

Global Conservation Standard

Tool Number 4:

**Principles & Criteria: Project Evaluation
Checklist**



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Tool Number 4:

Principles & Criteria: Project Evaluation Checklist

Organizational information			
Organization:		Reference #:	
Organization Type:	Government / Private	Report Date:	
Contact Address:			
Contact Name:		Audit Dates:	
Office Telephone:		Lead Assessor:	
Mobile Telephone:		Assessor:	
Facsimile:			
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Project Site
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scope of the evaluation is to verify compliance of the organization to the terms within the Global Conservation Standard. The assessment is in accordance to the Green Carbon Conservation Program and Agreement.

Objectives:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The objective of the assessment is to verify the current level of compliance to the Principles & Criteria of the Global Conservation Standard. Identification of non-compliance shall be highlighted and addressed within a proposed Work Plan All issues identified under this standard shall be considered appropriate to the scale and degree of forestry operations undertaken by the parties under the Standard.

Assessment Schedule:		
Date	Activity	Remarks
XX Month 201x	Transit to location, what activity carried out	Overnight in XX
XX Month 201x	xxx	
XX Month 201x	xxx	

Highlights of Assessment

Recommendations

Overview of Project Owner

- Organization name, subsidiaries and ownership
- Total number of hectares under management
- Nature of tenure and management rights,
- Start date and date of expiry of concession or management rights

Land Classification	Current (ha)
Total Project Area	
Forest Type	Ex. Tropical Moist
Net Conservation Area	
Social Community & Agriculture	
Infrastructure & other non-forest areas	

Environmental Context

- Forest type and history of management
- Principal species
- Specific biological values (eg rare or endangered species)
- Environmental services (eg critical watersheds, wildlife corridor, etc) provided by the forest
- Existing EIA report

Social Context

- Identified communities associated with the Project / Conservation Area
- Social baseline summary & demography
- Native Customary Rights
- Agricultural activities within the project area

Results:

The assessment team observed **XX** Major CARs and **XX** Minor CARs against the Global Conservation Standard Principles & Criteria.

CAR# / Type	Checklist	Description

Note: End of Summary Report

PRINCIPLE 1. Project identification & Scope – The project area is clearly described and defined in relation to the physical area and attributes that include land tenure, occupation, management rights and long-term objectives of the project.

1.1 Description of project area & boundaries including mapping of project area inclusive of villages within & bordering the boundaries of the project

1.2 Land tenure of project area is clearly defined including agricultural and village areas occupied by local communities with or without recognized land tenure.

1.3 Agreement for defining management rights to resources and the services they provide (carbon, biodiversity, water) which may include local communities with legal rights of tenure within the project area.

1.4 Project objectives; scope & permanence for management and rights to carbon credits are clearly defined

1.5 The organization shall be able to demonstrate legal compliance to relevant national & local laws & regulations.

1.6 Structure of the conservation project and management are described.

PRINCIPLE 2. Resource Evaluation – The organization shall conduct an evaluation of the current conditions of the project area to define the carbon stocks in the project conservation area.

2.1 The organization shall evaluate and document the current forest resource conditions in each forest type through the use of imagery & ground verification to obtain credible inventory data within the project conservation area.

2.2 The level of current forest resource conditions shall be compared to its potential based on site quality to evaluate status as Severely Degraded (10-24% of potential stand volume); Degraded (25-50% of potential stand volume); Secondary forest (51-74% of potential stand volume) or well-developed forest (Natural) ($\geq 75\%$ of potential stand volume).

PRINCIPLE 3. Environmental Conditions – The organization shall conduct an evaluation of the current environmental conditions of the forest conservation area and define the conservational values and mitigation measures to protect and maintain those values

3.1 Assessment of environmental and conservational values (i.e. HCVF)

3.2 Procedures and systems shall be developed and implemented to protect Rare Threatened & Endangered (RTE) species and mitigate impacts to the environment.

3.3 Projected enhancement of environmental & conservational values shall be defined within the project scope.

PRINCIPLE 4. Social Conditions – The organization shall conduct an evaluation of the current social conditions associated with the project conservation area to define the potential benefits and mitigation measures from encroachment and harvesting activities.

4.1 Assessment of potential social impacts of local communities within & adjacent to the project area are defined along with mitigation measures for negative impacts.

4.2 Clear identification of social elements (villages and agricultural areas) within and adjacent to the conservation project area.

4.2 The organization can demonstrate a formal system of consultation & dispute resolution for local communities to obtain stakeholder input and minimize negative impacts of the project.

4.3 The organization has obtained free, prior and informed consent of rights holders for any activities affecting their rights to lands, territories and resources.

4.4 Objectives and plans for providing employment within the project, capacity building, and framework for establishment of social development programs as deemed needed based on the impact assessment.

4.5 There is a clear system for sharing of project revenue to local communities associated with the project based on a defined equitable portion of carbon credits generated by the project less administrative and direct project expenses

4.6 Evaluation of risk of illegal encroachment, logging and fire from local communities based on the methodology document titled "[Tool Number 2: Methodology for Forest Conservation](#)"

4.7 Evaluation of risk for quantification of carbon credits and delivery based on projected values.

PRINCIPLE 5. Management Plan, Procedures & Capacity – The organization shall have a formal long-term conservation management plan with systems to achieve defined project objectives that include mitigation of climate change through forest conservation, maintenance of conservation values and provisions for social benefits.

5.1 Project shall be managed to comply with all relevant local and national government regulations. Management shall aspire to control illegal activities that include illegal logging, encroachment and poaching of wildlife.

5.2 Projects shall have a conservation management plan that defines objectives, plans and procedures for resource management, environmental protection and social benefits.

5.3 Management plan shall clearly define the functional land use classes based on natural forest resource and quality, agricultural areas; local communities and infrastructure; areas for protection as conservation and areas for restoration.

5.4 Conservation Management Plans shall include identification & maintenance of conservational values and plans for social development as appropriate.

5.5 The Project Management shall have a system to identify fire risk, prevent and control fire.

5.6 The management plan shall have clear mapping at an appropriate scale for the project area and for operational activities within the project scope.

5.7 The organization shall have formalized procedures and guidelines for all key management and operational activities that detail the system used to control field operations.

5.8 Management organization shall train staff to develop and enhance local capacity to support project management & monitoring activities.

PRINCIPLE 6. Monitoring – The organization shall define an internal system to monitor the project and all activities in order to achieve the stated conservation objectives

6.1 Organization shall have an internal system for monitoring project management activities in accordance to procedures and guidelines of best practices.

6.2 The organization shall have a system to monitor & control illegal activities to protect forest resources & conservational values.

6.3 The organization shall have monitor forest resources through annual measurements of permanent sample plots to evaluate changes in carbon stocks within the project area that comply to GCS requirements (See methodology titled "[Tool Number 2: Methodology for Forest Conservation](#)").

6.4 The organization shall monitor fire risk and have a system to prevent and suppress forest fires.

6.5 The organization shall monitor conservation values such as watershed, wildlife & biodiversity.

6.6 The organization shall monitor project activities related to social development programs for long-term social benefits.

PRINCIPLE 7. Carbon Calculations – The organization shall have a defined system to quantify the carbon stored within the forest conservation project area

7.1 Organization shall maintain accurate measurements of PSP data on all live trees 10cm diameter and above in the Permanent Sample Plots to calculate carbon.

7.2 Tree measurement data shall be computerized to calculate plot volumes and carbon content as identified in the methodology “[Tool Number 2: Methodology for Forest Conservation](#)”.