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Methodology:
M001

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TEMPLATE

Feasibility Study Report

SUMMARY

This report synthesises findings and evidence, required by ERS in the Feasibility Study phase of a Project's certification. This report and its appendices provide essential information for ERS to determine whether a Project meets the criteria established in the ERS Programme and the ERS M001, thereby allowing it to progress to the Project Design Review phase.

Table of *Contents*

Introduction

SCOPE

The Feasibility Study enables ERS to assess if a Project complies with the criteria required during the Feasibility Review phase of the ERS Certification. Once the criteria are validated, the Project can advance to the Project Design Review phase. Except for the last sections, ‘Carbon Estimation’ and ‘Decision Summary’, which are filled by ERS, the Developer must fill in all required information in this document.

A different Feasibility Study must be submitted for each Restoration Project seeking the ERS Certification.

PROJECT SUMMARY

Project title	Enter the Project Title.
Location and coordinates	Enter the country, and district/province(s) where the Project region is located.
Main Project Developer	*Legal Entity's name* *Type of organisation/legal status* *Inc. number* *Inc country* - *Main point of contact's name* *Position* *Email* *Phone*
Project area **Restoration area**	State the extent of the total proposed Project area. State the extent of the total area destined to restoration work.
Project Ecosystem (Functional Group)	Declare the Project Ecosystem following IUCN's Global Ecosystem Typology

Feasibility Study *Report*

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

1. Project's contributors

1.1. Organisations Involved in Project Coordination, Management, Implementation and Execution

Organisation	Type and Legal Status	Representative	Role in the Project and summary of activities
Enter the organisation's Name.		Enter the representative's name and their e-mail(s).	Enter the organisation's role.

1.2. Individuals Involved in Project Coordination, Management, Implementation and Execution

Name of the individual	Role in the Project and summary of activities

2. Stakeholder Mapping

💡 Complete the Stakeholder mapping using the first tab of the Livelihood Matrix and provide a summary of the identified Stakeholders below. Refer to the Community Consultation Guidelines to gain insights.

💡 **Free, Prior And Informed Consent (FPIC)** stands for Free, Prior and Informed Consent. It is a principle stating that all communities have the right to give or withhold consent to proposed Projects that may affect their lands, resources, livelihoods, and communities.

💡 When addressing Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs), the Developer **must follow** FPIC guidelines detailed in M001 throughout the Project. In the Feasibility phase, the Developer must explain who they represent, their mandate, and the nature of the Project, share the initial Project Design proposition, make it clear how the Project might impact IPLCs and make room for co-creation.

Fill the tables below with justifications for every step. The table is derived from the FAO Manual for Project Practitioners.

Stakeholder's Summary Table

Stakeholder's Name	Relevance to the Project	Representative	Consulted during the Stakeholder Engagement process?	Results of the Stakeholder Engagement
Enter the Organisation Stakeholder name.	Enter their relevance to the Project (live in/near the area, hold the carbon rights, workforce etc.)	Enter the Stakeholder representative(s) and their contact details.		If stakeholder was engaged in the process, enter the contributions

☐ The project **did not identify** IPLCs amongst its Stakeholders.
(Skip the IPLCs table below)

Enter the justification of why no IPLCs were identified amongst the Project's Stakeholders. Detail the efforts put in place to identify them and the social and geographical conditions that grant the Project this characteristic.

☐ The Project **identified** IPLCs amongst its Stakeholders
(Fill the IPLCs table below)

IPLCs Table

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) concerned by the project.	
Project's FPIC compliance justification	Specify how the Project adhered to this requirement. Describe the actions put in place in order to abide by the FPIC process. Any supporting documents or proofs can be included in the Appendix section, including photos, minutes of meetings/interviews and links to video recordings.. If the requirement has not been fulfilled, provide a justification for the reasons behind this non-compliance.
IPLCs concerned by the Project	List of the IPLCs concerned by the project. *Interviews and talks in and around the Project Area must be carried out to identify IPLCs, and understand their language, customs, land usage and rights regarding the territory.*

Mobile communities concerned by the Project's area.	List of concerned Mobile Communities. *These are communities that migrate seasonally across the Project area, without necessarily living inside.*
IPLCs chosen representatives	List of representatives stating their names and the IPLCs they represent *Approach the IPLCs' self-governance systems and structures to identify their representatives who are individuals and institutions of their own choice, and who are accountable and legitimate to those they represent, in consultation, negotiation, decision-making and consent-seeking.*
IPLCs communication channels/media	List of channels/media
Abidance to jurisdictional FPIC laws (if applicable)	List of the laws and justification of how the Project abides to them *Research of local laws in relation to Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) to (i) involve local authorities and (ii) be prepared before approaching IPLCs' self-governance systems and structures.*

3. Stakeholder Engagement Results

💡 **Engage with the identified Stakeholders** following the Community Consultation Guidelines and summarise the main findings below (items 3.2 and 3.3). Ensure they are equitably involved in the process, providing the necessary feedback for the Project Design to be co-created. Stakeholders that are consulted should be indicated in the "Stakeholder Mapping" table above.

💡 Please note that **if IPLCs are part of the Project's Stakeholders**, FPIC Guidelines must be followed. In this context, IPLCs' inputs **must** be detailed in the Participatory Mapping tab of the Ecological Recovery Assessment and their feedback **must** be integrated into the Project's design. Make sure to **document land usage, natural resources, and customary rights** and summarise findings bellow (item 3.1).

3.1. Participatory Mapping (If IPLCs are part of the Stakeholders)

Document geographic and demographic information through participatory mapping	
IPLCs land and natural resources usage	List of all land and natural resources usage *Identify IPLCs usage of the land, for example, farming for subsistence, livelihood resources, sacred or spiritual areas, archaeological or historical sites or areas where medicinal plants are harvested, etc.* *During the mapping, identify IPLCs or Project team "non-negotiables" and common grounds.*
IPLCs customary rights	List of all customary rights and the IPLCs holding it *Identify customary rights, spiritual practices or traditional ethical codes, and relevant legal frameworks that should be considered for Project formulation and implementation.*

3.2. Pictures of the Interactions

Enter pictures or screenshots of the interactions.

3.3. Summary of findings and their integration

Summarise findings while engaging with Stakeholders and how they were taken into consideration while designing the Project. If findings did not impact the Project's design, justify why they were not considered.

PRE-SUBMISSION ACTIVITIES

💡 ERS refers as pre-submission activities to any activities undertaken before submission for certification, to test the viability of restoration practices in the the Project Area. If no pre-submission activities have taken place, it must be indicated in step 1. below and the rest of this section can be disregarded.

1. Pre-submission Activities Declaration

☐ No, the Project **did not** undertake any activities.

☐ Yes, the Project **did** undertake pre-submission activities.

2. Pre-submission Activities Information

If Pre-submission activities took place, fill in the table below.

Date	Start mm/YYYY End mm/YYYY List the date of the first Pre-submission activity and of the last one.
Summary of interventions	Copy from the Pre-submission activities Report
Total extent, in ha, of the zones submitted to pre-submission activities	Copy from the Pre-submission activities Report
Summary of results	Copy from the Pre-submission activities Report
Source(s) of funding	Copy from the Pre-submission activities Report
Leakage (ha)	If the interventions resulted in leakage, insert the total hectares that were displaced as reported in the Leakage Declaration Template

3. Proof of Carbon Credits consideration

Submit evidence justifying that carbon credits have been considered as an alternative to funding the Project before the beginning of pre-submission activities. Acceptable proof includes, but is not limited to: e-mail exchanges, Stakeholder

consultations, consultancy reports, contracts and letters of authorisation.

4. Funding

Fill the table detailing the source and amount of funding for pre-submission activities.

Name of funder	Type of organisation and legal status	Representative	Amount
Enter the Funder's Name.	Enter the Entity type and its legal status.	Enter the Project Funder representative(s) and their contact details	Enter the country, and district/province(s) where the Project Funder(s) headquarters is located.

PROJECT SITES

1. Project Area

1.1. Rationale

Explain briefly the history of the total Project Area and the Restoration Site(s) and why an ecological restoration Project is needed. Include the past and expected land use and land management of the areas without the Project interventions. Don't forget to include feedback received during the interviews and the FPIC

process (if applicable).

1.2. Boundaries

Provide map(s) showing the boundaries of the proposed Project Area(s). When uploading the shapefile, please include a reference to the name of the Project in the name of the shared file. Refer to the Developer Certification Journey for more details.

1.3. Proposed Zonation

Enter a produced map showing the result of the Zonation process following the Zonation guidelines. Add a brief description of each zone.

1.4. Land tenure

Describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights of the Project Area(s), and how they are related to the carbon benefits. If there are any disputes over the area(s), explain it here. Please provide the following documentation in Appendix 2: ● Land ownership-related documentation. ● If applicable, the contract between the Developer and land owner(s) or right holder(s) proving land use rights and specifying the duration and carbon

benefits distribution.

- Documentation proving that there are no disputes over the land. If disputes exist, provide the documentation that explains the dispute and its status.

1.5. Compliance

Describe the compliance of the Project with laws, statutes and other regulatory frameworks within the host and implementation country/countries in relation to carbon rights.

1.6. Double Counting

Identify any carbon, biodiversity or livelihood Projects or initiatives that overlap with the proposed Project Area. Explain why carbon benefits or other natural or socio-economic financial tools for restoration achieved by the Project will not be included in any other form of similar or compatible trading, including national schemes.

2. Reference Ecosystem

2.1. Rationale

Explain the rationale behind the choice of this Reference Ecosystem. Refer to the Reference Ecosystem Guidelines for more details.

Do not forget to include feedback received during the interviews and the FPIC

process (if applicable).

2.2. Boundaries

Provide Shapefile map(s) showing the boundaries of the proposed reference ecosystem area(s). Refer to the Developer Certification Journey for more details.

2.3. Land tenure

Describe the ownership, tenure, user rights or management rights of the reference ecosystem area(s). Describe how logistically and socially accessible is the area of the reference ecosystem.

ADDITIONALITY

💡 The criteria outlined within the "Additionality" section of the Methodology guarantees the Projects can adequately demonstrate their full implementation would not have been possible without the benefits offered by the ERS certification.

For a Project to be eligible for ERS Assessment, it needs to meet the two additionality requirements, as outlined in this section.

1. Regulatory Surplus

☐ The Project is not under obligation to restore.

Provide evidence proving that the Project Developer **does not** hold a legal obligation to restore the area concerned by the Project.	
Legislation and regulations.	List the applicable laws and regulations.
Explain how this obligation is not enforced.	In this section, you can include: *- Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources.* *- Data from national and international statistics.* *- Written documentation of expert judgments.* *Please note that for high-income countries 'non-enforcement' can't be used as a justification.*

💡 ERS recommends consulting legal experts to obtain reliable advice on whether or not there are legal requirements for restoring the Project area. If this requires additional costs to the Project, we encourage Developers to include these in the Project budget for our consideration.

2. Environmental Surplus

Provide evidence proving that ecological restoration, and consequent GHG emission removal, would not occur to this level without the Project.

Land cover changes over the last ten years.	Describe the Project's Area deforestation drivers, what anthropogenic activities in the last ten years led to the current land cover, and, most importantly, explain how these changes were not done purposefully to obtain benefits from the VCM. *In this section, you can include:* *-Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources.* *-Data from national and international statistics.* *-Written documentation of expert judgments from relevant government/non-government bodies, educational institutions, and professional associations.* *ERS will cross-check this information using satellite imagery and might ask for additional information where necessary.*
Land cover natural recovery	Demonstrate that the biophysical properties of the land[1] could not allow the ecosystem to regenerate on its own, to the project's level, and thus interventions are necessary. *ERS will provide justification for this answer using satellite imagery.*

[1] Limited productivity land types include drylands, lands of low productivity/degraded soils and of contaminated soils. See UNFCCC methodologies (pp.6-7) for more information.

INFRASTRUCTURE & SUPPLIERS

Respond to the questions below to explain the available infrastructure in the Project area and its surroundings	
Are there native seed suppliers in the area?	
Are there qualified local workers available to engage in the Project?	
Is fuel used in the Project area or its premises for uses other than mobility (e.g. vehicles)?	
Are there firebreaks or fire towers inside the Project area or its premises? If not, is it forecasted to be installed during the Project?	
Is there firefighting equipment in the Project area? If not, is it forecasted to be installed during the Project?	
Are workers trained in firefighting? If not, is it forecasted to happen during the Project?	

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT

💡 Identify political factors that can influence the Project implementation, this can be positively or negatively and can include but is not limited to, National environmental legislation, legislation currently being developed, National carbon frameworks, political opposition or support to the Project

1. Current Environmental Legislation

List of applicable legislation and impact rationale. Enter here any evidence of National environmental legislation and legal framework of the host country that can impact the Project or its activities. Demonstrate which measures are in place to be compliant.

2. Future Legislation

List of legislation being negotiated and impact rationale. Enter here any evidence of future legislation being currently developed in the host country that can impact the Project or its activities.

3. Political opposition/support

List of legislation being negotiated and impact rationale. Enter any evidence of political support or opposition that can impact the delivery

of the Project or its activities.

4. Other

If applicable, please enter here any other piece of evidence related to environmental policy(ies) that can influence the Project.

CARBON

ERS will provide details of the first GHG emission removal estimation.

DECISION SUMMARY

Date	
Decision Team Members	
Decision	
Rationale	
Comments	

Appendix 1 *FPIC* Supporting Documents

Enter here the supporting documents to justify the FPIC process completion.

Appendix 2 *Land Tenure*

Supporting Documents

- **Land Ownership Documentation**

  Enter here the supporting documents justifying Land Tenure rights.

- **Contract Between Project Developer and Landowner(s) or right holder(s)**

  If applicable, enter here a copy of the contract between the Project Developer and the land owners.

- **Disputes Over the Land**

  Enter here supporting documentation proving there are no disputes over the land. If disputes exist, please submit documentation that explains the situation and its status.

Appendix 3 *Additionality* Supporting Documents

Enter here the supporting documents to justify Additionality (Regulatory and Environmental Surplus)

Ecosystem Restoration Standard

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