TEMPLATE AND GUIDANCE FOR SUBMISSION OF NEW SOCIALCARBON® INDICATORS

DOCUMENT REVISION HISTORY

Version	Description of the main adjustments	Review Date
01	First version.	02/2010
1.1	Re-formatted	09/06/2011
1.2	Language improvement	16/08/2013

1. Identifying the Project

Project name: Indicators for REDD grouped projects in the CerradoContact responsible for indicators: Hannah Simmons

Version/Date of indicators: version 3 - February/2022

2. General orientation for Accredited Organizations

a. Inform the Ecologica Institute about all projects to which the SOCIALCARBON Standard will be applied.
b. Submit all new indicators for prior approval by the Ecologica Institute.
c. The Ecologica Institute will publish the approved indicators at www.socialcarbon.org for a 15-day consultation period.

3. Guidelines for SOCIALCARBON indicators

- Project developers should start by listing potential impacts, risks and stakeholders associated with the project activity according to the tables provided on the template.
- Project developers are invited to indicate the benchmarking used as sources and/or guidelines, including other SOCIALCARBON reports or indicators.
- After listing all relevant aspects of the project, the project developer must select which to be monitored through Indicators along the lifetime of the project and distribute them among the different resources of the methodology: social, human, financial, natural, biodiversity/technology and carbon.
- Each of the aspects selected shall be then detailed in an Indicator of this resource. The number of indicators will vary according to the needs of each project, but the SOCIALCARBON Team recommends a minimum of three and a maximum of ten indicators for each resource.
- Next, the indicators receive scores ranging from the worst scenario (level 1) to the best scenario (sustainable use of resource – level 6), according to the following guidelines:

Scores	Classification	Characteristics
1 and 2	Critical	Existence of irregularities; high socio-environmental risk; significant levels of social and environmental degradation or situation of extreme hardship, which significantly compromises the quality of life of the population.
3 and 4	Satisfactory	Meets all the legal requirements related to the activities; surpasses them through the adoption of good practices and voluntary initiative in some cases; or the quality of life reaches the minimum acceptable standard but requires improvement.
5 and 6	Sustainable	Exceeds its legal obligations and/or common practice in the market, in many cases adopting the best-possible practices for the sector; or communities have reached a sustainable livelihood, with adequate access to material and social goods, are capable of recovering independently from situations of stress, and are not causing the deterioration of basic environmental resources through their activities.

4. List of potential social, economic and environmental impacts

The description of social, environmental and economic impacts does not demand new research but must be based on other existent sources of information, for example: reports, results of consultation with stakeholders, similar projects or opinions of experts. If required by the national competent authorities, documents about the analysis of the environmental impacts and mitigation programs must be presented.

Activity	Aspect	Impact	Effect		Comments/ Observation	SDG related
			Beneficial	Adverse		
REDD carbon project	Empowerment	Increase independence and resilience of communities in the project area.	x		- Social resource: social projects, women inclusion, community reforestation program - Human resource: research incentive, worker´s safety, professional skills - Financial resource: employment creation, sales of credits, carbon benefits return - Carbon: buffer reduction, project performance	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 8, SDG 10, SDG 11, SDG12
REDD carbon project	Conservation of Cerrado	Avoided deforestation, Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reductions	x		- Social Projects: community reforestation program - Carbon resource: project performance; buffer reduction, credit sales - biodiversity: biodiversity monitoring, biodiversity	SDG 12, SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG 15

					conservation, species of conservation interest - Carbon: green marketing	
REDD carbon project	Surveillance	Increased deforestation outside the project area		x	- Human resouce: worker's safety; - Financial resource: employment creation, sales of credits, carbon benefits return - Natural resource: Monitoring methods; Project efficiency in agents that fight deforestation/degradation; - Biodiversity resource: Biodiversity monitoring; Biodiversity Conservation; - Carbon resource: Project performance.	SDG 13, SDG 14, SDG15
REDD: Carbon credit project	Application of the Social Carbon methodology	Encouragement and investment in research on social, economic and environmental aspects in the project region	x		- Social resource: women inclusion, - Human resource: research incentive, worker´s safety, professional skills - nature: spring monitoring - carbon: buffer reduction, project performance	SDG 1, SDG 2, SDG 3, SDG 4, SDG 5, SDG 12

					- carbon: impact communication strategy	

5. List of significant risks for the project

Present a list of significant risks for the project.

- Lack of funds for annual landholder conservation compensation payments and research.
- Wildfires in the dry season.
- Degradation of soil with the advancement of monoculture and cattle grazing.
- Loss of forest cover and decrease in biodiversity.
- Fragmentation of habitats and important ecological corridors.
- Illegal activities inside the project area.
- Uncertainty about Brazil's political decisions regarding conservation efforts (especially payment for ecosystem services) and soft commodities prices that may incentivize planned deforestation.

6. List of stakeholders affected by the project

Present a list of stakeholders potentially impacted by the project.

Stakeholder	Brief description of how the project affects the stakeholders mentioned
Workers	New skills will be needed to monitor and manage the project area, and likewise new jobs will be created, strengthening the local economy. The project includes social actions ranging from worker´s safety to professional skills training.
Local community	The project encourages measures to create a dialogue and improve relationships with the residents surrounding the project, including agroforestry courses and implementation of reforestation plots. It also promotes community benefits such as

	improving the local environment and investment in social initiatives, as well as encouraging the work of women. With the project, job creation will occur directly and indirectly.
Universities and Educational Institutions	The project will engage universities and academic institutions, creating partnerships with the Landowner to facilitate and finance the study of ecosystems and their biological cycle within the project area, which can potentially result in innovation for the academic community and financial return for both parties.
Project Landowner	The landowner that is choosing this path of forest conservation through a 30 year contractual agreement is foregoing his legal right to deforest his/her land. The landholder is the primary agent of deforestation in the baseline scenario.
Government	Federal, State and Municipal agencies, foundation and institutes will interact with the project in a variety of ways, such as: issuing municipal / state licenses and contributing with studies / research on the region, communication / dissemination of the carbon project, among others.

7. Benchmarking

A benchmarking analysis is an optional step for the elaboration of SOCIALCARBON indicators and includes research about best practices for project activity or existing sustainability indicators for the sector.

1) Indicators for Ceramic Industries of the Sector, Version 8.2, June 2011. Available at: http://www.socialcarbon.org/wp-content/themes/socialcarbon/docs/Industries_Ceramic_Sector_v8.2_09_06_2011.pdf

2) Template Submission of new indicators REDD SFMP, version 1.2, August 2013. Available at: https://www.socialcarbon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Template_Submission_of_new_indicators_REDD+SFMP_v1.2_EN11.pdf

3) Indicators for REDD Projects, version 01, August 2020. Available at: https://www.socialcarbon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Indicators_for_REDD_Projects_v.01.pdf

4) Template Submission of Indicators for an Amazon REDD Project, version 1.1, November 2013.Available at: https://www.socialcarbon.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/11/Template_Submission_of_Indicators-for-an-Amazon-REDD-Project_v1-1_08_11_201311.pdf

5) Methane avoidance through composting in small and medium sized swine farms, Brazil, September 2010. Available at: https://www.socialcarbon.org/documents/

6) SCR Ecomapua Point0 version 4, August 2013. Available at: https://registry.verra.org/app/projectDetail/VCS/1094

8. Indicators

Considering the nature of the Avoided Conversion Cerrado - REDD Program, as a grouped VCS project, two categories of indicators have been established to facilitate the scoring and evaluation at different levels: one is at a local territorial micro-level, and the other is at a landscape/biome macro-level.

a) The macro-level indicator: The score will be calculated based on activities implemented at the landscape level, defined as the Cerrado biome, the grouped project boundary. As such, any action taken in the Cerrado biome can be considered in the scoring process. As a premisse, the macro-level indicators will be implemented by the project proponent and partners.

b) The micro-level indicator: The score will be calculated based on activities implemented at the property level, and the score will be calculated as the average of all properties. The micro level indicators will be implemented at the property level, being implemented by the landholder or by the project proponent and partners, depending on the contractual arrangements. The micro indicators will be calculated individually and described in an annex of the report, and the report will have an average of all the properties. A specific prospect and action would be required for each project activity instance, as defined in the VCS PD.

Considering that the number of properties can increase every monitoring period, when the Avoided Conversion Cerrado program reaches more than 30 properties, the scenarios will be revisited in order to contemplate the size of the grouped project.

Social Resource: The networks, social duties, social relationships, relationships of trust, affiliations, and associations.

Indicator	Description	Evaluation Methods
Social Projects	Evaluate the quality, quantity and results of additional social projects: Quantitative evaluation: effectiveness evaluation of projects. Qualitative evaluation: number of projects of actions implemented. Results: Evaluate the relevance of benefits/effects generated by projects. For the purpose of evaluation, consider: a program is a set of projects. If 1 program has 5 projects, then 5 projects would count towards this indicator. This is a macro-level indicator.	- Interviews, questionnaires, or meetings: testimony from the local interested parties. - Physical evidence: local visits, pictures or others project results records. - Documentation: Activities plan for additional programs implementation or agreements between partners and other organizations. - Periodic reports on the status of implementation of additional programs.
Women's Inclusion	Evaluate initiatives implemented by the landholder to promote women's inclusion. This is a macro-level indicator.	Questionnaires, interviews with the community, reports, among others.
Community Reforestation Program	The project will have a specific social program to implement new regenerative agricultural systems plots or support and manage existing plots implemented previously. Therefore, this indicator will evaluate the extent the reforestation program has on the communities in the surrounding areas of the project. This is a macro-level indicator.	Questionnaires, interviews with the community, reports, maps, among others. Physical evidence: local visits, pictures or others project results records.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6
Social Projects	Zero projects were implemented in the monitoring period.	1 or 2 projects were implemented but was interrupted.	1 or 2 projects were successfully implemented and had a positive influence on everyday behavior.	3 or 4 projects were successfully implemented and improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries.	5 or 6 projects were successfully implemented and improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries.	+ 7 projects were successfully implemented and improve the quality of life of the beneficiaries.
Women's Inclusion	There are no initiatives related to women's inclusion.	There are plans to implement actions to promote women's inclusion, but they have not been implemented.	There are monitored actions to promote women's inclusion.	The project promotes the valuing of woman service through equal pay for men and women occupying the same or equivalent positions.	The project promotes activities developed by groups of women.	Besides de previous scenario, the project has women in leadership and/or decision-making positions.
Community Reforestation Program	0 farmers impacted	1-5 farmers impacted per monitoring period implemented.	6-10 farmers impacted per monitoring period implemented.	11-20 farmers impacted per monitoring period implemented.	21-30 farmers impacted per monitoring period implemented.	More than 30 farmers impacted per monitoring period implemented.

Human Resource: The skills, knowledge, capacities for work and good health that people have. Taken together, these become fundamental for the successful pursuit of different strategies.

Indicator	Description	Evaluation Methods

Research Incentive	Evaluates whether the project promotes research innovation through partnerships with universities and non-profit organizations to develop local knowledge investigation. This is a macro-level indicator.	Questionnaires, interviews with the community, reports, among others.
Workers' Safety	Evaluates the existence and execution of campaigns and trainings that promote the safety of the project's employees, especially those who are directly connected to the inspection and protection of the area. This is a micro-level indicator.	Questionnaires, interviews with the community, reports, among others.
Professional Skills	The existence of training projects focusing on improving professional skills such as monitoring activities, fire brigade, agroforestry systems, handcraft, production of bio-fuels, seed processing etc. This is a micro-level indicator.	Reports and documents. Physical evidence: local visits, pictures or others project results records.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6
Research Incentive	The project proponent has no partnership with a university/ public agency/ institution and does not have partnership plans.	The project proponent has no partnership with a university/ public agency/ institution but has plans to establish partnerships.	The project proponent has no partnership with a university/ public agency/ institution but invests in academic research.	The project proponent maintains a partnership with a university/ public agency/ institution but there is no security that the research will be continued in a medium term.	The project proponent maintains a partnership with a university/ public agency/ institution and provides funding for research ensuring the continuity of the research.	In addition to scenario 5, the research brought benefits to the local community.

Workers' Safety	There is no activity to promote safety to employees.	Campaigns, training, or partnerships with Worker's Safety government/public agencies occur occasionally but are not effective.	Campaigns, training, or partnerships with Worker's Safety government/public agencies occur occasionally and present effectiveness.	Campaigns, training, or partnerships with Worker's Safety government/public agencies occur frequently (monthly) and present effectiveness.	In addition to scenario 4, the project developed safety goals and planning, but with execution difficulties.	Planning goals in safety with satisfactory and effective execution in all project area.
Professional Skills	Near absence of professional skills training.	Few people have received professional skills training (less than 10% of the team), in the monitoring period.	Some people have received professional skills training (less than 30% of the team), in the monitoring period.	Presence of professional skills training (less than 50% of the team), in the monitoring period.	Presence of professional skills training (more than 51% of the team), in the monitoring period.	In addition to scenario 4, presence of skilled professionals training of various types (more than 3 different areas).

Financial Resource: Basic capital in the form of cash, credit/debt and other economic goods which are or may become available.

Indicator	Description	Evaluation Methods
Employment Creation	Direct employment offered by the project: number of people employed in activities related to project and provision of official documentation demonstrating employment (informal and formally documented).	Reports and official labor documents or contracts with employees.

	This indicator understands that the creation of jobs, especially permanent and formal jobs with guaranteed rights to the worker, is a more financially costly option for the project, but still important as a goal and with a great social and financial impact. This is a micro-level indicator.	
Sales of Credits	Evaluates uncertainties regarding the value of commercialized credits generated by the project. This is a macro-level indicator.	Reports from the Verra Registry demonstrating transaction volume or Purchase and Sale contracts demonstrating price and volume. Market average will be evaluated annually through the Ecosystem Marketplace reports on the voluntary market in order to produce the baseline for the indicators.
Carbon Benefits Return	Evaluates the reinvestment of carbon revenues in social actions, research, biodiversity, reforestation program, ecological tourism and others. This is a micro-level indicator.	Questionnaire and/or control sheets.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6
Employment Creation	No jobs were generated by the project activities.	Jobs were generated indirectly through the project activities.	Temporary and informal jobs were generated.	Temporary jobs were generated, but formalized and guaranteed labor rights to workers.	Permanent jobs were generated (less than 50%). All jobs are formal and guarantee employees labor rights.	Permanent jobs were generated (more than 50%). All jobs are formal and guarantee employees labor rights.
Sales of Credits	0% of credits were commercialized	1%-20% of credits were	21%-40% of credits were	41%-60% of credits were	61%-80% of credits were	+ 81% of credits were

	with value above the market average.	commercialized with value above the market average.	commercialized with value above the market average.	commercialized with value above the market average.	commercialized with value above the market average.	commercialized with value above the market average.
Carbon Benefits Return	0% of revenue reinvested on the project.	1-20% of revenue reinvested	21 to 40% of revenue reinvested	41 to 60% of revenue reinvested	61 to 80% of revenue reinvested	+ 81% of revenue reinvested

Natural Resource: The stock of natural resources (soil, water, air and environmental services (soil protection, maintenance of hydrological cycles, pollution sinks, pest control, pollination, etc.), from which resources for livelihoods are derived.

Indicator	Description	Method of evaluation
Monitoring Methods	Measures the progress of the project's monitoring methods, which may be: - High-resolution satellite imagery with remote sensing applications to detect deforestation; - Use of guards/supervisors; - Presence of guard towers or supervision center in the project area; - Others (independent forest audit, drones). A monitoring plan must contain: mapped risks, monitoring points, inspection frequency, what must be inspected and the person responsible for the activity. This is a micro-level indicator.	Reports, studies, documents, communication with the landholder, among others.

Vegetation cover	Evaluates the project's contribution to the recovery of native vegetation cover and biodiversity corridors, considering the extensive fragmentation in the Cerrado biome due to commercial agricultural. This is a macro-level indicator.	Satellite image analysis.
Spring Monitoring	This indicator considers monitoring of spring within the project area. The following includes a list of indicators to monitor water quality: • Visual analysis • Laboratory analysis • Turbidity. • Odor • pH. • Coliforms • Total dissolved solids • Others This is a macro-level indicator.	Reports and documents pertaining water quality analysis.

Indicators	1	2	3	4	5	6
Monitoring Methods	Currently, the project does not have monitoring methods.	The project has one monitoring method, but it presents significant problems that lead to continuous deforestation.	The project has a solid monitoring plan and one method in operation.	In addition to the previous scenario, the project has at least two monitoring methods in operation.	The project has three monitoring methods, including at least one on-site.	The project has four or more monitoring methods, including at least two on-site, with excellent results in

						reducing deforestation.
Vegetation cover	The project does not promote any action to promote the recovery of native vegetation.	The project's activities promote actions to increase the native vegetation cover, but it is not concerned with the health of the ecosystem (biodiversity corridors, etc.).	The project's activities promote actions to increase the native vegetation cover, and contributes to the health of the native ecosystem, resulting in 20% of the area is connected.	The project's activities promote actions to increase the native vegetation cover, and contributes to the health of the native ecosystem, resulting in 21% to 50% of the area is connected.	The project's activities promote actions to increase the native vegetation cover, and contributes to the health of the native ecosystem, resulting in 51% to 80% of the area is connected.	Native ecosystems cover over 80% of the regional area and are completely interconnected.
Spring Monitoring	Currently, the project does not have water monitoring methods or plan.	The project has a monitoring plan with at least one indicator being monitored in one spring.	The project has a solid monitoring plan with two indicators being monitored in one spring.	The project is monitoring three indicators in at least two springs.	The project is monitoring four indicators in at least two springs.	The project is monitoring more than four indicators in more than two springs.

Biodiversity Resource: evaluates the conditions of access to new technologies, as well as the contribution of technology to economic development and diminished impact on the environment.

Indicator	Description	Method of Evaluation
Biodiversity Monitoring	Evaluates whether the project proponent or landholder has actions to identify and monitor the local fauna and flora. Monitoring methods can include: - Species cataloging - Observation through photographic evidence	Reports, studies, documents, communication with the landholder, among others.

	- Observation of feces - Radio-colar - Camera traps - Bioacoustics - Other This is a macro-level indicator.	
Biodiversity Conservation	Evaluates the existence of biodiversity conservation activities in the project area. For example: producing of native tree seedlings and recovery of degraded areas with planting native trees. This is a macro-level indicator.	Reports, studies, documents, communication with the landholder, among others.
Flagship Species Conservation	Evaluates the presence of the big mammals such as jaguar or cougar (respectively, in Portuguese, "onça pintada" or "sussuarana"), flagship species being monitored in the region and the tendency in the evolution of these populations, amplifying local conservation efforts with the communication of presence of an iconic species of interest. Monitored methods can include: radio-collars, feces analysis, and camera traps, other. This is a macro-level indicator.	Reports compiling data collected.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6
Biodiversity Monitoring	There is no process to identify and monitor fauna or flora.	There exist plans to implement the identification but no monitoring of fauna or flora,	In addition to the previous scenario, the plan is being implemented with 1 monitoring method.	In addition to the previous scenario, 2 monitoring methods.	In addition to the previous scenario, 3 monitoring methods.	In addition to the previous scenario, 4 monitoring methods and it was possible to

						observe the increased presence of some species in the project area.
Biodiversity Conservation	There is no nursery for production of trees for the project area.	An active nursery for production of trees is present, but there is little financial support to produce native species.	There is control over numbers of trees produced/ planted, however adequate maintenance/monitoring of planted trees is lacking.	There is control over numbers of trees produced/ planted, and adequate maintenance/monitoring of planted trees.	As well as the previous scenario, more trees were produced/ planted in the current monitoring period than during the previous SCR period.	As well as the previous scenario, the planting is carried out in degraded areas where it is needed.
Flagship Species Conservation	Complete absence of studies about the flagship species.	The project has a monitoring plan with at least one monitoring methods.	The project has a monitoring plan with two monitoring methods.	The project has a monitoring plan with three monitoring methods.	The project has a monitoring plan with four monitoring methods.	The project has a monitoring plan with four monitoring methods and communication strategy with surrounding communities.

Carbon Resource: The type of carbon project developed, encompassing the project performance and methodologies utilized.

Indicator	Description	Method of evaluation
Buffer reduction	Measures the deductions to the buffer credits in the scenario of project under-performance or disturbances. This is a macro-level indicator.	VCS PD and Monitoring Report.
Project Performance	Evaluates project performance in relation to verified emissions reductions. Project performance = Units verified in the Monitoring Report corresponding to the SCR period/ Estimate of emissions reductions in the VCS PD. This is a macro-level indicator.	VCS PD and Monitoring Report.
Impact Communication Strategy	Evaluates whether the project has marketing strategies geared towards highlighting socio-environmental practices. This is a macro-level indicator.	Reports and documents.

Indicator	1	2	3	4	5	6
Buffer reduction	Over 20% of the buffer credits were deducted.	15% of the buffer credits were deducted.	10% of the buffer credits were deducted.	8% of the buffer credits were deducted.	5% or less of the buffer credits were deducted.	0% of the buffer was necessary.
Project Performance	Not successful: 0% of carbon credits predicted for the	Very Low: 1% to 25% of carbon credits predicted	Low: 26% to 50% of carbon credits predicted for the	Reasonable: 51% to 75% of carbon credits predicted	Good: 76% to 95% of carbon credits predicted for the	Excellent: More than 95% of carbon credit

	period were generated.	for the period were generated.	period were generated.	for the period were generated.	period were generated.	s predicted for the period were generated.
Impact Communication Strategy	The project does not have impact communications strategies.	The project have impact communications strategies using one means of communication. Example: magazine.	The project have impact communications strategies using more than one means of communication. Example: magazine and social media.	The project have impact communications strategies using more than two means of communication. Example: magazine and social media (more than one app).	In addition to the scenario 4, the project has an established impact communication strategy plan.	As well as the previous scenario, the project combines face-to-face events and campaigns with a variety of digital strategies.