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If you should require any further information then please do not hesitate to contact us. We will be pleased to help you.

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According to the VCS Program rules and CCB rules, a project must undergo a validation by a validation/verification body. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH is an accredited/approved validation/verification body for validation and verification of projects under VCS Sectoral Scopes 1 – 16 with additional competence based on project specific knowledge, training and experience.

## **1. GENERAL SCOPE OF WORK**

Validation is the independent evaluation of the project design, in particular the project's baseline study and monitoring plan, which are included in the Project Design Document and other relevant supporting documents, by a validation/verification body against the VCS Program rules, CCB rules and host country requirements.

The validation is based on the information made available to TÜV NORD CERT GmbH and on the contract conditions. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH cannot be held liable by any entity for making its validation opinion based on any false or misleading information supplied to it during the course of validation. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH employs a risk-based approach in the validation, focusing on the identification of significant risks for project implementation and the generation of verified carbon units (VCUs) and the delivery of net climate, community and biodiversity benefits.

The service of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will not include any consulting service. Nevertheless, the client may certainly perceive TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's possible requests for clarifications and/or corrective actions to the client as indicators of possible potential for improvement in the project design.

The validation will follow the procedures of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's CPS Certification Programme Quality manual, the applicable VCS Program rules and CCB rules.

In carrying out the validation work, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will apply the following standards and criteria:

- the requirements set forth in the most recent versions of the VCS Standard, the VCS Program Guide and the VCS Validation and Verification Manual;
- the requirements set forth in the most recent versions of the Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard, CCB Program Rules and other CCB Program documents;
- Host country requirements / criteria;
- geographical boundaries of the project including all national and/or sectoral policies and regulations;

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will validate the following information:

- policy, measure or stated goal of the project;
- confirmation about voluntary action by the project participant;
- demonstration of additionality of the project;
- design of the project (including technology or measures, baseline and monitoring methodology justification and application and accounting for leakage);
- starting date and lifetime of the project;
- operational and management arrangements, including record-keeping system and procedures to avoid double-counting;

- baseline methodology;
- monitoring plan with record-keeping system;
- indicators/data to be monitored and reported;
- design of the land management project
- if applicable, statistically sound sampling method to be used for verification;
- environmental analysis;
- Stakeholder Consultation Procedure

## **2. VALIDATION PROCESS**

The validation and subsequent registration process of the proposed VCS+CCB project shall follow the sequence of steps presented below:

### **2.1. Review of Documents**

The project documentation submitted by the client and supporting background documents related to the project design and baseline study as well as monitoring plan will be reviewed. Furthermore, the validation team may use additional documentation or checklist by third parties like host-party legislation, technical reports referring to the project design or to the basic conditions and technical data. The document review shall establish to what degree the presented documents meet the established validation criteria. The findings of initial document review will be presented to the client.

### **2.2. Assessment using a Validation Protocol**

For cost-effective and systematic validations of VCS+CCB projects, one generic protocol will be used as the documented backbone of a transparent validation process. The protocol shows, in a transparent manner, criteria and requirements, means of validation and the results from pre-validating the identified criteria.

### **2.3. On site visit and follow-up interviews**

Visits of the project site(s) / PPs offices will be carried out in line with the VCS Program rules and CCB rules. To ensure an efficient validation process the client has to provide all necessary information and documentation during the site visit and grant access to relevant sites and persons. If TÜV NORD CERT GmbH finds that the information provided by the Client is not sufficient to perform the validation, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may, at TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's sole discretion, request follow-up interviews with project stakeholders, project developers, consultants and/or technical staff, or financially responsible persons.

### **2.4. Draft-Validation reporting**

The draft validation report will facilitate the joint effort between the client and TÜV NORD CERT GmbH to develop and document answer(s) and conclusions to requirements, which are considered applicable for VCS + CCB projects. The independent validation exercise and subsequent discussions given in the report shall enable the client to address any concerns TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may have raised related to the project, and how these may be clarified.

In order to remedy any mistakes, problems or any other outstanding issues that needed to be clarified for positive conclusion on the project design, Corrective Action Requests (CAR) or Clarification Requests (CL) may be raised. All CLs & CARs are reported and elaborated in terms of implication of CLs & CARs issued in the draft validation report. In the event of issuance of CARs / CLs the client will have to close CARs and respond to CLs before the validation could be completed.

The validation team will also take into account the comments received during the stakeholder consultation process in a separate section of the pre-validation report.

## **2.5. Resolution of CARs & CLs**

The CARs and CLs stated in the draft validation report will have to be resolved by the client, if these are issued. The requests can be resolved or "closed out" by the client by modifying the project design and by rectifying and updating the project design documentation. If this is not done in the final stages of the validation, it may cause the project not be recommended for registration, or cause the expected emission reductions not to be subsequently validated and verified.

The number of Assessments on the corrective actions for closure of CARs and CLs raised should be limited to two consecutive rounds. For further resolution, the client and TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may enter into an amendment for additional man-days required.

## **2.6. Validation Report**

The final validation report will reflect the results and any adjustments made to the project after the submission of draft validation report. This final validation report will reflect the responses to corrective action and clarification requests, discussions and revisions of project documents. Thus, the final validation report should give the final conclusions regarding the projects conformance with relevant VCS Program rules and CCB rules. The validation report may raise issues that need to be subsequently addressed during project implementation like the implications of any remaining corrective action requests not resolved during the validation.

The final validation report shall include a validation opinion which either forms the basis for registration of the project or which explains the reason for non-acceptance if the project is judged not to fulfil validation requirements. In addition, the opinion will be an important decision factor for the client whether to proceed or not with the project.

## **2.7. Technical review & Final Approval**

Before the submission of the final validation report, a technical review and final approval of the whole validation procedure will be carried out.

During the technical review process, the validation opinion and the specific assessments as prepared by the validation team may have been confirmed or revised. Furthermore, reporting improvements might have been achieved.

The technical review follows an overall (esp. procedural) assessment of the complete validation carried out by a qualified auditor.

## **2.8. Submission to the client**

Registration is the formal acceptance of a project. Registration is the prerequisite for the verification and issuance of VCUs and the delivery of net climate, community and biodiversity benefits related to that project.

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will submit the validation report, the VCS Validation Deed of Representation and the CCB Validation Statement to the client.

### **3. SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH is prepared to begin the work on the validation of the project within 10 working days upon receipt of all necessary project-related documents such as but not limited to the PDD, the financial calculation spreadsheet (if applicable), the emission reduction calculation and the emission factor calculation upon receipt of Client's valid acceptance of the Offer.

The Client shall submit all necessary project-related documents at least four (4) weeks before TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's (first) site visit. If the client fails to meet the aforementioned timeline or fails to submit any project related documents that it should reasonably have submitted to TÜV NORD CERT GmbH, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may, at its sole discretion, postpone its site visit(s).

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will use reasonable efforts to forward the DVR including the CARs and CLs to the Client within four (4) weeks of its (final) site visit.

Upon the Client's submission of its response to CARs and CLs, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will use reasonable efforts to finalise the FVR within three (3) weeks of TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's receipt of the final documents submitted by the Client.

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will use reasonable efforts to conduct the Technical Review and Final Approval within six (6) weeks after finalisation of the FVR.

### **4. TEAM COMPOSITION**

An experienced team will carry out the validation of the project.

The validation team will consist of experienced (lead) auditors and experts covering technical, methodological, environmental, host country and socio-economic competence.

The final team composition will be announced after the conclusion of contract and in the course of the audit planning. The client has the right to reject any team member with sufficient justification. Related Curriculum Vitae of the audit team will be provided upon request vide [operations.carbon@tuev-nord.de](mailto:operations.carbon@tuev-nord.de).

### **5. RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF TÜV NORD CERT GMBH**

In addition to performing the service detailed in the offer TÜV NORD CERT GmbH shall:

Issue a validation report in line with scheme requirements, which will state whether, in the validation/verification body's opinion, the project fulfils the requirements of the schemes.

Issue a Validation Deed of Representation and a CCB Validation Statement.

Arrive at its opinion upon consideration of the following matters and reporting as to any aspect with which TÜV NORD CERT GmbH is not satisfied, namely whether:

- All relevant scheme requirements are met
- the monitoring system and procedures are in line with the applied methodology.
- the project is additional
- environmental analysis and Stakeholder Consultation is in line with the schemes

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH shall be entitled to Interview attorneys, engineers, analysts, accountants, or other parties deemed by TÜV NORD CERT GmbH to have the qualifications necessary to assist in the performance of the service without any extra fees/charge payable on this account by the client. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may select and engage such persons without the clients prior approval save that, should the client advise TÜV NORD CERT GmbH that a conflict of interest exists, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH will take all necessary measures to engage alternate advisors. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH may also consult with stakeholders to assist in the performance of the service. Stakeholders shall include the public, including individuals, groups or communities affected, or likely to be affected, by the activity in question.

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH shall perform the service in an efficient, prompt, skillful and careful manner in accordance with the current industry standards, practices and procedures. In performing the service, TÜV NORD CERT GmbH shall observe and obey all applicable laws, regulations, rules and standards imposed by any government or other duly constituted authority having jurisdiction in the host country. TÜV NORD CERT GmbH by accepting the offer neither automatically guarantees a positive validation opinion nor the registration of the project.

TÜV NORD CERT GmbH has the right to subcontract members of the TÜV NORD CPS Certification Program of other entities and external individuals.

## **6. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE CLIENT**

The client is responsible for:

Conducting stakeholder consultation in line with the applied schemes.

Preparing a Project Design Document in compliance with the rules set by the applied schemes. In case of changes to the schemes during execution of the service the client shall adapt the project documents to the new rules.

Determining additionality, baseline scenario and emission reductions using approved methodologies and tools and scientifically appropriate protocols as required by the schemes.

Preparing a monitoring plan consistent with the rules of the schemes in question, to gather the necessary data and reporting data in a complete, transparent and accurate manner.

Providing TÜV NORD CERT GmbH with:

- A PDD and further documents as requested by the schemes.
- the necessary and requested access to client books, records, information systems and facilities such that TÜV NORD CERT GmbH is able to validate the data and assumptions presented in the project documents.
- all information, documentation, data or other material or taking all measures required by the schemes unless TÜV NORD CERT GmbH is expressly responsible for providing such measures under this agreement. In case of deadlines set by the schemes concerning material to be provided or measures to be taken by the client, the client shall provide TÜV NORD CERT GmbH with material 3 working days before expiry of the deadline.

Complying with TÜV NORD CERT GmbH's requests to conduct interviews, meetings and/or discussions with client's employees and agents on any matters relating to the service, within such deadlines as TÜV NORD CERT GmbH shall establish.

All obligations of the client shall be performed according to the schemes in force when performing the obligations. In case of changes to the schemes affecting performances already rendered the client shall amend or render anew its performances accordingly.