relevant PES agreement clauses that reference the PD / NMF. This commits the project owners to following the money story approach articulated in the PD (including the safety money requirement).
Findings - Round 2	Thank you for the clarification. Although the PES agreement does not explicitly state the potential impacts to harvest food, fuel, timber or other products. The PES agreement states that the customary rights to the land are maintained. Furthermore, the PES agreement ensures compliance with the PD which clearly states the potential impacts and mitigation measures taken to protect the rights to harvest food, fuel, timber or other products. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	36
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.3.6 Dividend Account
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Dividends can be paid to individuals and/or families according to the Community Benefit Sharing Plan. The disbursement of dividends is optional for Project Owners, but shall not normally exceed 30% of the amount available for Community Benefits unless the project can justify a variation to this rule depending on local circumstances. Dividends include cash distributed at the level of individuals, families, or clans. The Project Owner group may determine how the dividends are allocated. For example, dividends may be allocated on a one member onePshare basis (cooperative model), or may be distributed according to relative contribution to the project (e.g. land size or owned by each family or clan).
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y

Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	<p>The PD states that dividends are not utilized in this project; however, dividends are a part of the Project Owner Business Plan.</p> <p>Additionally, the audit team was unable to find the mention of a Dividend account.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR Please update this section of the PD to reflect what is taking place in the project.</p> <p>MCAR Please provide evidence that a Dividend account will be set up as directed in the Methodology.</p>
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Table 4.3 (a) p 108 of the PD reads: The Dividend Account contains an allocation of the profit that can be used to pay individual owners (or families) in cash dividends. NB: it is also acceptable to combine the group benefit account and dividend account into one account managed for the dual purpose.</p> <p>The Sirebe Tribal Association (as per Businessplan par 5.2.4) has decided to use money from their Project Benefit Account to pay cash benefits (dividends) to members and thus apply dual purposes. The amount of cash benefits will be determined by the association and is subject to availability of funds</p>
Findings - Round 2	The audit reviewed the referenced sections of the Methodology and confirms that dividend payments are allowed and a combined account is also allowed. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	37
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	4.3.7 Financial Controls
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	d. Establishment of a daily transfer limit for each account.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A, PES Agreement, Project Owner Business Plan
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to find a daily transfer limit set out in the Project Owner Business Plan.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	In the Project area the only formal banking service available is a Bank Agent of the Bank of South Pacific. Agents have limited access to cash so cash withdrawals depend on cash available and is therefore restricted to daily withdraw limits. Because of this the Sirebe management has not yet decided on a transfer limit, and needs to find out what the most practical ways are to do transfer and withdrawals in the project location. The project operates cheque accounts (no internet/phone banking) using physical cheques that need 3 authorized signatures to do any transfer or transaction
Findings - Round 2	This item will be issued as a forward action request for the next verification. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	38
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428 (Section)	5.2.2 Description of Community Baseline
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.2.2.2 Evidence of project owner consultation on determination of project indicators
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	N
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	<p>Based on a review of the meeting minutes and outcomes that are described in PD Part A Appendices, the audit team is reasonably assured that the project owner had input on these indicators.</p> <p>The audit team notes that "trials" is misspelled in the last sentence in section 5.2.2.2 of the PD Part A.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please fix the spelling error.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Fixed
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	39
Nakau Programme: Nakau Methodology Framework: D2.1 v1.0, 20140428	5.2.2 Description of Community Baseline

(Section)	
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	5.2.2.2 Community baseline scenario
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	N
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part A
Findings - Round 1	<p>A community baseline scenario is established using a sample of the "primary" households within Sirebe Tribe. The audit team notes that it is stated in this section that 13 households were consulted from the 3 families lines that have primary rights over the Sirebe land; however, elsewhere the PD states that there are 5 primary family lines.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR Please clarify the discrepancy noted in the finding.</p> <p>MCAR The audit team would also like to better understand how the 13 households were selected to ensure that this sample provides an accurate picture of baseline scenario.</p>
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Indeed page 127 in the PD speaks of 3 primary family lines which is an error and has been revised. The right number is stated on page 120 para 5.2.1.1 and is 4 primary family lines with 27 households. Those numbers are also used in the Company business plan. The total number of households under this primary group is 27 and thus the survey covered around half (48%) of the households within this group. In the future the community baseline may be expanded to include participants from other lines.</p> <p>The selection of the 13 households was limited by availability of householders and location and were randomly selected from the pool. All selected household members are residing in Sasamungga, in the sub-settlements of Tabusaru and Tanabo.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.</p> <p>The audit team now better understands how the families in the baseline were selected. The audit team is reasonably assured that this sample accurately reflects the community at large. This criteria is satisfied.</p>

Item Number	40
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Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	1.1.1 General Eligibility
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	d. Eligible forests are not subject to carbon credit or other carbon or PES unit claims by any other entity (including governments) as part of any other programme at the national, jurisdictional or project level at any time during the Project Period.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD
Findings - Round 1	The audit team found no evidence of PES claims by another entity on the project area. However, the audit team would like to better understand what mitigation measures are in place to ensure the project area is not counted in the National REDD+ framework as Choiseul has been selected as a region for a pilot study.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide detail on how this will be handled or if there are structures in place to prevent the double counting.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Pilot activities were identified in the Solomon Islands REDD+ Roadmap, but to date most pilot activities have not eventuated. Padezaka was identified in Choisuel and is part of the proposed Babatana grouped project, but no pilot activities have taken place or are planned for Padezaka. The scope of proposed pilot activities in the Solomon Islands REDD+ roadmap was (i) Piloting of approaches to FPIC (ii) Piloting of approaches to safeguards (iii) Piloting of approaches to benefit sharing (iv) Piloting of approaches to F-REL development , and (v) Piloting of approaches to MRV. The only activities that took place were piloting of forest inventory methods that could contribute to developing a National Forest Monitoring System or FREL. However in reality the Government is a very long way from establishing a National Forest Inventory or FREL and has not engaged in activities at any scale to date that would lead to reportable ERRs. The National REDD+ unit has developed a selection criteria for potential voluntary carbon market pilot activities, and has engaged with Nakau in this process. We think this shift to look at VCM projects provides some recognition from Government about how far away they are from a national program. To date no pilot sites have been confirmed. Dr Richard Pauku (local expert auditor) was engaged by the REDD+ Unit to develop pilot site criteria and can confirm its status. The Ministry of Forestry has not selected Sirebe as a Pilot site for their REDD + programme. Nakau and NRDF has a strong and positive relationship with the REDD + team and has regular communications with their staff. The team has verbally committed to supporting our activities, including offering technical support to conduct training and complete plots in other participating project areas under the Babatana project. The strategy for mitigating risk of double counting is to continue to engage with the SIG on issues such as double counting and nesting (noting that nesting is still a long way away from being an issue). The Nakau team has resources through MCC and MFAT funding to engage with Government of policy related issues.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>The audit team better understands how double counting will be prevented. The audit team is reasonably assured that currently there is no double counting occurring and there are mitigation measures in place to ensure that is prevented in the future. This criteria is satisfied.</p>

Item Number	41
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	1.1.2 Eligible Baseline Activities
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Table 1.1.2

Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	N
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Associated Appendices
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to locate evidence referenced in the methodology to support the statements made in this section.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please include the evidence required by the methodology or point the audit team to where this evidence is located within the folder structure.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The eligible baseline activity is conventional logging. The area would be logged if the project activities were absent. The harvest rate justification report (appendix 5), the Additionality assessment (appendix 3), both indicate that conventional logging would likely occur if the project intervention was to not occur.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands the baseline and reviewed the harvest rate justification report and associated literature cited in the report. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	42
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	1.1.5 Specific Conditions
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	c. Project Owner owns the carbon rights and management rights over the forest lands in the project area.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Pending
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B

Findings - Round 1	<p>The audit team consulted Plan Vivo on this criteria. Their response is below and this criteria is satisfied.</p>
	<p>"I have since consulted one of our Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members on the issue of carbon rights in the Solomon Islands, and reviewed the project's response when this issue was raised in our internal review of the project documentation. The TAC member raised the following points:</p> <p>According to the Solomon Islands REDD+ Programme website, Solomon Islands does not have a statutory framework for forest carbon rights or any reference to carbon 'ownership' in legislation. In the absence of legislation however, it is relatively clear that as the indigenous people of Solomon Islands own the land and forests under customary law, by implication they must also own the carbon rights in their forests (s. 239, Land and Titles Act). An analysis commissioned by SPC/GIZ identified that the Customary Land Records Act [Cap. 132], now called the Tribal Land Records Act, could be used to record 'ownership' of carbon rights where customary forest land is concerned.</p> <p>However, the Act is not currently functioning due to a lack of supporting regulations and administrative bodies.</p> <p>Solomon Islands NDC currently only considers the energy sector, although additional sectors may be included in the future. While a Forest Reference Emission Level (FREL) was submitted in 2018 or 2019, there is currently no identification of forest activities for national level mitigation. Solomon Islands seems more focused on adaptation than mitigation at present.</p> <p>As such, I believe that the information the project has provided is sufficient to evidence the carbon rights of the participants, and thus to comply with the Plan Vivo Standard. "</p>

This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	43
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	3.1.2 Justification of Selected Baseline
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<p>b. Legal sanction of baseline activity scale, and</p>
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 3.1.1, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	<p>Conventional logging at this scale is legal. However, it is clear that the baseline asserted in this methodology is not legal due to harvesting within SMZs.</p>

Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please ensure that the baseline activity scale is legal.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Conventional logging the project area is legal and complies with the logging code of practice and the Forests Act 1999. Sections 23 to 27 of the Act outline describe how a community or group of customary owners can obtain the appropriate licenses to harvest timber. As a project intervention to ensure permanence, the Sirebe lands have been legally determined as a Protected Area under the Protect Areas Act 2010. Prior to the area being protected, no other form of conservation covenant was placed over the project area. The project area is under 400 meters in elevation and logging can be conducted throughout the entirety of the project area. We have updated this section to include the legislation and regulations that outline that logging is compliant in the project area.
Findings - Round 2	It is unclear to the audit team how harvesting within the SMZs which is clearly illegal but included in the baseline is in line with the methodology.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please clarify in line with the finding.
	MD/WB
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	We have updated the PDD and Additionality Assessment attached to the PDD to reflect the conflict with criterion 3.1.2 and highlight how due to the context of the project, a slight deviation to the methodology applied is required. In section 3.1.2, we highlight that it is not possible to prove that illegal harvesting in the SMZ/river buffer area is sanctioned as common practice at a level of 30% of the minimum administrative area, as required in the methodology. As a deviation, we have provided supporting evidence and materials, both peer reviewed literature and quotes from leading experts, outline that harvesting to the rivers edge is commonplace and occurs within logging practices, and that compliance with regulation and enforcement is minimal. We have updated the MR section 2.2.2 Project description to include these deviations.
Findings - Round 3	The audit understands that the data necessary for the GreenCollar methodology is not attainable for the Solomon Islands. Additionally, the audit team reviewed the evidence provided by the project proponents and confirms that in view of the additional evidence this criteria. No further action is needed.

Item Number	44
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	3.1.2.1 Commercially Viable Baseline
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	3.1.2.1 Commercially Viable Baseline

Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B Section 3.1.1, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	There is no text in this section of the PD Part B.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide the evidence and text required in this section.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The text has been updated to reflect the needs of the project description.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	45
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	3.1.4 Stratification
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	a. Forest composition stratification.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B 3.1.4
Findings - Round 1	There appear to be multiple forest types within the project area; however, no stratification based on forest composition has taken place.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify why forest composition stratification has not taken place.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>The project team asserts that there is only one forest stratum in the project area. The following additional supporting evidence is provided: According to the forest type map (Land resources study 18, Land Resources of the Solomon Islands Volume 1, 1977) and described in PD-A 2.4.7, the entire forest type found in the Sirebe eligible area is Hill forest, characterized by: "Medium-height, medium crowned, closed canopy hill forest with large-crowned trees, occurring along some valleys." The map was compiled from air photo interpretation. Although the report is old, the forest in the project site is undisturbed and has not changed. The map shows the project area (including Sirebe and Vuri) as a single forest type strata. The Land resources study map has been added to the PD part B evidence requirements folder as "Choiseul forest type map."</p> <p>Further, leading Botanist Myknee Sirikolo (Director of Solomon Islands National Herbarium) identified two types of forest within the Sirebe and Vuri area: Hill and Lowland Rainforest, based on a newer classification that was used in 1995 in the Solomon Islands National Forest Inventory. However he noted that "both forest types surrounding the gentle and steep ridges overlap so often that their variations species compositions, canopy structure and even their general appearance cannot be distinguished" (Appendix 6b page 7). Because of the homogenous character of the forest types in the Sirebe eligible project area and taking into account the small size of the area, it was considered unnecessary to do a further forest stratification in the area. Secondly, it was justified to pre-harvest inventory plots in from the Vuri project area, as the forest composition and stratification is the similar according to the historical data and the leading expert advice.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>The audit team reviewed the additional materials provided by the project proponents and is reasonably assured that no stratification is necessary as the entire forest area falls within the same forest type. This criteria is satisfied.</p>

Item Number	46
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	3.1.4 Stratification
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	b. Forest management stratification.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y

Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B 3.1.4
Findings - Round 1	This has been identified previously, but it is unclear to the audit team why the previous village sites have not been assigned to a different strata as it appears the forest surrounding these old village sites are younger than forest outside the old village site.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify why this stratification has not taken place.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Historically the forest of the Solomons have been strongly influenced by human habitation and many places nowadays uninhabited bear signs of former disturbance, and some of the valuable timber species grow densest on old garden sites. (Guide of the Forests of British SI, TC Whitmore 1966). Over time old gardens sites are hard to separate from primary forests with only some species observed that indicate past disturbances e.g. nut trees. The small "old village sites" located in the Sirebe area were occupied by very small numbers of people causing very limited forest disturbance more than 100 years ago (verbal source of Sirebe spokesman Linford Jahjo Pitatamae). Because of the small scale, and limited difference in forest structure and composition with primary forest no further stratification was done in these small patches.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the additional materials provided by the project proponents and is reasonably assured that no stratification is necessary as the entire forest area, including the old village sites are of similar ages. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	47
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	3.1.6 Baseline Revision
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	All projects are required to undertake a baseline revision every 5 years. This baseline revision will include revision of the technical data used to create the Baseline and Project Scenarios from an ecosystem service accounting perspective.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team if this criteria should apply as the Project start date was more than 5 years ago.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify if the baseline revision is necessary.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The baseline has not been revised since the forest inventory because this is the first verification event and care has been taken to ensure that the baseline description was up-to-date at submission of the monitoring report. The pressures on the forest have remained the same and have not changed since project development commenced. Conventional logging operations have continually threatened the Sirebe area and the Babatana group more broadly. Secondly, the forest remains intact and the 2020 Monitoring Report / forest change assessment indicates that there have been no loss events in the project area, hence there has been no baseline revision between project start date and the verification event. Once the project baseline has been verified the baseline will be revised at least every five years and updated at future verification events.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team agrees with the project proponents that no material changes have occurred since the original baseline was written at the start date and the current validation process. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	48
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4. Quantifying Baseline GHG Emissions and Removals
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Table 4.1
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	The audit team is confused as to what equation is used to determine values in column D on the PHI Summary Tab.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify the equation specified in the finding.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Column D in the PHI summary tab is the sum of the volume per species divided by area measured (in this case 2.3 hectares). The cells now link to where the calculations and equations were used in the Volume + dbh sheet.
Findings - Round 2	<p>Thank for the clarification. This criteria is satisfied.</p> <p>However, the audit team would like to clarify that it is generally accepted best practice to apply plot expansion factors at the tree level rather than the species level. We are including this as an OFI.</p>

Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	OFI: For the future is generally considered good practice to expansion factors at the tree level rather than the species level.

Item Number	49
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.2 Step 2- Total Wood Harvested (TWH)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Equation 4.1.2
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.2, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	<p>It is unclear to the audit team what the basis of the volume equation applied is.</p> <p>There appear to be multiple trees greater than 50 inches in the PHI Inventory data tab that were not included in the Volume +50dbh tab.</p> <p>TWH for Rotation 1 is calculated correctly; however, the audit team does not understand the basis for .25 for the determination of TWH for Rotation 2.</p> <p>There is a note in cell F4 in the Carbon Credits tab that says "Average Annual" however cell D4 in the Carbon Credits tab pulls from cell H35 in the PHI Summary tab, the total rotation row.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR Please provide verifiable evidence for the basis of the volume equation and provide an explanation for parameter used in the volume equation.</p> <p>MCAR Please include all trees that are greater than 50 inches in quantification or clarify why these trees were not included.</p> <p>MCAR Please address in line with the finding.</p> <p>MCAR It appears that the cell D4 is pulling values from the incorrect cell in the PHI Summary tab. Please update the value or clarify why this approach is correct.</p>

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Re volume equation: A new evidence document "Justification for tree volume formula" has been added to PD Part B Evidence Requirements. We have also included a reference to support the justification: <i>Tennent, R. B. (1992) Volume Tables for Indigenous Trees of the Solomon Islands: Solomon Islands National Forest Resources Inventory Project. ACIL Australia PTY LTD, International Forest Research & Management PTY LTD & ERIS Australia.</i> The reference document is also in the PD Part B Evidence Requirements folder "SI Indigenous Tree Volume Study." We have now included all trees above 50 cms in DBH in the carbon accounting. The few trees that were missed were an error. We reviewed the technical specifications and confirm that D4 in the Carbon calculations was pulling values for the entirety of rotation 1 and not the annual harvest rate. The value was converted to an annual value in D11 on the carbon calculation sheet. We have corrected the cell in D4 to be pulling the value from the annual value for the rotation H36 in the PHI Summary. We have then removed the division in cell D11. The cells D4 to D22 now follow the technical specifications and the units for each value.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>The audit team reviewed the additional evidence provided supporting the use of the volume equation. However, it is still unclear to the audit team how this equation was derived. For example, it is from a published literature? Was a regression analysis conducted?</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the updated Carbon Inventory worksheet and noted that multiple values in the Volume +50dbh tab were rounded. Many of them appear to be rounded up ultimately overestimating the amount of carbon in the inventory. Additionally, the audit team noted that rounded values were carried through to the PHI Summary tab. The audit team does not understand the basis for rounding these values as it is not conservative. The discrepancies are very small but it is good practice to carry values through with all decimal places included. We are including this as an OFI.</p> <p>Please ensure that all new estimates from the quantification workbooks are updated in both the PDDs and Monitoring Report.</p>
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR: Please clarify what the basis for the volume equation is.</p> <p>MCAR: Please ensure all values in the PDD and MR are updated to reflect the changed values in the quantification workbooks and eligible forest area.</p> <p>OFI: For the future it is best practice to not truncate or round values rather carry all decimal places through the calculations.</p>
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	<p>We have now clarified the basis for the volume calculation, which is provided in a separate document "Basis for volume calculation" saved in the PD Part B evidence requirements folder. PDDs and MR has been updated / checked for consistency with the carbon accounting. However no changes have been made to the volume equation. OFI noted for future reference.</p>

Findings - Round 3	The audit team reviewed literature for the volume equation and notes that this is the most conservative of the options considered and is backed by literature relevant to the project area. This criteria is satisfied. No further action is needed.
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Item Number	50
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.3 Step 3- Collateral Damage (CD)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Equation 4.1.3
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.3, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	CD for Rotation 1 is calculated correctly; however, the audit team does not understand the basis for .25 for the determination of TWH for Rotation 2.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please address in line with the finding.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Volume of timber harvested in the second rotation is commonly expressed as a percentage of first rotation (e.g. see Keller, M et al, 2007) https://esajournals.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1890/1540-9295(2007)5[213:TPISLT]2.0.CO;2. We have applied 0.25 (25%) of first rotation harvest for the second rotation based on anecdotal consultation with the SI Ministry of Forestry & Research (MoFR). We note that actual data is not available publicly for the Solomon Islands situation. This rate of second harvest was considered realistic in the Solomon Islands and is within the range of second harvest rates observed elsewhere in tropical forest as reported in literature. In 2012, Sinclair Knight Mers published, the Solomon Islands National Forest Resources Assessment and states, in the business as usual logging scenario 'current exploitative pattern of timber production in the Solomon Islands. It anticipates that re-entry to secondary forests will occur on a roughly ten year cyclone and there will be continued logging of marginal forests. The scenario anticipates that the yield declines by 75% in successive harvest cycles...This scenario represents a situation in which the forest estate in all but Choiseul Province is Logged to the point where productive capacity is virtually eliminated'. Further, Global literature outlines. Rozendaal, M. Soliz-Gamboaa, C. &, Zuidemaa, P. (2010), found (through modelling) that second rotation harvest rates after 20 years varied from 18 to 33% of first rotation (assuming harvestable size is 50 cm DBH (equivalent to our baseline assumption). Therefore we ascertain, that our TWH harvest rate of 0.25% is a conservative and realistic value for the second rotation and rapid tree growth is expected to occur due to increased growth of juvenile trees due to increased light conditions. See reference: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/49945226_Timber_yield_projections_for_tropical_tree_species_The_influence_of_fast_juvenile_growth_on_timber_volume_recovery/link/5e523759299bf1cdb94016cc/download</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>Thank you for the clarification. As this value is specified in the methodology this finding is closed.</p>

Item Number	51
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.7 Step 7- Gross Total Emissions in tCO2e (GTCO2)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Equation 4.1.7a
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y

Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.7, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	<p>The equation is applied correctly.</p> <p>The audit team was unable to locate the source for the Wood density data base used.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide the wood density database used.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>The wood density values in the Wood Density Database sheet have been sourced from the Global Wood Density database. Details can be found in the wood density worksheet. Where data for a species was unavailable, data from other species in the genus or failing that the family, were used. Preference was given to values from Australia/Papua New Guinea (tropical), followed by SE Asia (tropical). Where we were unable to determine the botanical name of the tree, the average value of the wood type (hardwood/softwood) was used. The reference for the database, is Zanne, A.E., Lopez-Gonzalez, G.*, Coomes, D.A., Ilic, J., Jansen, S., Lewis, S.L., Miller, R.B., Swenson, N.G., Wiemann, M.C., and Chave, J. 2009. Global wood density database. Dryad. Identifier: http://hdl.handle.net/10255/dryad.235. The excel file for the database is available at, https://datadryad.org/stash/dataset/doi:10.5061/dryad.234</p>
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the Wood Density Database and confirmed that the correct wood density values are used. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	52
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.7 Step 9 – Sequestration into Long Term Wood Products for Rotation 1 (ltWPR1)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	i. Calculating the recoverable sawlog volume extracted in a commercial logging baseline for a time period (HR = Harvest Rate) (see 4.1.1 Step 1 above)
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.1, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	The audit team reviewed the calculation and notes that the total harvested volume from the project over the first rotation is used and not the annual harvest rate.

Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please use the appropriate harvest rate (an annual measure) per the methodology.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	In the carbon sheet provided, the Harvest rate was using the total harvested volume for the first rotation (H35 PHI sheet). The value in cell D11 (Carbon calcs sheet), was divided by 15 to represent an annual value. We have now fixed the carbon sheet, as to use the annual harvest rate (cell H36 in the PHI Summary) and have made sure subsequent equations are now correct and not carrying any errors. Cells D3 to D11 are now reflective of the units and equation calculations in the methodology.
Findings - Round 2	The audit reviewed the updated Appendix 4 quantification workbook and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	53
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.7 Step 9 – Sequestration into Long Term Wood Products for Rotation 1 (ltWPR1)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Step B: Identify the wood product class(es) (ty ; defined here as sawnwood (s), wood9based panels (w), other industrial roundwood (oir), paper and paper board (p), and other (o)) that are the anticipated end use of the extracted carbon calculated in Step A. For each wood product type, assign a fraction representing the different proportions of biomass volume attributed to each wood product type ($\%WP_{ty}$) (dimensionless).
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.9, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear what the basis for $\%Wp_{ty}$ is.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please provide verifiable evidence that supports the usage of the values for $\%Wp_{ty}$.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The $\%Wp_{ty}$ value has been reviewed and updated. Reference is now made to <i>Flanders Investment & Trade (2019) The Wood Market China, FIT Guangzhou</i> (see PD Part B evidence requirements). China is the largest importer of Solomon Islands logs, and processing in Solomon Islands is negligible. Flanders (2019) contains estimates of China's wood consumption by product type (p. 3). The categories in Flanders (2019) were attributed to the categories used in the carbon accounting spreadsheet as follows: Paper (paper & paperboard); Artificial board and solid wood floor (wood based panels); Infrastructure, decoration and farmers building (sawnwood); solid wood furniture (other). There was no equivalent category for 'other industrial roundwood.'

Findings - Round 2	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The audit team reviewed the report provided and noted that the values in the Carbon Credits tab of Appendix 4 do not match the values from the Flanders Investment & Trade (2019) The Wood Market China, FIT Guangzhou report. 2. The audit team noted that the OF fraction used was .84 for all wood product categories. It is unclear why the values in the Long-term wood product sheet are not used. 3. The audit team noted that in the wood products calculations, cell M17 is not calculated correctly. 4. It is unclear what the basis for the SLF of the "Other" category is.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please address in line with the findings and update all downstream calculations.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	<p>The values from Flanders (2019) were in different categories (timber use classes) than the categories presented in the carbon accounting, which refers to <i>Winjum, J.K., Brown, S. and Schlamadinger, B. 1998. Forest harvests and wood products: sources and sinks of atmospheric carbon dioxide. Forest Science 44: 272-284.</i> Winjum (1998) refers to the FAO definition for timber categories. We have gone back to the FAO source document for definitions so that we can justify the allocation of timber use from Flanders (2019) into the categories that we use. As a result of reviewing this we have allocated from Flanders to the following FAO categories; Paper to 'paper & paperboard'; Artificial board and solid wood floor to 'wood based panels'; Infrastructure, decoration and farmers building to 'sawnwood,' and solid wood furniture to 'wood based panels.' In the previous iteration of the carbon accounting solid wood furniture was allocated to 'other,' however upon review of the FAO definitions we assert that it belongs in wood based panels, meaning that we no longer have an 'other' category. There is no equivalent category in Fladers to the "other industrial roundwood," hence this remains as zero. <i>The FAO reference is FAO Yearbook 1995 Forest Products (from p 414).</i> We have corrected some calculation errors - the OF fraction now links to the correct cells in the long term wood product sheet; the error in cell M17 is corrected. The 'other' category is no longer used and the accounting spreadsheet has been updated.</p>
Findings - Round 3	<p>The audit team reviewed the allocations of wood products between the two different sources and they are reasonable and in line with industry standards. This item is closed, no further action is needed.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the updated Appendix 4 and noted that cell D10 appears to have changed since the last round of findings and it appears to now have an incorrect value.</p> <p>Additionally, the Equation 4.1.9 is not applied correctly. Please check the formulas in cells O14 through O17. If more clarification is needed, please don't hesitate to reach out to the audit team with questions.</p>

Round 3 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR: Please review the change to cell D10 in the PHI Summary Tab and clarify why this change is appropriate. If determined that this change is not correct please update all downstream calculations, the PDD, and MR.</p> <p>MCAR: Please update the calculation of carbon stored in long-term wood Products Pool and all downstream calculations. Additionally, please update all downstream calculations and updated all values that would will have changed in the PDDs and MR.</p>
Round 3 Response from Project Proponent	In an email on 6/22 the project proponent submitted updated documentation.
Findings - Round 4	<p>The audit team reviewed the updated Appendix 4 (Carbon Quantification) confirms that the quantification is correct in line with the methodology. Specifically, the NCC is reported correctly and is the average over Rotation 1 and Rotation 2.</p> <p>However, the audit team noted that a value reported in Section 4.1.1.1 of the PD Part A appears to be incorrect.</p> <p>Additionally, the audit team noted that multiple values in the MR appear to be incorrect.</p>
Round 4 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please update all values to reflect the most recent changes in the Carbon Quantification workbook or if the project team believes the current values are correct please provide an explanation as to why they are correct as currently stated.
Round 4 Response from Project Proponent	Response from project proponent occurred in a call held on 06-24-2021.
Findings - Round 5	The audit team reviewed the updated PDD and MR and confirmed that the incorrectly stated values in the previous version were properly updated and are now correct.

Item Number	54
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	4.1.7 Step 9 – Sequestration into Long Term Wood Products for Rotation 1 (ltWPR1)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Step D: Convert each proportional wood product type biomass volume (AGBE%WPty) to tCO ₂ using Equations 4.1.7(a9d) to derive $C_{XB,ty,I}$ (tCO ₂ e ha ⁻¹).
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y

Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Section 4.1.9, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team what the basis for using 0.45 in this equation is.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify why 0.45 is used in this calculation.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The 0.45 was an incorrect number, the technical specifications verified states that the value used should of been the mean density of wood, which is in the PHI sheet and in this is 0.5. The carbon accounting has been updated accordingly and crossed checked with the technical specifications, as validated by Plan Vivo.
Findings - Round 2	The audit reviewed the updated Appendix 4 quantification workbook and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	55
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	5.2.2 Step 14 - Total Market Leakage (TML)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	This Technical Specifications Module follows the GreenCollar IFM LtPF v1.0 VCS approved Methodology VM0010 (2011) for calculating Total Market Leakage (TML).
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	<p>The VM0010 leakage factor calculation states "LFME = 0 if it can be demonstrated that no market-effects leakage will occur within national boundaries, that is if no new concessions are being assigned AND annual extracted volumes cannot be increased within existing national concessions AND illegal logging is absent (or de minimis) in the host country."</p> <p>The audit team found no demonstration that satisfies this criteria.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide a demonstration that meets the requirements in the referenced tool in order to claim market leakage is 0. If a demonstration is not possible please apply the tool as specified to determine the appropriate market leakage discount factor.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The Project Proponents request that Plan Vivo consider a methodology deviation for calculating TML that does not follow the GreenCollar approved methodology VM0010. The rationale for total market leakage is provided as a new document in the PD Part B Evidence Requirements "Rationale for TML." The approach we propose applies the same principle as VM0010 "considering where in the country logging will be increased as a result of the decreased supply of the timber caused by the project." The proponents maintain that TML should remain as zero (0).
Findings - Round 2	The audit team understands the rationale for TML= 0. However it is clear that this methodology deviation needs to be included in the PDD and all subsequent MRs.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please add this methodology deviation to the appropriate section of the MR and PDD. Additionally, provide detail as necessary to described why this this methodology deviation is appropriate.
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	We have updated the text in PD Part B, Section 5.2.2 Total Market Leakage, to reflect the methodology deviation with a description of the supporting evidence. Section 2.2.2 of the MR has also be updated to reflect the deviation. Here we have actioned a methodology deviation, not following the GreenCollar IFM LtPF v10 VCS VM0010, as from the Technical Specifications because the data is not available in the Solomon Islands. The approach undertaken follows the same principle of as the approved methodology VM0010 and we have ascertained that TML is 0 e yr-1. Our rationale for TML = 0, is provided in Appendix 11 – Rationale for TML.
Findings - Round 3	The audit team understands that the data necessary is not available to comply with the GreenVollar Methodology. Additionally, the audit team confirms that this has been added as a Methodology Deviation. Furthermore, the audit team reviewed the evidence provided by the project proponents and confirms that TML=0 is appropriate.

Item Number	56
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	5.6 Managing Loss Events
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	This methodology uses the most recent version of the VCS 'AFOLU Guidance: Example for GHG Credit Accounting Following a Loss Event' for addressing loss events during the Project Period.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to	MR

Assess	
Findings - Round 1	Although it does not appear that there have been any loss events, it would be useful to state this in the MR. Additionally it would be helpful to make the statement that no loss events have occurred from the start date to the point of validation.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please add the requested additional language to the MR and PD.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 5.6 Management Loss events has been updated to reflect the request, with reference to the Sirebe Monitoring Report and the accompanying Appendix 2. No loss events have occurred to date.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and associated documents. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	57
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	7. Assessment of Uncertainty
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	7.1 Uncertainty in Baseline GHG Emissions And Removals
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	It appears that some of the sections in this section do not correlate with sections in the TS module.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please update the sections to correlate with the TS Module or clarify why this not appropriate.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Section 7.1 of the PD has been updated to correlate with the TS.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and associated documents. This criteria is satisfied.

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Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	7.1.1 Harvest Rate (HR)
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	The core of the avoided emissions component of the baseline calculation is based on a conservative estimate of the timber volume to be logged in the baseline activity. This estimate is calculated conservatively on the basis of commercial timber volumes harvested in the baseline at 80% of the harvestable wood volume available.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	<p>Although the TS module states that the uncertainty assessment is guided by the VCS tool VT0003 v1.0, the audit team found no evidence that an uncertainty analysis for the inventory was conducted. Additionally, the audit team is concerned that the plots only represent 2.3 ha whereas the eligible forest area is ~836 ha.</p> <p>Additionally, the audit team found no evidence that supports the usage of the Vuri plots in the project area.</p>
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	<p>MCAR Please apply the VCS tool as specified in the methodology.</p> <p>MCAR Please provide verifiable evidence that it is appropriate to use the VURI plots (that are outside the project area) to quantify stocking inside the project area.</p>

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Re uncertainty assessment: We have applied the approach noted in the TS module that "<i>Conservative estimates can be used instead of uncertainties, provided that they are based on verifiable literature sources or expert judgement. In this case the uncertainty is assumed to be zero.</i>" We elected to use conservative estimates including: 80% harvest rate (when 100% is common practice), Total Wood Harvested was addressed by applying a conservative default factor of 0.5 for the conversion of above ground biomass to sawlog; Size of trees to be harvested was set at DBH 50cm, when common practice harvesting includes all trees above DBH 30 cm and in many cases below. Further rationale for conservative default values is provided in the TS model section 7.1.1 - 7.1.5 and is applied in the carbon accounting.</p> <p>Re Vuri Plots: The Vuri site is also part of the Babatana Project 'project area,' that is considered to have the same baseline. In 2014, when the Pre-harvesting inventory was carried out, the Vuri and Sirebe areas were considered as one project site within the Project Area. This was because the areas are adjacent (< 2km) to each other and have the same forest composition and structural characteristics (i.e a single forest stratum). The sites were later separated based on the ethnographic characteristics of the people and tribal organisation rather than forest type. Further evidence is provided from the forest type map produced by the Directorate of Overseas Surveys (1977), compiled from air photo interpretation, and accompanying the Land Resources Study "Land Resources of the Solomon Islands, Volume 5, Choiseul and the Shortland Islands.' The Land resources study map has been added to the PD part B evidence requirements folder as "Choiseul forest type map." Although the report is old, the forest in the Sirebe and Vuri site is undisturbed and has not changed. The map shows the entire project area (including Sirebe and Vuri) and shows Sirebe and Vuri are have the same forest structure and composition. Further, the leading botanical expertise (Director of the Solomon Islands National Herbarium) described of the Sirebe and Vuri area (Appendix 6b page 8) as "both similar in forest characteristic and composition" and can be described as "the same". Based on these information sources combined, it was considered appropriate to use Vuri preharvest inventory plots as a reference for the Sirebe project area, which increased the number of sample plots to 23. If the number of plots does not suffice, we request that project be verified for the first monitoring period, and as a future corrective action, we be required to increase the number of plots in Sirebe. If there is a difference in the carbon values at 2nd monitoring period, we could adjust accordingly to account for any changes.</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>Thank you for the clarification. The audit team understands that conservative estimates can be used instead of estimating uncertainty. The audit team is reasonably assured that all estimates were conservative and thus uncertainty does not need to be estimated.</p> <p>The audit team reviewed the additional evidence that supports the use of the Vuri plots in Babatana Project Area. Because the forest types are essentially the same and the audit team is reasonably assured that the inclusion of the Vuri plots is appropriate.</p>

Item Number	59
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Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	7.1.5 Gross Total Emissions in tCO2
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	b. Using the mean wood density for the species mix contained in the Harvest Rate data. Where local (country-specific) wood density data are unavailable, this methodology uses the most recent IPCC GHG Inventory Guidelines for default values for applicable genera and families.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 4
Findings - Round 1	The audit team is unclear why a mean of wood densities is used as this approach has the most uncertainty associated considering the wood densities of all species are known.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify why this approach was taken and how it is consistent with 5.11 of the Plan Vivo standard.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The request is out of scope for this verification event. The technical specifications outline that IFM-LtPF, section 4.1.7 Step 9 Gross total emissions, indicates that the mean wood density (WDP) for the species present is required for the conversion of wet to dry wood. As such the mean value was used, rather than the specific values. Section 7.1.7, outlines how the value is used to address uncertainty. This technical specification has been approved by Plan Vivo and as such this clarification should suffice.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team confirms that this outside of scope. No further action is needed.

Item Number	60
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	8.1 Project Monitoring Plan

Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	Project Monitoring reports will be produced using the latest VCS Monitoring Report Template at a maximum of 5-yearly intervals covering each Project Monitoring Period. The Project Monitoring Report will be produced in the year following the final year of the Project Monitoring Period.
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	MR
Findings - Round 1	The VCS monitoring template does not appear to be used.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please use the VCS MR template as specified in the methodology.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Plan Vivo have a monitoring report template that they like us to use. We request that adoption of the Plan Vivo monitoring template be allowed as a minor methodology deviation.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team sees no reason that a Plan Vivo monitoring report template is unreasonable or not appropriate. This should be included as a methodology deviation in the PDD. Additionally, the audit team was unable to locate the Plan Vivo Monitoring Report for this verification event.
Round 2 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR: Please include the MR deviation as a methodology deviation in the PDD.
	RB
Round 2 Response from Project Proponent	We have updated PD Part B Section 8.1 to reflect that the most up-to-date monitoring template from Plan Vivo will be used at future verification events. For the first verification event a simplified monitoring template has been used. All future Monitoring Reports will use the most relevant Plan Vivo Template, which we consider appropriate, given that the standard is in the process of being updated, at the time of submission of this project description. The MR has been updated to reflect these changes.
Findings - Round 3	The audit team reviewed the PDD and confirms this deviation has been appropriately included. This criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	61
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	8.1.9 Community Monitoring
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Monitoring supervision and training provided to the Project Coordinator and the Project Owner by a suitably qualified forest carbon inventory expert for the first project monitoring exercise

Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear what training is necessary and scheduled to train the project owner in all aspects of monitoring.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please add additional language to the PD or clarify where this criteria is addressed.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The text in the PD (section 8.1.9 page 61), has been updated to reflect the what training is necessary and when it will occur. There has been specific mentions to completing transects, boundary inspections and mobile data collection.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	62
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	8.1.9 Community Monitoring
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> o On-going monitoring supervision and training provided to the Project Owner by the Project Coordinator once the latter has demonstrated its competence in forest carbon inventory
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear what training is necessary and scheduled to train the project owner in all aspects of monitoring.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please add additional language to the PD or clarify where this criteria is addressed.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The text in the PD (section 8.1.9, page 60), has been updated to reflect the what training is necessary and when it will occur. There has been specific mentions to completing transects, boundary inspections and mobile data collection.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated PD and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	63
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	Sub-step 1a. Identify credible alternative land use scenarios to the proposed IFM project activity
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Projected forest degradation as estimated using the applicable baseline methodology;
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	Appendix 3 states "The projected forest degradation is provided in Appendix 1 using the applicable baseline methodology"; however, the audit team was unable to find this analysis.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify where this analysis is located.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The statement was incorrect and has been updated to reflect the land use scenario based on VCS Additionality tool. The baseline is conventional logging and does not include piece-meal forest degradation or clearance of degraded forest for cash cropping. An analysis and supporting justification for conventional logging and the harvest rates discussed in the VCS additional tool, is available in appendix 5.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated Additionality Assessment and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	64
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	Sub-step 1a. Identify credible alternative land use scenarios to the proposed IFM project activity
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	10. For identifying the realistic and credible land-use scenarios, land use records, field surveys, data and feedback from stakeholders, and information from other appropriate sources, including Participatory rural appraisal (PRA)1 may be used as appropriate.

Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	It is unclear to the audit team where evidence is provided that supports piece-meal forest degradation following conventional logging through local harvests of timber for domestic uses and clear of degraded forest for cash cropping are provided.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please clarify how this criteria is satisfied.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	Note that piece meal forest degradation following logging is not included in baseline carbon calculations, and hence is conservatively neglected. However evidence for probable piece meal forest degradation was gathered from participants (landowners) using a participatory rural appraisal approach in the RAP report, see PD Part A Appendix 20. Further anecdotal evidence is based on extensive local knowledge of project proponents.
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the updated Additionality Assessment and confirms that this criteria is satisfied.

Item Number	65
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	Sub-step 1b. Consistency of credible land use scenarios with enforced mandatory applicable laws and regulations
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If an alternative does not comply with all mandatory applicable legislation and regulations, then show that, based on an examination of current practice in the region in which the mandatory law or regulation applies, those applicable mandatory legal or regulatory requirements are systematically not enforced and that non-compliance with those requirements is widespread, i.e. prevalent on at least 30% of the area of the smallest administrative unit that encompasses the project area;
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	The audit team was unable to locate an analysis that satisfies this criteria.
Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide a demonstration that satisfies this criteria.

Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	<p>Appendix 3 Additionality Assessment Sub-step 1 B has been updated to (i) provide a more rigorous analysis to outline how conventional logging complies with legislation, and (ii) to provide evidence that non compliance with legislation is also common practice throughout the Solomon Islands. The key issue for non-compliance for the project site is that companies are not legally allowed to log a 50m buffer along a river corridor. To date the Project Area has not been logged and as such, we are unable to demonstrate that the Forest Regulations are not enforced at the actual site and that non-compliance is common, on at least 30 % of the small administrative unit (i.e. this would apply to the river buffer). However Appendix 3 demonstrates that illegal logging would likely occur on 100% the 50 meter river buffer either side of the Kolombagara River, as this non-compliance with legislation is common practice elsewhere. (E.g. in the Honiara catchment (the capital city) illegal logging of river buffers seriously impacts public water supply. However despite being high profile and close to regulators, the practice has not been addressed. By comparison Choisuel is extremely remote and logging companies have even less incentive to abide by regulations).</p>
Findings - Round 2	<p>Based on the narrative provided in the updated Additionality Assessment and an independent review of literature and news stories related to illegal logging in the Solomon Islands the audit team is reasonably assured that this criteria is satisfied.</p>

Item Number	66
Technical Specifications Module (C) 1.1 (IFM9LtPF): Improved Forest Management – Logged to Protected Forest V1.0 for The Nakau Programme (Section)	Sub-step 3a. Identify barriers that would prevent the implementation of the type of proposed project activity
Plan Vivo Standard 2013 (Subsection and Description)	30. Provide transparent and documented evidence, and offer conservative interpretations of this documented evidence, as to how it demonstrates the existence and significance of the identified barriers. Anecdotal evidence can be included, but alone is not sufficient proof of barriers. The type of evidence to be provided may include:
Applicability to the Project (Y or N/A)	Y
Requirement Met (Y, N, Pending)	Y
Evidence Used to Assess	PD Part B, Appendix 3
Findings - Round 1	Numerous publications and reports were provided as evidence. Importantly community support for logging was demonstrated as the community felt there was no other way to reach their economic development goals. However, the audit team could not find the Live and Learn report.

Round 1 NCR/CL/OFI	MCAR Please provide the Live and Learn report or provide the location in the project document structure.
Round 1 Response from Project Proponent	The reference in Appendix 3 has been corrected to: Live & Learn Report: Rapid Assessment of Perceptions – Forest, climate change and REDD in Choiseul Province, Solomon Islands – community motivations for logging/lack of choice – barrier for social conditions (refer to PD Part A Appendix 20, SI REDD RAP report).
Findings - Round 2	The audit team reviewed the Live and Learn Report, this criteria is satisfied.