PROJECT REVIEW REPORT

This project review report includes findings raised during Verra's review of the project specified below. The VVB must address the findings before the project request can be considered for approval by Verra. The project review report will be made publicly available on the Verra Registry. Confidential information may be provided in separate attachments.

Project ID	562
Project Name	The Kasigau Corridor REDD+ Project Phase I – Rukinga Sanctuary
Review Type	Validation and Verification Approval
Program(s)	SD VISta Program
Verification Period	01 January 2005 – 31 December 2021
Project Proponent	Wildlife Works Carbon LLC
VVB	S&A Carbon
Assessment Criteria	*Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0*
Date of First Issue	17 July 2023
Review Conclusion	Approved
Date of Final Issue	15 January 2025

FINDINGS

1	**Incorrect reporting of contributions**		
	Issue The indicators used for reporting sustainable development (SD) contributions in Section 1 of both the SD VISta project description and the SD VISta monitoring report have the following issues: 1. In Section 2, rows 1 and 2 are separate but the indicators contribute to the same SDG target 1.1. 2. In Section 2, row 3 uses a self-defined indicator that is quantified in proportional/percentage terms, which does not reflect the absolute impact. 3. In Section 2, row 9 claims to contribute to the welfare of primary/secondary-aged children. However, the indicator defined youth as only those between 15-24 years of age. 4. In Section 2, row 10 claims benefits to "half the population" without giving a total number for the population. 5. In Section 2, row 11, the indicator is based on a percentage of the total population without a total number of the population. 6. In Section 2, row 12, the project has used a self-defined indicator rather than using the one prescribed by the template for contributions to SDG 13. 7. In Section 2, row 15, the indicator used is not suitable as the contribution fails to capture the proportion between the land area and forest area, as expected by the indicator used. 8. In Section 2, row 16, the indicator provided is not as defined in the metadata. 9. In Section 2, rows 15, 16, and 18 use "maintained" in the "Net Impact on the SDG Indicator" column, but the	**Round 1** VVB Response The PP has revised the PD and first MR in accordance with this finding. 1) This revision was made. 2) PP has provided absolute numbers based on the most recent population census. The number was calculated by multiplying the percentage of respondents from the survey by the population. 3) The indicator was revised to be a self-reported indicator. 4) This revision was made, please see number 2 for an explanation. 5) This revision was made, please see number 2 for an explanation. 6) PP revised the indicator to include this language. 7) PP revised the indicator to include this information. 8) PP revised the indicator to include this language. 9) Based on a conversation with Verra staff it was agreed that "maintained" is the most appropriate term for these indicators. 10) PP revised the indicator to include more specific information. Verra Response Section 1 of both the SD VISta project description and the SD VISta monitoring report have been updated to provide correct reporting of project's sustainable development contributions. This finding has been closed.	Closed

	project's claim should either be increasing or decreasing the impact on a particular SD indicator. 10. In Section 2, row 17, the project activity is not quantifying the contribution by claiming “significant reduction” to poaching. <u>Action Required</u> 1. The VVB must ensure the project proponent consolidates the contributions to the same SDG target in one row for ease of understanding. 2. The VVB must ensure the project proponent uses a more appropriate self-defined indicator in row 3 that uses absolute numbers to provide an accurate contribution in absolute terms. 3. The VVB must ensure the project proponent either uses a self-defined indicator in row 9 to contribute to the SDG target or selects an appropriate indicator from SDG 4 that better captures the project’s contribution. 4. The VVB must ensure the project proponent provides the number of beneficiaries or at least the total population to claim a contribution in row 10. 5. The VVB must ensure the project proponent creates a self-defined indicator in row 11 with the number of people impacted so that the extent of the impact is visible. 6. The VVB must ensure the project proponent, as required by the project description template, references SDG 13 in the target column and uses the indicator “Tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions avoided or removed” for climate change mitigation impacts in row 12. 7. The VVB must ensure the project proponent either uses Indicator 15.2.1: Progress towards sustainable forest management or creates a self-defined indicator in row 15. 8. The VVB must ensure the project proponent removes the SDG indicator number from the UN metadata in case it is a self-defined indicator or use the correct language		

	corresponding to the SDG indicator used from the metadata. 9. The VVB must ensure the project proponent uses either increased or decreased for monitored contributions based on the direction of impact in rows 15, 16 and 18. 10. The VVB must ensure the project proponent claims quantifiable impacts in alignment with the chosen indicator in row 17. Program Rule(s) *Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0; SD VISta Project Description Template, v1.0,* Section 1*; SD VISta Monitoring Report Template, v1.0,* Section 1		

2	**Baseline for communities**		
	Issue In Section 2.1.8 of the SD VISta project description, there is no baseline information related to the communities who are benefitting from the project's contribution to the SDGs. Action Required 1. The VVB must ensure the project proponent updates Section 2.1.8 of the project description to provide information about the community prior to the implementation of the project (i.e., the community baseline). 2. The VVB must assess the updated information. Program Rule(s) *Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0;*	**Round 1** VVB Response The PP and VVB acknowledge a lack of detail in section 2.1.8 of the SD VISta PD regarding the baseline conditions for the communities receiving SDG benefits from the project. The following summary information regarding baseline community well-being conditions have been added into section 2.1.8 of the PD: "When the project began, there were no formal employers other than Wildlife Works in the Project Zone other than service business, small shops, bars etc. Communities relied on subsistence slash and burn agriculture and cleared the dryland forest in order to provide land for annual crops. There were very few schools	Closed

	3.1.1- 3.1.2	and no medical clinics available to members of the local communities. Subsistence farmers who cleared the dryland forest for crops had little success due to scarce rainfall in the region. Local communities would continue to aggressively clear land hoping they would find the perfect location where the highly localized rainfall patterns would find their land. As a result of failed crops, there were increases in poaching of bushmeat, and young males amongst the communities would snare for food to provide sustenance to their families in the absence of viable agricultural crops. Families among the local communities typically did not possess legal land tenure, and as a result never invested in the land, and chose to simply farm with no inputs until the soil was depleted. They subsequently cleared more forest and began engaging in annual depletion. Small-scale illegal charcoal operations were common amongst local communities to provide families with a small amount of income but lead to significant degradation of the forest by taking out the best hardwoods." Since further details about the social, economic, and natural capital conditions at the start of the project are also provided in the PD in the sections 3.1 and 4.1, VVB agreed with PP that the updated information is enough to address the intents of the requirement. This baseline has been categorized as rapid deforestation due to unplanned slash and burn agricultural expansion by subsistence immigrants at the frontier of human expansion. Local stakeholders	

		were able to corroborate during the site visit that all conditions of the baseline were in place before the arrival of Wildlife Works and that in fact the Project Area was already beginning to be cleared prior to the Proponent's interventions. Validators and verifiers are thus reasonably assured that in the absence of the project activities to protect the Project Area and to provide alternative livelihoods for the community, the pattern of deforestation would have continued, and that land-use conversion and further deteriorating social and economic conditions would have accelerated from an increasing human population base.	
		Verra Response 2.1.8 of the SD VISta project description has been updated to include details regarding the baseline for communities in the project area. This finding has been closed.	

3	**Appropriateness of causal chain**		
	Issue In Section 2.1.9 of the SD VISta project description, the causal chain is a theory of change that does not highlight the effects, outcomes, and impacts of the project's sustainable development activities. Action Required 1. The VVB must ensure that the project proponent updates Section 2.1.9 of the project description to provide an SD VISta-specific causal chain. 2. The VVB must assess the updated information.	**Round 1** VVB Response These identified casual chains were originally developed under the CCB v.2 standard and have since evolved with the Project. As such, the project has been focused on the topics and activities dictated by the CCB Standard, which predate the SDGs discussed in this PD. Nevertheless, the casual chains and relevant indicators identified and being employed were found to be appropriate for SDG tracking and to be in line with the requirements and guidelines of the SD VISta standard. Further, the PP revised section 2.1.9 of the PD to include this required information. The causal chains are outputs of a facilitated workshop process	Closed

	Program Rule(s) *Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0;* 2.1.5	involving project stakeholder and community members and must be approve by them as accurate representations of their discussions. These workshops were held before the SDGs were introduced, so although the same themes and topics were discussed, they were not specific to the SDGs. Based on a conversation with Verra staff it was agreed that this information would not be included on the casual chains but in a separate table where the included SDGs are clearing linked to the themes and outcomes listed on the causal chains. This table (table 2.2) has been added to section 2.1.9.	
		Verra Response Section 2.1.9 of the SD VISta project description has been updated with Table 2.2 to include SDGs that are linked to the effects, outcomes, and impacts of the project's sustainable development activities. This finding has been closed.	

4	**Benefit Permanence for all sustainable development contributions**		
	Issue Section 2.1.11 of the SD VISta project description only discusses benefit permanence in the context of land and employment, but not the other SD contributions presented in Section 1. Action Required 1. The VVB must ensure that the project proponent provides information on benefit permanence for all sustainable development contributions. 2. The VVB must assess the updated information. Program Rule(s)	**Round 1** VVB Response The PP notes the instructional guidance from the SD VISta PD template for section 2.1.11 "*Describe the plan to maintain and enhance project benefits after project activities have ceased*." It does not explicitly state that permanence to all SDG contributions presented in section 1 must be described. All of the project activities associated with the REDD+ project is designed to enhance the SDG benefits beyond the project's lifetime. As described in section 2.1.11 of the SD VISta PD, WWC's intension is and has been to make the necessary investments in job creation and income generation to maintain financial stability into the foreseeable future. The project's investments in job creation and income generation activities	Closed

	SD VISta Project Description Template, v1.0, Section 2.1.11; *Sustainable Development Verified Impact Standard, v1.0;* 2.1.7	funded through the sale of carbon credits in the voluntary carbon market is a primary means in which the sustainable development benefits created by the project will be maintained and enhanced beyond the project lifetime. Every job created thus far, and every job slated for creation in the future as the result of carbon funding, is designed to last not only throughout the Project's crediting period, but well beyond. It is Wildlife Works' intention to create a lasting culture of employment and financial health in the Project's sphere of influence. Investments by the project in job creation, job training, community capacity building, alternative income generation activities, youth education, raising awareness between the link between forest / wildlife protection and availability of sustainable employment are directly associated with the SDG Impacts in Table 1. All project activities are focused on achieving the overarching goal of the project to reduce deforestation and degradation in the project area beyond the project lifetime. While the PP is of the opinion the text currently included in section 2.1.11 of the SD VISta PD meets the instructional guidance of the template, the following additional text has been entered into this section. "All project activities associated with the REDD+ project are designed to enhance the SDG benefits beyond the project's lifetime. Investments by the project in job creation, job training, community capacity building, alternative income generation activities, youth education, raising awareness between the link between forest / wildlife protection and availability of sustainable employment are directly associated with the SDG Impacts in Table 1. All project activities are designed to reduce pressure on the environment while significantly increasing	

		community well-being beyond the project lifetime to achieve the overarching goal of the project to reduce deforestation and degradation in the project area in the long-term." VVB agrees with PP rational and the updated information in the PD. The intent of the requirement is addressed. Further, other sections of the PD also address the intent of this requirement (e.g., section 2.2.1, 2.1.9, 3.1, and 3.4). Further, the verifiers confirmed during site visit that various job training opportunities to members of the local communities are provided by the PP to help grow their skills and build capacity into the future. Examples of such training were observed by the verifiers including the Hadithi program, the Eco-charcoal operations, the security and ranger patrol teams, and the organic greenhouse operations. The extensive distributions to bursaries for local students are also considered to have a long-lasting impact for local families and young persons into the future, though a clarification was needed to determine when exactly full versus partial scholarships have been awarded.	
		<u>Verra Response</u> Section 2,1,11 of the the SD VISta project description has been updated to provide more details on benefit permanence in the context of all sustainable development contributions by the project. This finding has been closed.	