



## **As of July 21, 2025, ERS has rebranded to Equitable Earth.**

All references to “ERS” refer to the standard body now operating under the Equitable Earth name.





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M001

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## TEMPLATE

# Project Design Document

## SUMMARY

This document summarises all key elements of a Project, allowing ERS and the general public with a comprehensive understanding of its needs, actions, and anticipated outcomes. The PDD and its appended documentation serve as the sole authoritative sources for Project certification. Upon publication, both the Developer and the ERS Certification acknowledge the veracity and accuracy of its content.



# Table of *Contents*

<b>Table of Contents</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>Project Design Document</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>PROJECT SUMMARY</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>THE DEVELOPER</b>	<b>8</b>
Developer presentation	8
Developer Due Diligence Conclusion	8
<b>THE PROJECT</b>	<b>8</b>
Project Area	8
External Boundaries and Location	8
Rationale for choice	9
Environmental context	9
Social context	9
FPIC Legislation	9
Main drivers of disruption/destruction	10
Pictures	10
Reference Ecosystem	10
External Boundaries and Location of the Reference Site	10
Rationale for choice	10
Pre-submission Activities	10
Does the Project encompass Pre-submission activities?	10
Summary of Pre-submission activities (if applicable)	11
<b>CARBON</b>	<b>12</b>
Methodology	12
Baseline assessment	12
Leakage - Activity Shifting	12
Does the Project result in activity shifting?	13
Activity description	13
Is activity shifting resulting in leakage?	13
Justification	13



Probationary documentation	13
Displaced activity area	13
Hosting area	14
Leakage calculation	14
Carbon estimation	14
Permanence	14
Overall Reversal Risk Evaluation	14
Additionality	15
Environmental Surplus	15
Regulatory Surplus	15
Barrier Analysis	16
Double Counting	18
Double issuance (proof of verification)	18
Double issuance (proof of rejections if applicable)	18
Double claiming (if applicable)	18
Dynamic Baseline	19
• Control Plots	19
Issuances	19
• Total Project Units	19
• Buffer Pool Contribution	19
<b>ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY</b>	<b>20</b>
Intervention Zone Baseline Assessment	20
Zonation	20
Recovery Wheel(s)	20
Summary of findings of the Community Consultation on Ecological Recovery	20
Restoration Plan	20
Restoration Plan Summary of objectives	20
Restoration Plan Summary of Interventions	21
Technologies or Practices applied for Restoration	21
Cultural and Natural Heritage (if IPLCs were identified)	21
<b>LIVELIHOOD</b>	<b>22</b>
Livelihood Baseline	22



Key Findings	22
Key and Direct Stakeholders - Stakeholder mapping	22
Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)	23
Stakeholder engagement and participation	23
Social Additionality Plan	23
Summary of Social Additionality Plan	23
Summary of Social Additionality Interventions	24
Summary of Benefit Sharing Mechanism	24
Summary of NTFPs Activities	24
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>25</b>
Risk Evaluation	25
Delivery Risk evaluation:	25
ERS Requirement Risk Evaluation:	25
Risk Treatment	25
Surveillance Plan	25
Mitigation Activities	26
<b>SAFEGUARDS</b>	<b>27</b>
Declaration	27
Treatment	27
Mitigation Activities	27
<b>MONITORING PLAN</b>	<b>28</b>
1. Risks indicators	28
2. Safeguards indicators	28
3. Ecological Recovery indicators	28
4. Livelihoods indicators	29
5. SDG contributions	29
6. Carbon indicators	30
MRV SCHEDULE	30
<b>Appendix 1</b>	<b>31</b>
Developer Due Diligence Report	31
<b>Appendix 2</b>	<b>32</b>
Additionality Sheet	32



<b>Appendix 3</b>	<b>33</b>
Risk Assessment Matrix	33
<b>Appendix 4</b>	<b>34</b>
Leakage Mitigation Declaration	34
<b>Appendix 5</b>	<b>35</b>
Leakage Mitigation Probationary Documentation	35
<b>Appendix 6</b>	<b>36</b>
Ecological Recovery Assessment	36
<b>Appendix 7</b>	<b>37</b>
Restoration Plan	37
<b>Appendix 8</b>	<b>38</b>
Livelihood Matrix	38
<b>Appendix 9</b>	<b>39</b>
Community Consultation Reports	39
<b>Appendix 10</b>	<b>40</b>
Social Additionality Plan	40
<b>Appendix 11</b>	<b>41</b>
Safeguards Declaration	41
<b>Appendix 12</b>	<b>42</b>
GHG Quantification	42
<b>Appendix 13</b>	<b>43</b>
Land Right Agreement	43
<b>Appendix 14</b>	<b>44</b>
Carbon Right Agreement	44
<b>Appendix 15</b>	<b>45</b>
Government/Art.6 Agreement	45
<b>Appendix 16</b>	<b>46</b>
Pre-submission Activities Report	46
<b>Appendix 17</b>	<b>47</b>
Public Comment Report	47
<b>Appendix 18</b>	<b>48</b>
SDG Contribution Tool	48





# Project Design *Document*

## PROJECT SUMMARY

Project name	
Project ID	
Project registry link	
Location and coordinates (country, state, city) (geographic coordinates)	
Project Developer	
Project Area (ha)	
Ecosystem type	According to <a href="#">IUCN classification</a>
Project Justification and Overall Objectives (100 words max)	
Government authorisation (if applicable)	Authorisation number or name of the official entity/organism issuing it.



<b>IPLCs identified</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
<b>Land tenure</b>	Land tenure type (e.g. private property, customary rights, government land)
<b>Carbon rights</b>	
<b>Project's Carbon contribution (tradable tons)</b>	
<b>Project duration (start and end dates)</b>	
<b>SDG contribution</b>	
<b>Total budget</b>	
<b>Date of Document Publication</b>	
<b>Responsible VVB</b>	
<b>Validation or Verification date</b>	
<b>Responsible ERS Certification Agent</b>	



## THE DEVELOPER

### Developer presentation

Name, type of organisation, location of incorporation/registration, number of years operating, main geographic areas of operations, main field of expertise.

Quantity, location and type of project(s) operated previously, and resulting carbon credits (if any).

Team composition (professions, implication in the project).

Any other relevant information to communicate who the Developer is and their capacity to run the Project.

### Developer Due Diligence Conclusion

*\* Refer to [Appendix I - Due Diligence Report](#), in the Appendix section, for the detailed Developer Due Diligence.*

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## THE PROJECT

### Project Area

#### External Boundaries and Location

Map-image indicating the Project's boundaries.

Add geographic coordinates.

- Project shapefile can be accessed at the URL (link to be filed by ERS).

**Rationale for choice**

Extended justification of the selection and relevance to restore the Project area and ecosystem.

**Environmental context**

Host country and restoration-zone specific environmental legislation, environmental, economic relevance, and environmental political scenario.

**Social context**

Host country and restoration-zone specific social context and legislations that might impact the Project.

**FPIC Legislation**

- FPIC does not apply to the Project (no IPLCs identified).
- FPIC applies to the Project.
  - Jurisdiction-specific legislation or agreement applies.
  - Jurisdiction has no applicable FPIC legislation or agreement.

Citation of all applicable legislation and/or agreement and how the Project complies with them.



## Main drivers of disruption/destruction

Description of all identified drivers for disruption/destruction in the Project area.

## Pictures

Pictures that help the PDD reader understand the Project Area and context.

## Reference Ecosystem

### External Boundaries and Location of the Reference Site

Map-image indicating the Reference Site's boundaries.  
Add geographic coordinates.

## Rationale for choice

Extended justification of the selection, description of site access, tenure, and conservation state.

## Pre-submission Activities

Does the Project encompass Pre-submission activities?

Yes

No



### **Summary of Pre-submission activities (if applicable)**

Summary of interventions carried out, including date, location, expected outcomes, total area restored, number of trees planted, and Stakeholders involved.



## CARBON

### Methodology

\* Refer to Appendix 12 - GHG Quantification, in the Appendix section, for the detailed GHG Quantification Methodology and calculation.

#### Baseline scenario

- Project baseline scenario

Describe and justify the baseline scenario (i.e., what would occur at the Restoration Site(s) without the intervention of the Project).

#### Baseline assessment

- Project Area baseline (excluding Pre-submission activities if applicable)

ERS to add land cover satellite imagery separating woody and non-woody mask and woody AGB.

- Pre-submission activities baseline (if applicable)

ERS to add land cover satellite imagery showing woody AGB before the Pre-submission Activities started.

- Pre-submission activities at Certification (if applicable)

ERS to add land cover satellite imagery showing woody AGB at the moment of the Project's certification.

- Reference site



ERS to add land cover satellite imagery showing woody AGB.

## Leakage – Activity Shifting

\* Refer to [Appendix 4 - Leakage Mitigation Declaration](#), in the Appendix section, for the detailed Leakage Declaration.

### Does the Project result in activity shifting?

- Yes
  - During Pre-submission Activities
  - During the Project after certification
- No

### Activity description

Description of the activity that will be or was already displaced/shifted, including its nature, annual production in USD, size in ha, and if it is part of the Pre-submission activities or not (when applicable).

### Is activity shifting resulting in leakage?

- Yes
- No

### Justification

Explanation of why the activity is not shifting because of the Project and/or does not result in leakage.



### Probationary documentation

Only if shifting is not identified and/or does not result in leakage.  
List of documents proving the activity is not shifted and/or not displaced because of the Project.

### Displaced activity area

Map-image indicating the current boundaries of the displaced activity's area.  
Add geographic coordinates.

### Hosting area

Map-image indicating the boundaries of the area that will host the displaced activity.  
Add geographic coordinates.

### Leakage calculation

TO BE FILLED BY ERS

### Carbon estimation

- Detailed calculation

ERS to add the final equations leading to the final carbon sequestration potential estimation.

### Permanence

### Overall Reversal Risk Evaluation

Report only identified risks.



\* Refer to Appendix 3 - Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment.

	Likelihood	Severity	Treatment: Surveillance and Mitigation Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				

## Additionality

\* Refer to Appendix 2 - Additionality Sheet, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Additionality.

## Environmental Surplus

	Evidence proving that the Project is not creating perverse incentives
Land cover change over the last ten years	<p>Description of 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.</p> <p>This section can include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources.</li><li>-Data from national and international statistics.</li></ul>



	-Written documentation of expert judgments from relevant government/non-government bodies, educational institutions, and professional associations.
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## Regulatory Surplus

	<b>Evidence proving that the Project area is not under a legal obligation to be restored.</b>
<b>Applicable Legislation and Regulations</b>	<p>Description of applicable laws, regulations, and environmental management norms in the jurisdiction.</p> <p>ERS encourages the inclusion of written descriptions of expert judgments.</p>
<p>Is the Project area subject to an “Obligation to restore”?</p> <p>If YES, explain how this obligation is not enforced.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No</p> <p>Content should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Sectoral studies, surveys, and research from reputable sources.</li> <li>- Data from national and international statistics.</li> <li>- Written documentation of expert judgments.</li> </ul> <p>! Please note that for high-income countries, ‘non-enforcement’ can’t be used as a justification.</p>

## Barrier Analysis

Identified barriers preventing the desired project activities and demonstrated how they can be overcome through carbon finance.

	<b>Financial Barriers</b>
	Lack of funding, high upfront costs, or difficulty accessing finance can



	stall or prevent a Project from getting started.
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

	<b>Technical Barriers</b> Challenges related to technology, methodology, expertise, site-specific conditions, and other technical aspects of the project. It can involve anything from a lack of necessary equipment to difficulties in measuring carbon sequestration.
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

	<b>Cultural and Social Barriers</b> Challenges in the collective movement of local communities towards establishing, maintaining and monitoring restoration projects due to, for example, lack of information, threats to the safety of community
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	<b>members, existing social structures and norms.</b>
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

	<b>Regulatory and Institutional Barriers</b>  Limitations within the regulatory framework and its relevant institution include limited staff capacity, lack of necessary skills, local regulations, complex permitting processes, ineffective bureaucratic processes or challenges in meeting specific compliance standards.
Identified Barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of barrier(s)	
Verifiable evidence of carbon credit necessity	

## Double Counting

### Double issuance (proof of verification)

TO BE FILLED BY ERS



List of all consulted registries.

**Double issuance (proof of rejections if applicable)**

**Double claiming (if applicable)**

**Dynamic Baseline**

- Control Plots

To be filled by ERS: Satellite image with coordinates allowing to locate all the control plots used for dynamic baseline.

**Issuances**

- Total Project Units

PRUs:

VRUs at certification (if applicable):

- Buffer Pool Contribution

*Total Restoration Units the Project will contribute to the Buffer Pool.*

PRUs:

VRUs at certification (if applicable):

- Project's tradeable PRUs



ERS to add the PRUs of the project.

- Pre-submission activities tradeable VRUs (if applicable)

ERS to add the VRUs of the Pre-submission activities.

## ECOLOGICAL RECOVERY

### Intervention Zone Baseline Assessment

\* Refer to Appendix 6 - *Ecological Recovery Assessment*, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Baseline Assessment.

#### Zonation

Map-image indicating the boundaries of the area that will host the restoration activities.  
Add geographic coordinates.

#### Recovery Wheel(s)

Image of the Intervention Zone(s) Recovery Wheel(s).

#### Summary of findings of the Community Consultation on Ecological Recovery

Summary of findings as in the Ecological Recovery Assessment.



## Restoration Plan

*\* Refer to [Appendix 7](#) - Restoration Plan, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Restoration Plan.*

### Restoration Plan Summary of objectives

Summary of objectives as in the Restoration Plan.

### Restoration Plan Summary of Interventions

Summary of interventions as in the Restoration Plan.

### Technologies or Practices applied for Restoration

Leading technologies and/or practices used to restore the site.

### Cultural and Natural Heritage (if IPLCs were identified)

How the restoration plan integrate or follow IPLCs protocols/rules/plans on the management of the cultural and natural heritage of the site



## LIVELIHOOD

### Livelihood Baseline

#### Key Findings

\* Refer to Appendix 8 - Livelihood Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Livelihood Baseline.

Description of the Stakeholder's livelihood state at the beginning of the Project.

Must include a description for all dimensions in Livelihoods, Cultural Heritage & Governance, and Employment & Fair Wages.

#### Key and Direct Stakeholders – Stakeholder mapping

\* Refer to Appendix 8 - Livelihood Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Stakeholder mapping.

Organisation or Group(s) Name	Relevance to the Project	Representative	Recognised as Local Community or Indigenous People (Y/N)	Right holder (Y/N)
Enter the Organisation or group of Stakeholders' names, if applicable.	Enter their relevance to the Project (live in/near the area, hold the carbon credit rights, etc.)	Enter the Stakeholder representative(s) and their contact details.		



## Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC) of Indigenous People and Local Communities (IPLCs)

*\* Refer to [Appendix 9 - Community Consultation Reports](#), in the Appendix section, for the detailed application of the FPIC process.*

- The project **did not identify** IPLCs amongst its Stakeholders.

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

Describe how FPIC was followed (format of the meeting, location, date, attendees), any requirements for the consent to be granted, and add proof of the meeting in [Appendix 9 - Community Consultation Reports](#), in the Appendix section, for the detailed FPIC application.

## Stakeholder engagement and participation

Description of how Stakeholders were involved in the Project's ideation, in the conception of the Social Additionality and Restoration plans.

## Social Additionality Plan

*\* Refer to [Appendix 10 - Social Additionality Plan](#), in the Appendix section, for the detailed Social Additionality Plan.*

## Summary of Social Additionality Plan

Insert the summary as it is in the Social Additionality Plan.



### Summary of Social Additionality Interventions

Insert the summary as it is in the Social Additionality Plan.

### Summary of Benefit Sharing Mechanism

**No** Benefit Sharing Mechanism is in place.

Insert the summary of the benefit-sharing mechanism described in the Social Additionality Plan. The summary must include how arrangements are appropriate to the context and comply with applicable laws and regulations, how the FPIC process was respected, ensuring co-creation was done in a form, manner, and language understandable to communities, and list the impacted Stakeholders.

Arrangement	Concerned stakeholders	Dispersal schedule
e.g.: Direct payment	e.g., Indigenous village 1	e.g., 2nd month of Project

### Summary of NTFPs Activities

**No** NTFPs activities are in place.

Insert the summary of the NTFPs interventions described in the Social Additionality Plan. The summary must include harvesting plans appropriate to the context and comply with applicable laws and regulations.



## RISK MANAGEMENT

### Risk Evaluation

#### Delivery Risk evaluation:

Score
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#### ERS Requirement Risk Evaluation:

Score
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### Risk Treatment

#### Surveillance Plan

Report only identified risks.

*\* Refer to the [Appendix 3](#) - Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment*

	Likelihood	Severity	Surveillance Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				



### Mitigation Activities

Report only identified risks.

*\* Refer to the Appendix 3 - Risk Assessment Matrix, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Risk Assessment*

	Likelihood	Severity	Mitigation Plan	Indicator(s)
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				
Risk n°				



## SAFEGUARDS

### Declaration

\* Refer to Appendix 11 - Safeguards Declaration, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Safeguards.

I, (name of the developer), in the condition of the main Developer of the Project (name of the Project), hereby declare all information provided above to be true. I understand that any false statement will incur in the annulment of my ERS certification procedure.

Done on xx/xx/xxxx, at (name of the city)

### Treatment

#### Mitigation Activities

Report only non-compliant Safeguards.

\* Refer to Appendix 11 - Safeguards Declaration, in the Appendix section, for the detailed Safeguards.

Category	Negative Impact Description	Proposed Mitigation	Indicators
E.1 ▾			
E.1 ▾			



## MONITORING PLAN

### 1. Risks indicators

Indicator	Description	Methods of collection of information
		Describe the methodology that will be used to monitor the indicator.

### 2. Safeguards indicators

Indicator	Description	Methods of collection of information
		Describe the methodology that will be used to monitor the indicator.

### 3. Ecological Recovery indicators

Indicator	Description	Methods of collection of information
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		Describe the methodology that will be used to monitor the indicator.

#### 4. Livelihoods indicators

Indicator	Description	Methods of collection of information
		Describe the methodology that will be used to monitor the indicator.

#### 5. SDG contributions

SDG goal	Project contribution claim and description	SDG Indicator	Methods of collection of information
SDG 1: No Poverty	The Jackfruit Harvesting and Processing intervention directly contributes to poverty reduction by providing employment and	1.2.1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities	Describe the methodology that will be used to monitor the indicator.



	<p>income opportunities for vulnerable women. By generating income above the inflation-adjusted minimum wage, it enables participants to achieve economic independence and improve their living standards.</p>		
<p>SDG 1: No Poverty</p>	<p>Increasing wages to a living wage contributes directly to reducing financial poverty among restoration workers and their families.</p>	<p>1.2.1: Proportion of population living below the national poverty line, by sex, age, and persons with disabilities</p>	
<p>SDG 4: Quality education</p>	<p>The project offers forest restoration courses in the Atlantic Forest, empowering participants with skills for sustainable livelihoods.</p>	<p>4.4.1: Proportion of youth and adults with relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship</p>	
<p>SDG 5: Gender Equality</p>	<p>The Madre Frutos initiative promotes women's empowerment by ensuring their participation in income-generatin</p>	<p>5.5.2: Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	



	<p>g activities and offering leadership training to selected participants. The training program aims to equip women with business management skills, fostering their transition into decision-making roles within the project and beyond.</p>		
<p>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</p>	<p>The reforestation project enhances watershed health, improves water quality by reducing soil erosion, and increases groundwater recharge through the restoration of native vegetation across 19.25 hectares.</p>	<p>6.6.1: Change in the extent of water-related ecosystems over time.</p>	
<p>SDG: 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Employ 8 full-time employees with fair wages for the field team</li> <li>- Creation of direct employment opportunities for at least 2</li> </ul>	<p>- 8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation, and persons with disabilities.</p>	



	<p>professionals at Viveiro do Sinal do Vale</p> <p>- Training initiatives will empower local workers, improving technical skills and employability.</p>		
SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth	<p>By creating stable and productive employment opportunities for women and youth, this project contributes to inclusive economic growth. It emphasizes decent work, equal pay, and skill development, enhancing employability and professional inclusion.</p>	<p>- 8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of employees, by sex, age, occupation and persons with disabilities</p>	
SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities	<p>Gradual wage increases for restoration workers aim to improve their income and reduce income disparities within the community.</p>	<p>- Indicator 10.1.1: Growth rate of income of the bottom 40% of the population.</p> <p>- Indicator 10.1.2: Income share held by the bottom 40% of the population.</p>	



SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities	By training community members and Sinaldo Vale workers in fire prevention and response, the intervention enhances the local capacity to handle fire incidents effectively. This reduces the risk of disasters, protecting lives, property, and local infrastructure. The establishment of a local fire brigade aligns with Brazil's commitment to reducing the number of people affected and economic losses caused by disasters.	11.5.1: Number of deaths, missing persons and persons affected by disaster, per 100,000 population	
SDG 12: Responsible consumption and production	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Promote sustainable practices by supporting the production of native seedlings</li><li>- Reduce carbon emissions and transportation logistics costs</li><li>- Raise awareness</li></ul>	12.8.1: Extent to which (i) global citizenship education and (ii) education for sustainable development are mainstreamed in (a) national education policies; (b) curricula; (c)	



	of sustainable soil management practices.	teacher education; and (d) student assessment.	
SDG 13: Climate Action	Improving ecosystem resilience and carbon sequestration through restoration.	13.1.1: Number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies	
SDG 15: Life on Land	Enhancing forest ecosystems and biodiversity through restoration techniques.	15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area.	
SDG 15: Life on Land	Restoring native vegetation enhances biodiversity, rehabilitates degraded land, and improves ecosystem services, ensuring sustainable land management.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management.</li> <li>- 15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area.</li> <li>- 15.3.1: Proportion of land that is degraded over total land area.</li> </ul>	
SDG 15: Life on Land	Fire prevention efforts contribute to sustainable forest management by reducing fire-induced forest degradation. The intervention helps maintain biodiversity and	15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management	



	halts further land degradation by minimizing fire damage, directly supporting Brazil's commitment to sustainable forest practices and biodiversity protection.		
SDG 15: Life on Land	By reintroducing diverse native species, including those vital for attracting local fauna and stabilizing soil, enrichment planting addresses habitat degradation and promotes biodiversity. The intervention helps prevent the extinction of threatened species by restoring ecosystems that support their survival and reproduction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 15.5.1: Red List Index</li> <li>- 15.1.2: Proportion of important sites for terrestrial and freshwater biodiversity that are covered by protected areas, by ecosystem type</li> <li>- 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management</li> </ul>	
SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions	The installation of the grievance mechanism promotes transparency and	- Indicator 16.6.1: Primary government expenditure as a proportion of the	



	<p>accountability, creating a channel for stakeholders to express concerns in a structured and respectful manner.</p>	<p>government's domestic revenue. - Indicator 16.6.2: Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services.</p>	
<p>SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions</p>	<p>Providing accessible grievance channels encourages inclusive participation by community members and other stakeholders.</p>	<p>- Indicator 16.7.1: Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, disaggregated by sex, age, disability, and population group. - Indicator 16.7.2: Proportion of the population that participated in the decision-making processes of governance institutions.</p>	
<p>SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals</p>	<p>The initiative promotes collaboration and shared governance between project leadership and workers, strengthening the internal partnership for the</p>	<p>- Indicator 17.17.1: Proportion of public and private financing dedicated to supporting the implementation of the SDGs. - Indicator 17.17.2: Number of</p>	



	project's success.	multi-stakeholder partnerships established to support the SDGs. - Indicator 17.17.3: Proportion of public sector projects involving partnerships with civil society and the private sector to implement the SDGs.	
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## 6. Carbon indicators

Data/Parameter	
Data unit	
Description	
Equations	
Source of the data	
Measurement methods and procedures	
Monitoring frequency	
QA/QC procedures	



## MRV SCHEDULE

Expected Date	MRV Activity



# Appendix 1

## *Developer Due Diligence Report*



# Appendix 2

## *Additionality Sheet*



# Appendix 3

## *Risk Assessment Matrix*



# Appendix 4

## *Leakage Mitigation Declaration*



# Appendix 5

## *Leakage Mitigation Probationary Documentation*



# Appendix 6

## *Ecological Recovery Assessment*



# Appendix 7

## *Restoration Plan*



# Appendix 8

## *Livelihood Matrix*



# Appendix 9

## *Community Consultation Reports*



# Appendix 10

## *Social Additionality Plan*



# Appendix 11

## *Safeguards Declaration*



# Appendix 12

## *GHG Quantification*



# Appendix 13

## *Land Right Agreement*



# Appendix 14

## *Carbon Right Agreement*



# Appendix 15

## *Government/Art.6 Agreement*



# Appendix 16

## *Pre-submission Activities Report*



# Appendix 17

## *Public Comment Report*



# Appendix 18

## *SDG Contribution Tool*



**Ecosystem Restoration Standard**

[info@ers.org](mailto:info@ers.org) | [www.ers.org](http://www.ers.org)