



Appendix C

Verification for Tree Planting Projects

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Note that Verification requirements for Tree Preservation projects are contained in the Tree Preservation Protocol.

1. Verification per ISO 14064-3

The Registry will verify compliance with this Tree Planting Protocol per International Standards Organization 14064-3. Specifically, the Registry adopts and utilizes the following standards from ISO 14064-3:

- Upon receiving a Project Report with updated data on eligibility, quantification of carbon and co-benefits, and a request for credits, the Registry will verify a project's compliance with this Protocol. The Registry will maintain its status as a non-profit organization, and will be independent of specific project activities.
- A trained peer reviewer will audit the Registry's verification, utilizing standards to be adopted by the Registry.
- Registry verification with peer review is justified by the processes and standard set forth below, and by the fact that urban forest planting projects, unlike many other types of carbon offset projects, will be conducted in urban areas, by definition. The trees planted in urban forest projects will be visible to virtually any resident of that urban area, and to anyone who cares to examine project trees.
- The Registry will maintain independence from the activities of projects, will conduct all verification work with ethical conduct and a fair presentation of its verification work, will treat all projects equally with regard to verification, and will conduct its verification work with skill, diligence, and competence.
- The Registry requires a reasonable level of assurance in the accuracy the asserted GHG removals to a reasonable level.

- The verification items identified in Tables C.1, C.2, and C.3 are all material elements, and any asserted GHG removals must be free of errors, misstatements, or omissions regarding those elements.
- The Registry will verify all sampled trees for issuance of forward credits and for issuance of any other credits under both the Single Tree Method and the Tree Canopy Method.
- The Registry will record, store, and track all quantification and verification data and either display it for public review or make it available for public review upon request.
- The Registry will develop a risk assessment standard to provide a cross-check on data collection and review.
- The Registry will adopt a process for follow-up and maintenance for consistency and continuity.

2. Verification for Issuance of Forward Credits

Table C.1 displays the various verification requirements to be performed upon request by a Project Operator for forward credits under Section 2.3.B of this protocol. Further guidance on elements in Table C.1 follow in Section 6.

Table C.1

Item	Elements to Verify	Protocol Section	How
1.	PO Identity	1.1	
2.	PIA	1.2	
3.	Location	1.3	
4.	Right to Receive Credits	1.4	
5.	Commencement	5	
6.	Proj Documentation	4	

7.	Proj Duration	3	
8.	Additionality		
	100% Forest Buffer Pool	2.1	
	Performance Standard Baseline	2.2	
	Legal requirements Test	2.3	
9.	PO's Forward Credit Mortality and Verif. Assessment:	6.2, 9, App. B	
	1. Accuracy of Process and Documents:		
	a. Sample Size Calculation		
	b. Randomization of Sample		
	c. Calculations		
	d. Integrity of Spreadsheet		
	2. Field Data and Inputs into Spreadsheets:		
	a. Data from sampled trees		Geo-coded Photos of Sample Trees
	b. Data Input accuracy		
	PO's Report	App. A	
	Reversals	7	
	Buffer Pool Contributions	7	

3. Verification for Issuance of Credits Using the Single Tree Method

Table C.2 displays the various verification requirements to be performed upon request by a Project Operator for credits using the Single Tree quantification

method under Section ____ of this protocol. These credits may be progress credits or progress credits requested at the end of a project where forward credits were issued. Further guidance on elements in Table C.2 follow in Section 6.

Table C.2

Item	Elements to Verify	Protocol Section	How
1.	PO Identity	1.1	
2.	PIA	1.2	
3.	Location	1.3	
4.	Right to Receive Credits	1.4	
5.	Commencement	5	
6.	Proj Documentation	4	
7.	Proj Duration	3	
8.	Additionality		
	100% Forest Buffer Pool	2.1	
	Performance Standard Baseline	2.2	
	Legal requirements Test	2.3	
9.	PO's Single Tree Quant Tool Spreadsheet:	9 and App. B	
	3. Accuracy of Process and Documents:		
	e. Sample Size Calculation		
	f. Randomization of Sample		
	g. Calculations		
	h. Integrity of Spreadsheet		
4.	5. Field Data and Inputs into Spreadsheets:		

c.	d. Data from sampled trees		Geo-coded Photos of Sample Trees
e.	f. Data Input accuracy		
	PO's Report	App. A	
	Reversals	7	
	Buffer Pool Contributions	7	

4. Verification for Issuance of Credits Using the Tree Canopy Method

Table C.3 displays the various verification requirements to be performed upon request by a Project Operator for credits using the Tree Canopy quantification method under Section ___ of this protocol. These credits may be progress credits or progress credits requested at the end of a project where forward credits were issued. Further guidance on elements in Table C.3 follow in Section 6.

Table C.3

Item	Elements to Verify	Protocol Section	How
1.	PO Identity	1.1	
2.	PIA	1.2	
3.	Location	1.3	
4.	Right to Receive Credits	1.4	
5.	Commencement	5	
6.	Proj Documentation	4	
7.	Proj Duration	3	
8.	Additionality		
	100% Forest Buffer Pool	2.1	
	Performance Standard Baseline	2.2	

	Legal requirements Test	2.3	
9.	PO's Canopy Quant Tool Spreadsheet:	9 and App. B, C	
	6. Accuracy of Process and Documents:		
	a. Calculations		
	b. Integrity of Spreadsheet		
	7. Field Data and Inputs into Spreadsheets:		
	g. iTree Canopy File, locations used to calculate canopy area		PO submits iTree Canopy file and Registry independently estimates canopy area for same project area, using subsample points to assess any interpreter error
	h. Data Input accuracy		
	PO's Report	App. A	
	Reversals	7	
	Credit Hold-backs and Buffer Pool Contributions	7	

5. Guidance on Specific Elements of Verification

Although the Registry reviews eligibility criteria upon initial application, this early review is not a verification review and does not suffice for issuance of credits. The following gives guidance for selected eligibility criteria.

5.1 Location

Projects must occur within the locations specified in Section 1.3 of the Protocol. Verification can include review the PO's designation of parcel numbers, addresses, or other indications of property location with reference to maps, KLM files, images from Google Earth or other reliable imaging sources.

5.2 Right to Receive Credits

Verification includes review of the Signed Affidavit of Ownership and Right to Receive Credits, together with any available ownership documents, including written agreements regarding ownership or right to receive credits. Verification entails a risk-based review that requires further review in any cases of lack of clarity or detail.

5.3 Project Commencement

Verification includes confirmation of the commencement date in the initial application, and in the Registry's database, plus confirmation that the commencement date meets the requirements of Section 5 of the Protocol.

5.4 Additionality

Verification requires confirmation of the existence of the Forest Buffer Pool in a size sufficient to cover the GHG assertion being verified, review of the Performance Standard Method applied at the Registry level, and review of the PIA for inclusion of compliance with the Legal requirements Test and an affidavit of compliance with the PIA. Further review of local ordinances or laws may be required to give a reasonable assurance that this requirement has been met.

5.5

A critical component of verification includes review of the PO's spreadsheet document containing planting data and completion of other data required to complete the mortality assessment or quantification of CO₂.

Tables C.1, C.2, and C.3 set out the specific elements that must be reviewed to complete verification of those documents.

6. Completing Verification

A verification report must be completed in order for credits to be issued. That report must include:

- Findings of the verifier as to each element in Table C.1, C.2, and C.3.
- A verification statement that supports the GHG assertion contained in the PO's appropriate spreadsheet and that states the number of credits that can be issued, including vintages.
- A log of all verification activities and communications with the PO.

The Registry shall also conduct a risk assessment and follow-up review of all verification activity and document that review.