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# Validation Report

## VALIDATION OF THE CCBA-PROJECT: BIKIN TIGER CARBON PROJECT - PERMANENT PRO-TECTION OF OTHERWISE LOGGED BIKIN FOREST IN PRIMORYE, RUSSIA

REPORT NO. 600500624 - 20

11 January 2013

TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH Carbon Management Service Westendstr. 199 - 80686 Munich – GERMANY



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**Subject:** Validation of the CCBA Project "Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia"

Accredited TÜV SÜD Unit: TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH Certification Body "climate and energy" Westendstr. 199 80686 Munich, Germany	TÜV SÜD Contract Partner: TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH Carbon Management Service Westendstr. 199 80686 Munich, Germany	
Project Participants:	Project Site(s):	
<ul><li>Tribal Commune Tiger (TCT)</li><li>CF Partners (UK) LLP</li></ul>	The project area covers 450,374 hectares of forest in Primorsky Krai, south-eastern Russia.	
<ul><li>Other entities involved:</li><li>WWF Germany</li><li>WWF Russia (Amur Branch)</li></ul>	The PDD includes information on geographic boundary. Digital boundary files are provided.	
Applied Methodology / Version: CCBS / Vers	sion No. 2	
First PDD Version:	Final PDD version:	
Date of issuance: 10 Jan 2012	Date of issuance: 09 Jan 2013	
Version No.: 01	Version No.: 1.3	
Assessment Team Leader:	Technical Reviewer	
Sebastian Hetsch	Robert Mitterwallner, Martin Seitz	
Assessment Team Member:	Certification Body responsible:	
Igor Kachan	Thomas Kleiser	
Summary of the Validation Opinion:		

The review of the project design documentation and the subsequent follow-up interviews have provided TÜV SÜD with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of all stated criteria. In our opinion, the project meets all relevant requirements for the CCB Standards. Hence, TÜV SÜD is recommending the project for registration by CCBA.

The review of the project design documentation and the subsequent follow-up interviews did not provide TÜV SÜD with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of all stated criteria. Hence, TÜV SÜD will not recommend the project for registration by CCBA and will inform the project participants and CCBA on this decision. Validation of the CCBA Project: Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia Page 2 of 52



## Abbreviations

AFOLU	Agriculture, Forestry and other Land Use
AR-AM	Approved Methodology for Afforestation and Reforestation
CAR	Corrective Action Request
ССВ	Climate Community and Biodiversity
ССВА	Climate Community and Biodiversity Alliance
CCBS	Climate Community and Biodiversity Standards
CR	Clarification Request
DOE	Designated Operational Entity
FAR	Forward Action Request
FSC	Forest Stewardship Council
GHG	Greenhouse Gas(es)
GIS	Geographic Information System
GMO	Genetically Modified Organism
GPG	Good Practice Guidance
GPS	Global Positioning System
HCV	High Conservation Value
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IRL	Information Reference List
JI	Joint Implementation
LULUCF	Land-Use, Land-Use Change and Forestry
MP	Monitoring Plan
NGO	Non Governmental Organisation
PDD	Project Design Document
PP	Project Participant
SOP	Standard Operational Procedure
тст	Tribal Commune Tiger
TÜV SÜD	TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
VCS	Verified Carbon Standard
VVM	Validation and Verification Manual
WWF	World Wildlife Fund



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## INTRODUCTION

## 1.1 Objective

The validation objective is an independent assessment by a Third Party of the proposed project activity against all defined criteria as defined by the Climate Biodiversity and Community Alliance (CCBA). In line with the framework for the validation of a JI project, corresponding tasks are carried by an independent "Accredited Independent Entity" (AIE). TÜV SÜD is an AIE that is accredited by UNFCCC to validate JI projects. Since this accreditation enables TÜV SÜD to work under the "Verified Carbon Standard" (VCS), CCBA recognizes this accreditation as well.

Validation will finally result in a conclusion by the executing certification body whether a project activity is complying with the CCB Standards and whether this project should be submitted for registration with CCBA. The ultimate decision on the registration of a proposed project activity rests with CCBA.

The project activity covered by this validation report was submitted under the project title "Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia".

For the particular case of this project, a combined validation between CCBS and the Joint Implementation (JI) of UNFCCC was conducted. The JI Determination Report (No. 600500624) describes the findings of the JI determination process and demonstrates the compliance of the same project with JI requirements. The JI Determination Report is considered an integral part of this CCBA audit. The present report is intended to cover only those criteria, in which the CCBA differ and exceed the requirements of JI.

## 1.2 Scope

For any CCBS project activity the scope is set by:

- CCB standards second edition, as published at <u>www.climate-standards.org</u>
- CCBS Rules for the use of the CCBS (Version June 21, 2010)
- Technical and methodological guidelines and information for best practice in land use based mitigation projects

The validation is not meant to provide any consulting towards the client. However, stated requests for clarifications and/or corrective actions may provide input for improvement of the project design.

Once TÜV SÜD receives a first PDD version, it is made publicly available on the internet at CCBA's webpage for a global stakeholder consultation process (GSP). In case of a request the PDD is revised (under certain conditions the GSP will be repeated) and the final PDD will form the basis for the final evaluation as presented by this report. Information on the first and on the final PDD version is presented on page 2.

The purpose of a validation is to demonstrate compliance or non-compliance of the project with all stated and valid CCBA requirements. Additionally, the purpose of validation is to enable the registration of CCBS projects, which is only a part of the total CCBS project cycle.

## 2 METHODOLOGY

The project assessment applies standard auditing techniques to assess the correctness of the information provided by the project participants. The assessment is based on the "Clean Devel-



opment Mechanism Validation and Verification Manual". The work starts with the appointment of the team covering the technical scope(s), technical area(s) and relevant host country experience for evaluating the project activity. Once the project is made available for the stakeholder consultation process, members of the team carry out the desk review, follow-up actions, resolution of issues identified, and finally preparation of the validation report. The prepared validation report and other supporting documents then undergo an internal quality control by the CB "climate and energy" before submission to CCBA.

In order to ensure transparency, assumptions are clear and explicitly stated; the background material is clearly referenced. TÜV SÜD developed methodology-specific checklists and protocol customised for the project. The protocol shows, in a transparent manner, criteria (requirements), the discussion of each criterion by the assessment team, and the results from validating the identified criteria.

The validation protocol serves the following purposes:

- To organize the details and provision of clarifications on the requirements of which a CCBS project is expected to meet
- To elucidate how a particular requirement has been validated as well as to document the results of the validation and any adjustments made to the project design document.

The validation protocol consists of three tables. The different columns in these tables are described in the figure below.

Checklist Reference Question		Comments	Draft Conclusion	Final Con- clusion
The checklist is organised in sections fol- lowing the arrangement of the applied PDD version. Each section is then sub- divided. The lowest level constitutes a checklist ques- tion / criterion.	Gives refer- ence to documents where the answer to the checklist question or item is found in case the comment refers to documents other than the PDD.	The section is used to elaborate and discuss the checklist question and/or the conformance to the question. It is used to explain the conclu- sions reached. In some cases sub-checklist are applied indicating yes/no decisions on the compli- ance with the stated criterion. Any <b>Request</b> has to be substantiated within this column	Conclusions are presented based on the assessment of the first PDD ver- sion. This is either acceptable based on evidence provided (🗹), or a Cor- rective Action Request (CAR) due to non-compliance with the checklist question (See below). Clarification Request (CR) is used when the validation team identified a need for further clarification. Forward Action Request (FAR) to highlight issues related to project implementation that requires review during the first verification.	Conclusions are presented in the same manner based on the as- sessment of the final PDD version and further docu- ments includ- ing assump- tions pre- sented in the documenta- tion.

#### Validation Protocol Table 1: Conformity of Project activity and PDD

#### Validation Protocol Table 2: Compilation and Resolutions of CARs, CRs and FARs

Validation Protocol Table 2: Resolution of Corrective Action and Clarification Requests						
Clarifications and cor- rective action requests	Ref. to PDD	Summary of Response	Validation team conclusion			
If the conclusions from table 1 are a Corrective Action, a Clarification or a Forward action Request, these should be listed in this section.	Reference to the checklist ques- tion number in Table 1 where the issue is ex- plained.	The responses given by the client or other project participants during the communications with the validation team should be summarised in this section.	This section should summarise the discussion on and revision to pro- ject documentation together with the validation team's responses and final conclusions. The conclu- sions should be reflected in Table 1, under "Final PDD".			



In case of a denial of the project activity more detailed information on this decision will be presented in Table 3. Table 3 is also used for listing of any Forward Action Request.

Validation Protocol Table 3: Unresolved Corrective Action, Clarification Requests, Forward Action Requests

CCBS Requirements	Unresolved Corrective Action Request	Forward Action Request
Detailed CCBS requirement as per Standard.	Referenced request if conclusions from table 2 resulted in a denial.	Detailed explanation of why the project is considered non-compliant with a criterion and a clear reference to the criterion

The completed validation protocol is enclosed in Annex 1 to this report.

## 2.1 Appointment of the Assessment Team

According to the technical scopes and experiences in the sectoral or national business environment, TÜV SÜD has composed a project team in accordance with the appointment rules of the TÜV SÜD certification body "climate and energy".

The composition of an assessment team has to be approved by the Certification Body (CB) to assure that the required skills are covered by the team. The CB TÜV SÜD operates the following qualification levels for team members that are assigned by formal appointment rules:

- Assessment Team Leader (ATL);
- ➢ Validator (V);
- Validator Trainee (T);
- Technical Experts (TE).

It is required that the sectoral scope(s) and the technical area(s) linked to the methodology and project have to be covered by the assessment team. For this particular project the assessment team members are presented in the table below.

#### Assessment Team:

Name	Qualification	Coverage of scope	Coverage of technical area	Coverage of financial aspect	Host coun- try experi- ence
Sebastian Hetsch	ATL	M	☑ (14.1)	M	M
Igor Kachan	V				V

Technical Reviewer:

- Robert Mitterwallner (Technical Reviewer)
- Martin Seitz (support for coverage of respective TA)

#### 2.2 Review of Documents

The PDD for the publication was submitted by the PP to TÜV SÜD in January 2012. This PDD version and additional background documents related to the project design and baseline were reviewed to verify the correctness, credibility, and interpretation of the presented information. As



a further step of the validation process, information provided by the PP was cross-checked with information from other sources (if available). A complete list of all documents and proofs reviewed is attached as Annex 2 to this report.

## 2.3 Follow-up Interviews

Between 01 and 05 February 2012 TÜV SÜD performed interviews with project stakeholders, and physical site inspection to confirm relevant information, and to resolve issues identified in the first document review. The table below provides a list of all persons interviewed in this context.

Name	Organisation
Martin Burian	PDD Consultant, GFA ENVEST
Evgeny Lepeshkin	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Guenola Kahlert	Project Coordinator, WWF Germany
Evgeny Chernov	Aforestation inspector, Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"
Yuriy Pavlov	Head of forest management department, Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"
Sergey Ponamarenko	Deputy Head of Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"
Alexander Alexeenko	Deputy Head on scientific research of Federal budgetary institution "Far Eastern Forestry Research Institute"
Vladimir Shirko	Head of the TCT
Aleksey Uza	Head of Krasny Yar village (Mayor)
Ivan Rogov	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Anatoliy Kabanets	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Vladimir Sinitsin	Head of Pozharskiy state administration
Rita Tsvetkova	President of social ecological organization "Pervotsvet"
Nikolay Gnatko	Assistant of forester, forest department of Pozharskiy district
Ludmila Litvinova	Lead specialist of Pozharskiy state administration
Lubov Golokha	Head of economic and social development department of Pozharskiy state ad- ministration
Tatyana Kravchenko	Secretary of council of Pozharskiy state administration
Viktor Kirpichev	Chairman of council of Pozharskiy state administration
Tatyana Birukova	Deputy head of Pozharskiy state administration
Sergey Pstiga	Deputy head of forest management department of Primorskiy region
Evgeniya Rosenberg	Lead consultant of the department for preparation of international events of the division of international cooperation and tourism of Primorskiy region
Evgeny Chuvasov	Assistant of climate projects, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Denis Smirnov	Head of forest program, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Sergei Aramilev	Coordinator biodiversity, WWF Russia, Amur Branch
Andrey Porckhovsky	Coordinator forest project, WWF Russia, Amur Branch

#### Persons Interviewed:



## 2.4 Further cross-check

During the validation process the team made reference to available information related to similar projects or technologies as the proposed CCBS project activity. The documentation was also reviewed against the approved methodology applied to confirm the appropriateness of formulae and correctness of calculations.

## 2.5 Resolution of Clarification and Corrective Action Requests

The objective of this phase of the validation is to resolve the requests for corrective actions, clarifications, and any other outstanding issues which needed to be clarified for TÜV SÜD's conclusion on the project design. The CARs and CRs raised by TÜV SÜD were resolved during communication between the client and TÜV SÜD. To guarantee the transparency of the validation process the concerns raised and responses that were given are documented in more detail in the validation protocol in Annex 1.

The final PDD version submitted in December 2012 served as the basis for the final assessment presented. Changes are not considered to be significant with respect to the qualification of the project as a CCBS project.

## 2.6 Internal Quality Control

Internal quality control is the final step of the validation process and is conducted by the CB "climate and energy" who checks the final documentation, which includes the validation report and annexes. The completion of the quality control indicates that each report submitted has been approved either by the head of the CB or the deputy. In projects where either the Head of the CB or his/her deputy is part of the assessment team, the approval is given by the one not serving on the project team.

After confirmation of the PP, the validation opinion and relevant documents are submitted to CCBA.



## **3 SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Each of the CCBS criteria was assessed based on the project design documentation review, follow-up interviews with relevant stakeholders and the review of the background information.

The main findings of the project audit in regard to the project design and CCB Standards compliance are summarized in the following sections:

## 3.1 General Section

#### G.1. Original Condition in the Project Area

The proposed project activity "Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia" aims to protect and preserve 450,374 hectares of forest from legal logging in Primorsky Krai in south-eastern Russia.

Basic physical parameters are described in the PDD and confirmed through document review (IRL 67) and an onsite visit by the audit team.

A description of the vegetation that characterizes the project site, the current land cover and land use and information and the site's physical features are included to the PDD and sustained with credible evidence (IRL 17, 19, 47, 67) as assessed by the audit team.

TÜV SÜD assessed the boundary of the project area in the context of the JI audit (IRL 60). The PP submitted digital boundary files (IRL 4), which were cross checked with remote sensing data and GPS measurements by the audit team during the onsite visit. Project area is a total of 450,374 hectares of forest in Primorsky Krai in south-eastern Russia, which is part of a larger concession, covering 461,154 ha, that the PP leased.

The baseline vegetation and its carbon stocks were determined by applying the VCS approved methodology VM0011 "Methodology for Calculating GHG Benefits from Preventing Planned Degradation" with some adaption. The methodological approach was also accepted under UNFCCC as JI Track 2 "project specific" approach. The audit team confirms that respective calculations have been carried out correctly. Further detailed information are also provided in the JI Determination report (IRL 60).

A description of communities located in the project zone is provided in the PDD, including basic socio-economic and cultural information. Respective information was crosschecked through document review (IRL 71, 73); and confirmed during the audit through interviews with local stakeholder, including representative of the indigenous community and representative of the administration (IRL 1).

Current land use and property rights are presented in the PDD. The Project Participant "Tribal Commune Tiger" (TCT) is the legal concession holder for the project area (IRL 20), other involved organizations such as WWF have signed respective contracts with TCT (IRL 62).Respective information, legislation and contracts were reviewed by TÜV SÜD and found to be in compliance with CCBA requirements. Carbon ownership was also assed in the JI Determination (IRL 60) and Russia issued a "Letter of Approval" for the project activity under the JI Track 2 (IRL 57).

A description of the current biodiversity inside the project zone and area is provided based on available literature for the project area and zone (IRL 67). Further, a specific study was carried out to assess and descript the population of the Siberian Tiger in the area (IRL 64, 65). The information in the PDD meet the respective requirement of CCBS.

The project zone contains High Conservation Value (HCV) areas, including areas with threatened and endemic species, areas providing critical ecosystem service, areas fundamental to



meet basic needs of local communities and areas critical for cultural identity of local communities (IRL 2, 67, 64, 67). The audit team reviewed the PDD, supportive documents and confirmed the information provided also through the onsite visit.

#### G.2. Baseline Projections

A JI "project specific" approach, based on the VCS methodology VM0011 Version 01 was applied to describe the most likely land-use scenario in the absence of the project, and its additionality. The approach was also approved by UNFCCC (IRL 59, 60). The baseline land-use is legal logging in the project area, the additionality is based on a simple costs analysis, as the project scenario does not generate additional revenues compared to the baseline scenario apart from carbon revenues. Detailed information is provided in the JI Determination Report. TÜV SÜD confirms that the project benefits would not have occurred in the absence of the project; actions implemented by the project are not required by law.

The carbon stock changes of the "without project" scenario are detailed in the JI PDD (IRL 59) and its assessment described in the JI Determination Report (IRL 59). The timeframe for the analysis is the crediting period of 10 years.

The "without project" scenario consists in legal logging. Drivers of degradation are presented in the CCBA PDD, in line with the CCBS requirements. The baseline scenario (logging of the project area) could lead to biodiversity loss and reduced environmental services likely to affect local communities (IRL 47, 67).

The audit team reviewed the PDD, additional documents and confirmed the information provided also during the onsite visit. It is concluded the project design complies CCBS with the requirements G.2

#### G.3. Project Design and Goals

A summary of the project's major climate, community and biodiversity objectives is included in the PDD (IRL 2). Each project activity is described with the expected impacts and relevance in achieving the project's objectives.

The project location (location of the project zone and the project area) is presented on maps. The project area is further digitally documented by GIS files (IRL 2, 4). The audit team checked the boundary during the onsite visit.

The project lifetime is currently set to 49 years based on the lease contract for the concession with the intention to prolong the project after 49 years (IRL 2, 20). The project crediting period is currently limited by the JI rules. The first crediting period is up to the end of 2012, further crediting periods depend on the development of the JI mechanism.

Natural risks (mainly fire and pests) and human-induced risks (mainly legal and illegal logging) are described in the PDD. Appropriate mitigation measures presented include fire fighting through the forest department (IRL 61) and anti poaching patrols by the PP. Measures to ensure the maintenance of high conservation value attributes are foreseen by the project proponents, through the protection of the project area against logging, poaching and fire (IRL 3). The PDD also includes information on measures to maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime.

Communities and other stakeholders potentially affected by the project have been involved through meetings in the community (IRL 2, 73). TÜV SÜD reviewed respective documentations and cross checked the results through interviews with local communities during the onsite visit (IRL 1). Communities and stakeholders have been invited to submit their comments on the project. The CCBA PDD was made available in Russian language and presented to local stakeholders.



A process for handling conflicts and grievances is elaborated in the PDD in line with the CCBS requirements. The chairman of Pozharsky municipal district Duma is appointed as mediator to facilitate the grievance process (IRL 76).

The PDD described financial mechanisms that are adopted to provide adequate flow of funds for project implementation and achieving the climate, community and biodiversity benefits. Initial funding for the project development was provided through the German Ministry of Environment, further project implementation costs are expected to be covered through carbon revenues. The audit team reviewed respective information and confirms compliance with the CCBS (IRL 2, 20, 74).

#### G.4. Management Capacity and Best Practices

The roles of the different organizations involved in the project are described in the PDD. The "Tribal Commune Tiger" (TCT) is the project proponent managing the project implementation onsite. The project is supported by WWF Russia and Germany, as well as CF Partners (UK) LLP (IRL 33, 34, 57, 58, 62).

Key technical skills required for successful project implementation are described and met by project team (IRL 2). It is shown that the project partners are likely to have sufficient expertise and experience in the putting into action the envisioned project. TÜV SÜD reviewed respective documents and interviewed employees during the onsite visit and concludes compliance with CCBS requirements.

Capacity building is foreseen in the project activity, including training for the community members working in the project (IRL 2). The project design foresees that priority is given to local people for employment (IRL 2).

A description of the applicable laws and/or regulations covering worker rights is included in the PDD (IRL 2, 6, 66). Information to the workers about their right are described to be provided orally to the workers. The project expects to meet all applicable laws and regulations covering workers rights.

Safety measures are listed in the PDD to minimize potential risk of the workers in the project. It is foreseen by the PP to conduct respective trainings during the project implementation.

The project's funding was assessed by the audit team and it was demonstrated that sufficient funding is available for the project implementation. Funding was provided from the German Ministry for the Environment, through the development Bank KfW and WWF Germany and Russia (IRL 2, 62, 69, 74). The audit team reviewed the documents and interviewed relevant personal.

Based on the PDD, reference documents, and observations made during the onsite visit, TÜV SÜD concludes that the requirements of CCBS G4 are met.

#### G.5. Legal Status and Property Rights

A description on relevant national and local laws has been included in the CCBA PDD, as well as in the JI PDD section B4 (IRL 6-10). Respective information was reviewed by the audit team. It is expected that the project will comply with these laws and regulations.

The project has approval from relevant authorities. It was approved from the Russian Designated Focal Point for JI Projects (The Russian Ministry of Economic Development) (IRL 57) and the Russian Federal Forest Agency (IRL 35). The audit team confirmed the written approval with interviews with the forest administration during the onsite visit. The local community involved in the project through the PP "Tribal Commune Tiger", respective approval was also confirmed by the audit team through interviews onsite with representatives of the community.

It is also documented that the project does not encroach uninvited on private, community or governmental property, as an official lease contract is signed with the forest agency (IRL 20). The



project does not require involuntary relocation of people, as no households are located inside the project area.

Few illegal activities taking place in the project zone are identified and described in the PDD, such as illegal logging, and poaching.

It is demonstrated in the PDD and JI PDD, that the project has clear, uncontested title to the carbon rights. Respective information and contracts was reviewed by TÜV SÜD and found in compliance with CCBS requirements (IRL 20, 57, 58).

## 3.2 Climate Section

#### **CL.1.Net Positive Climate Impacts**

The approved VCS methodology VM 0011 version 01 was applied in order to calculate the net change in carbon stocks as a result of project implementation. As indicated in the JI Determination Report, a total net of 560,569 tCO<sub>2</sub>e are expected to be sequestered until the end of the first JI crediting period at the end of 2012. Hence, the overall net climate impact is expected to be positive (IRL 2, 3, 59, 60).

Non-CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for the "*with*" and "*without* project" scenario have been assessed by the audit team. The emissions account for less than 5% of the project's overall GHG emissions reductions (IRL 2, 3, 59, 60). The audit team reviewed respective calculation (IRL 3) and input data and considers the calculation complete and correct.

No double counting is expected, as the project has received a letter of approval from the Designated Focal Point for JI in Russia (IRL 57).

#### CL.2. Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")

Potential leakage in this project is classified as market leakage in line with the applied VCS methodology. As per VCS market leakage was determined with 20% of the estimated amounts of emission reductions. Detailed information are provided in the JI PDD and Determination Report.

No direct leakage occurs in the project, as no activities were carried out in the project area prior to project start. Market leakage is difficult to minimize; however the total amount of unmitigated negative offsite climate impacts are discounted from the overall climate benefits as required.

Non-CO<sub>2</sub> GHG emissions are expected to be less than 5% of the projects overall off-site GHG emissions reductions and thus have been neglected (IRL 3).

TÜV SÜD reviewed respective calculation regarding leakage and found them correctly applied and in compliance with CCBS requirements. TÜV SÜD concludes that leakage is accounted in this project activity in line with CCBS requirements CL 2.

#### CL.3. Climate Impact Monitoring

The monitoring plan provided in the PDD is in compliance with CCBS requirements. A monitoring plan was elaborated in the course of the JI project (IRL 59). In line with CCBS requirement CL3.2 the audit team concludes that all respective requirements of this section are met.



## 3.3 Community Section

#### **CM1. Net Positive Community Impacts**

Impacts on communities resulting from the project activity are addressed through a "Social Baseline Study" and a "Social Impact and Opportunity Assessment" (IRL 71). These methodologies are considered appropriate in inline with the CCBS by the audit team. Differences between "with" and "without" project scenario are discussed in the PDD and supported with respective information (IRL 2, 71).

HCVs are not expected to be negatively impacted by the project, as the project is designed to protect these areas (IRL 2).

The audit team reviewed the PDD and respective background information. Based on documents reviewed and information collected during the onsite visit, the audit team concludes that respective CCBS requirements are met.

#### CM.2. Offsite Stakeholder Impacts

Potential negative offsite stakeholder impacts are identified in the PDD. The major potential negative impact under the project scenario is on people involved in logging operations (IRL 2).

Respective mitigation strategies are foreseen in the project, as the project aims to create new jobs in patrolling and collection of non timber forest products. In total the project is expected to provide positive impacts rather than negative (IRL 2). TÜV SÜD reviewed respective documentation and assessed the statements in the PDD during the onsite visit. The audit team concludes that respective CCBS requirements are met.

#### CM.3. Community Impact Monitoring

A community impact monitoring plan is provided in the PDD for community variables as required by the CCB Standards. The PDD also provides a description of respective SOPs. The major parameters are related to the income to the community from the project area and its activities, including collection of Korean Pine nuts, ecotourism (overnight stays), expenditures on infrastructure, fire patrolling and anti poaching. This also allows to assess the effectiveness of measures for HCV related to community wellbeing in the project zone.

The audit team considers the monitoring plan as presented in the PDD as a final plan in line with CCBS requirements.

## 3.4 Biodiversity Section

#### **B.1. Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts**

Impacts on biodiversity resulting from the project activity are addressed by survey and studies on fauna and flora and their impact through logging. Methodologies applied are based on scientific approached (IRL 47, 51). Differences between "with" and without" project scenario are discussed in the PDD and supported with respective information and documentation (IRL 2, 47).

The PPs expect a net positive impact on biodiversity through conservation of the natural forest ecosystem in the project area. HCVs are not expected to be negatively affected by the project activity, as the project activity foresees to protect these areas. No known invasive species and no Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) will be used in the project activity as no planting is foreseen.

The audit team reviewed respective documents and information and confirmed the statements during the onsite visit through interviews with stakeholders and observations in the project areas.



#### **B.2. Offsite Biodiversity Impacts**

Overall no potential negative impacts on biodiversity are expected from the project activity. Potential impact from fishing is discussed, but considered negligible, in particular as appropriate mitigation measures, such as guidelines for fishing and anti poaching patrols are expected to avoid any negative impacts.

The information presented in this section of the PDD was assessed by TÜV SÜD and found to be in compliance with CCBS.

#### **B.3. Biodiversity Impact Monitoring**

A biodiversity monitoring plan is included in the CCBA PDD. The Amur Tiger is considered to be appropriate indicator for intact forests and biodiversity in the project area and zone (IRL 65).

The monitoring is describe in the PDD, further details are in respective documentations for the Tiger Monitoring (IRL 64, 65).

Measures to monitor HCVs according to the CCBA are described in the monitoring plan (IRL 3, 49, 50). The plan was reviewed by TÜV SÜD and found in compliance with the CCBS.

The audit team considers the monitoring plan as presented in the PDD as a final plan in line with CCBS requirements.

#### 3.5 Gold Level Section

#### **GL.1. Climate Change Adaptation Benefits**

Not applicable in this project.

#### **GL.2. Exceptional Community Benefits**

Not applicable in this project.

#### **GL.3. Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits**

It was demonstrated that the project zone and area include a site of high biodiversity conservation priority by meeting the vulnerability criteria. The PP demonstrated that several endangered species are present in the project area, including the Amur Tiger (IRL 64, 65). Occurrence of the Tiger is monitored in respective studies (IRL 64, 65). The audit team reviewed this study and further confirmed the results through interviews and onsite observations. The audit team concludes that the project complies with the Gold Level "Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits".



#### Summary of CCBA requirements:

The following table resumes the compliance of the different sections of the CCBA standards:

Sectio	Section Status				
Gener	ral Section				
G1.	Original Conditions in the Project Area	V			
G2.	Baseline Projections	V			
G3.	Project Design and Goals	V			
G4.	Management Capacity and Best Practices	V			
G5.	Legal Status and Property Rights	V			
Clima	te Section				
CL1.	Net Positive Climate Impacts	V			
CL2.	Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")	V			
CL3.	Climate Impact Monitoring	V			
Community Section					
CM1.	Net Positive Community Impacts	V			
CM2.	Offsite Community Impacts	V			
CM3.	Community Impact Monitoring	V			
Biodiv	versity Section				
B1.	Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts	V			
B2.	Offsite Biodiversity Impacts	V			
B3.	Biodiversity Impact Monitoring	V			
Gold	Level Section				
GL1.	Climate Change Adaptation Benefits	NA			
GL2.	Exceptional Community Benefits	NA			
GL3.	Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits	V			
	Approved Status	A			
	Gold Status	A			



## 4 COMMENTS BY PARTIES, STAKEHOLDERS AND NGOS

The project documents were published on the CCBA website. Comments by stakeholders were invited between 12 January and 11 February 2012.

The following table presents all key information on this process:

webpage: http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html					
Comment submitted by: Issues raised:					
Response :	Response :				
-					



## 5 VALIDATION OPINION

TÜV SÜD performed a validation of the proposed CCBA project activity "Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia".

Standard auditing techniques have been used for the validation of the project. A methodologyspecific protocol for the project has been prepared to conduct the audit in a transparent and comprehensive manner.

The review of the project design documentation, subsequent follow-up interviews and further verification of references provided TÜV SÜD with sufficient evidence to determine the fulfilment of stated criteria in the protocol. In our opinion, the project meets all relevant requirements of the CCBS second edition. Therefore, TÜV SÜD recommends the project for registration by CCBA. According to the scorecard approach introduced by CCBA (second edition), TÜV SÜD considers the project to comply with Gold Level requirements of CCBS.

An analysis as provided by the applied methodology demonstrates that the proposed project activity is not a likely baseline scenario. GHG removals attributable to the project are additional to any that would occur in the absence of the project activity. Given that the project is implemented as designed, the project is likely to achieve the estimated amount of GHG removals as specified within the final PDD version.

In this context it is underlined that from the auditor's perspective a combined audit of CCB Standards and VCS is feasible as CCBA does not foresee the actual issuance of carbon credits. Thus, no immediate risk of double counting is considered to exist. However, TÜV SÜD refrains from liabilities related to ownership of carbon rights and credit issuance.

The validation is based on the information made available to us, as well as the engagement conditions detailed in this report. The validation was performed following the VVM requirements. The single purpose of this report is its use during the registration process as part of the CCBA project cycle.

Munich, 11 January 2013

Thomas Kleiser Certification Body "climate and energy" TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH

Munich, 11 January 2013

Sebastian Hetsch Assessment Team Leader TÜV SÜD Industrie Service GmbH

Validation of the CCBA Project: Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest in Primorye, Russia Page 18 of 52



## **ANNEX 1: VALIDATION PROTOCOL**

## Table 1: Conformity of project activity and PDD

CCBA Requirements		Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
G. General	I Section				
G.1. Or	riginal Conditions in the Project Area				
General Info G.1.1. Are rar	<b>Formation</b> Te the location of the project and the basic physical pa- meters (e.g. soil, geology, climate) clearly described?	2	Location and characteristics are described in the PDD. <u>Clarification Request 1.</u> Provide references to audit team regarding general information listed in section G.1	CR	Ŋ
G.1.2. Is s diti	sufficient information provided concerning types and con- tion of the vegetation?	2	Vegetation types are described in the PDD.	Ø	
G.1.3. Are in t	e boundary of the project and the project zone described the PDD	2	The boundary is described in the JI PDD. GIS files of the project boundary are submitted to the audit team. As part of the JI Determination, the boundary is up- dated. <u>Corrective Action Request No 1.</u> Update the CCBA PDD in line with updated of the JI PDD.	CAR	Ø
Climate Info G.1.4. Are ing of e fau me	ormation re the current carbon stocks properly explained, e. g. by us- g stratification by land-use or vegetation type and methods carbon calculation (such as biomass plots, formulae, de- ult values) from IPCC 2006 or a more robust and detailed ethodology?	2	The current carbon stocks included in the PDD, in line with the information from the JI PDD and calculation <b>See CAR 1</b>	CAR	Ø
Community G.1.5. Is a jec ma ver	y Information a description included of communities located in the pro- ct zone, including basic socio-economic and cultural infor- ation that describes the social, economic and cultural di- ersity within communities (wealth, gender, age, ethnicity	2, 35	Information on population, anthropogenic development and the indigenous culture are included in the PDD. As per information in the PDD, 60% of the population is involved in the timber industry. During the onsite visit it	CR	R



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
etc.), identifying also specific groups such as Indigenous Peoples and describing any community characteristics.		was noted that the figure is not correct. <u>Clarification Request 2.</u> Clarify how many people are involved in the timber in- dustry and update the PDD accordingly. Provide re- spective evidence to the audit team		
G.1.6. Description of current land use and customary and legal property rights including community property in the project zone, identifying any ongoing or unresolved conflicts or disputes and identifying and describing any disputes over land tenure that were resolved during the last ten years (see also G5).	2, 35	The project area is covered by forest. Land use is lim- ited to traditional activities, and illegal harvest to a small extent. See also CAR 1.	Ŋ	Ŋ
<b>Biodiversity Information</b> G.1.7. Description of current biodiversity within the project zone (diversity of species and ecosystems) and threats to that biodiversity, using appropriate methodologies, substantiated where possible with appropriate reference material.	2, 35, 39-44	Biodiversity is described in the section with a list of fauna (mammals, birds, amphibians, reptiles, ichthy-fauna and entomofauna	R	R
Is substantial and appropriate reference material provided?	2, 35, 39-44	Information is provided. See CR 1.	CR	Ŋ
G.1.8. An evaluation of whether the project zone includes any of the following High Conservation Values (HCVs) and a description of the qualifying attributes:	2, 35	Information is provided in the PDD	Ŋ	Ŋ
<ul> <li>8.1. Globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values: <ul> <li>a. protected areas</li> <li>b. threatened species</li> <li>c. endemic species</li> <li>d. areas that support significant concentrations of a species during any time in their lifecycle (e.g. migrations, feeding grounds, breeding areas).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	2, 35	A list of species is provided that are endangered, in- cluding their distribution and conservation status. The project area is currently applying as UNESCO World Natural Heritage Site due to its unique ecosys- tem See CR 1.	CR	Ø
8.2. Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape- level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally	2, 35	Information on significance is provided. The nut har- vest zone is of significant importance as it is home to	Ø	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance;		several endangered animals as presented in the sec- tions above.		
8.3. Threatened or rare ecosystems;	2, 35	Respective information is provided in the PDD	Ø	V
8.4. Areas that provide critical ecosystem services (e.g., hydro- logical services, erosion control, fire control);	2, 35	Korean pine stands provide several crucial ecosystem services, including pine seeds which are collected by local people and habitat for the Tiger. Further the water regulation is an important ecosystem service in the project area.	Ŋ	Ŋ
8.5. Areas that are fundamental for meeting the basic needs of lo- cal communities (e.g., for essential food, fuel, fodder, medi- cines or building materials without readily available alterna- tives); and	2, 37	See above: Korean pine stands provide pine seeds which are collected by local people. Further the water regulation is an important ecosystem service in the project area. This was assessed and confirmed also in interview field visit of the audit team.	Ŋ	Ŋ
8.6. Areas that are critical for the traditional cultural identity of communities (e.g., areas of cultural, ecological, economic or religious significance identified in collaboration with the communities).	2, 35, 37	Information is provided in the PDD. The area is impor- tant for local people and communities, as confirmed during the onsite visit and documented in literature <i>See CR 1</i>	CR	Ø
G.2. Baseline Projections				
G.2.1. Describe the most likely land-use scenario in the absence of the project following IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU or a more ro- bust and detailed methodology, describing the range of po- tential landuse scenarios and the associated drivers of GHG emissions and justifying why the land-use scenario selected is most likely.	2	The baseline is described and discussed in the JI PDD and the respective checklist.	CAR	Ø
G.2.2. Document that project benefits would not have occurred in the absence of the project, explaining how existing laws or regulations would likely affect land use and justifying that the benefits being claimed by the project are truly 'additional'	2	The baseline is described and discussed in depth in the JI PDD and the respective checklist, as well as the additionality.	CAR	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
and would be unlikely to occur without the project.				
<ul> <li>G.2.3. Calculate the estimated carbon stock changes associated with the 'without project' reference scenario described above. This requires estimation of carbon stocks for each of the land-use classes of concern and a definition of the carbon pools included, among the classes defined in the IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU.</li> <li>The timeframe for this analysis can be either the project lifetime (see G3) or the project GHG accounting period, whichever is more appropriate.</li> <li>Estimate the net change in the emissions of non-CO2 GHG emissions such as CH4 and N2O in the 'without project' scenario. Non-CO2 gases must be included if they are likely to account for more than 5% (in terms of CO2-equivalent) of the project's overall GHG impact over each monitoring period</li> </ul>	2	The baseline quantification is described and discussed depth in the JI PDD and the respective checklist	CAR	Q
Projects whose activities are designed to avoid GHG emis- sions (such as those reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation (REDD), avoiding conversion of non- forest land, or certain improved forest management projects) must include an analysis of the relevant drivers and rates of deforestation and/or degradation and a description and justi- fication of the approaches, assumptions and data used to perform this analysis. Regional-level estimates can be used at the project's plan- ning stage as long as there is a commitment to evaluate lo- cally-specific carbon stocks and to develop a project-specific spatial analysis of deforestation and/or degradation using an appropriately robust and detailed carbon accounting meth- odology before the start of the project.	2	No respective information are included in the CCBA PDD. During the onsite visit information regarding ac- tivities of logging companies were provided to the audit team Clarification Request 3. Provide information on relevant drivers of forest degra- dation in the PDD and provide respective information to the audit team	CR	
G.2.4. Describe how the 'without project' reference scenario would affect communities in the project zone, including the impact of likely changes in water, soil and other locally important	2	The impact of the "without project" scenario is de- scribed in the PDD. People confirmed during onsite visit that logging is not	Ø	Ø



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
	ecosystem services.		of major economic relevance for them. Main income is from non-timber forest products		
G.2.5.	Describe how the 'without project' reference scenario would affect biodiversity in the project zone (e.g., habitat availabil- ity, landscape connectivity and threatened species).	2	The impact of the "without project" scenario is de- scribed in the PDD. Protection of the forest would have a clear benefit of the biodiversity in the project area.	Ŋ	N
G.3.	Project Design & Goals				
G.3.1.	Provide a summary of the project's major climate, community and biodiversity objectives.	2	The objectives of the project are listed in the PDD.	M	Ŋ
G.3.2.	Describe each project activity with expected climate, com- munity and biodiversity impacts and its relevance to achiev- ing the project's objectives.	2	<ul> <li>Project activities are described with their relevance:</li> <li>Protection from logging by obtaining the license</li> <li>Anti poaching patrols against illegal activities (hunting and timber harvest), organized by TCT, financed through WWF Germany and WWF Russia</li> <li>Fire protection (contract signed with forest department). Fire protection is obligatory for leaseholders.</li> <li>Investment in social development</li> <li>Clarification Request 4.</li> <li>Clarify why some project activities started before the actual project start</li> <li>Provide evidence on the project activity. In particular <ul> <li>Agreements regarding the anti-poaching patrols</li> <li>Agreements on social investment</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	CR	
G.3.3.	Provide a map identifying the project location and bounda- ries of the project area(s), where the project activities will oc- cur, of the project zone and of additional surrounding loca- tions that are predicted to be impacted by project activities	2	Information on project boundary are provided to the audit team and described in the PDD See CAR 1	CAR	V



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
(e.g. thr	rough leakage).				
G.3.4. Define t explain impleme stones i	the project lifetime and GHG accounting period and and justify any differences between them. Define an entation schedule, indicating key dates and mile- in the project's development.	2	Project lifetime is 49 years, which is the lease period. GHG accounting period is expected to be the same. However, considering that the project is currently under the Joint Implementation (JI), the focus is set on the period between project start until end of 2012, as this is the end of the first commitment period. Calculation on GHG accounting was made for the first 10 years. After 10 years, the baseline has to be re-assessed, accord- ing to the methodology.		Ø
G.3.5. Identify pected of the projected of these rise	likely natural and human-induced risks to the ex- climate, community and biodiversity benefits during ect lifetime and outline measures adopted to mitigate sks.	2	Logging is described as risk. Natural risks are present in the project area, including fire. Fire fighting is part of the project activities (see section G.3.2) Clarification Request 5. Clarify if natural risk to the expected climate, commu- nity and biodiversity benefits are expected, and outline measures adopted to mitigate these risks	CR	D
G.3.6. Demons ures to o conserv the prec	strate that the project design includes specific meas- ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the high vation value attributes identified in G1 consistent with cautionary principle.	2	The project aims at protecting HCVs through activities to prevent logging	Ŋ	V
G.3.7. Describ enhance beyond	e the measures that will be taken to maintain and e the climate, community and biodiversity benefits the project lifetime.	2	The project aims to also protect the area after 49 years. The willingness was confirmed in discussion with the PPs and different stakeholders		
G.3.8. Docume holders been ide through timizing cal cust	ent and defend how communities and other stake- potentially affected by the project activities have entified and have been involved in project design effective consultation, particularly with a view to op- community and stakeholder benefits, respecting lo- toms and values and maintaining high conservation	2	Stakeholder interaction is documented in the PDD. Stakeholders are people in the communities, at re- gional and district level. Meeting were carried out in Krasny Yar and at regional and district level.	CR	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
values. Project developers must document stakeholder dia- logues and indicate if and how the project proposal was re- vised based on such input. A plan must be developed to con- tinue communication and consultation between project man- agers and all community groups about the project and its im- pacts to facilitate adaptive management throughout the life of the project.		<ul> <li><u>Clarification Request 6.</u></li> <li>Provide evidence for effective stakeholder consultation before project start</li> <li>Provide a plan for continuous stakeholder communication</li> </ul>		
G.3.9. Describe what specific steps have been taken, and commu- nications methods used, to publicize the CCBA public com- ment period to communities and other stakeholders and to facilitate their submission of comments to CCBA. Project proponents must play an active role in distributing key project documents to affected communities and stakeholders and hold widely publicized information meetings in relevant local or regional languages.	2	<ul> <li><u>Clarification Request 7.</u></li> <li>Describe what methods were used for stakeholder communication</li> <li>Discuss how it was ensured that the local stakeholders could make comments on the PDD and how the documents were distributed</li> </ul>	CR	Ø
G.3.10. Formalize a clear process for handling unresolved conflicts and grievances that arise during project planning and imple- mentation. The project design must include a process for hearing, responding to and resolving community and other stakeholder grievances within a reasonable time period. This grievance process must be publicized to communities and other stakeholders and must be managed by a third party or mediator to prevent any conflict of interest. Project manage- ment must attempt to resolve all reasonable grievances raised, and provide a written response to grievances within 30 days. Grievances and project responses must be docu- mented.	2	<ul> <li>WWF Amur branch office is dealing with grievance.</li> <li>Clarification Request 8.</li> <li>Formalize a process for resolving grievances,</li> <li>Provide information on third party or mediator</li> </ul>	CR	Ø
G.3.11. Demonstrate that financial mechanisms adopted, including projected revenues from emissions reductions and other sources, are likely to provide an adequate flow of funds for project implementation and to achieve the anticipated climate, community and biodiversity benefits.	2	Project costs are covered for 2 years from German Ministry of Environment. Clarification Request 9. Provide information on annual costs and revenues to the audit team	CR	



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
G.4.	Management Capacity				
G.4.1.	Identify a single project proponent which is responsible for the project's design and implementation. If multiple organiza- tions or individuals are involved in the project's development and implementation the governance structure, roles and re- sponsibilities of each of the organizations or individuals in- volved must also be described.	2	TCT and WWF Russia are responsible for the project design and implementation. WWF Germany support sin project coordination. CF Partners (UK) LLP is pro- ject participant in the JI project.	Ŋ	Ø
G.4.2.	Document key technical skills that will be required to imple- ment the project successfully, including community engage- ment, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills. Document the management team's exper- tise and prior experience implementing land management projects at the scale of this project. If relevant experience is lacking, the proponents must either demonstrate how other organizations will be partnered with to support the project or have a recruitment strategy to fill the gaps.	2	Key technical skills for forest management are docu- mented. Clarification Request 10. Clarify what are technical skills required for the project implementation and the experience of the management team.	CR	
G.4.3.	Include a plan to provide orientation and training for the pro- ject's employees and relevant people from the communities with an objective of building locally useful skills and knowl- edge to increase local participation in project implementa- tion. These capacity building efforts should target a wide range of people in the communities, including minority and underrepresented groups. Identify how training will be passed on to new workers when there is staff turnover, so that local capacity will not be lost.	2	Employees are working for WWF and TCT. <u>Clarification Request 11.</u> Clarify if the requirement G.4.3 is met and provide re- spective evidence to the audit team.	CR	Ø
G.4.4.	Show that people from the communities will be given an equal opportunity to fill all employment positions (including management) if the job requirements are met. Project propo- nents must explain how employees will be selected for posi- tions and where relevant, must indicate how local community members, including women and other potentially underrep- resented groups, will be given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained.	2	Employees are working for WWF and TCT. Clarification Request 12. Clarify if the requirement G.4.4 is met and provide re- spective evidence to the audit team.	CR	



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
G.4.5.	Submit a list of all relevant laws and regulations covering worker's rights in the host country. Describe how the project will inform workers about their rights. Provide assurance that the project meets or exceeds all applicable laws and/or regu- lations covering worker rights and, where relevant, demon- strate how compliance is achieved.	2	Employees are working for WWF and TCT. <u>Clarification Request 13.</u> Clarify if the requirement G.4.5 is met and provide re- spective evidence to the audit team.	CR	Ø
G.4.6.	Comprehensively assess situations and occupations that pose a substantial risk to worker safety. A plan must be in place to inform workers of risks and to explain how to mini- mize such risks. Where worker safety cannot be guaranteed, project proponents must show how the risks will be mini- mized using best work practices.	2	Employees are working for WWF and TCT. <u>Clarification Request 14.</u> Clarify if the requirement G.4.6 is met and provide re- spective evidence to the audit team.	CR	Ø
G.4.7.	Document the financial health of the implementing organiza- tion(s) to demonstrate that financial resources budgeted will be adequate to implement the project.	2	Brief information are listed in section G.3.11 of the CCBA PDD. Clarification Request 15. Discuss and provide evidence regarding financial health of the implementing organizations	CR	Ø
G.5.	Legal Status and Property Rights				
G.5.1.	Submit a list of all relevant national and local laws and regu- lations in the host country and all applicable international treaties and agreements. Provide assurance that the project will comply with these and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved.	2, 6 - 10	A list of all relevant laws is included in the CCBA PDD. The PP states that no relevant laws and regulations are broken. Further information are included in the JI PDD	Ŋ	Ŋ
G.5.2.	Document that the project has approval from the appropriate authorities, including the established formal and/or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities.	2	PP is applying for the Letter of Approval from Russia in the context of the JI Determination. Further project has the approval from the forest department.	Ŋ	Ŋ
G.5.3.	Demonstrate with documented consultations and agree- ments that the project will not encroach uninvited on private property, community property, or government property and has obtained the free, prior, and informed consent of those	2, 33	Contractual agreements between local communities, and WWF are in place	A	



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
	whose rights will be affected by the project.				
G.5.4.	Demonstrate that the project does not require the involuntary relocation of people or of the activities important for the live- lihoods and culture of the communities. If any relocation of habitation or activities is undertaken within the terms of an agreement, the project proponents must demonstrate that the agreement was made with the free, prior, and informed consent of those concerned and includes provisions for just and fair compensation.	2	No relocation of people was observed by the audit team. Villages and settlements were excluded from the project area.	ß	Ø
G.5.5.	Identify any illegal activities that could affect the project's climate, community or biodiversity impacts (e.g., logging) taking place in the project zone and describe how the project will help to reduce these activities so that project benefits are not derived from illegal activities.	2	Illegal logging poses a potential threat.	K	Ŋ
G.5.6.	Demonstrate that the project proponents have clear, uncon- tested title to the carbon rights, or provide legal documenta- tion demonstrating that the project is undertaken on behalf of the carbon owners with their full consent. Where local or na- tional conditions preclude clear title to the carbon rights at the time of validation against the Standards, the project pro- ponents must provide evidence that their ownership of car- bon rights is likely to be established before they enter into any transactions concerning the project's carbon assets.	2	Carbon rights are discussed and documented in the JI PDD. See CAR 1	CAR	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
CL. Climate Section				
CL.1. Net Positive Climate Impacts				
CL.1.1. Estimate the net change in carbon stocks due to the project activities using the methods of calculation, formulae and default values of the IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU or using a more robust and detailed methodology. The net change is equal to carbon stock changes with the project minus carbon stock changes with the project minus carbon stock changes without the project (the latter having been estimated in G2). This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions about how project activities will alter GHG emissions or carbon stocks over the duration of the project or the project GHG accounting period.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	D
CL.1.2. Estimate the net change in the emissions of non-CO <sub>2</sub> GHG emissions such as CH <sub>4</sub> and N <sub>2</sub> O in the with and without project scenarios if those gases are likely to account for more than a 5% increase or decrease (in terms of CO <sub>2</sub> -equivalent) of the project's overall GHG emissions reductions or removals over each monitoring period.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	R
CL.1.3. Estimate any other GHG emissions resulting from project ac- tivities. Emissions sources include, but are not limited to, emissions from biomass burning during site preparation, emissions from fossil fuel combustion, direct emissions from the use of synthetic fertilizers, and emissions from the de- composition of N-fixing species.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	Ŋ
CL.1.4. Demonstrate that the net climate impact of the project is positive. The net climate impact of the project is the net change in carbon stocks plus net change in non-CO <sub>2</sub> GHGs where appropriate minus any other GHG emissions resulting from project activities minus any likely project-related unmitigated negative offsite climate impacts (see CL2.3).	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD.	R	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
CL.1.5. Specify how double counting of GHG emissions reductions or removals will be avoided, particularly for offsets sold on the voluntary market and generated in a country with an emissions cap.	2	As the projects aims to register as a JI track 2 project, double counting is not expected.	$\mathbf{\Sigma}$	
CL.2.Offsite Climate Impacts ("Leakage")				
CL.2.1. Determine the types of leakages that are expected and es- timate potential offsite increases in GHGs (increases in emissions or decreases in sequestration) due to project ac- tivities. Where relevant, define and justify where leakage is most likely to take place.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	Ŋ
CL.2.2. Document how any leakage will be mitigated and estimate the extent to which such impacts will be reduced by these mitigation activities.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD.	CAR	N
CL.2.3. Subtract any likely project-related unmitigated negative off- site climate impacts from the climate benefits being claimed by the project and demonstrate that this has been included in the evaluation of net climate impact of the project (as calcu- lated in CL1.4).	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	R
CL.2.4. Non-CO <sub>2</sub> gases must be included if they are likely to account for more than a 5% increase or decrease (in terms of CO <sub>2</sub> - equivalent) of the net change calculations (above) of the pro- ject's overall off-site GHG emissions reductions or removals over each monitoring period.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	Ŋ	N
CL.3. Climate Impact Monitoring				
CL.3.1. Develop an initial plan for selecting carbon pools and non- CO <sub>2</sub> GHGs to be monitored, and determine the frequency of monitoring.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <u>Corrective Action Request No 2.</u> Include sections in CL.3 in the CCBA PDD	CAR	R



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
Potential pools include aboveground biomass, litter, dead wood, belowground biomass, wood products, soil carbon and peat. Pools to monitor must include any pools expected to decrease as a result of project activities, including those in the region outside the project boundaries resulting from all types of leakage identified in CL2.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	D
A plan must be in place to continue leakage monitoring for at least five years after all activity displacement or other leakage causing activity has taken place.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	Ŋ
Individual GHG sources may be considered 'insignificant' and do not have to be accounted for if together such omitted decreases in carbon pools and increases in GHG emissions amount to less than 5% of the total $CO_2$ -equivalent benefits generated by the project.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	Ŋ
Non-CO <sub>2</sub> gases must be included if they are likely to account for more than 5% (in terms of CO <sub>2</sub> -equivalent) of the project's overall GHG impact over each monitoring period.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	A
Direct field measurements using scientifically robust sam- pling must be used to measure more significant elements of the project's carbon stocks. Other data must be suitable to the project site and specific forest type.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. <i>See CAR 1</i>	CAR	A
CL.3.2. Commit to developing a full monitoring plan within six months of the project start date or within twelve months of validation against the Standards and to disseminate this plan and the results of monitoring, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and are communicated to the com- munities and other stakeholders.	2	The VCS approved methodology VM00011 was used as a basis for quantification of emission reduction. Details on the calculation are presented in the JI PDD. See CAR 1 Clarification Request 16. Clarify if the monitoring plan is disseminate and made publicly available and communicated.	CR	Ø



CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
CM. Community Section				
CM.1. Net Positive Community Impacts				
CM.1.1.Use appropriate methodologies to estimate the impacts on communities, including all constituent socio-economic or cultural groups such as indigenous peoples (defined in G1), resulting from planned project activities. A credible estimate of impacts must include changes in community well-being due to project activities and an evaluation of the impacts by the affected groups. This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions about how project activities will alter social and economic well-being, including potential impacts of changes in natural resources and ecosystem services identified as important by the communities (including water and soil resources), over the duration of the project. The 'with project' scenario of social and economic well-being in the absence of the project (completed in G2). The difference (i.e., the community benefit) must be positive		Information on community impacts is included in the PDD, including a comparison of "with" and "without project" scenario. Clarification Request 17. Clarify which method is used for community impact assessment	CR	D
CM.1.2.Demonstrate that no High Conservation Values identified in G1.8.4-6 will be negatively affected by the project.		HCV will not be negatively affected, as they will be pro- tected as part of the project activity.	Ŋ	Ŋ
CM.2. Offsite Community Impacts				
CM.2.1.Identify any potential negative offsite stakeholder impacts that the project activities are likely to cause.	2	Logging companies and their workers might be nega- tively impacted.	Ø	
CM.2.2.Describe how the project plans to mitigate these negative offsite social and economic impacts.	2	Alternative employment is expected to be created.	Ø	Ø
CM.2.3.Demonstrate that the project is not likely to result in net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups.	1, 2	Impacts of the project will be monitored, no negative impact is expected. This was also confirmed through interviews (in the community and on district level) car- ried out by the audit team during the field visit		V



CCBA Requirements		COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
CM.3. Community Impact Monitoring				
CM.3.1.Develop an initial plan for selecting community variables to be monitored and the frequency of monitoring and reporting to ensure that monitoring variables are directly linked to the project's community development objectives and to antici- pated impacts (positive and negative).	2	Am monitoring plan is developed including respective parameters. Clarification Request 18. Clarify which monitoring procedures (e.g. SOPs, QA/QC, etc) for the monitoring plan are applied and provide copies to the audit team.	CR	Ŋ
CM.3.2.Develop an initial plan for how they will assess the effective- ness of measures used to maintain or enhance High Con- servation Values related to community well-being (G1.8.4-6) present in the project zone.	2	<u>Corrective Action Request No 3.</u> Include information as required by the CCB standard (structure of the PDD)	CAR	Ŋ
CM.3.3.Commit to developing a full monitoring plan within six months of the project start date or within twelve months of validation against the Standards and to disseminate this plan and the results of monitoring, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and are communicated to the com- munities and other stakeholders.	2	See above	CAR	Ø
B. Biodiversity Section				
B.1. Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts				
B.1.1. Use appropriate methodologies to estimate changes in bio- diversity as a result of the project in the project zone and in the project lifetime. This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defendable assumptions. The 'with project' sce- nario should then be compared with the baseline 'without project' biodiversity scenario completed in G2. The difference (i.e., the net biodiversity benefit) must be positive.	2, 39- 44	A biodiversity survey has been conducted by WWF, focusing on Siberian Tigers. Respective information was discussed with the expert during the onsite visit of the audit team. Information from Soviet times is available regarding other fauna. With and without project scenarios are included in the PDD. <u>Clarification Reguest 19.</u> • Clarify which methods were used for biodiversity	CR	Ŋ



	CCBA Requirements	Ref.	COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
			<ul><li>assessment.</li><li>Provide references to the audit team.</li></ul>		
B.1.2.	Demonstrate that no High Conservation Values identified in G1.8.1-3 will be negatively affected by the project.	2	HCV will be protected as part of the project activity, hence no negative impact is expected.	Ø	Ŋ
B.1.3.	Identify all species to be used by the project and show that no known invasive species will be introduced into any area affected by the project and that the population of any inva- sive species will not increase as a result of the project.	2	No planting of alien species is foreseen in the project.		
B.1.4.	Describe possible adverse effects of non-native species used by the project on the region's environment, including impacts on native species and disease introduction or facili- tation. Project proponents must justify any use of non-native species over native species.	2	N/A	Ŋ	N
B.1.5.	Guarantee that no GMOs will be used to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals.	2	No planting of GMOs are foreseen in the project.	Ŋ	V
B.2.	Offsite Biodiversity Impacts				
B.2.1.	Identify potential negative offsite biodiversity impacts that the project is likely to cause.	2	No negative offsite impact is expected <u>Clarification Request 20.</u> During the onsite visit potential negative impact from ecotourism on fish in the river was mentioned. Clarify if mitigation actions are needed /planned.	CR	Ŋ
B.2.2.	Document how the project plans to mitigate these negative offsite biodiversity impacts.	2	No negative offsite impact is expected. See CR above	CR	Ø
B.2.3.	Evaluate likely unmitigated negative offsite biodiversity im- pacts against the biodiversity benefits of the project within the project boundaries. Justify and demonstrate that the net effect of the project on biodiversity is positive.	2	No negative offsite impact is expected See CR above	CR	



CCBA Requirements		COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
B.3. Biodiversity Impact Monitoring				
B.3.1. Develop an initial plan for selecting biodiversity variables to be monitored and the frequency of monitoring and reporting to ensure that monitoring variables are directly linked to the project's biodiversity objectives and to anticipated impacts (positive and negative).	2	<ul> <li>As per PDD, biodiversity monitoring will be carried out: <ul> <li>Tiger monitoring</li> <li>Bird Monitoring</li> <li>Fish Monitoring</li> </ul> </li> <li>However, during onsite interviews, only Tiger monitoring was confirmed The monitoring is however not specific to the project area, but to the entire region <ul> <li>Clarification Request 21.</li> </ul> </li> <li>During the onsite visit it was clarified that up to date no bird and fish monitoring was carried out or is envisioned. Clarify if the fish and bird monitoring is carried out.</li> <li>Clarify if the tiger monitoring is specific for the project area, and can lead to analysis and results for the project area, in order to monitor the impact of the project</li> </ul>	CR	
B.3.2. Develop an initial plan for assessing the effectiveness of measures used to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values related to globally, regionally or nationally significant biodiversity (G1.8.1-3) present in the project zone.	2	Monitoring plans are already in place and the monitor- ing is already carried out. Information on monitoring plan for fish is provided <u><b>Clarification Request 22.</b></u> Provide information on the monitoring, including meth- odology used, procedures for carrying out the monitor- ing, in particular also for tiger and bird monitoring	CR	
B.3.3. Commit to developing a full monitoring plan within six months of the project start date or within twelve months of validation against the Standards and to disseminate this plan and the results of monitoring, ensuring that they are made publicly available on the internet and are communicated to the com- munities and other stakeholders.	2	See above	CR	



CCBA Requirements		COMMENTS	Draft Concl	Final Concl
Gold Level Section				
GL1. Climate Change Adaptation Benefits		not applied		
GL2. Exceptional Community Benefits		not applied		
GL3. Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits				
<b>1. Vulnerability</b> Regular occurrence of a globally threatened species (according to the IUCN Red List) at the site:				Ø
1.1. Critically Endangered (CR) and Endangered (EN) species - pres- ence of at least a single individual; or	2	Four vulnerable species, six endangered and two criti- cally endangered species occur in the project area, including the Siberian Tiger. During the onsite visit, the audit team saw tracks of the tiger and scratches from tiger on stems of trees.	Gold Level Grant ed	Ŋ
1.2. Vulnerable species (VU) - presence of at least 30 individuals or 10 pairs.		Not required	NA	NA
<b>2. Irreplaceability</b> A minimum proportion of a species' global population present at the site at any stage of the species' lifecycle according to the following thresholds:57		Not required	NA	NA



## Table 2: Response to Corrective Action Requests (CAR) and Clarification Requests (CR)

Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
Clarification Request 1. Provide references to audit team regarding general information listed in section G.1	G.1	References were included in Section G1 and are provided under reference nrs 10 and 6. Please note that many of the references listed in Section G1 are available as hard copy only. Ref. 6 is considered as aggregate reference which a) builds on these references and b) specifically discusses the Bikin.	References regarding the general information are provided to the audit team. In particular ref 6 further supports the statements in section G.1.1. Request closed.
Corrective Action Request No 1. Update the CCBA PDD in line with updated of the JI PDD.	G.1	Section G1 was updated in line with changes of the JI PDD, i.e. changes in project area (table 2, table 9), carbon stocks (tables 3+4) and carbon stock changes, table 7.	The project area is updated in line with the JI PDD. However the CCBS terminology is not correct. Clarify which is the boundary of the project area (compared to the project zone) in section G.1.3
		The project zone was specified in Section G1.3.	The PP specified the project area in line with the JI PDD and the project zone. Request closed.
Clarification Request 2. Clarify how many people are involved in the timber industry and update the PDD accord- ingly. Provide respective evidence to the audit team	G.1	Section G1.5 was further specified/corrected. 60% of the population works in the forest sector including hunting, NTFP fuel wood logging op- erations.	The reference provided to the verification team (references Zvydonna 2010) does not contain the confirmation that 60% of the population works in the forest sector. Moreover, the information it is stated in the reference Zvydonna 2010, page 98 that the total population in about 800 people (data for 2009), which is inconsistent with the section G1.5 of the PDD. (The latter is based on the Proposal for inscription on the UNESCO Cul-



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
			tural and Natural World Heritage List
			Clarify and provide adequate reference for the data presented in the PDD / source of data for the Proposal for inscription on the UNESCO Cultural and Natural World Heritage List.
		Please refer to the statement of the municipality of Krasny Yar, Reference Nr. 18a+b. The figures from Zvydonna were corrected; the figures from the UNESCO heritage application were removed.	Updated references were provided to the audit team and the PDD updated accordingly. Infor- mation provided is now in line with the refer- ences. Requests closed.
Clarification Request 3. Provide information on relevant drivers of forest degradation in the PDD and provide respective information to the audit team	G.2	Section G2.3 includes a table with information on the drivers of forest degradation (table 8).	Commercial timber harvest is presented as driver for degradation. Further analysis of the driver of degradation and the baseline degra- dation are detailed in the JI PDD. The audit team concludes that the CCB re- quirement G.2.3 is met (mainly based on the information and references in the JI PDD). Re- quest closed.



<ul> <li>Clarification Request 4.</li> <li>i. Clarify why some project activities started before the actual project start</li> <li>ii. Provide evidence on the project activity. In particular</li> </ul>	G.3	i. In May 2008, an EU TACIS project was started as the first financial support to the re-	i. Provide reference document to the audit team
<ul> <li>a. Agreements regarding the antipoaching patrols</li> <li>b. Contracts for fire fighting</li> <li>c. Agreements on social investment</li> </ul>		<ul> <li>gion, supporting the indigenous communities in maintaining their traditional lifestyle. In the course of these activities, the development of a climate project was discussed and several stakeholder consultations were conducted. But these were preparatory activities. The actual activities of the proposed activities did not start until the development of the climate project.</li> <li>ii. The following references are provided: <ul> <li>A) Ref nr1 is the contract for fire fighting. §3.1 stipulates the costs for the services.</li> <li>B) Reference nr 2 is the MoU between TCT and WWF. In this MoU, §2.1b TCT commits to engaging anti poaching guards.</li> <li>C) Reference Nr7 is the project's Investment Declaration submitted by TCT/WWF to MEDT. Row 3 shows the costs for antipoaching guards, i.e. 2,535,000 Rubel for 2013. Row 7 shows the costs for social investments/activities, i.e. 4,290,000 Rubel for 2013.</li> </ul> </li> <li>i. Please refer to Reference Nr. 16, page</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>ii. References <ul> <li>a. Verification team has assessed the Ref nr1 "The contract for fire fighting". The costs for the services are included in the §3.1. Contract was expired in 2010. Clarify if a follow up contract was signed</li> <li>b. Based on Reference nr 2 review verification team can confirm that anti poaching guards were engaged within the project area. (as per chapter §2.1b of the MoU between TCT and WWF).</li> <li>c. Based on Reference nr7 review verification team can confirm that the costs envisaged for anti-poaching guards as outlined in the responses</li> </ul> </li> <li>Respective references support the statements made in the PDD.</li> </ul>
		<ul> <li>3, §4</li> <li>ii. 2 follow up contracts were signed. The first at the 14th December 2009 (date of signature) covering the period of 15th December 2009 to 15th December</li> </ul>	the starting date of the project, as well as the contracts regarding fire fighting. The audit team reviewed the contracts. Request closed.



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
		at the 13th December 2010 and covers the period of 13th December to 15th December 2012. Please refer to Refer- ence Nrs. 14 and 15.	
<u>Clarification Request 5.</u> Clarify if natural risk to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits are ex- pected, and outline measures adopted to miti- gate these risks	G.3	Forest fire was included as a natural risk to cli- mate, community and biodiversity benefits in Section G3.8. Mitigation measures were outlined.	Fire is included as a natural risk, in line with audit observations; adequate risk mitigation measures are outlined. Compliance with CCB requirements G.3.5 is now given, request closed
<ul> <li><u>Clarification Request 6.</u></li> <li>i. Provide evidence for effective stake- holder consultation before project start</li> <li>ii. Provide a plan for continuous stake- holder communication</li> </ul>	G.3	<ul> <li>Section G3.8 was improved:</li> <li>i. Discussion of stakeholder involvement prior to project start was included on pages 40-41. Reference Nr 12 is pro- vided which protocols the stakeholder meeting at the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009.</li> <li>ii. A plan for continuous stakeholder in- volvement was included in Section G3.8</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>i. Meeting minutes (reference 12) confirm that the project was discussed by local stake- holders on 16 May 2009. The main outcome of the meeting is as indicated in the section G3.8 of the PDD:</li> <li>Endorse the project establishment</li> <li>Endorse Bikin NHZ leasing</li> <li>Create execution group on Bikin project</li> <li>ii. A plan for stakeholder communication is presented in the PDD</li> <li>The audit team concludes that the respective requirements are met. Request closed.</li> </ul>



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
<ul> <li><u>Clarification Request 7.</u></li> <li>i. Describe what methods were used for stakeholder communication</li> <li>ii. Discuss how it was ensured that the local stakeholders could make comments on the PDD and how the documents were distributed</li> </ul>	G.3	<ul> <li>Section G3.9 was improved:</li> <li>i. The description of the methods for stakeholder communication was ex- panded.</li> <li>ii. The description of how local stake- holders were invited to make comments was included on p42.</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>i. Publication on the CCBA webpage was used as communication method, as well as direct communication</li> <li>ii. No information is provided how local stakeholders could make comments, or whether the PDD was available in local lan- guages.</li> </ul>
		<ul><li>Mr. Shirko is representing the PP. But TCT is in the first hand a representation of the local popu- lation of the Udege tribe. Mr. Shriko is represent- ing the local population AND is the PP.</li><li>The project documentation is available in local language at the TCT office for commenting. An information note is published at the TCT infor- mation table, that the PDD is available and can be commented.</li></ul>	Information is provided in the PDD how local stakeholder could make comments to the PDD. The audit team considers that the project is line compliance with respective CCBS requirements. Request closed.
<ul> <li><u>Clarification Request 8.</u></li> <li>i. Formalize a process for resolving grievances,</li> <li>ii. Provide information on third party or mediator</li> </ul>	G.3	An independent grievance process was formal- ized in Section G3.10 and information on the third party was provided.	The grievance process is presented in the PDD in line with CCB requirements. A third party is defined (the mayor of Krasny Yar) Clarify how the grievance process is published (see CCB requirements G.10). Clarify if the grievance process is based on a written agreement between the PP and the mayor
		The grievance process itself is available in writ- ing at the Pozhrsky Duma and will be executed by the chairman of the Pozhrsky Duma.	Grievance process is described in the PDD, respective references were provided to the audit team. The audit team considers the de-



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
		The existence of the grievance process is pub- lished at the information table in the Krasny Yar village and at the information table of the TCT office. Please refer to references Nr. 19+20.	scription compliant with the CCBS require- ments for validation. Request closed. ☑
Clarification Request 9. Provide information on annual costs and reve- nues to the audit team	G.3	Information on annual costs and revenues was included in Section G3.11, Table 10. Reference 7 (page 9) was provided as evidence.	Information on anticipated revenues from sales of carbon credits (under JI) and expected costs of implementation are presented in the PDD. CCB requirement G.3.11 is considered to be met. Request closed.
<b>Clarification Request 10.</b> Clarify what are technical skills required for the project implementation and the experience of the management team.	G.4	In Section G4.2 the description of the skill re- quirements was expanded (pages 45f). Section G4.1 was updated in line with the JI PDD.	In line with CCB requirement G.4.2, key tech- nical skills required for the successful project implementation are listed in the PDD. The PP or supporting partners are likely to be able to cover the skills needed for successful imple- mentation. Request closed
<u>Clarification Request 11.</u> Clarify if the requirement G.4.3 is met and pro- vide respective evidence to the audit team.	G.4	The description of G4.3 was expanded.	Section G.4.6 outlines potential training for fire fighting and anti poaching As per CCB requirement, a plan for providing orientation and training for the project's em- ployees and relevant people from the commu- nities is included in the PDD shall be provided. No information is provided regarding minorities and underrepresented groups
		A training plan was included in Section G4.3 and explanation on the consideration of minorities was included.	A training plan is included in the PDD. Information regarding provided. Information is provided regarding minorities and underrepresented groups have been in-



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
			cluded in the PDD.
Clarification Request 12. Clarify if the requirement G.4.4 is met and pro- vide respective evidence to the audit team.	G.4	Section G4.4 was described and evidence was provided.	The process for selecting people to work in the project is described in the PDD. Considering the nature of the project, and as evident during the onsite visit, the project is employing local people for the project activities, as far as possible. Criteria for the employment are defined in the PDD. The audit team considers compliance with CCB G.4.4. Request closed.
<u>Clarification Request 13.</u> Clarify if the requirement G.4.5 is met and pro- vide respective evidence to the audit team.	G.4	The compliance with labor codes and regula- tions was discussed. The laws and regulations are provided to the DOE, (Reference nr 5).	Relevant worker laws are presented in the PDD. The PP assures in the PDD that the project complies with relevant laws. Compliance with relevant laws are also part of the charter of the PP. As per CCB G.4.5, clarify how workers are informed about their rights



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
		Additional information was included in Section G4.5.	The PDD provides brief description that work- ers can access the TCT charter in the office, and that they are informed orally. As the CCBS requires only information on how workers are informed, the audit team considers this information sufficient to meet the require- ments of the CCBS at validation. Request closed.
Clarification Request 14. Clarify if the requirement G.4.6 is met and pro- vide respective evidence to the audit team.	G.4	Risks and risk mitigation measures were de- scribed.	The main safety issues are presented in the PDD (fire and anti poaching). Training for risk mitigation is presented in the PDD, and need to be assessed at verification. Request closed.
Clarification Request 15. Discuss and provide evidence regarding finan- cial health of the implementing organizations	G.4	The financial health of the organizations was discussed and evidence was provided (Reference nrs 8a, 8b, 9).	Financial health of WWF Russia and WWF Germany was documented with respective references provided to the audit team. Provide reference for grant from German Min- istry for Environment for financing the project the first two years
		Please refer to Reference Nr. 13.	The agreement with the German Ministry for Environment (through the KfW) for financing the project the first two years was reviewed by the audit team. Based on this document and other relevant documents the audit team con- cludes that the financial health is likely to be secured. Request closed.



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
Corrective Action Request No 2. Include sections in CL.3 in the CCBA PDD	CL.3	CL3 and related sub-sections were included.	In line with CCB requirements, section CL 3 is included. Relevant information are presented in the PDD (in line with the JI PDD. The audit team concludes compliance with the CCB. Request closed.
Clarification Request 16. Clarify if the monitoring plan is disseminate and made publicly available and communicated.	CL.3	Both, the monitoring plan as well as the monitor- ing report will be made publically available. The related information was included in Section CL3.2.	The monitoring plan will be publicly available on the internet. Clarify how the monitoring plan will be com- municated to the communities as per CCB CL.3.2
		Please refer to the additional procedures stipu- lated in Section CL3.2, page 54.	The monitoring plan will be made available at the office in the village. Request closed. ☑
Clarification Request 17. Clarify which method is used for community impact assessment	CM.1	The applied methodology was explicitly named in Section CM1.1.	The methodology is mentioned in the PDD. The audit team concludes that the methodol- ogy is in line with the CCBS, as it is also sug- gested by the standard. Request closed.
<u>Clarification Request 18.</u> Clarify which monitoring procedures (e.g. SOPs, QA/QC, etc) for the monitoring plan are applied and provide copies to the audit team.	CM.3	SOPs have been included in CM3.1	Description on the monitoring procedures are provided in the updated PDD. The audit team concludes the section CM.3.1 in compliance with the standard as plan for monitoring se- lected community variables is presented. Re- quest closed.
<u>Corrective Action Request No 3.</u> Include information as required by the CCB standard (structure of the PDD)	CM.3	CM3.2 and CM3.3 were included.	Information on CCB requirements CM3.2 and CM3.3 are included in the PDD. The audit team considers CM3.2 and CM3.3 in compliance with CCB requirements. Request closed.



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
			$\square$
<ul> <li>Clarification Request 19.</li> <li>Clarify which methods were used for biodiversity assessment.</li> <li>Provide references to the audit team.</li> </ul>	B.1	The methodology was specified and the refer- ences are provided under reference 11. Please refer to pages 59-61 of the below link: <u>http://www.uky.edu/Ag/Forestry/conbio09/Lectur</u> <u>e4.pdf</u>	Methodologies are referenced in the PDD. Request closed.
Clarification Request 20. During the onsite visit potential negative impact from ecotourism on fish in the river was men- tioned. Clarify if mitigation actions are needed /planned.	B.2	The negative effect was included in Section B2.1, discussed and mitigation activities were developed (Section B2.2).	Potential negative effects are discussed in the PDD. Mitigation options are foreseen by the project (Section B.2.2). Overall no negative offsite effects are expected if the project is implemented as designed. The audit team concludes compliance with CCB requirements B.2. Request closed
<ul> <li>Clarification Request 21.</li> <li>During the onsite visit it was clarified that up to date no bird and fish monitoring was carried out or is envisioned. Clarify if the fish and bird monitoring is carried out.</li> <li>Clarify if the tiger monitoring is specific for the project area, and can lead to analysis and results for the project area, in order to monitor the impact of the project</li> </ul>	В.3	Bird and fishing monitoring was removed from the monitoring approach. Tiger monitoring is not specific for the project area, but it features one large sample plot in the project area (2,000km <sup>2</sup> ). The sample plot covers 43% of the project area and allows for estimat- ing the tiger population in the project area.	The monitoring of biodiversity impacts of the project will only focus on the tiger population. The monitoring is part of a larger tiger monitor- ing carried out i the region. Clarify how the impacts of the project can be determined by the suggested monitoring. In particular as it is described that only one sam- ple plot lies in the project area
		Even though the Bikin is called one 'sample plot' of the regional tiger monitoring, data on tiger traces is collected from various sources within the 'sample plot'. Both, the monitoring of traces of the tiger as well as their prey, are conducted in an area of 1027km2 and by monitoring 205km of routes.	Based on the additional description, the audit team considers the monitoring plan to be in line with CCBS requirements. Request closed.



Draft report clarifications and corrective ac- tion requests by validation team	Ref. to PDD	Summary of project owner response	Validation team conclusion
		This is not considered as one single data source and hence allows to estimate the tiger popula- tion for the Bikin. This can be verified by the ex- isting/past tiger monitoring reports who already did estimate the tiger population in the project area. Please refer to Reference Nr. 17 which is a practical proof that tiger monitoring for the Bikin is possible (page 9, Table 4). Additional tiger monitoring reports are published under: <u>http://www.wcsrussia.org/en- us/publications/научныепубликацииобамурско</u> <u>мтигре.aspx</u>	
<u>Clarification Request 22.</u> Provide information on the monitoring, including methodology used, procedures for carrying out the monitoring, in particular also for tiger and bird monitoring	В.3	Additional information on the methodology and procedures were included in Section B3.1. References are provided under reference nr. 4a (methodology) and 4b (most recent monitoring).	Additional information on the monitoring of ti- ger populations, including the methodology used, is provided in the PDD and respective references were provided to the audit team. Pending on CR 21, the request will be closed. $(\boxdot)$

 Table 3: Unresolved Corrective Action Requests, Clarification Requests, Forward Action Requests (FAR)

 Not applicable



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document		Date
1		Persons interviewed	during the on-site audits (Name, Institution, Position)	Feb 2012
		Name	Organisation	
		Martin Burian	PDD Consultant, GFA ENVEST	
		Evgeny Lepeshkin	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
		Guenola Kahlert	Project Coordinator, WWF Germany	
		Evgeny Chernov	Aforestation inspector, Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"	
		Yuriy Pavlov	Head of forest management department, Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"	
		Sergey Ponama- renko	Deputy Head of Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG"	
		Alexander Alexeenko	Deputy Head on scientific research of Federal budgetary institution "Far Eastern Forestry Re- search Institute"	
		Vladimir Shirko	Head of the TCT	
		Aleksey Uza	Head of Krasny Yar village (Mayor)	
		Ivan Rogov	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
		Anatoliy Kabanets	Project Coordinator, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
		Vladimir Sinitsin	Head of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Rita Tsvetkova	President of social ecological organization "Pervotsvet"	
		Nikolay Gnatko	Assistant of forester, forest department of Pozharskiy district	
		Ludmila Litvinova	Lead specialist of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Lubov Golokha	Head of economic and social development department of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Tatyana Kravchenko	Secretary of council of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Viktor Kirpichev	Chairman of council of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Tatyana Birukova	Deputy head of Pozharskiy state administration	
		Sergey Pstiga	Deputy head of forest management department of Primorskiy region	
		Evgeniya Rosenberg	Lead consultant of the department for preparation of international events of the division of in- ternational cooperation and tourism of Primorskiy region	
		Evgeny Chuvasov	Assistant of climate projects, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
		Denis Smirnov	Head of forest program, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
		Sergei Aramilev	Coordinator biodiversity, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	

## **Annex 2: Information Reference List**



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document	Date
		Andrey Porckhovsky Coordinator forest project, WWF Russia, Amur Branch	
2	Project Participants	CCBA Project Design Document (PDD), GSP Version: Version 01, final version 1.3	09 Jan 2013
3	Project Participants	Project and Baseline Emission calculation: Bikin Model 2012-04-26.xlsx (final version)	26 Apr 2012
4	Project Participants	GIS files of project area at strata level (project_area.shp)	21 Mar 2012
5	VCS	VCS Methodology: VM 00011 version 1.0 "Methodology for Improved Forest management – Logged to Protected Forest: Calculating GHG Benefits from Preventing Planned Degradation": <u>http://www.v-c-s.org/methodologies/VM0011</u>	
6	Russian Federation	Forest code of the Russian Federation	Nov 2006
7	State Forest Agency	Rules of Use of Forest with different protective Status	2010
8	State Forest Agency	Rules of Wood Harvesting	2007
9	Ministry of Agriculture	Order of Ministry of Agriculture of RF # 543	06 Nov 2009
10	State Forest Agency	Order of State Forest Agency (Rosleskhoz) # 485	14 Dec 2010
11	IPCC	2006 IPCC Guidelines for National Greenhouse Gas Inventories, Prepared by the National Greenhouse Gas Inventories Programme, Eggleston H.S., Buendia L., Miwa K., Ngara T. and Tanabe K. (eds). Published: IGES, Japan	2006
12	FAO	Forest Resource Assessment Russian Federation	2005
13	Mikhail Yatskov, Mark E. Harmon and Olga N. Krankina	A Chronosequence of Wood Decomposition in the Boreal Forests of Russia, Canadian Journal of Forest Re- sources, Vol. 33.	2003
14	Primorskstat	Numbers on lumber recovery	2010
15	A.A. Dorofeeva	"Fragments of reforestation dynamics in Korean pine stands after industrial logging", Collection work of the Far East Forestry Research Institute, edition 12, Khabarovsk,	1974
16	Far East Forestry Re- search Insititute	Study on natural disturbances	
17	State Forest Inventory Service Team (Kha-	Original inventory data (txt) (forest inventory of the project area)	Finished June 2010



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document	Date
	barovsk)		
18	Ministry of Natural Re- sources and Environment of the Russian Federation	Adoption of the Forest Inventory Instruction' (class 2 inventory)	2008
19		Forest Inventory of the Bikin NHZ from 1992	1992
20		Lease contract (from TCT for the Bikin NHZ)	2009
21	WWF Germany	WWF proposal of Bikin project to ICI	
22	Ecosecurity	Improved Forest Management in Russia. An Assessment of the Carbon Finance Potential of the Amur Tiger Forest Carbon Project	May 2009
23	WWF Germany	Invitation for Expression of Interest for Consulting Services for Mitigating impacts of climate change through the protection of large-scale virgin forests as carbon storage in the Bikin River area of the Russian Far East (RFE)	Aug 2009
24	Baker McKenzie Russia	Possible structures for implementing the JI project "Reduction of climate change by means of protection of large virgin forests in the territory of the river Bikin in the Russian Far East" in Russia	June 2009
25	TÜV SÜD /WWF Germany	Validation Contract with TÜV SÜD for the JI Determination of the project "Bikin Tiger Carbon Project - Permanent protection of otherwise logged Bikin Forest, in Primorye Russia"	16 May 2011
26	Eugene A. Simonov and Thomas D. Dahmer (Eds), WWF Ecosystem limited	Amur Heilong River Basin Reader	Feb 2008
27		Study on k-values: Chronosequenses of composition of boreal forests in Russia	
28		Post felling inventory analysis NHZ Vostochnya	
29	Primorskstat	Lumber recovery factor	2010
30	A.A. Dorofeeva	Fragments of reforestation dynamics in Korean pine stands after industrial logging" by A.A. Dorofeeva, Collection work of the Far East Forestry Research Institute, edition 12, Khabarovsk,	1974
31	Klvac and Skoupy	Harvest emissions	2009
32		Letter on fuel wood consumption at hauling operations	
33	WWF Russia / TCT	Agreement of Intent on the Bikin Forest Carbon Project	Sept 2011



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document	Date
34	WWF Germany / WWF Russia	Agreement between WWF Germany and WWF Russia	
35	Federal Forestry Agency Far Eastern filial agency of forest inventory filial agency of Federal State Unitary Enterprise "ROSLESINFORG" "DALLESPROEKT" Federal budgetary institu- tion "Far Eastern Forestry Research Institute"	Determination of allowable annual cut for all cuttings types on territory of Verhne-Perevalninskii forest district, Sobolinskii subdivision (compartments 68, 107-117), Krasnoyarovskii subdivision (compartments 118-308, 326- 337, 342-407, 409, 413, 417), Ohotnichie subdivision (compartments 309-325, 338-341, 408, 410-412, 414-416, 418-523, 525-530, 537-543, 549-563, 571-575, 589, 590, 593, 594, 598-603, 611-620, 626, 627, 632-656, 663- 666, 701-713, 715-717, 719) of Primorski	
36	Head of forest department Primorsky Kraji	Approval of harvest plan	27 Oct 2011
37	Russian Federation	Federal law # 82-FZ form 30 April 1999 - About guarantee of indigenous people rights in Russian Federation	30 Apr 1999
38	Russian Federation	Federal Law of 18.12.2006 No. 232-FZ 'About Ecological Expertise' Amending Federal Law of 23.11.1995 No.178-FZ, 'About Ecological Expertise'	18 Dec 2006
39		New data basis for determination of fRSD	2011
40		Ratio for Export of timber from Primorye to other countries	
41	WWF Russia	Comparison of allowable cuts per species with export/tax data	
42	Caroll and Milakovsky	Managing Carbon Sequestration in Temperate and Boreal Forests', published in Forests and Carbon: A Synthesis of Science, Management, and Policy for Carbon Sequestration in Forests (2010) by Tyrrell, Ashton, Spalding, and Gentry, (Eds).	2010
44	WWF Germany / GFA En- vest	Contract between WWF Germany and GFA Envest on consultancy for PDD development	09 Mar 2010
45	Rosleskhoz	"Guideline for the Design, Organization and Management of Forest Pathology Monitoring" No 523	29 Dec 2007
46		Far Eastern Forest inventory handbook	1973
47	Aksenov, D. E., Dubinin, M. Yu., M. L. Kar-	Mapping High Conservation Value Forests of Primorsky Kray, Russian Far East, International Social Ecological Union & World Resources Institute, Moscow – Vladivostok, Russia.	2006



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document	Date
	pachevskiy, M., L., Lik- sakova, N., S., Skvortsov, V., E., Smirnov, D., Y., Yanitskaya, T., O.		
48	Russian Federation	Russian Federation Federal Law no.7 of 10.01.2002 (Chapter VI, VII "Environmental Impact Assessment and Ecological Endorsement")	10 Jan 2002
49	Russian Federation	A decree of Russian State Ecology Committee of 16.05.2000 no.372, registered at Russian Department of Justice on 04.07.2000, registration no.2302	16 May 2000
50	Global Forest Watch Rus- sia, WWF	Mapping High Conservation Value Forests of Primorsky Kray, Russian Far East	2004 / 2006
51	Jandl, R., Linder, M.,Vesterdal, L., Bauwens, B. Baritz, R.,Hagedorn, F., Johnson,D.W., Minkkinen, K., Byrne, K.A.,	How strongly can forest management influence soil carbon sequestration? Geoderma 137, 253-268.	2007
52	Concilio, A., Ma, S.Y., Li, Q.L., LeMoine, J., Chen, J.Q., North, M., Moorhead, D., Jensen, R.,	Soil respiration response to prescribed burning and thinning in mixed-conifer and hardwood forests. Canadian Journal of Forest Research 35, 1581- 1591.	2005
53	Nilsen, P., Stand, L.T.,	Thinning intensity effects on carbon and nitrogen stores and fluxes in a Norway spruce (Picea abies (L.) Karst.) stand after 33 years. Forest Ecology and Management. 256, 201-208.	2008
54	Dannenmann, M., Gasche, R., Ledebuhr, A., Holst, T.,Mayer, H., Papen, H.,	The effect of forest management on trace gas exchange at the pedosphere-atmosphere interface in beech (Fagus sylvatica L.) forests stocking on calcareous soils. European Journal of Forest Research 126, 331-346.	2007
55	Kim, C., Son, Y., Lee,W., Jeong, J., & Noh, N.	Influences of forest tending works on carbon distribution and cycling in a Pinus densiflora S. et Z. stand in Korea. Forest Ecology and Management (257), 1420-1426.	2009
56	IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Good Practice Guidance for Land Use, Land-Use Change and For- estry	2003
57	DFP of Russia	Host country Approval and Letter of Approval for "Tribal Commune Tiger"	18 Jun 2012



Ref. No.	Author/Editor/ Issuer	Title of Document	Date
58	DFP of France	Letter of Approval, authorizing "CF Partners (UK) LLP"	04 Oct 2012
59	PP	JI PDD	
60	TÜV SÜD	JI Determination Report	
61	WWF & Fire Department	Contract on fire fighting	2009
62	WWF & TCT	MoU on the Bikin Project	2011
63	ТСТ	TCT Charter and Election of the Head of TCT	2010
64	WCS	Amur Tiger Monitoring Report and Methodology 2008-2009	2009
65	WCS	Tiger Monitoring Report 2010	2010
66	Government of Russia	Labour Code	2008
67	Natural Heritage Protec- tion Fund, et al.	Bikin Valley Application as UNESCO World Heritage Site	2010
68	WWF Russia	Investment Declaration	2012
69	Audit Company Ltd	Financial Audit Report of WWF Russia	2011
70	WWF Germany	Annual Report 2010-2011	2011
71	Zvidonna,	Udege People	2010
72	Askenov	Mapping HCFV of Primorsky Kray, Russian Far East	2006
73	ТСТ	Stakeholder Consultation Prior to Project Start	2009
74	KfW	Bikin Financing Agreement	2008
75	Administration of Krasny Yar	Krasny Yar Admin Statement on Population	2012
76	ТСТ	Announcement Grievance Process Krasny Yar village	2012