



ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, INC.

Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance Project Validation / Verification Report

The International Small Group and Tree Planting (TIST) Program in
India, CCB-001

11 March 2013

Project No. V012059.00

Validation and Verification Conducted by:

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ANSI ACCREDITED PROGRAM
GREENHOUSE GAS
VALIDATION AND VERIFICATION
0800



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Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance TIST Program in India CCB-001 Validation/Verification Report

Introduction

This report presents the findings of an audit conducted by Environmental Services, Inc. (ESI), to validate and verify the claims made by the TIST program in India, CCB-001 conforms to the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Project Design Standards (Second Edition- December 2008). ESI is accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) under ISO 14065:2007 for greenhouse gas validation and verifications bodies, which approves us to perform validations/verifications for the Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA).

Contact Information

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| Lead Validator/Verifier | Shawn McMahan Environmental Services, Inc. 3800 Clermont Street NW North Lawrence, Ohio 44666 330-833-9941 |



Validation /Verification Details

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| Validation/Verification Standard | Climate Community and Biodiversity Standard (Second Edition – December 2008) |
| Validation/Verification Criteria | <p>The criteria will follow the validation guidance documents provided by CCBA located at www.climate-standards.org. These documents include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a) <i>Project Design Standards (Second Edition, December 2008)</i>b) <i>Rules for the use of the Climate, Community, & Biodiversity Standards, Version June 21, 2010.</i> |
| Level of Assurance | <p>The level of assurance was used to determine the depth of detail that the validator/verifier placed in the validation/verification plan to determine if there were any errors, omissions, or misrepresentations (ISO 14064-3:2006). ESI selected samples of data and information to be validated and verified, to provide <i>reasonable assurance</i>.</p> |
| Validation/Verification Scope | <p>The scope of the validation included the review of all project documentation provided by the project developer and the appropriate level of fact finding by the validator during the on-site visit. The validator used evidence such as, but not limited to, interviews with stakeholders and project proponents, review of supporting records and reports.</p> <p>The scope of the verification, included the GHG project and baseline scenarios; physical infrastructure, activities, technologies and processes of the GHG project; GHG sources, sinks and/or reservoirs; types of GHG's; periods covered; and the evaluation of the project's net climate, community, and biodiversity benefits. Period of evaluation: 1 January 2004 to 12 November 2012.</p> |



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| Validation/Verification Date(s) | 7 September 2012 – 07 March 2013 |
| Materiality | Materiality is a concept that errors, omissions and misrepresentations could affect the project design assertions and influence the intended users. CCB does not specifically outline a materiality threshold; however, ESI used a 5% threshold for evidence. If a non-conformance was discovered, the project developer was given the opportunity to correct the non-conformity to the project design document within a reasonable timeframe (within 30 days). |
| Site Visits | 13-17 November 202 |
| Validation/Verification Team | Lead Verifier/Validator: Shawn McMahon Team Members: Caitlin Sellers, Stewart McMorrow, Rich Scharf, Chris DeRolph, and James Moody Trainees: Terese Walters and Jonathan Pomp QA/QC: Janice McMahon |
| Final Documents from Client | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CCBA Project Description for TIST Program in India, CCB-001 – 08 February 2013 • CCB Monitoring Report for TIST Program in India, CCB-001 – 08 February 2013 <p>Please see Appendix A for a complete list of documents received/reviewed during this validation/verification.</p> |
| Public Comment Period on CCBA | 4 January 2013 to 3 February 2013 – Project listing on CCB for public comment <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No comments |
| Number of Comments Received | 4 January 2013 to 3 February 2013– Posting of Project Implementation Plan <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ No Comments <p>28 December 2012 – TIST Public Meeting in India 4 January 2013 – Email Solicitation to Stakeholders in India</p> |

Project Description

“The International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST) is a combined reforestation and sustainable development project, in India, carried out by subsistence farmers. The farmers plant trees on their land and retain ownership of the trees and their products. They receive training from TIST and a share of the carbon revenues from CAAC.



TIST empowers Small Groups of 6-to-12 subsistence farmers in India, Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda to combat the devastating effects of deforestation, poverty and drought. Combining sustainable development with carbon sequestration, TIST already supports the reforestation and biodiversity efforts of over 64,000 subsistence farmers. Carbon credit sales generate participant income and provide project funding to address agricultural, HIV/AIDS, nutritional and fuel challenges. As TIST expands to more groups and more areas, it ensures more trees, more biodiversity, more climate change benefit and more income for more people.

Replication of TIST in India began in 2002, with tree planting beginning in 2003, and has grown to over 4,000 TIST participants in over 700 Small Groups. Because tree planting in the Project Areas subject to this PD did not begin until 2004, this PD starts January 1, 2004.

TIST provides an administrative backbone that supplies training in building nurseries, tree planting, conservation farming, building fuel-efficient stoves and malaria and HIV/AIDS prevention. Part of the backbone is a two-way communications network that includes newsletters, weekly meetings at the Small Group level, monthly meetings where groups of Small Groups receive training, periodic seminars at the national level and an award winning monitoring system based on hand-held computers and GPS. TIST is available to everyone and all are considered equal. The rotating leadership and the Small Group rules empower women and the undereducated. Those who are the most successful, regardless of education levels or gender, become mentors and leaders.

This project description is for a subset of the TIST India program and corresponds to TIST VCS project descriptions VCS-001. It applies to 452 Small Groups, 2,599 members, 924 project areas and 671.8 ha.”¹

Executive Summary of Validation/Verification Results

| | Criterion | Required/ Optional | Conformance Y/N N/A |
|-----|---|-----------------------|------------------------|
| G1 | Original Conditions in the Project Area | Required | Y |
| G2 | Baseline Projections | Required | Y |
| G3 | Project Design and Goals | Required | Y |
| G4 | Management Capacity and Best Practices | Required | Y |
| G5 | Legal Status and Property Rights | Required | Y |
| CL1 | Net Positive Climate Impacts | Required | Y |
| CL2 | Offsite Climate Impacts (“Leakage”) | Required | Y |
| CL3 | Climate Impact Monitoring | Required | Y |
| CM1 | Net Positive Community Impacts | Required | Y |
| CM2 | Offsite Stakeholder Impacts | Required | Y |
| CM3 | Community Impact Monitoring | Required | Y |

¹ CCBA Project Description for TIST Program in India, CCB-001, dated 08 February 2013
098-FOR-CCBA Validation/Verification Report Template – final – v1
Controlled Document 2 May 2011



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|-----|------------------------------------|----------|-----|
| B1 | Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts | Required | Y |
| B2 | Offsite Biodiversity Impacts | Required | Y |
| B3 | Biodiversity Impact Monitoring | Required | Y |
| GL1 | Climate Change Adaptation Benefits | Optional | N/A |
| GL2 | Exceptional Community Benefits | Optional | N/A |
| GL3 | Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits | Optional | N/A |

Validation/Verification Findings

G1 Original Conditions in the Project Area

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| Indicator G1.1 – The location of the project and basic physical parameters (e.g. soil, geology, climate). | The thousands of individual project areas are scattered around the general vicinity of villages in the five districts of Tamil Nadu State, namely Kancheepuram, Tiruvannamalai, Thiruvallur, Vellore and Villupuram. Soils, climate and geology are generally described in sufficient detail. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PIR, field visit and discussions/demonstration of project location with field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator G1.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G1.2 – The types and condition of vegetation within the project area. | The project areas in all five districts are in the East Deccan dry-evergreen forests ecosystem. Due to the high level of human activity, primarily for agriculture, little of the general area that surrounds the project areas is in a natural state. The project areas are cropland and grassland with a few scattered trees. Trees were counted and identified; the rest of the groundcover was estimated as a percentage of the total area. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PIR, spreadsheet file "TIST IN PD-VCS-001e App04 Data 121027.xlsx," site visit and discussions with the project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator G1.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G1.3 – The boundaries of the project area and the project zone. | Several depictions of the project areas, including boundaries on a Google Earth file, are provided. The project zone is more loosely described as the area of south eastern India centered around Chennai. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PDD Appendices 1 – 3, TIST website, PIR, |



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| Conformance: | field visit, discussions/ demonstration of parcel boundaries with field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator G1.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G1.4 - Current carbon stocks within the project area(s), using stratification by land-use or vegetation type and methods of carbon calculation (such as biomass plots, formulae, default values) from the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change's 2006 Guidelines for National GHG Inventories for Agriculture, Forestry and Other Land Uses (IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU) or a more robust and detailed methodology. | The baseline carbon stocks were estimated based on the approved Clean Development Mechanism methodology AR-AMS0001, Version 06: Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities. Table G1.4 of the PDD shows the strata selected for the baseline calculation, the hectares and percent of area of each stratum and the appropriate factors needed to determine the baseline carbon stocks. Project undergoing concurrent VCS verification. Baseline was determined correctly using the above mentioned methodology and is concurrent with CCB standards. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PIR, file: "TIST IN PD-VCS-001e App04 Data 121027.xlsx," field visit to confirm baseline trees, and discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator G1.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G1.5 - A description of communities located in the project zone, including basic socio-economic and cultural information that describes the social, economic and cultural diversity within communities (wealth, gender, age, ethnicity etc.), identifies specific groups such as Indigenous Peoples and describes any community characteristics. | Information on the communities in the project zone is presented. Information on community diversity, population, literacy, population growth, gender, age, and main economic activity. This section does not mention wealth, nor does it identify any groups and indigenous peoples |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PIR, discussions with project proponent, field staff, and stakeholder interviews. |
| Findings: | Some information is missing in this section. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please add information to this section that identifies indigenous peoples and any information on wealth sufficient to satisfy this requirement. |



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| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Additional information on income and peoples in the project area has been added to section G1.5. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Additional information provided in G1.5 sufficiently addresses this NCR. Indicator G1.5 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| Indicator G1.6 - A 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). | <p>The pre-project land use was agriculture. The current land use is tree planting and agriculture.</p> <p>Land tenure is by registered deed to the individual members participating in TIST.</p> <p>No land disputes have been identified.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, site visit, document TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 03 TIST SG CO2 Contract IN Nila.pdf |
| Findings: | PDD does not indicate how land disputes were evaluated. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please add information to this section that identifies how land dispute information was gathered. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | The following clarification has been added to section G1.6: From initial monitoring, as part of the GhG contract agreement, and in annual monitoring, Small Group members attest their ownership and right to use the land where they plant trees. Additionally, TIST meetings and seminars are open to the public. At no time has any land dispute been identified. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Additional information added to G1.6. Indicator G1.6 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| Indicator G1.7 - A description of current biodiversity within the project zone (diversity of species and ecosystems) and threats to that biodiversity, using appropriate | The project areas in all five districts are in the East Deccan dry-evergreen forests ecosystem. Due to the high level of human activity, primarily for agriculture, little of the general area that surrounds the project areas is in a natural state. |
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| methodologies, substantiated where possible with appropriate reference material. | |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | PDD, PIR, World Wildlife Fund profiles (listed below), field visit, discussion with project proponent, field staff and stakeholder interviews. |
| Findings: | The PDD does not give a thorough description of the biodiversity of the project area that can be deemed to have been conducted ‘using appropriate methodologies, substantiated where possible with appropriate reference material.’ |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please add detail to this section that describes the biodiversity through the use of reference materials and appropriate methods. While it is understood that the project areas are a very human-affected landscape, the information in this section does not adequately portray the biodiversity or threats to such in the project area. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Section G1.7 of the PDD has been updated to include more detail on regional biodiversity and threats. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | New information in section G1.7. Indicator G1.7 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| <p>Indicator G1.8 - An evaluation of whether the project zone includes any of the following High Conservation Values (HCVs) and a description of the qualifying attributes.</p> <p>Indicator G1.8.1 - Globally, regionally or nationally significant concentrations of biodiversity values:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> protected areas threatened species endemic species areas that support significant concentrations of a species during any time in their lifecycle (e.g. migrations, feeding grounds, breeding areas). | <p>It appears the section included in Indicator 8 was intended to be inserted into Indicator 7. No information is found to specifically address the HCV in this section.</p> |
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| <p>Indicator G1.8.2 - Globally, regionally or nationally significant large landscape-level areas where viable populations of most if not all naturally occurring species exist in natural patterns of distribution and abundance.</p> <p>Indicator G1.8.3 Threatened or rare ecosystems.</p> <p>Indicator G1.8.4 - Areas that provide critical ecosystem services (e.g., hydrological services, erosion control, fire control).</p> <p>Indicator G1.8.5 - Areas that are fundamental for meeting the basic needs of local communities (e.g., for essential food, fuel, fodder, medicines or building materials without readily available alternatives).</p> <p>Indicator G1.8.6 - 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).</p> | |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>PDD, PIR, field visit, discussion with project proponent, and field staff and stakeholders.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>This section was not completed.</p> |
| <p>Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance:</p> | <p>It appears this section was missed in the PDD. Please revise this section to specifically address the HCVs and if any of them are present in the project area.</p> |
| <p>Date issued</p> | <p>24 January 2013</p> |
| <p>Project proponent response/actions and date</p> | <p>Information on HCV areas in the region has been added to section G1.8. Project activities are not in HCV areas, but on degraded farm land, as monitored during field visits and recorded in baseline information for each area.</p> |



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| Evidence used to close NCR | <p>New information in section G1.8 adequately addresses the NCR.</p> <p>Only about 1% of the region's area is considered to have HCVs, including a protected sacred grove, two bird sanctuaries, a planted forest reserve, and a 2.82 km² national park within the city of Chennai. Indicator G1.8 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |
| Date closed | 5 March 2013 |

G2 Baseline Projections

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| <p>Indicator G2.1 - Describe the most likely land-use scenario in the absence of the project following IPCC 2006 GL for AFOLU or a more robust and detailed methodology, describing the range of potential land use scenarios and the associated drivers of GHG emissions and justifying why the land-use scenario selected is most likely.</p> | <p>The project developer uses CDM methodology AR-AMS0001 Version 06 to determine the most likely scenario without the project, which is for the project areas to continue in grassland and cropland. The project zone continues to undergo deforestation and loss of habitat.</p> <p>Under favorable conditions, at best, the landscape will remain the same. Under less favorable conditions, the landscape will continue to degrade.</p> <p>PDD sites several literature sources regarding changes in baseline carbon stocks, degradation and current conditions.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Section G2.1 of the PDD and site visit confirmed. |
| Findings: | Indicator G2.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| <p>Indicator G2.2 - 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' and would be unlikely to occur without the project.</p> | <p>Using the Assessment of Additionality in Appendix B of the CDM methodology AR-AMS0001, the barriers for project activities to occur in absence of the project were determined to be the investment barrier and barriers due to social conditions and lack of organization.</p> <p>Credit for investment to obtain seedlings and to temporarily take land out of production for long-term gain would not be available without the project.</p> <p>Planting large plantations requires more than a single</p> |
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| | <p>individual. The local communities lack the organizational structure to put together a volunteer effort to plant trees. This statement is supported by the fact that both India and Tamil Nadu have had a National Policy in effect since 1988 to address the problem of deforestation but are still seeing annual losses in forest cover. (see Section 2.4). TIST and the Small Group approach provide the organizational structure necessary to overcome this barrier.</p> <p>This section provides evidence to support the claims made that this project would not occur in the current scale without the organization and structure as well as the carbon revenues associated with this project.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G2.2 of the PDD and PIR, field visit, discussion with project proponent, and field staff and stakeholders. |
| Findings: | Indicator G2.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| <p>Indicator G2.3 - 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. The timeframe for this analysis can be either the project lifetime (see G3) or the project GHG accounting period, whichever is more appropriate. 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.</p> <p>Projects whose activities are designed</p> | <p>The methodology used "CDM small scale afforestation reforestation methodology AR-AMS0001 Version 06: Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities" to calculate changes in carbon stock without the project.</p> <p>Since the most likely scenario is for continued loss in carbon stocks, a conservative approach is to assume biomass and soil carbon in cropland and grassland remain constant, and baseline trees continue to grow, unaffected by mortality.</p> <p>As described in section G2.1, the most likely scenario for the project lands is to continue as agricultural land, subject to ongoing intervention through human habitation. As described in Section G2.2 (Forest Policies), the project zone is undergoing a decrease in forest cover and therefore carbon stocks.</p> <p>When calculated for the entire project, the</p> |
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| <p>to avoid GHG emissions (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 justification of the approaches, assumptions and data used to perform this analysis. Regional-level estimates can be used at the project's planning stage as long as there is a commitment to evaluate locally-specific carbon stocks and to develop a project-specific spatial analysis of deforestation and/or degradation using an appropriately robust and detailed carbon accounting methodology before the start of the project.</p> | <p>conservative change in carbon stocks without the project is estimated to be 3,111.2 tons (see worksheet "Baseline Growth").</p> <p>No non-CO2 emissions will occur, since no power equipment or chemical fertilizers will be used.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections G2.3 of the PDD and PIR, baseline inventory worksheets (in file: "TIST IN PD-CCB-001e App04 Data 130208.xlsx"), discussion with the project proponent</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>Indicator G2.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |

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| <p>Indicator G2.4 - 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 ecosystem services.</p> | <p>In the without project scenario, the following social benefits would not happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • added income for TIST farmers • thousands of trees planted • new source of firewood • no nurseries • no training in new practices • no health education. <p>In regard to ecosystem services, the following benefits would not happen:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • reduced soil erosion • increased water retention • reduced sediment in water • reduced runoff. |
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| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G2.4 of the PDD and PIR, field visit, discussion with project proponent, field staff and stakeholders. |
| Findings: | Indicator G2.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G2.5 - Describe how the 'without project' reference scenario would affect biodiversity in the project zone (e.g., habitat availability, landscape connectivity and threatened species). | <p>Biodiversity is currently declining, partly due to collection of fuel wood from adjacent forests and their buffer areas.</p> <p>There would be fewer sources of fuel wood and with increased population, increased pressure on forests, habitat and biodiversity.</p> <p>Without TIST, there would be less trees on sustainable woodlots that reduce the pressure on protected high biodiversity areas. There would be fewer indigenous trees. Although the threatened species in the project zone are long gone from the project areas, the indigenous trees and additional forest cover will have a positive effect on them, by improving connectivity and corridors among the protected areas.</p> |
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| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G2.5 of the PDD and PIR, field visit, discussion with project proponent, field staff and stakeholders. |
| Findings: | Indicator G2.5 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

G3 Project Design and Goals

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| Indicator G3.1 - Provide a summary of the project's major climate, community and biodiversity objectives. | Project objectives are to increase carbon sequestration in project areas, provide sustainable fuel wood supply and new revenue to members, to provide health training and to improve biodiversity. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.1 of the PDD and PIR, project activities. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.1a has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G3.2 - Describe each project activity with expected climate, community and biodiversity | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Nursery training and development reduces the cost to famers and can provide revenue for them. |
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| impacts and its relevance to achieving the project's objectives. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Tree planting results in new wood supplies and sequesters carbon. 3. Use of tree products for food and fuel can enhance income and improve food security. 4. Health and social training provided is an end in itself. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.2 of the PDD and PIR. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G3.3 - Provide a map identifying the project location and boundaries of the project area(s), where the project activities will occur, of the project zone and of additional surrounding locations that are predicted to be impacted by project activities (e.g. through leakage). | Appendices 01 through 03 include two Landsat images of the project zone, with project areas depicted by dots, and one KML file showing the boundaries of each project area on a Google Earth image. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.3 of the PDD and PIR, appendices 01 – 03. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G3.4 - Define the project lifetime and GHG accounting period and explain and justify any differences between them. Define an implementation schedule, indicating key dates and milestones in the project's development. | <p>Both the project lifetime and the GHG accounting period are 30 years, from January 1, 2004.</p> <p>A detailed implementation schedule is provided.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.4 of the PDD and PIR. |
| Findings: | The exact timeframe for this project is not listed. PDD states the project started in India in 2003 and 2004. Not sure which date is the actual start date of the carbon accounting. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please confirm and list the exact start date and lifetime of the project in the PDD. Please correct any incorrect references to start dates. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |



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| Project proponent response/actions and date | <p>The starting date of the proposed small-scale A/R CDM activity and the crediting period begins 1 January, 2004.</p> <p>Justification: TIST maintains a database record of each project area showing when it was first quantified by a TIST staff member and how old the trees were. These records appear at www.tist.org under “Project Areas” and under each region, group center, and Small Group where audits have taken place. The data collected by TIST indicates that the first trees planted by Small Groups, in project areas subject to this PD, were planted in 2004. Some activities, such as seminars and publication of the newsletter began earlier, in 2003, but since no trees in the PD were planted before 2004, this is the start date for this project.</p> <p>The dates have been corrected to reflect this clarification in the PD.</p> |
| Evidence used to close NCR | New information in section G3.4 adequately addresses the NCR. Indicator G3.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| <p>Indicator G3.5 - Identify likely natural and human-induced risks to the expected climate, community and biodiversity benefits during the project lifetime and outline measures adopted to mitigate these risks.</p> | <p>The main human-induced risks to the project revolve around the marketability of CDM-based AR credits. Currently, these credits do not have a market, because the individual farms are very small. This is mitigated by the low cost of the project.</p> <p>Another human-induced risk is farmers dropping out of the program. This is mitigated by the fact that thousands are already in the project, and numbers continue to grow.</p> <p>Natural risks include drought, pestilence and fire. These are mitigated by the thousands of individual project areas being spread out over thousands of square miles.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.5 of the PDD and PIR, site visit, appendices 01, 02 and 03. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.5 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |



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| Indicator G3.6 - Demonstrate that the project design includes specific measures to ensure the maintenance or enhancement of the high conservation value attributes identified in G1 consistent with the precautionary principle. | The project areas are all on private lands without HVC attributes. The maintenance of HVC lands is indirect. HVC lands are under pressure, in part due to fuel wood collecting. The trees planted will reduce that pressure. In addition, increasing indigenous tree cover may expand the range of some of the animals that rely on the HVC area, as well as provide wildlife corridors. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G3.6 of the PDD and PIR, field visit, discussion with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Since no HCVs have been identified in this project area, it is unclear if HCVs are present or not. This relates to indicator G1.8 above, which is incomplete. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please revise this section to specifically address the HCVs, if any are present in the project area. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Updated this section to reflect changes in G1.8. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | New information in section G3.6 adequately addresses the NCR. Indicator G3.6 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| Indicator G3.7 - Describe the measures that will be taken to maintain and enhance the climate, community and biodiversity benefits beyond the project lifetime. | TIST is a comprehensive program that includes training in climate change and biodiversity. The following describes some of the training and their benefits. Training will maintain project benefits beyond the project's lifetime. Training includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses and value of various tree species will be well known. • Maintenance of a sustainable woodlot. • Benefits of biodiversity. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Section G3.7 of the PDD and PIR, field visit, discussions with project proponent, field staff and stakeholders. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.7 has been adequately addressed for |



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| | both validation and verification. |
| <p>Indicator G3.8 - Document and defend how communities and other stakeholders potentially affected by the project activities have been identified and have been involved in project design through effective consultation, particularly with a view to optimizing community and stakeholder benefits, respecting local customs and values and maintaining high conservation values. Project developers must document stakeholder dialogues and indicate if and how the project proposal was revised based on such input. A plan must be developed to continue communication and consultation between project managers and all community groups about the project and its impacts to facilitate adaptive management throughout the life of the project.</p> | <p>TIST first contacted community leaders, local governments and local NGOs to see if there was interest. This is followed by regular and ongoing public meetings. Comments are encouraged</p> <p>On 22 June and 23 June of that year, a seminar was conducted in Vedal where local citizens were invited to learn about TIST, ask questions and make comments. Those interested in joining TIST were invited to join. The seminar was documented in the January 2003 “Chezhimai” newsletter. As a result of the initial expression of interest and support from the community and farmers, TIST reached out through word of mouth and direct contact to two more villages, Jambodai and Andiseruvallur. As also documented in the January 2003 “Chezhimai,” this resulted in favorable comments from villagers, agricultural officers, the postmaster of Vedal, Panchayat Head of Vedal and other private citizens.</p> <p>Small holder groups meet with TIST representatives regularly.</p> <p>Summaries of stakeholder comments are included as well as any actions that were taken as a result.</p> <p>No negative comments were received.</p> <p>In terms of the continued communications, the PDD states “At the Small Group level, member farmers meet with TIST representatives regularly where they have an opportunity to ask more questions and make more comments. Since one of TIST’s main focuses is adopting best practices, these are forums to review what is working about the program and how it can be improved. Changes to the program are announced in the “Chezhimai.”</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections G3.8 of the PDD and PIR, file: TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 29a Public Comments CCB-001.doc, field visit, discussion with project proponent, field staff and stakeholders.</p> |



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| Findings: | Indicator G3.8 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G3.9 - Describe what specific steps have been taken, and communications methods used, to publicize the CCBA public comment 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. | TIST announced the intent to apply for a CCBA validation in local papers, announced a public meeting and a public meeting was held. In addition, emails were sent to stakeholders announcing the public meeting, announcing the intent to apply and providing a link to the CCBA website where the project description is posted. Specifics regarding the announcements, public meeting, emails and email recipients are in support document. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Section G3.9 of the PD and the site visit and file: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 29a Public Comments CCB-001.doc," on the TIST website. |
| Findings: | PDD needs to be updated to include the correct reference to the support document "Public comments". |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please update the PDD as per the findings. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | The PDD has been updated to properly the Public Comment Process and comments received for the CCBA process. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Update in section G3.9 adequately addresses the NCR. Indicator G3.9 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |
| Indicator G3.10 - Formalize a clear process for handling unresolved conflicts and grievances that arise during project planning and implementation. 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 | Grievances are brought to the attention of the India staff, and analyzed according to standard TIST policy, TIST values and agreements between members and CAAC. Unresolved issues go to TIST management. If there is policy or precedence regarding an issue, it is used in final decision making. If it is outside existing experience and policy, it is brought up in the next seminar or leadership council meeting, to be |



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| be publicized to communities and other stakeholders and must be managed by a third party or mediator to prevent any conflict of interest. Project management must attempt to resolve all reasonable grievances raised, and provide a written response to grievances within 30 days. Grievances and project responses must be documented. | decided by representatives of the small groups, staff and management. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Section G3.10 of the PD and the site visit. |
| Findings: | A clear process is described, but there is no indication that the required third party mediator is part of it. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please identify a third party manager/mediator who would oversee this process. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | A third party mediator has been identified in Section G3.10. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Project developer specified the Indian Centre for Mediation and Dispute Resolution as the third party mediator, resolving this NCR. Indicator G3.10 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |
| Indicator G3.11 - 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. | TIST began, in late 1999, on the expectation that once the trees were large enough, the project would be self-funding. A series of financial projections were developed that showed that after six to ten years (depending on different financial cases regarding market price, growth rate, tree mortality, etc.) the project would be sustainable based solely on carbon revenues. The key to success was very low costs. TIST has designed the program to minimize cost, developing an award winning monitoring system, building Host Country capacity and relying on voluntary effort. Still, there is a cash shortfall in the early years of the project. This is made up by external sources. CAAC has provided funding to make up this shortfall on the carbon side, through its own profits and advanced sales of credits. The fact |



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| | that TIST is in its 13th year demonstrates its longevity. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Section G3.11 of the PDD, site visit and file: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 07 Financial Plan.xls" from TIST website. |
| Findings: | While this project appears to be adequately funded, given the description, the financial plan needs to be referenced here in the PDD. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please reference the financial plan provided for this project within the PDD. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Section G3.11 has been updated to reference the financial plan. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | The updated section G3.11 adequately addresses the NCR. Indicator G3.11 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

G4 Management Capacity and Best Practices

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| Indicator G4.1 - Identify a single project proponent which is responsible for the project's design and implementation. If multiple organizations or individuals are involved in the project's development and implementation the governance structure, roles and responsibilities of each of the organizations or individuals involved must also be described. | <p>The project proponent is the Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC). It manages the GhG component of TIST, is TIST's largest contributor and provides technical assistance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) is a for-profit US corporation that manages the GhG component of TIST. CAAC is TIST's largest contributor, provides technical assistance and uses its host country subsidiaries to manage operations. • TIST Tree Planting India Private Limited (TIST India), an India subsidiary of CAAC. It is the operator of TIST India and the contractor with the Small Groups for greenhouse gas credits. • Thousands of TIST Farmers make up the Small Groups, plant the trees on their lands, manage their own trees and make up the core of TIST. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.1 of the PDD and PIR, site visit. |
| Findings: | Verifier's experience with these types of projects indicates that this information represents a reasonable level of experience. Indicator G4.1 has been |



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| | adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| <p>Indicator G4.2 - Document key technical skills that will be required to implement the project successfully, including community engagement, biodiversity assessment and carbon measurement and monitoring skills. Document the management team's expertise 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.</p> | <p>The PD explains that the management team has a long background in natural resources management, and extensive experience in implementing projects very similar to this one. In addition to the TIST project in India, there are TIST projects in three other nations.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | SectionS G4.2 of the PDD and PIR, and site visit. Provided files "TIST IN PD-VCS Mgt Resumes 110215.doc" and "TIST IN PD-VCS Mgt Experience 110215.doc" from TIST website. |
| Findings: | Indicator G4.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| <p>Indicator G4.3 - Include a plan to provide orientation and training for the project's employees and relevant people from the communities with an objective of building locally useful skills and knowledge to increase local participation in project implementation. 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.</p> | <p>Training begins with orientation seminars, discussed under indicator 3.8. Employees are taken from small group members, and are trained in how to quantify tree growth, etc.</p> <p>Training in tree planting, care, different species and their benefits, tree management, nursery operations, health-related issues and other subjects are conducted for small holders.</p> <p>Since local staff comes from the small holder groups, the ability to pass information to new workers is clear.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.3 of the PDD and PIR, and site visit. |



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| Findings: | Indicator G4.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G4.4 - 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 proponents must explain how employees will be selected for positions and where relevant, must indicate how local community members, including women and other potentially underrepresented groups, will be given a fair chance to fill positions for which they can be trained. | The PDD and site visit state that their local staff is hired from the farmers that are participants in the project, and are chosen based on achievement, not gender, education or social status. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.4 of the PDD and PIR, and the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator G4.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G4.5 - 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 regulations covering worker rights and, where relevant, demonstrate how compliance is achieved. | The PDD lists the following pertinent employment related laws: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workmen's Compensation Act 1923 • Minimum Wages Act 1948 • Payment of Wages Act 1936 • Industrial Disputes Act 1947 • Employees Provident Fund and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 1952 • Payment of Bonus Act 1965 • Payment of Gratuity Act 1972 • Maternity Benefit Act 1961 • Industrial Employment (Standing orders) Act 1946 |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.5 of the PDD and PIR, and the site visit. |
| Findings: | "Exhibit xx" not found. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | The PDD includes a reference that is apparently a placeholder (exhibit xx). Please update. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |



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| Project proponent response/actions and date | Section G4.5 has been updated to refer to relevant laws and regulations covering worker's rights in the host country, and TIST's process to achieve compliance with all such laws. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | The PDD now refers to exhibit 36, available on the TIST website. Indicator G4.5 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| <p>Indicator G4.6 - 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 minimize such risks. Where worker safety cannot be guaranteed, project proponents must show how the risks will be minimized using best work practices.</p> | <p>TIST members are conducting activities that they normally do, i.e. farming using manual labor. TIST workers walk or use public transportation. They do not engage in activities that are inherently unsafe. The risks facing TIST workers are minimal and no different than those affecting anyone living in the area. Such risks include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • riding in public transport where there is risk of crash or robbery; • venomous or constricting snakes, which, although have been mostly eradicated from the farmlands, still can be encountered. <p>TIST has a Standard Operating Procedure to address safety. To ensure that safety policy and safety issues are understood, each Quantifier will be briefed on the following safety policy annually.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.6 of the PDD and the site visit. |
| Findings: | "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex xx Quantifier Safety 110110.doc" referenced in PDD but not available. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please provide the Quantifier Safety document referenced in the PDD. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Quantifier Safety Document is accessible as Exhibit 37, Quantifier Safety letter. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Quantifier safety SOP document now available. Indicator G4.6 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

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| Indicator G4.7 - Document the | The project developer (CAAC) has been in business |
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| financial health of the implementing organization(s) to demonstrate that financial resources budgeted will be adequate to implement the project. | since 1993 and has operated TIST for over 13 years. CAAC is profitable after all TIST expenses. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G4.7 of the PD and of the site visit, financial plan spreadsheet (provided file: TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 07 Financial Plan.xls) |
| Findings: | Financial statements referenced were not found. |
| Non-Conformity Reports (NCR) to address non-conformance: | Please provide the financial statements for review, as stated in the PDD. |
| Date issued | 24 January 2013 |
| Project proponent response/actions and date | Financial statements are accessible as Exhibit 7, which has been added to the site. |
| Evidence used to close NCR | Financial statements provided. Budget appears to be adequate for the project. Indicator G4.7 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Date closed | 26 February 2013 |

G5 Legal Status and Property Rights

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| Indicator G5.1 - Submit a list of all relevant national and local laws and regulations 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. | <p>As a tree-planting program that takes place voluntarily on existing farmland, there are few laws that are relevant to TIST. They are, however:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ National Forest Policy for India, 1988 sets a target of 33.33% forest cover. The policy suggests that afforestation on degraded wastelands could be an important component of achieving this goal. ○ Other policies regarding forests and land include The Tamil Nadu State Forest Act of 1882, The Wildlife Protection Act of 1972, and the Forest Conservation Act of 1980. <p>There is no law/regulation specific to reforestation of privately owned degraded lands.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections 5.1 of the PDD and PIR, interviews conducted during the site visit, file: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 10 TNFD Policy Notes 2005.pdf." |
| Findings: | Indicator G5.1 has been adequately addressed for |



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| | both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G5.2 - Document that the project has approval from the appropriate authorities, including the established formal and/or traditional authorities customarily required by the communities. | <p>The A/R project activity does not have any negative environmental impact because the project activity is highly environmental friendly. This is supported by the India domestic national authority (DNA) for CDM. A subset of TIST India was validated and registered under CDM and the CDM approval indicates the DNA believes the TIST program meets the necessary environmental threshold.</p> <p>In addition, TIST India has been recognized by the Tamil Nadu Forest Department for its work, and was awarded “Best Planting in Private Lands” under Institutional Category for “The International Year of Forests 2011.” TIST India farmers in Tiruvallur District received three additional awards for forestry outreach and awareness creation.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G5.2 of the PDD and PIR, confirmation during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator G5.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G5.3 - Demonstrate with documented consultations and agreements 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 whose rights will be affected by the project. | <p>Neither TIST nor CAAC own or lease the project lands. The farmers enter a contract with CAAC, and in it they attest that they have the rights to plant on their land.</p> <p>In addition, the basic design and premise of the project makes the danger of encroachment non-existent.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G5.3 of the PDD and PIR, confirmation during the site visit, TIST contract documents: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 04 CAAC TIST India Contract 090309.pdf" from TIST website. |
| Findings: | Indicator G5.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |
| Indicator G5.4 - Demonstrate that the project does not require the involuntary relocation of people or of | The project takes place on existing lands of farmers and their families, and participation is voluntary. TIST nor CAAC own or lease any project lands, and |



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| the activities important for the livelihoods 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. | have no authority to relocate members or landowners. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G5.4 of the PDD and PIR, site visit, conversations with the project developer, participants and TIST contract documents: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 04 CAAC TIST India Contract 090309.pdf" from TIST website. |
| Findings: | Indicator G5.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G5.5 - 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. | Illegal harvesting of trees and charcoal making exist in the protected forests of the project zone. This is an ongoing problem for Indian forestry and is not related to TIST or caused by TIST. TIST, through its development of on-farm, sustainable, wood lots, will have a positive impact on these activities by providing an alternate, sustainable source of fuel to some of the population. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G5.5 of the PDD and PIR, and confirmation during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator G3.6 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator G5.6 - Demonstrate that the project proponents have clear, uncontested title to the carbon rights, or provide legal documentation demonstrating that the project is undertaken on behalf of the carbon owners with their full consent. Where local or national conditions preclude clear title to the carbon rights at the time of validation against the | Each small holder involved in the project signs a contract with CAAC, transferring rights and title to the carbon. No national law governs carbon. Ownership of trees and tree products can be transferred to others via contract. |
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| Standards, the project proponents must provide evidence that their ownership of carbon rights is likely to be established before they enter into any transactions concerning the project's carbon assets. | |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections G5.6 of the PDD and PIR, and confirmation during the site visit through interviews with project participants and forestry officials., and TIST contract documents: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 04 CAAC TIST India Contract 090309.pdf" from TIST website. |
| Findings: | Indicator G5.6 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

CL1 Net Positive Climate Impacts

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| Indicator CL1.1 - 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 <i>with</i> the project minus carbon stock changes <i>without</i> the project (the latter having been estimated in G2). This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defensible assumptions about how project activities will alter GHG emissions of carbon stocks over the duration of the project or the project GHG accounting period. | <p>The change in carbon stocks due to project activities was based on AR-AMS0001 Version 06: Simplified baseline and monitoring methodologies for small-scale A/R CDM project activities implemented on grasslands or croplands with limited displacement of pre-project activities. The trees were stratified by species and year planted. Different growth factors for each species were used to estimate the accumulated carbon over the years. The methodology allows the change in baseline C stocks to be ignored if it is less than 10% of the change that results from the project. The ex-ante estimate of the baseline without the project is 0.2% of the ex-ante estimate with the project and the baseline case is ignored in the calculations.</p> <p>Net change in Carbon Stocks. Due to the methodology, the change in baseline carbon is ignored and the ex ante net change in carbon stocks is 1,356,574 tonnes of CO₂e.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Concurrent VCS project verification, Sections CL1.1 of the PD and of the site visit, spreadsheet file TIST IN PD-VCS-001e App04 Data 121027.xlsx and TIST IN PD-VCS-001h App07 Monitoring Rpt 130122.doc |
| Findings: | Indicator CL1.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |



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| Date closed | 07 March 2013 |
| <p>Indicator CL1.2 - Estimate the net change in the emissions of non-CO₂ GHG emissions such as CH₄ and N₂O in the <i>with</i> and <i>without</i> project scenarios if those gases are likely to account for more than a 5% increase or decrease (in terms of CO₂-equivalent) of the project's overall GHG emissions reductions or removals over each monitoring period.</p> | <p>Non-CO₂ emissions is below 5% of project emissions, and is therefore ignored.</p> <p>The project proponent points out that the only CH₄ emissions would be from burning, which would not be a result of project activity, but domestic fuels used in daily life.</p> <p>TIST asks farmers not to use chemical fertilizers, and to use available dung and plant materials instead – neither of which were a result of the project, so are not considered.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Concurrent VCS project verification, Sections CL1.2 of the CCB PD and confirmed during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL1.2 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |
| <p>Indicator CL1.3 - Estimate any other GHG emissions resulting from project activities. 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 decomposition of N-fixing species.</p> | <p>No biomass burning, burning for site prep, use of motorized equipment or use of chemical fertilizers will be involved in the project. N-fixing species are not left to degrade. Dead wood will be used by farmers for fuel.</p> <p>For these reasons, these emissions are assumed to be zero.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Concurrent VCS project verification, Sections CL1.3 of the CCB PD and confirmed during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL1.3 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |
| <p>Indicator CL1.4 - 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-CO₂ GHGs where appropriate minus any other GHG emissions resulting from</p> | <p>The ex-ante estimate is that the project will sequester 1,356,574 tonnes CO₂e over 30 years, and therefore have a net positive climate impact.</p> <p>The trees will benefit the overall ecosystem, and reduce deforestation outside project boundaries by providing a source of dead wood.</p> |



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| project activities minus any likely project-related unmitigated negative offsite climate impacts (see CL2.3). | |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Concurrent VCS project verification, Sections CL1.4 of the CCB PDD and confirmed during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL1.4 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

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| Indicator CL1.5 - 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. | The project areas that make up this CCB PD are being validated and verified under VCS. If they are validated and verified, VCS will issue VERs that will be entered on one registry. The registry rules will prevent these VERs from being sold twice. India is not subject to an emissions cap. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Concurrent VCS project verification, Sections CL1.5 of the PD and confirmation during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL1.5 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

CL2 Offsite Climate Impacts (“Leakage”)

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| Indicator CL2.1 - Determine the types of leakage that are expected and estimate potential offsite increases in GHGs (increases in emissions or decreases in sequestration) due to project activities. Where relevant, define and justify where leakage is most likely to take place. | The project proponents have determined there is no leakage from the project for the following reasons: Activity shifting or displacement – When questioned, farmers said the tree planting will not shift other activities. Crops are higher value to the farmers than trees, and participation is voluntary. Market effect – Trees will be a new source of fuel wood, taking pressure off surrounding forests. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CL2.1 of the PDD and confirmation during the site visit, plus the basic premise of the project. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL2.1 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

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| Indicator CL2,2 - Document how any leakage will be mitigated and | Since no leakage source was identified, no mitigation is needed. |
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| estimate the extent to which such impacts will be reduced by these mitigation activities. | |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CL2.2 and CL2.1 of the PDD and confirmed during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL2.2 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

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| Indicator CL2.3 - Subtract any likely project-related unmitigated negative offsite 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 calculated in CL1.4). | Since no leakage source was identified, unmitigated offsite climate impacts are zero. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CL2.3 of the PDD and confirmed during the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CL2.3 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

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| Indicator CL2.4 - Non-CO ₂ gases must be included if they are likely to account for more than a 5% increase or decrease (in terms of CO ₂ -equivalent) of the net change calculations (above) of the project's overall off-site GHG emissions reductions or removals over each monitoring period. | None identified. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CL2.4 and CL1.2 of the PDD and confirmed during the site visit |
| Findings: | Indicator CL2.4 has been adequately addressed and confirmed through the VCS validation and verification process. |

CL3 Climate Impact Monitoring

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| Indicator CL3.1 - Develop an initial plan for selecting carbon pools and non-CO ₂ GHGs to be monitored, and determine the frequency of | The monitoring plan has been operational since 2003. Due to the scattered and remote nature of the project areas, planting schedules and the trees to plant is decided by the local small groups, and are not |
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| <p>monitoring. 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. 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. 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 CO₂-equivalent benefits generated by the project. 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. Direct field measurements using scientifically robust sampling 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.</p> | <p>universal across the project.</p> <p>Field personnel collect project information on GPS supported hand-held computers. Data is transferred to TIST's main database server.</p> <p>The monitoring plan consists of ten steps, including data collection and calculations. A table summarizing the plan and the input parameters required are provided.</p> <p>No pools are expected to decrease over the life of the project, and no leakage will occur on a project like this. Leakage was monitored within the first five years of the project, in the form of displaced activity. None was found.</p> <p>QA/QC procedures include quantifier training, staff auditing of quantifiers, multiple quantifications meant to catch errors and self-correct, running multiple GPS tracks of project perimeters, counting every tree to reduce sampling error, setting up hand-held computers so that all data must be collected and transparency through posting data online.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections CL3.1 of the PDD and confirmation during the site visit through review of the process and interviews with quantifiers. Also, conversations with the project developer and management.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>The full monitoring plan was developed and found to be appropriate. Indicator CL3.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |
| <p>Indicator CL3.2 - Commit to developing a full monitoring plan within six months of the project start</p> | <p>The monitoring plan was developed and can be found in Appendix 06. This plan contains adequate monitoring details to meet this indicator.</p> |



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| <p>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 communities and other stakeholders.</p> | |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections CL3.2 of the PD and confirmed during the site visit, file: "TIST IN PD-CCB-001g App06 Monitoring Plan 130123.doc."</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>The full monitoring plan has already been developed and implemented. Indicator CL3.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |

CM1 Net Positive Community Impacts

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| <p>Indicator CM1.1 - 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 defensible 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 must then be compared with the ‘without project’ scenario of social and economic well-being in the absence of the project (completed in</p> | <p>The socio-economic impact is expected to be all positive and several benefits are listed within the PD that have been reviewed and verified during the site visit through interviews with project participants and direct observation.</p> <p>For small group members and families:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New job opportunities • New source of income • New source of wood and fruits, nuts • Natural source of medicines, insecticides, etc. • Small group structure and creation of BMPs • Capacity building due to rotating leadership • Small groups organize for other community purposes • Improved beauty of the landscape. <p>In the "without project" scenario, none of the above applies.</p> |
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| G2). The difference (i.e., the community benefit) must be positive for all community groups. | |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM1.1 of the PDD and PIR, monitoring plan, discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Validation findings supported the information provided in the PDD and monitoring plan. Results from review of the PIR in the verification process supported validation findings. |

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| Indicator CM1.2 - Demonstrate that no High Conservation Values identified in G1.8.4-6 will be negatively affected by the project. | The project does not take place on HCV lands. The planting of trees will likely have the effect of reducing illegal tree harvesting from HCV lands by providing an alternative source of some tree products. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM1.2 of the PDD and PIR, discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | The project does adequately indicate that there are no HCV's on the project lands. Therefore, indicator CM1.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

CM2 Offsite Stakeholder Impacts

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| Indicator CM2.1 - Identify any potential negative offsite stakeholder impacts that the project activities are likely to cause. | <p>Because the project takes place on private lands and the tree planting is by the landowners, and because the planting of trees is akin to the farming that has taken place on the lands for generations, there are few negative potential impacts to offsite stakeholders.</p> <p>One that has been identified is the effect of eucalyptus trees on ground water and watercourses. As stated, the farmers get to choose the type of trees they plant on their own lands. During training, TIST has been clear about some of the negative effects of eucalyptus trees, and there is ongoing training about alternatives to eucalyptus.</p> |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM2.1 of both the PDD and PIR, discussions with field staff and participants, and the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator CM2.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |



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| Indicator CM2.2 - Describe how the project plans to mitigate these negative offsite social and economic impacts. | In order to reduce the number of eucalyptus trees, TIST has been training members and trainers on indigenous trees and their benefits, as well as the negative effects of eucalyptus in sensitive areas. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM2.2 of the PDD and PIR, discussions with the project developer and staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator CM2.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator CM2.3 - Demonstrate that the project is not likely to result in net negative impacts on the well-being of other stakeholder groups. | The multitude of listed benefits to the community members and benefits to the environment are much greater than the potential negative impact from the eucalyptus. Quantified, there are 272.9 ha of eucalyptus, out of 1,487.5 ha total project areas. This can be compared to the thousands of square kilometers that make up the project zone. Therefore, the benefits are much greater than the potential negative impact from the eucalyptus. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM2.3 of the PDD and PIR, the site visit, "Misc Calcs" tab from Appendix 04. |
| Findings: | Indicator CM2.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

CM3 Community Impact Monitoring

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| Indicator CM3.1 - 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 anticipated impacts (positive and negative). | A list of 12 variables to be monitored is given. Monitoring will be done annually as part of overall monitoring of TIST. Variables selected appear to be directly linked to the project's community development objectives and relative to anticipated impacts. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM3.1 of the PDD and PIR. Confirmation during the site visit and review of monitoring and reporting system. |
| Findings: | Indicator CM3.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator CM3.2 - Develop an initial | Since the project does not take place on HCV lands, |
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| plan for how they will assess the effectiveness of measures used to maintain or enhance High Conservation Values related to community well-being (G1.8.4-6) present in the project zone. | no direct monitoring of HCV lands will take place. Impacts will be addressed by the number of indigenous trees planted and the number of hectares that contain such trees. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM3.2, G1.8 of the PDD and PIR, monitoring plan, discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator CM3.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator CM3.3 - 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 communities and other stakeholders. | The full plan has been developed and made part of the PD, as appendix 06. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections CM3.3 of both the PDD and PIR, the site visit and the monitoring plan (file "TIST IN PD-CCB-001g App06 Monitoring Plan 130123.doc"). |
| Findings: | Indicator CM3.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

B1 Net Positive Biodiversity Impacts

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| Indicator B1.1 - Use appropriate methodologies to estimate changes in biodiversity as a result of the project in the project zone and in the project lifetime. This estimate must be based on clearly defined and defensible assumptions. The 'with project' scenario 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. | Natural wildlife populations were eliminated or driven from the project area lands generations ago, and may be present as transient animals. Studies concluded that little native vegetation exists outside protected areas. Native tree planting may improve wildlife connectivity between protected areas. A list of the native tree species that are being planted, and their numbers, are provided. Increasing forested areas may also improve biodiversity indirectly, by taking some pressure off the natural, protected forests. Promoting conservation |
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| | <p>farming may also reduce pressure for land clearing.</p> <p>In the without project scenario, no tree planting would occur, and pressure on protected lands would not be relieved.</p> <p>Project was previously validated under the CDM and as such was approved and therefor met the environmental well-being threshold for that program.</p> <p>The project has been recognized by the regional Forest Department for its tree planting effort.</p> <p>Although the project does not conduct a survey of biodiversity impacts, it is clear that the act of planting trees where there were none for generations, and planted within a heavily impacted ecosystem, that the project will clearly have positive biodiversity impacts.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections B1.1 of the PDD and PIR, letter from the Regional Forest Department, monitoring plan, and confirmation during the site visit.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>Validation findings supported the information provided in the PDD and monitoring plan. Results from review of the PIR and monitoring report in the verification process sufficiently supported validation findings. Indicator B1.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |
| <p>Indicator B1.2 - Demonstrate that no High Conservation Values identified in G1.8.1-3 will be negatively affected by the project.</p> | <p>No HCVs are negatively affected by the project. Only 1% of the total project zone can be categorized as having HCVs, and would tend to benefit from the project activities, if they are affected.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections B1.2 of the PDD and PIR, confirmation during the site visit.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>Indicator B1.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |
| <p>Indicator B1.3 - Identify all species to be used by the project and show that no known invasive species will be introduced into any area affected</p> | <p>TIST does not provide seeds or seedlings. Participants collect sees from locally existing trees that have a history of being grown in the country or regionally. A list of species present used for the</p> |



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| <p>by the project and that the population of any invasive species will not increase as a result of the project.</p> | <p>project is provided with notes indicating their status as native or nonnative.</p> <p>All listed species have been screened against the global database of invasive species. Of the species, only guava is identified as invasive. However, while guava is included in species invasive in India, they are high value trees in India and, according to the Forest Service, are not invasive.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections B1.3 of both the PDD and PIR, the site visit, global invasive species database, file: "TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex 38 TN Horticulture, Guava.jpg" available on TIST website.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>The Exhibit that shows the Horticulture Service in India as accepting the planting of Guava was reviewed. Although Guava is listed as an invasive species, it appears to be a highly valuable resource and is planted abundantly in India. Since this tree is valued in that country and the Horticulture Service approves its planting for the TIST project, this issue is accepted. Indicator B1.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |

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| <p>Indicator B1.4 - 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 facilitation. Project proponents must justify any use of non-native species over native species</p> | <p>The project uses seeds from existing trees with a history of being grown in the country or region.</p> <p>The use of non-native species is justified in a number of ways. Farmers choose species that provide them with needed products and services. Project activities are on lands already impacted by long-term human habitation and agriculture. Many species, like orange, lemon, and guava, while not indigenous, have been naturalized over an extended period of time and provide much needed food. Others, like casuarina, are chosen for their fast growth. In a country with a high need for forest products, including fuel wood for cooking and timber for construction, sources of sustainable wood products must be developed to substitute natural forest being lost through deforestation. Many of these exotic species are valued, planted and promoted by State Forest Departments and Forest Development Corporations.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess</p> | <p>Sections B1.4 of the PDD and PIR, the site visit</p> |



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| Conformance: | interviews with forest officials and project participants. |
| Findings: | Indicator B1.4 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator B1.5 - Guarantee that no GMOs will be used to generate GHG emissions reductions or removals. | The PD and site visit state that no GMOs will be used by the project to generate GHG emissions, reductions or removals. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections B1.5 of the PDD and PIR, discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator B1.5 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

B2 Offsite Biodiversity Impacts

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| Indicator B2.1 - Identify potential negative offsite biodiversity impacts that the project is likely to cause. | No negative biodiversity impacts are expected. There is no displacement of people, and the project will provide an additional source of fuel wood, reducing pressure on the natural forests. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections B2.1, CL2.1 of the PDD and PIR, and the site visit. |
| Findings: | Indicator B2.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator B2.2 - Document how the project plans to mitigate these negative offsite biodiversity impacts. | Not applicable, since no negative offsite biodiversity impacts are expected. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections B2.2 of the PD and confirmed during the site visit, basic premise of the project. |
| Findings: | Indicator B2.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification. |

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| Indicator B2.3 - Evaluate likely unmitigated negative offsite biodiversity impacts 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. | No negative offsite biodiversity impacts are anticipated. The project aim is to plant trees where none have existed for generations. Trees are known to promote biodiversity in several ways; therefore, the net effect of the project on biodiversity is positive. |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections B2.3 of the PDD and PIR, discussions with project proponent and field staff. |
| Findings: | Indicator B2.1 has been adequately addressed for |



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| | both validation and verification. |
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B3 Biodiversity Impact Monitoring

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| <p>Indicator B3.1 - 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).</p> | <p>A monitoring plan, including monitoring of biodiversity, is already developed and in effect.</p> <p>Monitoring is expected to be annual, but will be done every two years at a minimum.</p> <p>Monitoring will include the area planted to trees, the number of trees planted, tree age and circumference.</p> <p>At the landscape level, hectares of land improved with indigenous tree plantings will be monitored.</p> <p>Degree of forest fragmentation and connectivity will be monitored using GPS track data.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections B3.1 of the PDD and PIR, and discussions with project proponent.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>The monitoring of trees planted in previously heavily impacted and denuded areas constitutes an improvement in biodiversity. Thus the monitoring of tree planting is an adequate variable to monitor. Indicator B3.1 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |

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| <p>Indicator B3.2 - 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.</p> | <p>Because the project has no direct interaction with the HCV areas, monitoring will be indirect, based on project achievements.</p> |
| <p>Evidence Used to Assess Conformance:</p> | <p>Sections B3.2 of the PDD and PIR and the site visit. Maps from appendices 01 – 03.</p> |
| <p>Findings:</p> | <p>Assessing effectiveness of measures to enhance biodiversity HCV's is done through monitoring and confirmation of other project objectives, primarily tree planting. Indicator B3.2 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification.</p> |

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| <p>Indicator B3.3 - Commit to</p> | <p>A full monitoring plan was developed and is</p> |
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| 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 communities and other stakeholders. | available in appendix 06 |
| Evidence Used to Assess Conformance: | Sections B3.3 of the PD and site visit, file TIST IN PD-CCB-001g App06 Monitoring Plan 130123.doc |
| Findings: | Indicator B3.3 has been adequately addressed for both validation and verification |

Gold Level Section

GL1 Climate Change Adaptation Benefits

Conformance: N/A

GL2 Exceptional Community Benefits

Conformance: N/A

GL3 Exceptional Biodiversity Benefits

Conformance: N/A

Public Shareholder Comments

Public comments for CCBA were solicited in three ways. Posting of the PDD and Project Implementation Report to the CCBA website; public hearing was held in Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu, India; and a series of emails were sent to stakeholders. ESI confirms that all comments were addressed and is satisfied with the results of the public shareholder/stakeholder meetings outreach programs.

Public Comment Period

The project PDD and Project Implementation Report was posted to the CCBB website for the formal 30-day public comment period (4 January 2013 to 3 February 2013). No comments were received.

Public Meeting

The Public Meeting was held between 11:00 AM and 12:00 AM on 28 December, 2012 at the Sri Lakshmi Balaji Marriage Hall, No 2/1, Bharathiyar Street, Pazhampettai, Chetpet, Polur Taluk,



Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu 606801. Notice was given in a leading Tamil Nadu papers as follows:

- Dinakaran Daily News Papers in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kanchipuram on 27th December 2012. See Appendix B.

TIST Program to hold Public Meeting

TIST Tree Planting India Private Limited and Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) announce its intent to validate and verify the International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST) under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards. To receive the validation and verification, they must demonstrate, among other things, that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. CAAC has submitted a Project Description (PD) and a Project Implementation Report (PIR) to Environmental Services Inc, a CCBA certified auditor. The documents are available on line at (see TIST Program in India CCB-001):
<http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>.

A public stakeholders meeting will be held between 11:00 AM and 12:00 Noon on 28 January, 2012 at Sri Lakshmi Balaji Marriage Hall, No 2/1, Bharathiyar Street, Pazhampettai, Chetpet, Polur Taluk, Tiruvannamalai District, Tamil Nadu 606801 where comments will be taken. In addition, comments may be submitted up to 17 January 2013 to CCBA by clicking on "SUBMIT COMMENTS" at:
<http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>.

Email Solicitation

The following email was sent to stakeholders in India on 4 January, 2013.

Subject: TIST India seeking CCBA accreditation. Comments Requested.

TIST Tree Planting India Private Limited and Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) announce its intent to validate and verify the International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST) under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards. To receive the validation and verification, they must demonstrate, among other things, that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. CAAC has submitted a Project Description (PD) and a Project Implementation Report (PIR) to Environmental Services Inc, a CCBA certified auditor. The documents are available on line at (see TIST Program in India CCB-001):

<http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>.



Comments may be submitted up to 03 February 2013 to CCBA by clicking on "SUBMIT COMMENTS" at the above link.

The emails were sent to the following organizations and individuals:

- Neelakantan.s@hotmail.com, Manager, ICICI Bank, Nanganallur
- shalini.bhattacharya@wipro.com, Wipro
- lingaraj.dinni@wipro.com, Wipro
- Premkumar.ManangamPandurangam@cognizant.com, Cognizant
- Anusha.Kumar2@cognizant.com, Cognizant
- Sankara.Mahalingam@cognizant.com, Cognizant
- Saravanan.Chandrasekaran@cognizant.com, Cognizant
- naga.v@tcs.com, TCS
- sridar@hmil.net, Hyundai
- 272155@hmil.net, Jayashree, Hyundai
- pmssspody@hotmail.com, Catholic Priest, Chengelpet Diocese
- dfocud@yahoo.com, DFO Cuddalore
- cleancheck@mthomasco.com, Thomas & Co, Audit Firm
- rsethu@hmil.net, Hyundai
- ssfrdt@gmail.com, Society for Social Forestry Research & Development, Tamil Nadu
- cf_vellore@yahoo.com, CF, Vellore District
- cfvellore@sancharnet.in, CF, Vellore District
- ck.sreedharan@scl.co.in, Ex.PCCF, Chennai
- chembras@gmail.com, Ex.PCCF, Chennai
- skimmers96@gmail.com, DFO, Vellore Division
- avvifs@yahoo.com, CF Trichy District
- kchidambaramifs@gmail.com, Addl. PCCF, Chennai
- chakrapani_madhusudhanan@cat.com, Caterpillar, Chennai
- Pranshu.singhal@nokia.com, Nokia, Delhi
- Manju.3.k@nokia.com, Nokia, Chennai
- lalitha508@gmail.com, Innerwheel Club, Chennai
- geethakalyani@hotmail.com, Innerwheel Club, Chennai
- asrdietn@sify.com, Innerwheel Club, Chennai

Validation/Verification Conclusion

ESI confirms all validation and verification activities including objectives, scope and criteria, level of assurance and the PDD adherence/implementation to the CCB Standard, Second Edition as documented in this report are complete and concludes without any qualifications or limiting conditions that the CCB Project Design Documentation *TIST Program in India, CCB-001* (8 February 2013), CCB Project Implementation Report *TIST Program in India, CCB-001* (8 February 2013), CCB Monitoring Plan *TIST Program in India, CCB-001* (8 February 2013) and the CCB Monitoring Report *TIST Program in India, CCB-001* (8 February 2013) meets the requirements of the CCB Standards (Second Edition – December 2008).



Submittal Information

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| Report Submitted to: | Mr. Charlie Williams Clean Air Action Corporation 7134 South Yale Ave., Suite 310 Tulsa, OK 74136 Climate, Community, and Biodiversity Alliance |
| Report Submitted (CCBA-Approved Verifier) by: | Environmental Services Inc. 7220 Financial Way, Suite 100 Jacksonville, Florida 32256 |
| Lead Validator/Verifier and Regional Technical Manager (QA/QC) Names and Signatures: |  Shawn McMahon – Lead Validator/Verifier  Janice McMahon – Vice President and Regional Technical Manager Forestry, Carbon, and GHG Services Division |
| Date: | 11 March 2013 |

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Appendix A – Documents Reviewed / Received

- Project Development Document (TIST IN PD-CCB-001 PD Text 121105.doc)
- Implementation Report (TIST IN PD-CCB-001f App05 Implementation Rpt 121105.doc)
- Revised PDD (TIST IN PD-CCB-001a PD Text 130208.doc)
- Responses to round 1 NCRs (TIST IN PD-CCB-001 NCR Round 1 130208.docx)
- Appendix 01 (TIST IN PD-CCB-001b App01 LSat1990 Map.htm)
- Appendix 01 jpeg version (TIST IN PD-CCB-001b App01 LSat1990 Map.jpg)
- Appendix 02 (TIST IN PD-CCB-001c App02 LSat2000 Map.htm)
- Appendix 02 jpeg version (TIST IN PD-CCB-001c App02 LSat2000 Map.jpg)
- Appendix 03 (TIST IN PD-CCB-001d App03 PA Plots 130208.kml)
- Appendix 04 (project data) (TIST IN PD-CCB-001e App04 Data 130208.xlsx)
- Appendix 06 (monitoring plan) (TIST IN PD-CCB-001g App06 Monitoring Plan 130208.doc)
- Appendix 07 (monitoring report) (TIST IN PD-CCB-001h App07 Monitoring Report 130208.doc)
- Appendix 08 (monitoring data) (TIST IN PD-VCS-001i App08 Monitoring Data)
- Exhibit 01 (Tamil Nadu Forest Department website) (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex02 Tamile Nadu Forest Dept.pdf)
- Exhibit 03, Small group contract (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex03 TIST SG CO2 Contract IN Nila.pdf)
- Exhibit 04, Contract between CAAC and TIST India (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex04 CAAC TIST India Contract 090309.pdf)
- Exhibit 05, Document withdrawing TIST India CDM project (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex05 CDM Withdrawal.pdf)
- Exhibit 06, Procedures to Demonstrate the Eligibility of Lands for Afforestation And Reforestation CDM Project Activities (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex06 CDM Executive Board 35. Annex 18.pdf)
- Exhibit 07, financial plan (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex07 financial plan.xls)
- Exhibit 08, CDM methodology AR AMS0001 v. 6 (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex08 CDM Methodology AR AMS0001v6.pdf)
- Exhibit 09, fuel wood studies in India (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex09 Fuelwood Studies, Devendra.pdf)
- Exhibit 10, Environment and Forest Department Policy Note (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex10 TNFD Policy Notes 2005.pdf)
- Exhibit 11, Kanchipuram District Profile (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex11 Kanchipuram District Profile.pdf)
- Exhibit 12, State of the Environment, Tamil Nadu 2005 (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex12 State of Environment TN 2005.pdf)
- Exhibit 13, Environmental Profile Thiruvallur District (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex13 Thiruvallur Environmental Profile.pdf)
- Exhibit 23 Award for best tree planting (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex23 Award for Best Tree Planting.pdf)



- Exhibit 25, Management resumes (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex25 Mgt Resumes 110215.pdf)
- Exhibit 26, Management Experience (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex26 Mgt Experience 110215.pdf)
- Exhibit 29a, Public Comments (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex29a Public Comments CCB-001.pdf)
- Exhibit 34, income survey (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex34 Income Survey.xls)
- Exhibit 36 Employee Rights (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex36 Employee Rights.pdf)
- Exhibit 37, Quantifier Safety (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex37 Quantifier Safety.pdf)
- Exhibit 38, Guava not invasive (TIST IN PD-VCS-Ex38 TN Horticulture, Guava.pdf)



Appendix B – Stakeholder Meeting Announcements and Comments

Public Notice of Meeting in Dinakaran Daily News Papers on 27th December 2012.

டி.ஐ.எஸ்.ஐ (TIST) திட்டத்தின் பொது அறிவிப்புக் கூட்டம்

டி.ஐ.எஸ்.ஐ டீர் ப்ளாண்டிங் இந்தியா ப்ரொஜெக்ட் டீமிடெட் (TIST) மற்றும் -
கன்சன் ஏர் ஏக்ஸன் கார்ப்பரேஷன் (CAAC) இணைந்து அவர்களது தி
இண்டர்நேஷனல் ஸ்மால் குரூப் டீர் ப்ளாண்டிங் ப்ரொகிராம் (TIST Program)
திட்டத்தின் வேலிடேஷன் மற்றும் வெரிஃபிகேஷன் செய்வதை பொது அறிவிப்புக்
கூட்டம் மூலம் தெரிவிக்கிறது. தி இண்டர்நேஷனல் ஸ்மால் குரூப் மற்றும் டீர்
ப்ளாண்டிங் ப்ரொகிராம் (TIST Program) தட்பவெப்பநிலை, சமுதாயம் மற்றும்
பல்லுயிர் நன்மை செயல்முறை (CCBA Standard) அடிப்படையில்
வேலிடேஷன் மற்றும் வெரிஃபிகேஷன் செய்யப்பட உள்ளது. இந்த
வேலிடேஷன் மற்றும் வெரிஃபிகேஷன் பெறுவதற்கு அவர்கள் தட்பவெப்ப
நிலை, சமுதாயம் மற்றும் பல்லுயிர் நன்மை பாதுகாப்பு செய்வதை எடுத்துக்
காட்ட வேண்டும். சி.ஏ.ஏ.சி ப்ராஜெக்ட் டெஸ்க்ரிப்டர் (PD) மற்றும்
ப்ராஜெக்ட் இம்ப்ளிமென்டேஷன் ரிப்போர்ட் (PIR) டை எண்விரான்மென்டல்
சர்வீசஸ் (Environmental Services Inc) இடம் சமர்ப்பித்துள்ளது. (இந்த
எண்விரான்மென்டல் சர்வீசஸ் நிறுவனம் சி.சி.பி.ஏ அடிப்படையில்
சான்றிதழ் வழங்கும் ஆய்வாளர்). இது சம்மந்தப்பட்ட ஆவணங்கள் கீழே
குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள இணையதள முகவரியில் உள்ளது (டி.ஐ.எஸ்.ஐ இந்தியத்
திட்டம் CCB-001 பார் க் கவும்). <http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>

ஒரு பொது அறிவிப்புக்கூட்டம் காலை 11 மணிமுதல் மதியம் 12 மணி
வரை 28.12.2012 அன்று ஸ்ரீ லெக்ஷ்மி பாலாஜி திருமண மண்டபம், எண் 2/1
பாரதியார் தெரு, பழம்பேட்டை, சேத்துப்பட்டு, போலூர் தாலுகா,
திருவண்ணாமலை மாவட்டம் - 606801ல் நடைபெற உள்ளது. இந்த
கூட்டத்தில் கருத்துகள் எடுத்துக் கொள்ளப்படும். மேலும் கருத்துகளை
17.01.2013 வரை சி.சி.பி.ஏ (CCBA)விற்கு கீழே குறிப்பிட்டுள்ள
இணையதளத்தின் மூலம் தெரிவிக்கலாம். <http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>.

Email Comment Solicitation, 04 January, 2013

Date: Fri, 04 Jan 2013 15:32:21 -0600
From: Charlie Williams <CharlieWilliams@CleanAirAction.com>
To: "Williams, Charlie" <CharlieWilliams@cleanairaction.com>
Subject: TIST India seeking CCBA accreditation. Comments Requested.

BCC: "Rexon, Joseph" <josephrexon@tist.org>,
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Subject: TIST India seeking CCBA accreditation. Comments Requested.

TIST Tree Planting India Private Limited and Clean Air Action Corporation (CAAC) announce its intent to validate and verify the International Small Group and Tree Planting Program (TIST) under the Climate, Community and Biodiversity Alliance (CCBA) standards. To receive the validation and verification, they must demonstrate, among other things, that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. CAAC has submitted a Project Description (PD) and a Project Implementation Report (PIR) to Environmental Services Inc, a CCBA certified auditor. The documents are available on line at (see TIST Program in India CCB-001):

<http://www.climate-standards.org/projects/index.html>.

Comments may be submitted up to 03 February 2013 to CCBA by clicking on "SUBMIT COMMENTS" at the above link.



TIST Public Meeting on 28th December 2012 at 11 am

Welcome speech by one of the Quantifiers of TIST India

On behalf of TIST India, I welcome all the special guests, farmers (TIST farmers and non-TIST farmers), TIST India Director and TIST quantifiers for this public meeting organized by TIST India. We have published a notice in the Dinakaran Daily News (in Chennai, Tiruvallur, Vellore, Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram, Kanchipiram) Papers on 27th December 2012. I know many who have gathered here must have read it and for those who have not read that, here I am reading it for your all, also, we have placed a big photocopy of the advertisement in the entrance of this meeting hall for you all to read it. Now, I request TIST India Director to talk about the purpose of this public meeting.

Purpose of the meeting explained by the Director, TIST India

Good morning everybody, once again on behalf of TIST I welcome all the special guests, farmers (TIST farmers and non-TIST farmers), TIST quantifiers for this public meeting organized by TIST India. This meeting is very important one.

At the outset, I would like to say that now we are in the job of doing Validation & Verification on TIST Program, which is very important one for the future of TIST India. Few weeks back, we had our Auditor from Environmental Services Inc, USA, towards Validation & Verification, he visited several tree groves. We have provided to him all the data collected during our quantification on all our tree groves. His visit was to audit whether the tree grove data which we provided to him is matching on ground with the tree groves.

We have been working with the farmers in Tamilnadu for about 10 years now. We have made voucher payment to TIST famers for all their live trees. These payments are farmers money who have planted trees, but farmers need to maintain and keep all the trees live till the contract period. We calculate the amount of carbon-dioxide sequestered by the trees in TIST Program. You all know that leaves play a good role in preparing food for the tree. The raw material for preparing the food is carbon-dioxide & water, and the energy required is sunlight. The end-product of photosynthesis is oxygen, which is required for every living being. The other end part like carbon which is stored in the tree. Trees are 50% water and 50% wood and in this wood 50% is carbon. The leaves continuously does this photosynthesis process, which means it continuously sequesters carbon-dioxide from the atmosphere and gives us good oxygen, also carbon is stored in the tree. So, when the trees grow bigger and bigger the carbon content in the tree increases. The carbon which is available in the tree is the product which we calculate which is called the carbon credits and that is what we sell it to customers who wish to balance their emission. To calculate and have this carbon for sale, we need to carry out an audit, the Validation & Verification and this validation & verification which we are doing is done under CCBA Standard, which is called the Climate, Community and Bio-diversity Alliance Standard. In this standard, we need to demonstrate that TIST is beneficial to climate, community and biodiversity. The purpose of this public meeting is to know from you all whether TIST is beneficial to climate, community and bio-diversity.



Before I end my talk, let me answer to few questions raised by few of you during my talk :

1. If voucher payment for trees is increased it will be good

Answer: You all learnt from my talk and from our various node meetings that the carbon stored in a tree is our sale product. When you plant a tree, the size of a tree would be just a size of a pencil and can someone tell me what amount of carbon would be there in that tree. Very less and so we need to wait for several years to get good carbon amount in a tree and that's the reason we are encouraging you all to keep the trees live for long time, till our GHG contract period. We are paying you the tree incentive right from the day of planting, this payment is our advance payment to you all against the carbon sale which would happen in the future. We all need to jointly work together to run this program with minimum cost, so that, we will be able give you 70% of the net value of the GhG credits made by the you all (small groups). Please think of that profit sharing too and also, use TIST node meetings effectively, where we are training & sharing best practices of several farmers who have been doing excellent revenue generation work in their own land. This is another income which you can earn. When you get (1) TIST quarterly voucher payment, (2) TIST 70% net value profit sharing and (3) other income from your intercroops & short time crops / other best practices, you will definitely like your income, which is assured continuous income.

2. We request TIST to organize more node meetings and guide farmers

Answer: Thank you very much for bring this point. Yes, definitely we will plant & try to have more nodes. Even here, we request your contribution too, like your help in organizing the groups for the meeting. Jointly, we all together will definitely have few more nodes.

3. Instead of quarterly, why don't TIST give monthly vouchers?

Answer: Behind a groups voucher payment, TIST needs to do several works like, quantification, node meeting, SGMR, voucher generation, banking work, etc., all these involves expenditure. When we plan to do it monthly, lot of your money gets spent on above said activities, please remember we need to save money for your 70% net profit sharing. Should we spend lot of money? Thank you for understanding

4. What is biodiversity?

Answer: Biodiversity is variety of life found on earth. If you take your own tree grove, you will find different types of life, like, ant, worms, earthworms, frogs, garden lizard, butterflies, rats, snakes. Etc. If you have teak trees, there will be several life depending on teak trees, if you kumil trees, you will have several life depending on kumil trees. There is several small and big species of life on earth depending on trees. When you plant different types of tree species, you will have variety of life of your land. This is biodiversity. When do you need to have variety of life? We need to have variety of life because every species on this earth depends on other species, which is called the food chain. Like for example, small insects depend on tree/its leaves & flowers, a rat depends on these small insects, a snake depends on these rats and bigger birds depends on these snakes. Imagine if there is no place for these rats, what will happen to snakes and what



will happen to big birds. Now a day cattle grazing is a great challenge, what will be the end issue of this, we humans will not get milk ultimately. It is all a very good food chain is required, for which definitely we need to work for good biodiversity

Now, I request you all to give your comments. Also, if you wish to give your comments over internet, please feel free to do that. And if any of you do not have the facility for internet and do not know how to do it, feel free to visit TIST office in Tiruvannamalai, Villupuram & Tiruvallur and use our facility.

110 farmers Tiruvannamalai & Villupuram participated in the meeting. The following are their comments

1. TIST Program not only helps farmers, but it also provides ways to get water and air for all other living being on earth
2. We are losing bird species like sparrow, TIST Program is recreating better environment and giving home for these species, doing good to bio-diversity
3. People say that TIST Program is a carbon business firm, but for us it is a good community service one. Due to TIST Program, environment and community is protected
4. TIST Program is important and required program for the community
5. TIST Program does not create fresh air for humans alone, but also for those living being which lives depending on trees
6. TIST program is required for ever country
7. TIST Program is like God giving fresh air for breathing
8. Good environment is developing
9. TIST Program is farmers friend
10. TIST program is good guide to farmers and poor people because it shows ways to generate income in land where agriculture is not possible
11. If voucher payment for trees is increased it will be good
12. This public meeting organized by TIST was really a good one and was useful in learning lot of information and got opportunity to give our comments
13. We are planning to plant more number of trees in TIST program
14. We request TIST to organize more node meetings and guide farmers
15. We feel this public meeting is a place where we could thank TIST Program – TIST, thank you very much
16. Protecting the bio-diversity and environment
17. Healing the climatic conditions
18. TIST does good to the earth and to all others who depend on earth
19. TIST does good to the environment
20. Planting trees will increase rain and is helpful for farmers

Comments from Special Guests

1. Subramanan S, District President, Tamil Nadu Science Club, NGO, Tiruvannamalai District



Comments: This meeting was very encouraging. TIST activities, services, planting trees and providing incentive are all in very simple and open way, which is very good. Government is restricting to use polythene bags for environment purpose, but TIST does something better by planting trees which is good for climate, community and bio-diversity

2. Shanmugam P, Forester, Cheyyar Taluk, Truvannamalai District

Comments: Through this meeting the importance of bio-diversity was explained clearly. Like Forest Department TIST is also planting trees and saving the home and the country

3. Pandurangam, K, Principal (Retire), State Government School, Tiruvannamalai District

Comments: TIST program holds good place in planting trees, this protects climate, community and bio-diversity – I appreciate this

4. Murugesan, Agriculture Department, Sidharthur, Truvannamalai District

Comments: Farmers who plant trees are encouraged by TIST and other farmers are inspired by this. Not only the environment, even the bio-diversity is protected. Throughout the year there is job opportunity in TIST Program for farmers and people get good fresh air. Farmers get regular income in TIST Program

5. Navakumar G, JCI Junior Chamber International India, (Award winner, holds a place in Limca Book of Records), Vellore District

Comments: Everyone should plant trees

6. Gopinath (Retired, Asst. Executive Engineer, Agriculture Department, & TIST Participant), Tiruvannamalai District

Comments: I appreciate TIST Program for its activities. With TIST guidance I have also planned 4,000 trees and I will care for 100% survival. TIST is most famous organization in carrying out its duties to produce oxygen and their involvement with farmers. Good Luck

TIST distributed vouchers to few of the groups in the meeting.

Vote of thanks was given by one of the Quantifiers of TIST India. The meeting ended with refreshment (team & snacks).

Thank You



For any queries, please feel free to contact the Director, TIST Tree Planting India Private Limited, Flat A, Plot No.69, 26th Street, Sankar Nagar, Pammal, Chennai 600075, Phone: +91 9840299822, Email: josephrexon@tist.org. Visit us @ www.tist.org