

2020

 **CARBON  
PROGRAMS  
NET Africa**





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## INTRODUCTION

### THIS GUIDE

The purpose of this guide is to help our project partners with the design and implementation of Carbon Offset Programs (COP). Carbon offsets are **projects** that carry out on-the-ground emissions reduction activities. Projects such as tree planting and farming incorporated into carbon-offset programs with good guidance and planning. The carbon measured in metric tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalents. The carbon can be traded on the **voluntary markets**, where investors and carbon traders, form part of a **compliance market**. Government regulations require emitters to either reduce their carbon emissions or purchase carbon offsets. NET Africa will require all its partners to follow the rules and procedures set out by a voluntary carbon standard such as the Gold Standard.

### WHOM IS THIS GUIDE FOR

This Guide is aimed at the key participants in the NET Africa carbon program. These participants include the investors and landowners of carbon services. This may also include scientists, regulators, and planners. The Guide is divided into five parts:

**Part 1:** introduces the Carbon Program, including the key principles and concepts, which underpin carbon program development.

**Part 2:** provides information regarding key important aspects of project eligibility

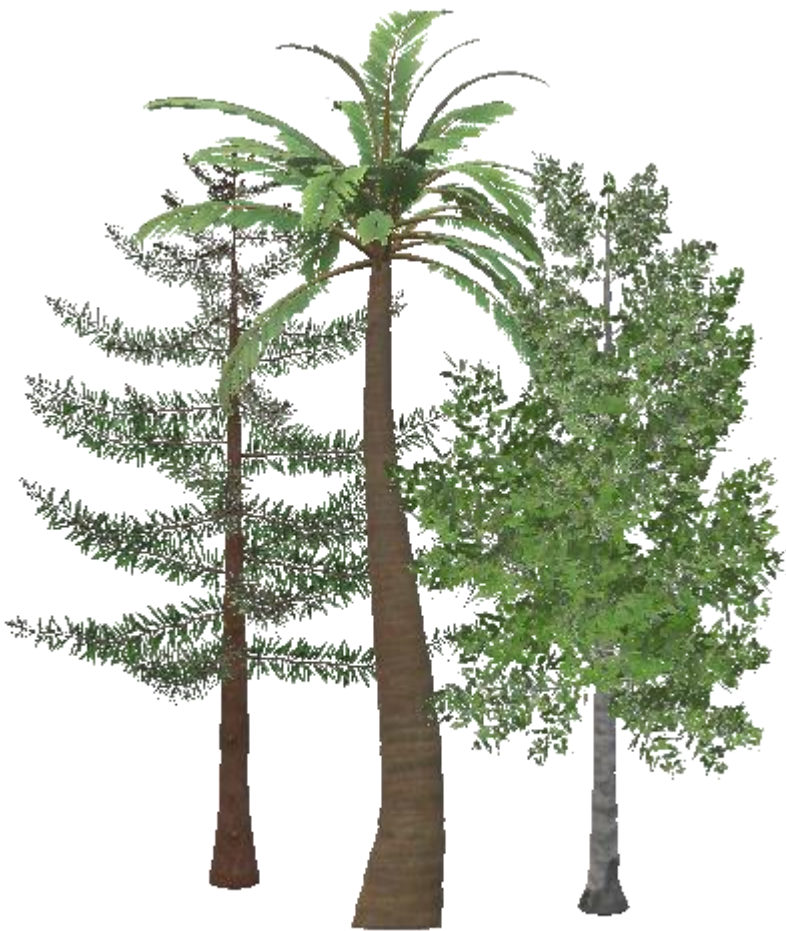
**Part 3:** discusses the eight key safeguarding principles that require action

**Part 4:** explains how we offer capacity building

**Part 5:** Sample carbon application form

# **PART 1**

## **The Carbon Program**

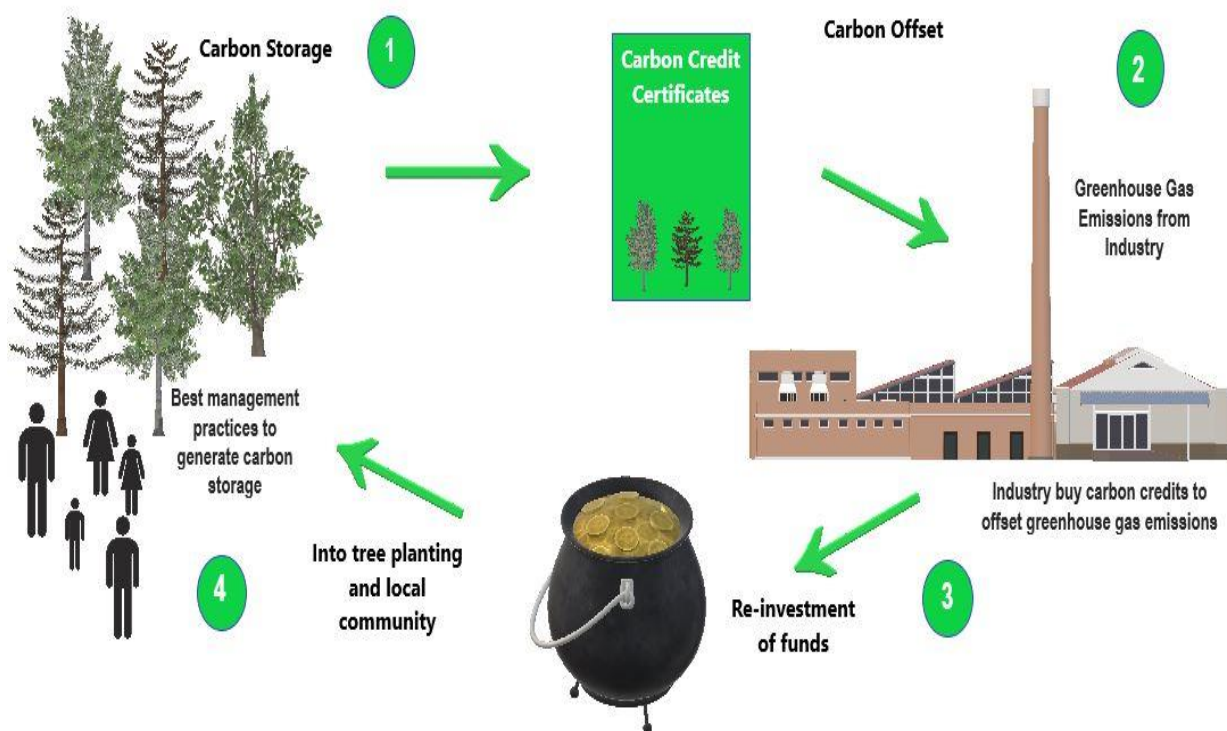


## PART 1: THE CARBON PROGRAM

Land Owners can employ a variety of activities to produce offsets, from installing renewable energy infrastructure like wind turbines or solar panels, to planting trees that remove and store carbon from the atmosphere.

The carbon program works with landowners and project developers who develop activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, or remove greenhouse gasses from the atmosphere through carbon sequestration, measured in metric tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent.

### 1.1 HOW DOES IT WORK?



The carbon program is an investment program that enables local communities to earn a living from planting trees from the re-investment of funds generated from carbon credits.

## 1.2 WHAT TYPE OF ACTIVITIES QUALIFY?

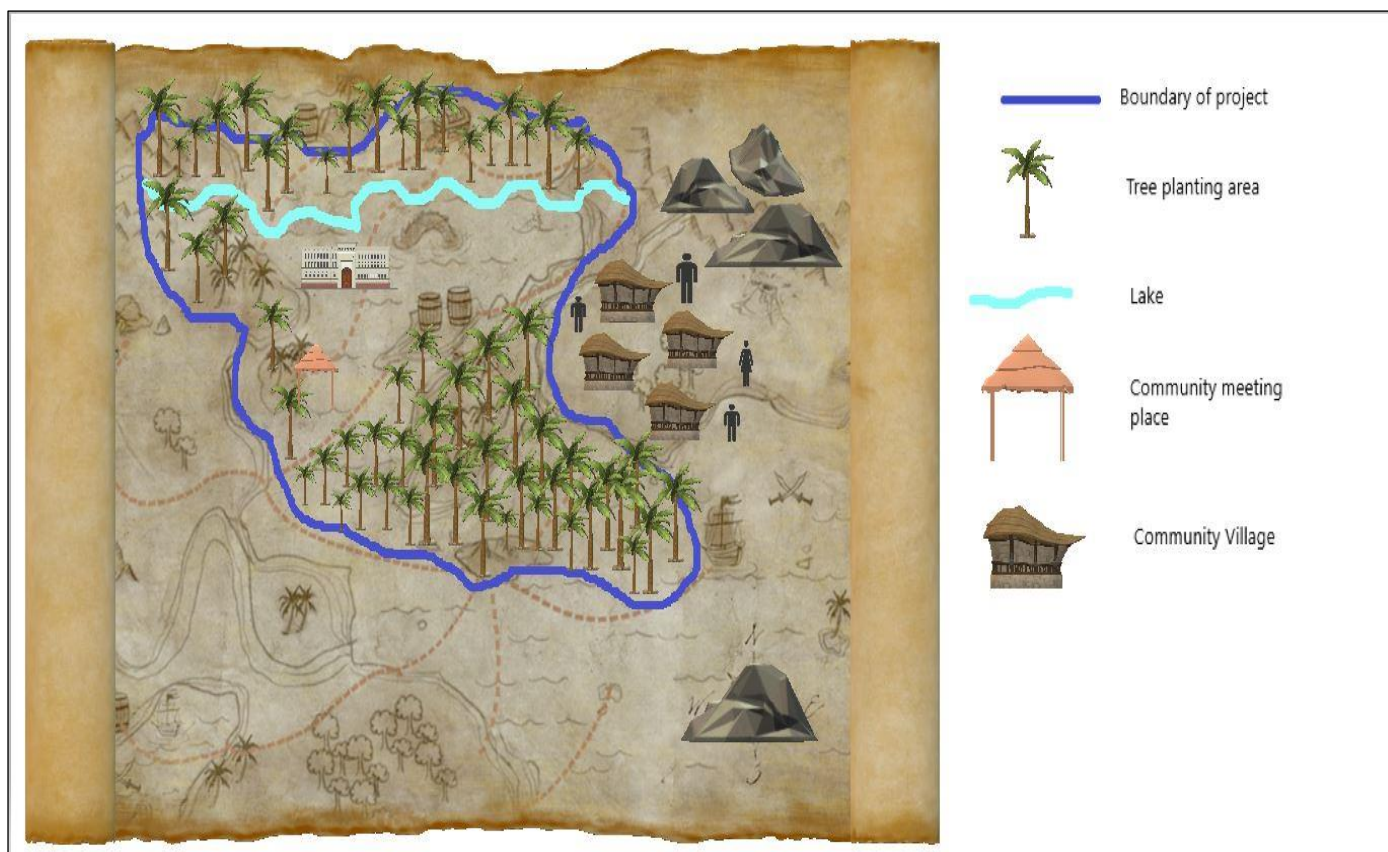
### FARMING / LANDOWNER

- **Agriculture** – modifying agricultural practices to reduce emissions by switching to no-till farming, reducing chemical fertilizer use, etc.
- **Energy Efficiency and Fuel Switching** – improving energy efficiency or switching to cleaner fuel sources.
- **Forestry and Land Use** – managing forests, soil, grasslands, and other land types to avoid releasing carbon and/or increasing the amount of carbon the land absorbs, by planting trees.
- **Waste Disposal** – reducing methane emissions from landfills or wastewater, often by collecting converting it to usable fuel.
- **Transportation** – increasing access to public and/or alternative transportation (like bicycling) and reducing emissions from private transportation like cars and trucks.

### PROJECT DEVELOPER

- **Household Devices** – distributing cleaner-burning stoves or water purification devices to reduce or eliminate the need to burn wood (or other inefficient types of energy).
- **Renewable Energy** – installing solar, wind, and other forms of renewable energy production.

### 1.3 LAND, BOUNDARY AND MAP (EXAMPLE)



# **PART 2**

## **PROJECT ELIGIBILITY**





## **PART 2: PROJECT ELIGIBILITY**

### **2.1 AFFORESTATION AND REFORESTATION PROJECTS**

- a. For all project participants engaged in afforestation and reforestation projects, the following information and evidence provided:
- b. Name and contact details
- c. Each entity's legal registration number and documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing. AND
- d. For the duration of the crediting period, the Project Developer shall ensure the following:
- e. Project Developers must own the "CO<sub>2</sub> user rights or carbon sequestration rights for the project area. CO<sub>2</sub> user rights are rights that grant the titleholder any benefit generated from the certification of the carbon sequestration or greenhouse gas reduction by the project. For land use projects, the holder of the CO<sub>2</sub> user rights is usually the owner of the land, where the project activity takes place – except when such rights have been expressly transmitted to another person or entity by the land owner, or when an authority act / decision / order / regulation assigns such rights to a different person than the land owner.
- f. Hold an uncontested legal land title for the Project Area, AND
- g. Own the rights for timber and non-timber forest products for the project area,
- h. Hold all necessary permits to implement the project (planting permits, infrastructure permits, harvesting permits, etc.), AND
- i. Participate in the financing of the project.
- j. The project is located in a Least Developed Country (LDCs) or in a region with a recent UNDP Human Development Indicator<sup>11</sup> below 0.8. AND
- k. The project shall not intend to create a forest for the commercial use of the timber or non-timber forest products. AND
- l. The project activities shall not be mandatory by any law or regulation, OR if it is mandatory, it shall demonstrate that these laws or regulations are systematically not enforced. AND
- m. The project is located in a region with a mean annual precipitation of less than 600 mm. OR
- n. The soil pH of the planting area is less than 4.0. OR

- o. The planting area is planted with minimum 5 different native tree species in mixed stands, covering at a minimum 50% of the planting area. OR
- p. The project area is located in a country or region with a recent UNDP Human Development Indicator 12 below 0.5, OR in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS) 13.

## 2.2 AGRICULTURAL PROJECTS

The Project Developer acts on behalf of project participants. For such cases, each project participant shall sign an *agreement* with the Project Developer, which confirms that:

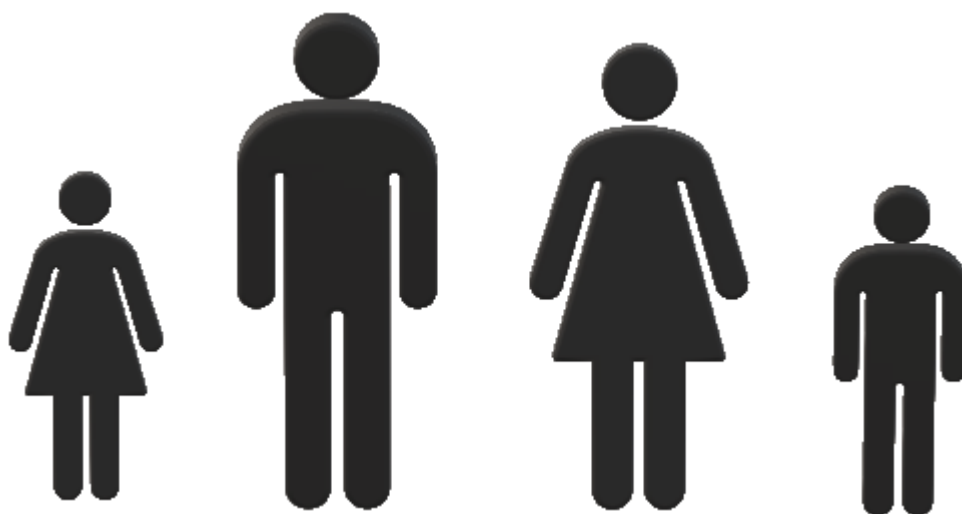
- a. The project participant holds the CO2 user rights that are associated with the project activities and has passed these on to the Project Developer, AND
- b. The project participant holds all necessary rights to implement the project activities (e.g., rights to harvest), AND
- c. The legal land title or similar entitlement for the land on which the project activities are implemented is uncontested.
- d. These agreements shall include the:
- e. Contact details of the project participants, AND
- f. The legal registration number and documentation by the governing jurisdiction that proves that the entity is in good standing (in case of an organisation), AND
- g. Contact details of the land owner (if differing), AND
- h. Length of lease contract (if applicable), AND
- i. The liabilities and benefits for the person or entity to implement the project activities (e.g., switch to another crop and get access to the seeds).
- j. The project area is located in a country or in a region with the latest UNDP Human Development Indicator<sup>14</sup> below or equal to 0.7. AND
- k. The project activities shall not be mandatory by any law or regulation, OR if they are mandatory, the Project Developer shall demonstrate that these laws or regulations are systematically not enforced. AND
- l. The mean annual precipitation in the project area is less than 600 mm. OR
- m. In the project area a minimum of 5 native crop species are being cultivated in a locally adapted agroforestry system<sup>15</sup>. OR

- n. The project is a smallholder project and results in Gold Standard VERs of less than 60,000 tCO<sub>2</sub>eq per annum. OR
- o. The project area is located in a country or region with a recent UNDP Human Development Indicator below 0.5, OR in a Small Island Developing State (SIDS).



# **PART 3**

## **SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES**



## **PART 3: SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES, RISK, AND STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIONS (MANDATORY)**

### **3.1 SAFEGUARDING PRINCIPLES**

#### **3.1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS**

- a. Recognises the centrality of human rights to sustainable development, poverty alleviation and ensuring a fair distribution of development opportunities and benefits; and supports “universal respect for, and observance of, human rights and fundamental freedoms for all”.
- b. It does not recognise or support Projects that may contribute to violations of a State’s human rights obligations and the core international human rights treaties and seeks to support the protection and fulfilment of human rights.
- c. Upholds the principle of accountability and the rule of law. Participation and inclusion, and equality and non-discrimination, nothing that prohibited grounds of discrimination and includes race, ethnicity, gender, age, language, disability, sexual orientation, religion, political or another opinion, national or social or geographical origin, property, birth or another status including as an indigenous person or as a member of a minority.

#### **3.1.2. GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN’S RIGHTS**

- a. Promote gender equality and the empowerment of women.
- b. We do not recognise projects that contribute to discrimination against women or reinforce gender-based discrimination and/or inequalities.
- c. Recognise and seeks to contribute to SDG 5 – Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls.
- d. The project shall not directly or indirectly reinforce gender-based discrimination in the following ways:-

- i. Sexual harassment, gender-based violence, including sexual exploitation and human trafficking.
- ii. Slavery, imprisonment, physical and mental drudgery, punishment or coercion of women and girls.
- iii. Restrictions on women's rights or access to resources (natural or economic).
- iv. Recognise women's ownership rights regardless of marital status adopt project measures where possible to support women's access to inherit and own land, homes, and other assets or natural resources.
- v. Where appropriate for the implementation of a Project, paid, volunteer work or community contributions will be organised to provide the conditions for equitable participation of men and women in the identified tasks/activities.
- vi. Introduce conditions that ensure the participation of women or men in Project activities and benefits based on pregnancy, maternity/paternity leave, or marital status.
- vii. Ensure that these conditions do not limit the access of women or men, as the case may be, to Project participation and benefits.

The Project shall refer to the country's national gender strategy or equivalent national commitment to aid in assessing gender risks.

### **3.1.3. COMMUNITY HEALTH, SAFETY, AND WORKING CONDITIONS**

- a. Ensures that projects anticipate and avoid adverse impacts on the health and safety of affected communities during the Project's life cycle from both routine and non-routine circumstances.
- b. Ensures that projects to provide workers with safe and healthy working conditions and to prevent accidents, injuries, and disease.



### **3.1.4. CULTURAL HERITAGE, INDIGENOUS PEOPLES**

- a. Promotes and supports the protection and preservation of cultural heritage and the equitable sharing of benefits from the use of cultural heritage.
- b. Advocates for the avoidance of alteration, damage or removal of artifacts and objects of cultural value.
- c. Recognises and respects the prohibition of forced evictions and the use of violence generally.
- d. Recognises and fosters full respect for indigenous peoples' human rights as recognised under Applicable Law, including but not limited to their rights to self-determination, their lands, resources, and territories, traditional livelihoods, and cultures.
- e. Ensures that Projects that may impact indigenous peoples and local farmers are designed in a spirit of partnership with them, with their full and effective participation, with the objective of securing their free, prior, and informed consent where their rights, lands, resources, territories, traditional livelihoods may be affected.

Full details of requirements for cultural heritage, indigenous people provided during capacity building.

### **3.1.5. CORRUPTION**

- a. Does not recognise Projects that engage in, contribute to or reinforce corruption of any kind.
- b. The Project shall not involve corrupt Projects.

### **3.1.6. ECONOMIC IMPACTS**

- a. Promotes equitable, sustainable economic growth, stability, and Projects that are appropriate and considerate of the economic situation in which they are developed.
- b. Ensures that projects respect and promote worker's rights, promote the right to decent work, fair treatment, non-discrimination, and equal opportunity for workers, and avoid the use of forced labour and child labour.
- c. Prioritises appropriate and properly considered local employment and procurement wherever possible.
- d. Full details of requirements for economic impacts provided during capacity building.

### **3.1.7. CLIMATE AND ENERGY**

- a. Promotes Climate Security (mitigation and adaptation) and Sustainable Development.
- b. Emissions - Projects shall not increase greenhouse gas emissions.
- c. Energy supply - The Project shall not affect the availability and reliability of energy supply to other users. Full details of requirements for climate and energy provided during capacity building.

### **3.1.8. WATER**

- a. Promotes sustainable management, protection, conservation, maintenance and rehabilitation of natural habitats and their associated biodiversity and ecosystem functions.
- b. Full details of requirements for water provided during capacity building.

### **3.1.9. ENVIRONMENT, ECOLOGY AND LAND USE**

- a. Ensures a precautionary approach to natural resource conservation and avoids negative environmental impacts.
- b. Full details of requirements for environment, ecology and land use provided during capacity building.

## **3.2 RISK & CAPABILITIES FOR LAND USE AND FOREST PRODUCTS**

### **3.2.1. Natural Disturbance risks**

- a. The probability of fire damage
- b. Wind damage (e.g. hurricanes, typhoon)
- c. Animals (e.g. domestic or wild animals encroachment)
- d. Peat and disease outbreaks (e.g. insects, bacteria, viruses, fungi)
- e. Temperature extremes (e.g. extreme heat, frost)
- f. Water extremes (e.g. droughts, heavy rains, floods, mudslides, avalanches, ice storms).
- g. Changing climate (e.g. long draught period, seasonal invariability of rainfall pattern, water availability)
- h. Earthquake and induced landslides
- i. Geological risk (e.g. Volcanic eruption, desert progression)

### **3.2.2 Political risks**

- a. Political interventions (e.g. wars, riots, civil strife, terrorism, corruption, land occupation, community resistance)
- b. Confiscation of property (e.g. expropriation, infrastructure development)
- c. Irregular resettlement
- d. Exploitation of natural resources (e.g. mining, water, oil)



### **3.2.3. Project Management risks**

- a. Project failure due to insufficient internal technical capacity (e.g. due to high fluctuation of season workers or permanent staff, not sufficient training), OR dependency on continuous external support.
- b. Project failure due to dependency on key technical individuals in the organization that are difficult to replace
- c. Project failure due to lack of technical equipment (e.g. machinery), OR planting material (e.g. import barriers such as taxes, bureaucracy).
- d. Project failure due to insufficient internal financial accounting and management capacity, OR dependency on continuous external financial accounting and management support
- e. Project failure due to dependency on key financial accounting and management expertise of individuals in the organization that are difficult to replace
- f. Project failure due to insufficient internal legal management capacity, OR dependency on continuous external legal management support
- g. Project failure due to dependence on key legal management individuals in the organization that are difficult to replace.
- h. Project failure due to insufficient internal capacity to support or maintain third party certification, OR dependency on continuous external support to maintain third party certification.
- i. Project failure due to dependency on key individuals to support and maintain third party certification, in the organization that are difficult to replace.

### **3.2.4. Financial risks**

- a. Lack of secured continued financial resources for project implementation until the project's cumulative break-even cash flow (for profit projects) / total cost until end of crediting (non-profit projects)
- b. Late achievement of the project cumulative cash flow break-even point

### **3.2.5. Market risks**

- a. Lack of liquidity/financial resources due to price variations (e.g. crop / timber produced CO2 certificates, fertilizer, machines)
- b. Project failure due to competing commodities (e.g. palm oil, soya)
- c. Project failure due to competing infrastructure (e.g. Settlements, roads)

### **3.2.6. Other risks**

- a. Any other specific project risk that endangers the viability of the project (e.g. Project failure due to crop robbery / illegal timber logging, illegal timber logging, due to disputes with the cooperative)

### 3.3 STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION REPORT (SAMPLE)

#### Section 1: Design of physical meeting(s)

##### Agenda

*Please ensure the following points are covered but feel free to add more points as needed:*

- a. Opening of the meeting(s)*
- b. Explanation of the project*
- c. Discussion of continuous input /grievance mechanism*
- d. Questions for clarification about the project*
- e. Blind SD exercise*
- f. Discussion on monitoring SD*
- g. Closure of the meeting*

##### Invitation tracking table

Date of invitation	Type of invitation	Name of invitee	Type of Stakeholder	Confirmation received. Y/N

*Discuss how your invitation methods seek to include a broad range of stakeholders (e.g. gender, age, and ethnicity).*

Text of individual invitations

Text of public invitations

Description of other consultation methods used

*>> If individuals and/ or entities (e.g. NGOs) are unable to attend the physical meeting, please discuss other methods used to solicit their feedback/ comments (e.g. questionnaires, phone calls, interviews).*



## Participation List

<b>Participants list</b>					
Date and time:					
Location:					
Category Code	Name of participant, job/ position in the community	Male/ Female	Signature	Organisation (if relevant)	Contact details

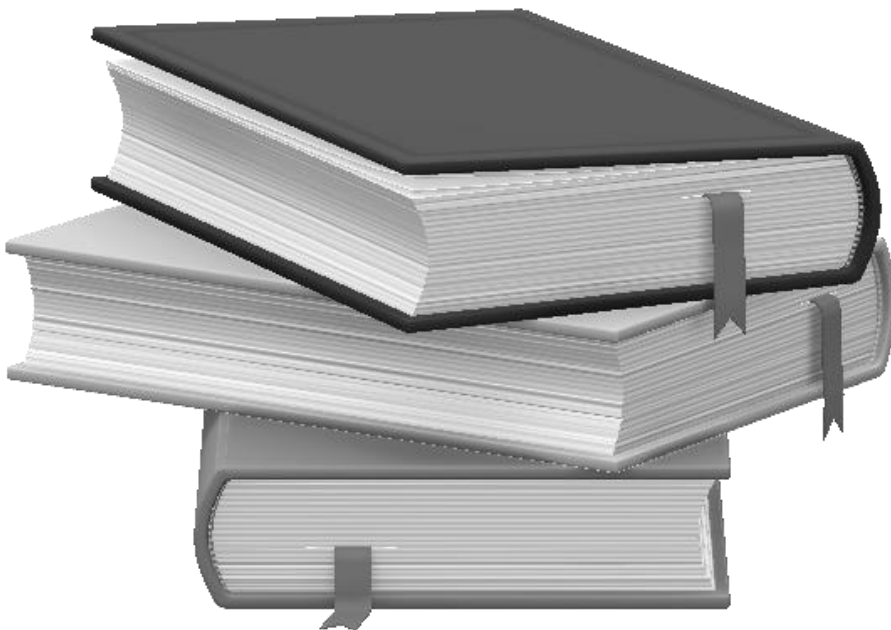
## Minutes of other consultations

## Assessment of all comments

Stakeholder comment	Was comment taken into account (Yes/ No)?	Explanation (Why? How?)

# **PART 4**

# **CAPACITY BUILDING**



## **PART 4: CAPACITY BUILDING**

### **4.1 Assess and Analyse Needs**

We will conduct a needs assessment of all partners interested in taking part in the carbon program. We assess your organisation for gaps in meeting carbon program requirements.

### **4.2 Develop Learning Objectives**

These learning objectives developed from gaps in meeting carbon program requirements.

### **4.3 Develop capacity**

Guiding all partners in developing new or changing existing organisational principles, risks and stakeholder management amongst other requirements.

### **4.4 Implementation**

Implement program of change to meet carbon program requirements.

### **4.5 Evaluation**

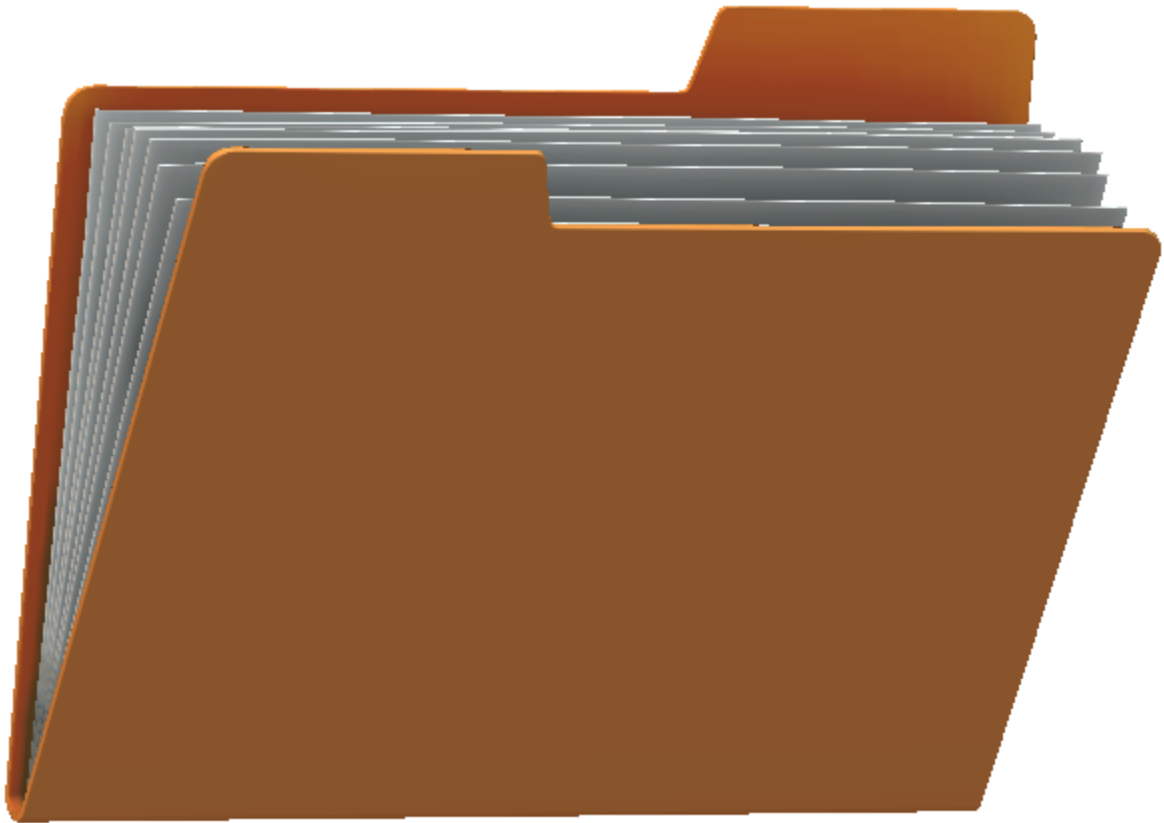
Evaluate capacity to meet carbon program requirements.

## EXAMPLE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Principle	Sub-Principle	Assessment Questions	Yes	No	Potentially
Principle 4 – Cultural Heritage, Indigenous Peoples, Displacement and Resettlement	Land Tenure and Other Rights	<p>Does the Project require any change to land tenure arrangements and/or other rights?</p> <p>For Projects involving land use tenure, are there any uncertainties concerning land tenure, access rights, usage rights or land ownership?</p> <p>Examples but not limited to include water access rights, community-based property rights and customary rights.</p>			
	Indigenous Peoples	Are indigenous peoples present in or within the area of influence of the Project and/or is the Project located on land/territory claimed by indigenous peoples?			
Principle 8 – Water	Impact on Natural Water Patterns/Flows	Will the Project affect the natural or pre-existing pattern of watercourses, groundwater and/or the watershed(s) such as high seasonal flow variability, flooding potential, lack of aquatic connectivity or water scarcity?			
	Erosion and/or Water Body Instability	Could the Project directly or indirectly cause additional erosion and/or water body instability or disrupt the natural pattern of erosion? If 'Yes' or 'Potentially' proceed to next question?			
Principle 9 - Environment, ecology and land use	Landscape Modification and Soil	Does the Project involve the use of land and soil for production of crops or other products?			
	Vulnerability to Natural Disaster	Will the Project be susceptible to or lead to increased vulnerability to wind, earthquakes, subsidence, landslides, erosion, flooding, drought or other extreme climatic conditions?			
	Genetic Resources	Could the project be negatively impacted by the use of genetically modified organisms or GMOs (e.g., contamination, collection and/or harvesting, commercial development)?			

# **PART 5**

# **APPLICATION FORM**



## **PART 5: CARBON APPLICATION FORM (SAMPLE)**

### **Section A. Programme Description**

#### **5.1 Title and Purpose of the Programme**

All projects shall provide the following information in the Key Project Information:

##### **5.1.1 Preliminary review**

- a. General description and overview of project activities
- b. Organisations that are involved in the project (project participants)
- c. Communities stakeholders involved in the project, as applicable
- d. Risk of the project area to change (during the crediting period)
- e. Risk of the project activities to change (during the crediting period)
- f. Timeframe for the project activities
- g. Number of predicted CO<sub>2</sub>-certificates or other Certified SDG Impacts sought
- h. Land-use history and current situation of the project area
- i. Socio-economic history and current situation
- j. Main social affects (risks and benefits)
- k. Main environmental affects (risks and benefits)
- l. Financial structure

##### **5.1.2 Specific for Afforestation/reforestation projects**

- a. Location of the project area and the planting area, as applicable
- b. Size of the project area and the eligible planting area, as applicable
- c. Number of Modelling Units and size of each one
- d. Forest management applied (past and future)
- e. Forest characteristics (including main tree species planted)

#### **5. 2. Geographic Boundary of the Programme**

#### **5. 3. Tentative Start Date of the Programme**

#### **5. 4. Programme Eligibility under the Voluntary Carbon Standard**

#### **5 .5. Current Status of the Programme**

### **SECTION B. NON-TECHNICAL SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT**

**(Include Photographs) 3-4 pages**



## END NOTE

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<sup>i</sup> Please visit: <https://www.netafrica.be/publications> to learn more about soil management and organic/carbon farming.

<sup>ii</sup> If the Project Developer does not meet all the above requirements, then the persons or legal entities that do meet those respective requirements shall endorse the proposed project through an agreement that aligns with the duration of the crediting period.