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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 appendix serve as an information source for ERS to decide if a Project meets the criteria laid out in ERS Programme and in the ERS M001, thus being cleared to advance to the Assessment phase.

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Introduction

SCOPE

The Feasibility Study enables ERS to assess if a Project complies with the criteria required during the Feasibility phase of the certification. Once the criteria are validated, the Project can advance to the Assessment phase. With the exception of 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 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 size	State the extent of the total proposed Project area.
Project Ecosystem (Functional Group)	Declare the Project Ecosystem following IUCN's Global Ecosystem Typology

Feasibility Study *Report*

PROJECT STAKEHOLDERS

1. Individuals and Organisations Involved in Project Coordination, Management or Implementation

1.1. Organisations

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

1.2. Individuals

Name of the individual	Organisation (if applicable)	Role in the Project	Summary of activities in the Project
	Enter the organisation to which they belong to		

2. Local Stakeholder Mapping

💡 Complete the Stakeholder mapping using the first tab of the Livelihood Matrix and provide a summary of the identified Stakeholders below. If possible, provide an organigram to demonstrate how the Project Developer, Buyers, other entities participating in the Project (coordination, management, implementation) and other Stakeholders will interact.

💡 The Stakeholder Mapping is part of the Feasibility Interviews, and must follow the Community Consultation Guidelines.

Organisation or individual's Name	Relevance to the Project	Representative
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.

3. Potential Project Funder(s)

💡 Fill the table only if the Project has already secured funding through one or multiple Funders. If the Project has received seed funding to cover part of the activities or run pre-submission activities, please include it here.

Name	Type of organisation and legal status	Representative	Location
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.

FREE, PRIOR AND INFORMED CONSENT (FPIC)

💡 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 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.

☐ 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.

☐ The Project **identified** IPLCs amongst its Stakeholders.

Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs) concerned by the project.	
Project's FPIC compliance justification	Specify how the Project adhered to this requirement. Any supporting documents or proofs can be included in the Appendix section. 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.*

💡 Conduct a participatory mapping and documentation of land usage, natural resources, and customary rights. Ensure all Communities related to the Project are interviewed and equitably involved in the participatory mapping, providing the necessary feedback for the Project Design to be co-created.

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.*

4. Feasibility Interview Results

Run Feasibility Interviews with identified Stakeholders following the Community Consultation Guidelines and summarise the main findings below.

4.1. List of interviewees, Summary of findings & integration

Interviewee's name	Relevance to the Project	Land tenure (Y/N)? If yes, specify	Comment	Comment integration
Enter the Stakeholder''s individual or Organisation name	Enter its relevance to the Project (live in/nearby the area, hold the carbon credit rights, etc.)	Enter their tenure regarding the Project Area	Enter the key message shared by the Stakeholder.	State if and how the comment was considered.

4.2. Pictures of the interviews

Enter pictures or screenshots of the interviews.

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 **has** undertaken pre-submission activities.

2. Pre-submission Activities Information

If a Pre-submission activities was undertaken, fill in the table below.

Start date of pre-submission activities:	
Summary of undertaken activities:	
Total extent, in ha, of the zones submitted to pre-submission activities:	
Summary of results from the activities:	

Describe the sources of funding for pre-submission activities:	

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.

PROJECT SITES

1. Restoration Site

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 detail..

1.3. Proposed Zonation

Enter a produced map showing the result of the Zonation process following the Zonation guidelines. If applicable, feedback received during the interviews and FPIC process must be included. If entire zones are affected by invasive species that will be removed as part of the Restoration Plan, they must be delineated as zones, and identified as populated by invasive species to be removed.

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 Project 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.*
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. *Enter results and justifications, observations through the years and previous tests/projects if applicable.*

💡 ERS will complement the submitted information with satellite imagery analysis to assess land cover degradation over the past ten years preceding the Project's origination as an assessment step towards deciding on the eligibility of each project.

[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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